Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
July 8, 2024

Mayor 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:

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the minutes as written for June 24, 2024. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Service Superintendent James: June 2024 Monthly Report. Council thanked the department for the painting of the hydrants. Mayor Brown thanked the department for tree limb clean up done on the holiday.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: June 2024 Monthly Report. He reported that we are $18,000 ahead of this time last year. He attributes that to the increase in net profits reported.

*From Building Official Holloway: May 2024 Monthly Report

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: Spending Request – Update radios to work with new Hamilton County Dispatch System. Some radios will be replaced this year and the balance will be done next year. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the spending request. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Biff Black, President of Mariemont Preservation Foundation, presented the Village with a donation of $4,000 for the fireworks display. Mayor Brown read the letter that was attached to the donation. "The mission of the Mariemont Preservation Foundation (MPF) is "To preserve, protect and promote the integrity and character of Mariemont". The MPF Board of Trustees feels that the annual Fourt of July Fireworks event is a wonderful example of the nature of the unique character of Mariemont. It brings families together in Dogwood Park on a summer evening for a uniquely American and Mariemont tradition. The Board feels that Mary Emery would be very pleased to know that the Village is holding this event and MPF is supporting her vision for her Village. The Village Council of Mariemont deserves our thanks for all it has done to make the fireworks display happen every year. On June 27, 2024, the MPF Board of Trustees approved a motion to donate $4,000 to the Village to help defray the costs of the Fourth of July Fireworks event. On behalf of MPF the check in the amount is enclosed. We hope the Council will continue to do all the things that are necessary for this event each year, and MPF looks forward to supporting it every year."

Mayor Brown thanked the individual supporters who contributed to the fireworks event. He also thanked the Fire Department for all their help with transporting the fireworks, saving the Village approximately $1300.

Mandi Beecroft, Manager Mariemont Branch Public Library, was granted permission to address Council. She shared upcoming events at the library including twice monthly STEM Discovery Days for grades 2-8. Disney themed escape room which will incorporate math and science skills. More information can be found on their website https://chpl.org/locations/MM/.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to approve the bills. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 4:00 pm to discuss the five-year capital forecast that was

submitted from each of the Departments for the Village. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett, Marcy Lewis and Bob Van Stone, Mayor Bill Brown, Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin, Police Chief Rick Hines, Lieutenant Nick Pittsley, Assistant Fire Chief Dan Copeland, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, and council member Randy York. The purpose of the meeting was to review all of the inputs to the Village's five-year capital forecast, from 2024 to 2029. Attached is a summary of the inputs for each of the funds. The goal for the funds is to maintain a fund balance equal to at least 70% of the expected revenue in order for work to be able to commence at the beginning of the year if necessary. The target balance for each fund is at the bottom left-hand corner of the sheet. The sheet is also color coordinated, with a key in the bottom left-hand comer.

Key takeaways for each fund were as follows:

1. Permanent Improvement — All (4901): the balance never falls below the target. However, we did not receive any numbers for the Maintenance Department. Once those numbers are available, some decisions may need to be made.
2. Permanent Improvement — Ltd (4902): this fund balance goes below its target level in 2024, 2027, 2028 and 2029. In some cases, the reason for the number dropping below the target balance is because of the recent request from the Tree Board to increase spending on new trees from $10,000/year to $38,500/year. Furthermore, this request does not include all of the other operational costs that the Tree Board has recommended. The Finance Committee recommends that a more holistic analysis be done of the Tree Board 's proposal to better understand how our resources across all of our areas match up with the request. In an effort to address the lower balance in 2027, we will be looking for grant money to help with the storm water pipes near 6904 Murray Avenue. And the Fire Department is assessing if they can delay the remounting of the ambulance to 2030, which would help address the lower balance in 2028.
3. Street Funds (2011 & 2101): the balance never drops below target. However, there could be a challenge in managing the cash balance during the year, as the Village will need to front the money for many of these projects, and then wait 30 to 60 days to get reimbursed from some of the grants. The Finance Committee recommends that Fiscal Officer Rankin do an analysis to ensure we have enough money in all of the funds to cover the proposed work and the lag time to get reimbursed. For perspective, from 2025 to 2026, the Village will be reimbursed in excess of $1.4 million from various grants. One alternative would be to advance money from the General Fund, but the advance needs to be paid back within the same calendar year and we could be limited in how much we can advance from the General Fund in any given year.
4. Dogwood Park Project (4903): this fund does not have a target balance other than to stay positive, as once the project is completed, this fund will be closed out. Here again, the challenge will be managing cash flow, as a large portion of the funds are from grants where the Village has to pay the cost up front and be reimbursed 30 to 60 days later. However, private funds and Emery Foundation money currently held by Iv1PF will help to cover some of the upfront costs.

Based on all of the input provided to date, the Finance Committee does not see any insurmountable issues in the five-year capital forecast. However, as mentioned, we have not received any numbers from the Maintenance Department yet. Also, because of the potential issues associated with when the Village spends the money and when it gets reimbursed, we believe the Fiscal Officer should do in-depth analysis of the cash flow in each fund during the year. And the committee also recommends a more holistic analysis be done of the Tree Board request to ensure we have the necessary resources across all areas of the Village (both manpower and money, and within the operational and the capital budgets). On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Council agreed to add The Project Analysis Cash Flow with Fiscal Officer Rankin leading on the Project List. Council made the following changes to the Agenda: Add to Committee of the Whole – Discuss Priorities across Capital Projects. Mr. Ayer said he would like to hold the meeting in late July/early August. The feedback from the departments will be needed. Removed from Health and Recreation – Roof Repair John

Nolen Park and Plan/Timetable for Restoration/Observation of Concourse Park. The Repair/Replacement of the Boathouse Roof was moved to the Safety Committee. Removed from the Public Works and Service Committee – Street Rehabilitation.

Hamilton County announced a $50,000 Streetscape Grant. It will be available to make store fronts more attractive. It is due August 1, 2024. Mr. Van Stone's suggestion was for the new awnings for the buildings in the Old Town Square. Mr. York sent the information to the Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Brown will reach out to Mr. Spinnenweber. Mr. York will lead the grant process.

Miscellaneous:

None

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 third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-36-24 was adopted.

"To Authorize Contracting with Columbia Township to Share Expense to Rehabilitate Grove Avenue" had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-37-24 was adopted.

"To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for the Dogwood Park Centennial Rehabilitation" had a second reading.

Ordinances:

None

Mr. Van Stone reminded Council that when the Village goes out to bid, it needs to be contingent on the Village having the cash flow. He does not want Council to feel pressured to accept the bid because of pending grant money fi the cash flow is not in place. Mr. York said they have been engaged with MPF through the whole process. A grant letter will be put together and submitted to MPF.

Mr. Van Stone said the Village is adding a significant amount of sidewalks, walkways and multi-use paths. His concern is in order to support all the new construction the Village may have to add an additional person in the Service Department. He would like an evaluation of what that annual maintenance cost would be for new infrastructure. Superintendent James will work on a report for Council.

The bid package for Dogwood Park involves Prevailing Wage but does not include federal requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer