

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

The Village of Blanchester Council met in regular session on September 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. with the honorable John Carman, Mayor, presiding.

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

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

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
 Nay – None

Motion Passed

Guest Speaker

Mr. Gephart spoke on behalf of the Clinton County Elderly Services Program. He gave insight to what the program can offer to the elderly in our community. The services they provide make it possible for our loved ones to remain in their homes as caretakers (guardian angels as some like to refer to them) help them with some of the basic life skills. If you would like more information on this program, you can contact the Council of Aging at 937-584-7200 or at www.help4seniors.org.

Public Comment - James Constable 135 Orchard View Lane – wanted to bring to the Village attention that Ordinances 7 & 8 had not yet been posted to the Village Web page. He also brought up per Ohio Revised Code 705.83 that we should look into hiring a Safety Officer.

Approval of Minutes and Reallocations

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve the Minutes from the August 9, 2024 meeting and the September 6, 2024 special meeting.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mr. Park to approve the Bills and Reallocations for this month.

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

Motion Passed

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Gephart reported that they are still working with Perry and Associates to Reconcile 2022. It was stated the Perry & Associates will not be performing our next audit, that the State of Ohio will be.

Mr. Gephart recommended to council the following items that the Finance committee agreed to:

1. At the Recommendation of Mayor Carman that Regina Johnson, Fiscal Officer, be removed from probation and given a step raise from step D to step E.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve that she be removed from probation and the step raise be given.

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

Motion Passed

2. At the Recommendation of Mayor Carman that Robert Houghton, Police Chief, be given a step raise from step H to step I.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the he be given the step raise.

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

Motion Passed

3. To purchase a new laptop for the cemetery with a purchase price of not to exceed \$1,700. This price will include laptop, software needed and IT support to get it ready.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to purchase laptop at a not to exceed price of \$1,700.

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

Motion Passed

4. To increase the pay to D & B trees for lawn care next year to the amount of \$2,300 per cut at the cemetery.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Gephart to increase the contract amount to \$2,300 starting next year.

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

Motion Passed

5. At the Recommendation of Chief Houghton that Lyndsey Ahrmann, Police Clerk, be given a step raise from step F to step G.

It was moved by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Hill to give the step raise.

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

Motion Passed

Safety & Service – Mr. Hill reported that the next safety meeting is September 26, 2024 @ 6:30.

Cemetery – Nothing to report at this time.

BPA – Donna Johnson, Office Manager wanted to remind residents if you have a problem with your bill to please contact the BPA office first to ensure there is no problem prior to going to social media. She also wanted to remind everyone that the BPA holds their meetings the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM.

Old Business

The third and final reading for Rezoning of parcels per Ordinance 2024.011 on the zoning maps on N. Broadway from B-4 to B-1.

Mrs. Lewis moved to approve the 3rd and final reading and Mr. Gephart seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passed

The second reading of Ordinance 2024.013 which is an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 2021.013 titled “an Ordinance to Establish benefits for employees responsible for the safety and security of the citizens of the Village of Blanchester.”

Mrs. Lewis moved to approve the second reading and Mr. Hill seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passed

New Business

Ordinance 2024.015 which is titled “An Ordinance Authorizing Fund level transfers.” This order is declared an emergency per section 3 of the Ordinance.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins to approve this ordinance as an emergency as written and seconded by Mr. Parks to approve Ordinance 2024.015.

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

Motion Passed

Ordinance 2024.016 which is an Ordinance Excepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County. This Order is declared an emergency.

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins to approve this ordinance as an emergency as written and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve Ordinance 2024.016.

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

Motion Passed

Ordinance 2024.017 which is titled “An Ordinance Authorizing Fund level transfers.” This order is declared an emergency per section 3 of the Ordinance.

It was moved by Mr. Gephart to approve this ordinance as an emergency as written and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve Ordinance 2024.017.

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

Motion Passed

Ordinance 2024.018 An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 2018.022 titled “An Ordinance for the Establishment of Curfew for the Village of Blanchester.”

It was moved by Mr. Parks to approve this ordinance as a first reading and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to approve Ordinance 2024.018.

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

Motion Passed

Department Reports

Solicitor – Nothing to report.

Parks – The annual Rocky Morris Memorial Fishing Derby will be taking place Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. September 28 will be the Blue Grass Festival in downtown Blanchester.

Police – The Police Chief spoke on the Active Aggressor training that they had. Said it was a success, and lots of training opportunities were discussed. They will be hosting a MILO training on the 25, 26 and 27th in the new training center with several surrounding communities being involved. Trick or Treat has been set for Clinton County to be October 31.

Street – Reported that the Baldwin St. paving will begin Saturday the 21st.

Zoning – Nothing to report

Fiscal – Nothing to report

Mayor – The Mayor reviewed the Executive Summary for EBS. He believes we are in a good spot with it compared to last year. He also spoke about the 2024 Choice One Charity Cup. This event is November 6, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to go into executive session at 7:49 PM per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee. Mayor, Chief Houghton and Solicitor were invited.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Gephart and seconded by Mrs. Lewis to return from executive session at 8:03 PM.

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

Motion Passed

Action Taken:

It was moved by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Parks that the officer that was terminated not receive remaining vacation pay as per our Village of Blanchester Personnel Handbook.

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

Motion Passed

It was moved by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. Gephart that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Approved: 9-26-2024

Mayor: John M. Cannon

Attest: Regina Johnson

