Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
January 8, 2024

Mayor Bill Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Ayer, Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Brownknight, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Van Stone and Mr. York.

Minutes:

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to accept the Council Meeting minutes from December 18, 2023, as written. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. (Dr. Lewis and Mr. Van Stone abstaining)

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the Capital Improvement Meeting minutes from December 18, 2023, as written, On roll call; four ayes, no nays. (Dr. Lewis and Mr. Van Stone abstaining)

Communications:

***** From Tax Administrator Barlow: December 2023 Monthly Report. He said it was a good year with collections up due to more remote worker accounts.

*From Building Holloway: December 2023 Monthly Report

*From Council Member York: Mariemont Centennial Committee 2023 Year-End Report. He detailed the major activities and the status of fundraising for the three main capital projects and a projection of where we might be in 2024.

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to nominate Mr. Ayer as President Pro Tem of Council for 2024. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Syd Sabo, 3857 Indianview Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. He attended the open house on the Miami intersection and liked what he saw in the drawing. However, it failed to address the problem of speeding on Miami Road. The proposed intersection needs to be a 4 way stop. This is the best way to make this intersection control traffic and meet the safety needs of those who live here and use the intersection. He did not like the 4-foot-long concept drawing of the proposed destruction of the Trolley Line Park by running the Mariemont Connector through it. No alternatives are proposed. Council continues to ignore the wishes of the residents who live there and enjoy the park as it presently exists. He has an idea to solve the problem. He suggested installing a sidewalk abutting the south side of Hiawatha from the school sidewalk to Miami Avenue. A 5-foot-wide sidewalk will not encroach significantly on the 70-foot width of Trolley Line Park. There will still be 65 feet of unobstructed recreational green space left to use and enjoy. Then the "Mariemont Connector" in our neighborhood would consist of 2 share-the-use roads for cyclists and 2 sidewalks for pedestrians. This sidewalk could be a win for everyone – for those who want to preserve Trolley Line Park, those who want pedestrian safety and those who want the Connector. In hindsight, we should thank Crown and Choice One for forcing us to reimagine our neighborhood and improve it by making it safer. What we end up doing may not be what they envisioned but it's our neighborhood and what is best for us is our primary goal. You never really appreciate what you have until you face the prospect of losing it forever. Do not subject us to the trauma of watching the destruction of Trolley Line Park.

Mayor Brown said he and Mr. Ayer met with Choice One to review some of the proposed options for the intersection. Choice One is currently preparing a report as well as the construction documents for options through the Hiawatha median. Once everything is submitted and digested by Council, there will then be a vote on the actual route.

Ordinance:

"An Ordinance to Make Temporary Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the Village of Mariemont, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024" had a first reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third reading. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-1-24 was adopted.

Mr. Ayer asked about the process for capital purchases for the pool. Administrator Barlow will prepare the Spending Request that will need to be approved by Council at the next meeting.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to pay the bills. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Miscellaneous:

- Village Offices will be closed Monday January 15, 2024, in Observation of Martin Luther King Day
- Dr. Lewis and Mrs. Brownknight were nominated to serve on the Volunteer Firemen's Dependents Board
- Mayor Brown said the committee assignments are not yet finalized. Mr. Van Stone will take the committee assignments held by Mrs. Rankin.
- Council nominated Mr. Ayer to the Architectural Review Board
- Council nominated Mr. Van Stone to the Planning Commission
- Annual Outstanding Citizen Award will be due to Mrs. Van Pelt by March 7, 2024

Resolutions:

- "To Appoint Tim Wiley as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025" had a second reading.
- "To Appoint Dave Middleton as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-1-24 was adopted.
- "To Appoint Larry Gray as a voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2024" had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-2-24 was adopted.
- "To Appoint Steve Pipkin as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2024" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-3-24 was adopted.

- "To Reappoint Marianne Prue as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2024" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-4-24 was adopted.

- "To Confirm the Reappointment of Michael Lockhart as Swim Pool Manager for Calendar Years 2024 and 2025; and To Set Compensation" had a first reading.

- "To Confirm the Reappointment of Christopher M. Ertel as Village Engineer for Calendar Year 2024; and To Set Compensation" had a first reading.

- "To Reappoint Rod Holloway as Village Zoning Officer for Calendar Year 2024; and To Set Compensation" had a first reading.

- "Resolution to Enter Into Agreement with Optimized IT; and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. The Resolution had a second reading. Mayor Brown said he and Mr. Barlow interviewed six potential candidates ranging in size. Optimized IT is local and they were able to pay a visit to their corporate offices. They looked over all the specifications from all who submitted quotes. It was important to have someone local. By signing a three-year contract, they will waive the $3,000 onboarding fee. He believes the contract rate is locked in. Should we not like them, the out would be we would need to pay the $3000 onboarding fee. Council said they would like to see it in writing. They will prepare a written schedule of replacements needed. Mayor Brown and Mr. Barlow will get further information regarding replacement schedule, works stations, clarify that the rate is locked for three years, what is the exit process. The reading had a third reading. Mr. Bartlet moved, seconded by Mr. Bob Van Stone agreed to provoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six yes, no nays. Resolution No. R-5-24 was adopted.

  "Designating PNC Bank as Depository of Active and Interim Deposits of the Village of Mariemont, Beginning January 1, 2024, and Ending December 31, 22028, and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Bob Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. The Resolution had a second reading and third reading. Mr. Ayer moved seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-6-24 was adopted.

Ordinances:

- "To Amend Ordiannce O-8-23 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees had a first reading.

- To Repeal Ordinance No. O-12-23 Pertaining to Maximum Pay Rates for all Grades of Recreation Employees and to Enact New Legislation Pertaining to Maximum Pay Rates for all Grades of Recreation Employees" had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to amend the legislation to add the Swim Instructor and Swim Team Coaches and show the high wage at $10.45 per hour. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. e Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the amended Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Task List:

Council agreed to remove the bids for the trellis work at the Concourse, IT Personnel/Company and the 2021 financial Recap.

Mr. Bartlett asked for an update at the next meeting on Envision.

Mayor Brown announced that Ben James will be the replacement for John Scherpenberg who retired in December 2023. We are also close to hiring 2 laborers.

Mayor Brown said they are making good progress with the job descriptions for the Fiscal Officer and Administrator along with the KPI scores. Mr. York stated if it cannot be measured it cannot be managed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer