

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 23, 2024

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on May 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. with the honorable Mayor John Carman presiding.

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

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

Mayor Carman and Chief Houghton performed the swearing in of Sargent Kristen Jeffers. Sargent Jeffers has been with the department since January 19, 2012.

Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the agenda.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Guest Speaker - none

Public Comment

James Constable, 135 Orchard View Lane, Blanchester. Wanted to discuss the sewer rate increase that we talked about during the last meeting. Still does not believe we need a sewer rate increase. He also wanted to discuss the sidewalk committee. He wanted to know how the sidewalk committee could be a private entity and he wanted to know if you can use street permissive tax on sidewalks.

Shirley Philbin – Environmental Health and Safety Manager at Hitachi Estemo in Blanchester, Ohio. Wanted to see if they could help the Village in any way, and to see where we stand on the tornado alarms and getting those repaired. They have one on top of their building and they would like to find out more information on this.

Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve minutes for May 9, 2024.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Bills and Reallocations

It was moved by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve the bills and reallocations as submitted.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Don Gephart had nothing to report this week.

Safety & Service – John Hill just wanted to follow-up on items that had already been discussed and agreed upon doing.

Cemetery Board – Tom Lee had nothing to report this week.

Old Business

Ordinance 2024.008 – An ordinance regulating mobile food truck service operation in the Village of Blanchester. This ordinance was given the 2nd reading with the following corrections. Would like the ordinance to state they must move the trailer every 30 days for a minimum for 10 days. There was a motion made by Mr. Hopkins for the second reading of Ordinance 2024.008 and a second made by Mrs. Lewis.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

New Business

Department Reports

Solicitor – nothing to report tonight.

BPA – Matt Johnson, Supervisor of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. He wanted to discuss the proposed Sewer Rate increase ordinance. Mr. Johnson went over some of the projects and costs those projects may have. Many projects need to be completed at this time. He wanted to be sure everyone understands, this is just not a maintenance issue, but an issue as to where we now need to replace a lot of equipment. It was agreed upon to go for just 4% at this time and then see what, if anything they would need next year.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to accept the sewer rate increase as per the recommendation provided by the BPA.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Gephart, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Hopkins
No - Mr. Garner, Mr. Hill, Mr. Parks

Motion Did Not Passed

PARKS – Gymnasium is now all complete, The next event will be the party in the park which will be 5/24/24 @ 5:00. Band will play from 6-10. They will have food trucks, bands, bounce houses.

Police – Chief Houghton discussed hosting the chiefs meeting this week and the active aggressor training that will take place this August at the school. They had cones with cops today. It was another great success. The computer installs started in the Tahoe's this week.

Street Dept. – Paul Daniels reported that they had touch a truck day, and it was a success. Let everyone know that the water and street departments are starting the Baldwin resurfacing project. This will be a new water main from North Columbus to North Wright, and repaving through North Columbus to North Broadway. Orchard View project will start within the next couple of weeks.

Zoning – Jeff Hurst reported Elite Fire Services will be coming to town. They will just be warehousing fire supplies, not a retail store. He also let us know that Red Zone had indeed been annexed into the village in 1986. BP Is suppose to be opening the 1st of June.

Fiscal Officer – Regina Johnson reported that we had two CD's mature at FNB, those were renewed at FNB for 4.75% for 9 months. We did renew a \$200K at Peoples for a much better rate than what it had. We locked it in a 5.3%. Update from Perry and Associates is that we were extended again until July. Fiscal Officer also had asked that Council please refrain from calling Perry and Assoc. for updates as there were things that were missed when one particular councilmember did this.

Mayor – The mayor asked all councilmembers to have anything they would like to discuss to him by the Friday at noon preceeding the meeting, thus allowing us time to prepare.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart that the meeting be adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Vote: Yea – Mr. Garner, Mr. Gephart, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Lewis, Mr. Parks

Motion Passed

Approved: 6-13-24

Mayor: John M. Commey

Attest: Regina Johnson

