

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
June 8, 2024**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 5:40 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. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the minutes as written for May 28, 2024. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. (Mrs. Brownknight abstained due to her absence)

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: May 2024 Monthly Report

*From Service Superintendent James: May 2024 Monthly Report. The report included multiple options for tree removal for informational purposes.

*From Tax Administrator: May 2024 Monthly Report

*From Hamilton County Recycling: Residential Recycling Incentive Program \$10,735.83. Mr. Bartlett commented that this figure helps to determine the annual waste fee for the residents. Mariemont continues to be one of the best recycling communities in Hamilton County. Dr. Lewis said Kroger is now selling bags from Sustainable Mariemont which can be filled with items that Rumpke does not recycle which can be taken to an independent recycling center.

*From Energy Alliances: Master Service Agreement. Ms. Maria Borgerding said the rates have come back. Duke is 8 cents, Constellation 7.19 cents and Dynegy was 7.46 cents. The numbers were refreshed today for 7.3 cents. The contract needs to be signed this week. The rates would be good from August 2024 to August 2025. Duke will send out letters in mid-July for residents to opt out. If requested, an informational meeting can be arranged for the residents. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to allow the Mayor to enter into the contract. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The opt out/in information will be posted on the Village website.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Syd Sabo, 3857 Indianview Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. He appreciates the dialogue from the last Council meeting. He also appreciated Mr. Van Stone verifying what he has been trying to get across for a long time – that there are angry, disenfranchised and disillusioned residents from Plainville Road to the Library that need to be heard. Council must plan one or more meetings to discuss this route thoroughly with these residents. He saw there is a Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday on the plan. It would be an act of good faith on Council's part to postpone the Mariemont Connector plan until the residents can meet and offer their input. This meeting needs to happen in late August or September after summer vacations when people can plan to attend. Presently, pedestrians and cyclists come through Plainville to the Library corridor daily and are unimpeded. He invited Council to sit on his lawn for an hour and observe the traffic flow. Take a stroll from the library to Plainville Road. How can Council make a decision without observing how this neighborhood's walkways and roads are presently functioning.

Mr. Bartlett said he does not feel the meeting needs to be delayed as many meetings were held and changes were made to the plans based on input from those meetings. Many residents have voiced their support for the project. Mayor Brown agreed that we have heard from more that support the project than oppose. The bid openings will be on the Trolley Park Connector, nothing further. In the future there will be public meetings

referencing the intersection. Dr. Lewis said she sees both sides and said it is a hard to make a decision. Mr. Sabo suggested a path on either side of the park. Mr. Bartlett said the engineer looked at that possibility and it was determined that it would not be safe. Mr. Ayer said Murray Path is typically used by families with strollers, kids learning how to ride bikes etc. It is a safe off-street avenue for pedestrians. He feels the same will be true with the Trolley Park Connector. The intersection study was referred to the Public Works and Service Committee.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the bills. Council asked for a listing of the account fund numbers. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

None

Miscellaneous:

*Village Offices will be closed Thursday July 4, 2024, in Observation of Independence Day

*Village Fire Works will be held July 4, 2024, at dusk

*Mayor Brown referred the Village Liability insurance to the Finance Committee

Resolutions:

“To Authorize Ohio Department of Transportation to Proceed with the Columbia Connector Project PID no. 114496 County/Route/Section: Ham Columbia connector, and To Enter Into Contract” had a first reading. Mayor Brown wanted Council to be aware that this is the part of the path that comes from Walton Creek to the Library. The shared portion is \$99,000 cost to the Village. The wording of the legislation is a bit confusing as it says ODOT will pay 100%, but the next paragraph infers cost to local municipalities. He believes a Council Committee should look at this. Mr. Bartlett said this falls into the 5-year Capital forecast which the Finance Committee is meeting to discuss this week. Council asked Solicitor McTigue to render an opinion on Section 3 of the legislation and what is our “out”. Engineer Ertel said the construction cost is needed in October 2025.

“To Authorize Contracting with Columbia Township to Share Expense to Rehabilitate Grove Avenue” had a first reading. This is a reimbursement. The road work needs to be completed and then Columbia Township will reimburse the Village.

“Adopting the budget for 2025; and to Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-32-24 was adopted.

“Resolution Approving Interfund Transfers of Funds from the Street Fund (2011) to Note Retirement Fund (3401); and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-33-24 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Delete in Their Entirety Sections 151.115 and 151.116, Solar Heating, Cooling, and Hot Water Systems from the Mariemont Code of Ordinances and To Include New Sections 151.115 Through 151.121 Solar Energy Systems” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-10-24 was adopted.

“To Amend Ordinance No. O-2-24 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment of Employees” had a second reading.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer