RESOLUTION NO. 2026.029

RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2026.026 AND THE VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER PUBLIC COMMENT AND TOWN HALL POLICY

WHEREAS, the Village of Blanchester ("Village") passed Resolution No. 2022.007 to adopt a Public Comment Policy for the Village of Blanchester's council meetings; and

WHEREAS, Village Council discontinued public comment during regular Council meetings;

WHEREAS, Village Council passed Resolution No. 2026.015 amending Resolution No. 2022.007 to establish quarterly town hall meetings;

WHEREAS, the Village passed Resolution No. 2026.026 amending Resolution 2026.015 to reinstate public comment at Village Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Blanchester desires to revise the public comment and town hall forum policy pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 731.19.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Village of Blanchester, Ohio, to revise Resolution 2026.026 so that it may read:

SECTION 1.

VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER PUBLIC COMMENT AND TOWN HALL FORUM POLICY

The Council for the Village of Blanchester welcomes public comments at Village Council Meetings and Town Hall Forums. Thus, the Village hereby adopts the following policy governing Public Comment and Town Hall Forums:

Public Comment Policy

A. Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business.

B. Anyone attending the meeting may participate during the public portion of a meeting.

C. Speakers shall be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if appropriate.

D. Each statement made by a Speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes duration, unless extended by Council.

E. Participants shall present their comments as a speech or monologue; participants are not to address or pose questions to any Council members, employees or officials individually.

F. The presiding officer may:

a. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement goes in excess of three (3) minutes and is not extended by the Council;

b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person's conduct causes a disruption to the Council completing and conducting business;

c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a person who causes a disruption to the Council completing and conducting business;

d. Request a motion for recess or an adjournment to another time when a disruption prevents the Council from completing and conducting its business.

Town Hall Forum Policy

A. The purpose of Town Hall Forum ("Forum") is to provide the community with an opportunity to address Village officials regarding matters of public concern, ask questions, and offer feedback in an open public forum.

B. The Village shall conduct a Forum on an as needed basis. The Forums shall be held on dates, times, and locations established by the Village and publicly posted in advance. Forums are separate from Council meetings unless specifically combined by Council action.

C. At least one (1) week prior to each Forum, the Village shall post a list of topics to be discussed. The list of topics shall be posted:

a. On the Village's Facebook page; and

b. At the following locations:

i. Blanchester Municipal Building, 318 E. Main Street

ii. First National Bank, 121 E. Main Street

iii. Blanchester Post Office, 115 S. Wright Street

iv. Tom's Express Mart, 7529 Fairground Road

v. Blanchester Public Library, 110 N. Broadway Street

D. Public comment during the Forums may address

a. Village services, operations, and programs;

b. Community concerns;

c. Suggestions for future improvements; and

d. Questions relating to Village policies and/or projects.

The Forum is intended as a public forum for dialogue and is not required to result in formal action by Council at the meeting. Council will not discuss matters related to pending or

imminent litigation, matters subject to confidentiality under state or federal law, or issues unrelated to Village business or the stated purpose of the Forum.

E. Anyone attending the meeting may participate during the Forum, subject to the procedures and time limits set forth in this policy. Speakers will be asked to provide:

   a. Their name;

   b. Address; and

   c. Which topic from the posted list of topics they intend to discuss.

F. Individuals wishing to speak may be asked to sign in before the Forum begins. The sign in process may include the speaker's name, address, and topic. The Village may also permit registration through another method established by the Village administration.

G. Each speaker shall be allowed three (3) minutes to address Council during the Forum.

H. All participants in the Forum shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. Speakers shall direct comments to Village Council as a body. The following are prohibited:

   a. Profane, obscene, or threatening language;

   b. Comments that disrupt, delay, or impede the orderly conduct of the Forum;

   c. Shouting, interrupting, or speaking out of turn; and

   d. Conduct that creates a safety concern or interferes with the rights of others to participate.

I. The presiding officer may:

   a. Interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when the statement goes in excess of three (3) minutes and is not extended by the Council;

   b. Rule comments or conduct out of order;

   c. Request that disruptive individuals cease inappropriate behavior;

   d. Request any individual to leave the Forum when that individual's conduct causes a disruption to the Forum;

   e. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of an individual who causes a disruption to the Forum; and

   f. Request a motion for adjournment when a disruption prevents the Council from completing Forum.

J. Council may, at their discretion:

a. Respond to questions during the Forum;

b. Refer matters to Village staff for follow-up; or

c. Request additional information from the speaker.

K. Individuals may submit written comments before, during, or after the Forum session in a manner established by the Village.

L. The Village shall make reasonable efforts to ensure Forums are accessible to the public. Individuals needing accommodations to participate should contact the Village in advance of the meeting, when possible.

SECTION 2.

The Village of Blanchester finds and determines that all formal actions of this Village concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of the Village of Blanchester and that all deliberations of this Village of Blanchester that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION 3.

That the Village by at least a three/fourths vote hereby dispenses with the requirement that this Resolution be read on three separate days and hereby authorizes the adoption of the Resolution upon its first reading. That this Resolution shall be effective at the earliest date allowed by law.

SECTION 4.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect at the earliest date allowed by law.

__Mr. Hopkins__ moved the adoption and __Ms. Lewis__ seconded the motion and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote resulted as follows:

Ms. Brooker- Yes
Mr. Coffman- Yes
Mr. Hopkins- Yes
Ms. Lewis- Yes
Mr. Parks- Yes
Ms. Hanson Yes

Adopted this _22nd_ day of October, 2026.

John M Carman

John M. Carman, Mayor

Regina Johnson

Attest: Regina Johnson, Fiscal Officer

Fiscal Officer's Certificate:
The State of Ohio, County of Clinton, ss:

I, Regina Johnson, Fiscal Officer of the Village of Blanchester, County of Clinton, and in whose custody the files, journals, and records are required by the laws of the State of Ohio be kept, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is taken and copied from the original Resolution now on file with the said Village, that the foregoing Resolution on has been compared by me and the said original and the same is a true and correct copy thereof, and has been posted as required by law. This Resolution has been duly published by posting in the following places: Blanchester Municipal Building, 318 E. Main Street, First National Bank, 121 E. Main Street, Blanchester Post Office, 115 S. Wright Street, Tom's Express Mart, 7529 Fairground Road, and at the Blanchester Public Library 110 N. Broadway Street, each for a period of fifteen (15) days commending on the 27th day of October, 2026.

Witness my signature this 26th day of October, 2026.

Regina Johnson

Fiscal Officer of the Village of Blanchester, Clinton County, Ohio