

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
April 22, 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.

Adam Geraci was promoted to rank of Police Sergeant. He has worked for the Mariemont Police Department for 9 years and prior to that he worked for 4 years for Xavier University Police Department. He serves as a Firearms Instructor, Property Room Manager and a taser instructor. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to promote Officer Geraci. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Sergeant Geraci was sworn in and congratulated by members of Council.

Minutes:

Mrs. Van Pelt said the April 8, 2024 minutes passed “An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority”. It was actually the second reading. The Ordinance will be passed with the third reading later in the meeting. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to amend the minutes as noted. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the amended minutes. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: March 2024 Monthly Report

*From Building Official Holloway: March 2024 Monthly Report

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Louise Schomburg, 3885 Oak Street was granted permission to address Council. She has been working the in Mariemont Parks for 30 years. After retirement from teaching in 2000, she took on more tasks. She announced that she will be cutting back and will continue to work on smaller projects:

*Old Town Park: weed, plant, trim and whatever is needed in the beds including picking up sticks and branches

*Oak Street: weed around Oak trees and spray as needed to kill weeds so tractor mowers will no need to run over roots. She will pick up branches and sticks along Oak and on the hillside.

*Lich Gate/Military Cemetery: spray weeds, trim tall grass on hillside and pick up branches.

*Madisonville Road: Spray around trees to remove weeds.

*Rose Bed at Tennis Court/Emery: weed, trim all plants, spray weeds, (flower bed at curve) weed, trim, cut back entire area, pick up sticks/branches.

*Wooster Pike: pick up sticks/branches on both sides from Pleasant Street to Park Lane and small green area.

*Miami Road: Jordan Park small flower bed at Miami & East.

Steve Pipkin has offered to help with spraying, trimming and some of the other projects.

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Hamilton County Public Library Mariemont Branch, was granted permission to address Council. She said worked with Mrs. Van Pelt and Ms. Uhrig to include the various library programs onto the Village website. They have partnered with Sustainable Mariemont, collecting and recycling eclipse glasses. She is working with Assistant Fire Chief Copeland for the Baby Boot Camp May 9th, which will include infant CPR.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. York said he prepared a bill to be sent to the high school in December for their annual contribution to the use of the tennis courts. He asked if the Mayor or Solicitor McTigue had forwarded it to the school for payment. Mayor Brown asked Mr. York to resend and also to copy Mrs. Rankin. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to pay the bills. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

The Public Works & Service Committee met on April 11th at 4:32 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Member Rob Bartlett, Committee Member Randy York, Village Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, and Mayor Brown. Mr. Ertel presented the results of the bids to repave Grove Avenue and Pocahontas Avenue, repair the Pleasant Street Storm Sewer, repave the Chestnut Street Municipal Parking Lot, and patching one location on Rowan Hill Drive. Bids have been opened for these projects and are as follows:

J.K. Meuer Corp	\$291,577.00
Prus Construction	\$438,284.00
Pleasant Blacktopping, Inc.	\$451,452.00

The Engineer's estimate was \$448,000. The Village has contracted with J.K. Meuer on several projects over the past 10 years. They performed well on them. The bids for paving Grove and Pocahontas totaled \$192,000. After reimbursements from MTIF grants (\$156,400) and from Columbia Township (\$12,300), the cost to the Village will be \$23,300, which is much less than the \$227,700 appropriation for streets in the Funds 2011 and 2101. The bid for repairing the Pleasant Street storm sewer was \$40,000. After reimbursement from an ARPA grant (\$36,000), the cost to the Village will be \$4,000 which is less than the \$5,000 allocation in the capital improvement budget. Based on the recommendation of Mr. Ertel, the Committee unanimously recommends awarding a contract to J.K. Meuer for these projects. The Committee recommends that Council adopt a resolution on an emergency basis to accelerate the timing of these projects. After approval, Mr. Ertel will remove the repaving of the municipal lot since there is no appropriation for the project at this time. Mr. Ertel will also get an estimate for patching potholes on Park Lane and Harvard Acres. Due to the funding still available for streets, the Committee recommends that Council adopt a resolution authorizing Mr. Ertel to get bids for the repaving of lanes around Patriot Park. Mr. Brown pointed out that there have been 2 complaints from residents about the condition of that pavement. Mr. Ertel estimates that this project will cost approximately \$80,000. The Committee recommends that Council adopt a resolution for this bid on an emergency basis to accelerate the bid and hopefully repaving process. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Mr. Van Stone said because of the money that has to be spent by the Village, until we get the grant money the numbers in this report do not reflect the cash flow. Engineer Ertel needs to have further discussion with J.K. Meuer to make sure we have the right numbers. As a result, he would like to just have the first reading of the

Resolution and not pass it on an emergency basis tonight. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to amend the report to delete the last sentence referencing the emergency. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Brown called a brief recess from 7:02-7:04 p.m. for Mr. Ayer to get a drink.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to accept the amended report. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee which met on April 16th at 4:32 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Member Randy York, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, and Mayor Brown. Mr. Zack Janszen of 6620 Wooster was also in attendance. Since the April 11, 2024, Committee meeting, Mr. Bartlett and Mr. York questioned the decision to repave the lanes around Patriot Park which was scheduled to be repaved in 2026 ahead of sections of Pleasant Street and Center Street both of which were scheduled to be repaved in 2025. Mr. Van Stone and Mayor Brown examined the Patriot Park lanes and noted they were in very bad shape with multiple large potholes. Mr. Janszen, whose residence backs into the lanes also noted that the curb between his driveway and the lane has been significantly damaged leading to the deterioration of his paver driveway. Village Engineer Ertel reported that the last village-wide paving assessment was performed in 2022. He noted that since that time, there has been significant degradation of the Patriot Park lanes. Based on an examination performed on April 16, 2024, he reported that the pavement condition of the Patriot Park lanes is much worse than those on both Pleasant and Center Streets. Mr. Ertel will document his assessment in writing. Based on the report of the Village Engineer, the Committee voted unanimously to get bids for the lanes around Patriot Park as originally agreed to on April 11, 2024. The committee also recommended that Mr. Ertel perform his 2024 village-wide street assessment prior to the approval of the capital expenditure budget for 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Mr. Van Stone read the memo dated April 17, 2024, sent by Engineer Ertel: At the request of the Committee, I have field verified the existing pavement conditions of Center Street (Miami Bluff to Mt. Vernon), Pleasant St (Mariemont Av to Mariemont Av) and Patriot's Lane (Wooster Pike to Elm St) on April 16th, 2024. Based on my assessment, Patriot's Lane has the pavement in the worst condition, which should be moved forward in the 5-year planning schedule ahead of Center St and Pleasant St. I recommend the Committee report to the Village Council and request that the rehabilitation of Patriot's Lane be bid on as soon as possible as a separate project. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*Memorial Day Parade and Presentation of the Outstanding Citizen Award will be held Monday May 27, 2024.

*Village Offices will be Closed in Observation of Memorial Day Monday May 27, 2024.

*The Regular Council Meeting Scheduled for Monday May 27, 2024, will be held Tuesday May 28, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Resolutions:

- "To Authorize Fiscal Officer to Advertise for Bids for Waste Collection and to Pay for Advertising" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-22-24 was adopted.

Council agreed to pass the members of the Mariemont Racquet Club Resolutions on an emergency basis so they may begin work as quickly as possible.

- “To Appoint Matt Tripepi as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to pass on emergency and 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. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-23-24 was adopted.
- “To Appoint Hilary Lepa as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to pass on emergency and 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. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-24-24 was adopted.
- “To Appoint Linda S. Bartlett as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to pass on emergency and 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. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-25-24 was adopted.
- “To Appoint Kevin Taylor as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club for the Calendar Year 2024; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to all for the second and third readings. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. York Moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-26-24 was adopted.
- “To Appoint Stan Bahler as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club for the Calendar Year 2024; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to all for the second and third readings. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. York Moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-27-24 was adopted.
- “To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for Patriot’s Lane Street Repair” had a first reading.
- “To Accept Bid of J.K. Meurer Corporation for the 2024 Street Rehabilitation Project; To Authorize Contract” had a first reading.

Ordinances:

- “An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-8-24 was adopted.
- “To Supplement Ordinance No. O-6-24 Annual Appropriations Ordinance; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to suspend the rules to allow for

the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-9-24 was adopted. Mr. Ayer complimented the Committee on work well done.

Mayor Brown said he and Mr. Van Stone met with the Waldorf School to discuss the parking lot.

Fiscal Officer Rankin said we received the first half property tax payment from Hamilton County \$732,000. She will run the monthly reports once all the information is entered into UAN.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer