

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 11, 2024

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on July 11, 2024 at 7:02 p.m. with the honorable Mr. John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

All Present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and had Opening Prayer

Mr. William Garner	Absent
Mr. Don Gephart	Present
Mr. John Hill	Present
Mr. Reilly Hopkins	Present
Mrs. Lynn Lewis	Present
Mr. Josh Parks	Present

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Parks to excuse Mr. Garner from the meeting.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve agenda; after removing item #13 Executive Session.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Guest Speaker

Phil Blanchester, EBS Health Insurance to discuss renewal information and pricing. We are running 89.7% out of a 100% of our maximum spending. We were lower than this last year. If we do go over the maximum the Village would get money back. Renewals will be in September. EBS submitted 7 different proposals for renew, ranging from \$17,700 - \$61,500. We are currently using CERTUS as our plan, and it is recommended we stay with them. The plan would increase 8% on the top cost, but go down 1% on the fixed cost.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Parks to move forward with the renewal using the same plan we are currently using.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Public Comments

Kenna Rowe, 201 North Broadway wanted to discuss the rezoning of her house she purchased. She does not want it rezoned as residential. Wants it to stay commercial. The mayor discussed reasons why the Village is looking to rezone, and explained how then she could apply for a conditional use permit. She would need to submit to the BZA her application. She also wanted to know why she was not informed about this meeting, and the mayor let her know attempts were made.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart to extend the permitted time for this guest speaker an additional 3 minutes.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

James Constable 135 Orchard View Lane – wanted to say why he didn't think anything should change with zoning of 201 N. Broadway. If you aren't going to allow her to live in a commercial zone, then all the apartments through town should not be ok. Secondly, is the 15% increase on electric rates. He is stating the budget should have never been approved for the electric knowing they were going to be at a deficit.

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve minutes from the June 13, 2024.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve Bills and Reallocations.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
Nay – None
Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Gephart reported that the Chief had submitted to the Finance committee a new pay scale that he would like to implement immediately. This was the final step in getting our officers pay in line with areas around us. He also asked that the resolution for the repayment of tuition be looked at. It is their recommendation that we take the length of time to receive the repayment from 2 years to 3 years to put it alignment with the longevity pay.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the Revised pay scale for the Police Department and the amend Ordinance 2021.003 section 2 to change the employees' length of time from 2 to 3 years prior to getting tuition reimbursement.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

The finance committee also brought forward a revised pay scale for the street department for council approval. It is asked that the first 4 steps be removed and 4 additional steps added to the end with a 3% increase in each step. (See Exhibit A)

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to revised the pay scale for the Street Department.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – Mr. Hill reported the concrete estimate for new sidewalks was going to be higher then the original \$7,000 due to having to increase the width of the sidewalk to 4' vs. 3'. The new cost to do the work would be \$10,100 and must be started within 45 days.

He also discussed the area in front of Chubby's and putting in a cross walk there. The Mayor and Mr. Hill are trying to get the state to do a traffic study in that area.

Next Mr. Hill discussed the White Van that is always parked on Broadway at Center Street at the light and states it is too far up and could impede someone's vision. His recommendation is that we relocate that space a little further down.

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Hill to proceed with the sidewalk work as presented.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None

Absent – Mr. Garner

Cemetery – Nothing to report at this time.

BPA – Nothing to report at this time.

Old Business

Rezoning of parcels per Ordinance 2024.011 on the zoning maps on N. Broadway from B-4 to B-1.

Mr. Hopkins moved to put this in as a first reading and Mr. Parks seconded the motion.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

New Business

Ordinance 2024.010 allowing the mayor to sign the forms allowing the Village of Blanchester to participate in the new National Opioid settlement with the Kroger Company.

It was moved by Mr. Parks to approve this ordinance as an emergency as written and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve Ordinance 2024.010.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to report.

· **Parks** – Splash days are up and running and we have several party in the parks scheduled

Police – shared the current month report and announced that the department received an Excellence in Law Enforcement Policy Management award from Lexipol this year. It is displayed at the case for all to see. Working on getting antennae installed for the new computers going into the cruisers. Still working on the bodycam federal/state grant. Cops and Bobbers will be this weekend. National Night out is set for Aug. 6th 6-8 with Rozzi Fireworks at dusk. Rain date will be the next day. We have Active Aggressive countywide training which is scheduled for Aug. 9th at the High School.

Zoning – Nothing to report

Fiscal – Still working with Perry and Assoc. with the audit.

Mayor – The Mayor encouraged the council start attending the social events in the community to start showing our support to them.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Parks wanted the discussion of doing away with the BPA and giving all of the finances to the Village. This would entail hiring a Village Administrator.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis that the meeting be adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks
 Nay – None
 Absent – Mr. Garner

Motion Passed

Approved: August 8, 2024
Mayor: John M Cannon
Attest: Ryana Johnson

Exhibit A

REFER TO UNION PAY SCALE	1ST YEAR	AFTER 1 YEAR	AFTER 2 YEARS	AFTER 3 YEARS	AFTER 4 YEARS	AFTER 5 YEARS
Sergeant	25.42	27.33	27.91	28.27	29.92	30.94
Adjustment Effective 5/20/24						
Corporal	24.98	26.28	26.70	27.49	29.12	29.94
Adjustment Effective 6/30/24						
Detective	24.70	26.52	27.09	28.21	29.82	30.65
Adjustment Effective 6/30/24						
Patrolman	23.52	25.26	25.80	26.87	28.40	29.19
Adjustment Effective 6/30/24						

Council approved the adjustment increase at their 5/9/24 meeting.

Leaving the implementation to Chief Houghton.

Per Chief Houghton, the adjustments will be implemented to the PayScale are as follows.

- Update pay rate for Sergeant effective 5/20/24.
- Update pay rate for all others effective 6/30/24.

TITLE	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Chief	2099.06	2130.53	2194.45	2260.28	2328.09	2444.49	2591.18	2746.64	2829.04	2913.91	3001.33	3091.37
Lieutenant	1919.06	1976.63	2095.24	2220.95	2332.00	2448.60	2571.03	2635.30	2740.71	2822.94	2949.96	3038.47
P/T Patrolman	14.08	15.37	16.14	16.78	17.62	18.49	19.05	19.25	19.81	20.60		
Admin. Assistant/Records Clerk	16.42	17.25	18.11	18.75	19.48	20.45	21.27	22.33	23.23	24.39	25.37	26.38
Street Commissioner	1895.20	2060.00	2121.80	2185.45	2251.02	2318.55	2388.10	2459.75	2533.54	2609.55		
Foreman	14.01	14.73	15.34	16.08	17.63	18.51	19.25	20.22	21.03	21.87		
Laborer	15.11	15.86	16.66	17.19	18.05	18.95	19.71	20.49	21.31	22.17		
Asst. to Parks Dr.	1056.37	1088.54	1123.94	1155.90	1190.57	1226.29	1263.08	1300.97	1340.00	1380.20		
MCCCRONE \$16.68 H \$1334 Provisional Labor	10.98	11.54	12.10	12.72	13.23	13.76	14.31	14.88	15.48	16.10		
Fiscal Officer	1,483.59	1,587.45	1,698.57	1,817.47	1,926.52	2,042.11	2,164.64	2,218.75	2,272.87	2,386.51	2,444.31	
Assistant Fiscal Officer	18.57	19.31	20.08	20.89	21.73	22.51	23.41	24.35	25.32	26.33	27.38	28.48
Zoning Comm.	12.49	12.99	13.51	14.05	14.61	15.19	15.80	16.43	17.09	17.77		
Park Director	1470.52	1516.00	1561.48	1608.32	1656.57	1706.27	1774.52	1845.50	1919.32	1996.09	2075.93	2158.96
Safety Consult.	20.00	20.40	20.81	21.22	21.65	22.08	22.52	22.97	23.43	23.90		
REFER TO UNION PAY SCALE	1ST YEAR	AFTER 1 YEAR	AFTER 2 YEARS	AFTER 3 YEARS								
Sergeant	32.11	33.71	34.89	35.93								
Patrolman	23.45	24.42	25.82	26.54								

On 7/11/24 council approved updates to the Police pay scale and the Street Dept. Laborer line.

