

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
September 23, 2024**

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

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to excuse the absence of Mrs. Brownknight. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Minutes:

Mr. Bartlett noted the last sentence of the minutes from August 26, 2024, should be changed to reference that the matter be referred to the Rules and Law Committee. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the Council minutes as written, with noted change. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. (Dr. Lewis abstained due to her absence)

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to approve the minutes as written for the Special Meeting of Council September 5, 2024. On roll call; Four ayes, no nays. (Mr. York abstained due to his absence)

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the minutes as written for the Council Meeting September 9, 2024. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Dr. Lewis abstained due to her absence)

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the minutes as written for the Special Meeting of Council September 16, 2024. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Dr. Lewis abstained due to her absence)

Communications:

*From Rod Holloway: Administration Office Renovation. Mayor Brown said we have been working with A359, a professional design company, to renovate the Administration Office. We received a bid from an all-encompassing company, but the bid was too high. He and Rod Holloway will be acting as the sub-contractors and anticipate saving money on the project. This includes new furnishings. It will provide tighter and better control.

*From Police Chief Hines: August 2024 Monthly Report. Chief Hines said they rotated to Mayor's Court being held every two weeks. It will be evaluated to determine if the schedule will remain the same going forward or go back to every three weeks. The issue of speeding has been concentrated on by the department.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Mariemont Public Library, was granted permission to address Council. She updated Council on upcoming events at the library which include: The League of Women Voters will be at the library September 24, 2024, 6:00 p.m. to-7:00 p.m. to discuss upcoming election issues. On October 11, 2024, the library will hold a free kindle resource guide which will help adults navigate loading ebooks/audio books on their devices. Saturday October 26, 2024, there will be a life-sized R2D2 who will interact with the children and also on October 29, 2024, a Monster Mash will be held including a haunted hallway and candy

Dr. Nathan Salomonis, 6909 Murray Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. After returning from an out-of-town trip, he noticed parking spaces along Murray Avenue. They are close together and taking up most of the road and also close to the stop sign. A neighbor has had medical issues and he is concerned that

medical assistance will be able to navigate the area. It is a high traffic car and pedestrian area causing them to walk in the grassy areas along the street.

Mayor Brown said this situation caught him by surprise as well. It was frustrating not to have been informed that changes were going to be made. He had a conversation with the Village Engineer weeks ago for temporary parking in front of the old firehouse where Columbia Township is doing construction. He had many calls yesterday about the parking spaces that went up as those were a surprise to him. He talked with Melissa Taylor, Columbia Township Administrator, who said with the work the township is doing in making a community center more parking spaces were needed. It was always his understanding the Village of Mariemont owned one half of Murray (up to the center line). Ms. Taylor assured Mayor Brown that prior to the project surveys were conducted and the road is owned entirely by Columbia Township. She will be forwarding a copy of the survey for his review. There are concerns that it may present a problem getting emergency vehicles through the area. Ms. Taylor went over the measurements with their engineer and is assured there is not an issue. He recommended attending a meeting of the Columbia Township Trustees and voicing his displeasure about the lack of residents along the area being informed and possibly discuss other issues. It was recommended that Mr. Salomonis sign up for the Group Distribution List that send out information from the Administration office.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the bills. Mr. York asked if the water/sewage bills at the pool have gone down since the leak was fixed. The information was not readily available. Mr. York asked if the survey responses were available. Mayor Brown said yes and they will be going out shortly. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to table the Rules & Law report until Mrs. Brownknight and Building Official Holloway are available. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee which met on September 17, 2024, at 4:35 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Randy York and Rob Bartlett, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin, Mayor Bill Brown, and Councilperson Matt Ayer. The first agenda item was the repaving of West and Pleasant Streets. Neither of these projects were awarded a SORTA grant, and Engineer Ertel recommended applying for an OPWC grant. Those applications need to be received by September 27. Mr. Ayer noted that the top projects which received SORTA funding were 50% match projects. After some discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to apply for the OPWC grants with a 50% match. The SORTA application for Pleasant Street included adding a new sidewalk which will not be included in the OPWC application. Due to the narrow timeline of the grant application, the Committee also highly recommends that Engineer Ertel be allowed to use Choice One to assist in updating the scope of the work in the grant applications for both Pleasant and West Streets. The cost of this Choice One effort shall not exceed \$5,000. Mr. Ayer pointed out to the Committee that if the Village does not successfully complete SORTA grant projects, projects for the next 3 years will receive such a negative score that the village will not be eligible for SORTA grants during that period. Mr. Ayer made these comments with respect to the Dale Park sidewalk. He has had discussions with Choice One about the completion of the second half of the engineering plans for the Dale Park sidewalk. The first half of the work will be completed by October 21st. Mr. Ayer reported that if we fund the additional \$6,000 now, Choice One can complete the drawings by November 1st. The Committee agreed unanimously that Council fund this additional amount and pass it on an emergency due to the tight timeline. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 PM. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Van Stone said Engineer Ertel was in contact with Choice One, but he did not hear back from them in time for the spending request/quote could be included in the Council packet. We will need to hold a Special Meeting of Council to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$6,000. Council discussed and agreed to hold the Special Meeting of Council Wednesday September 25, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. to pass the Spending Request and legislation if necessary.

Mayor Brown referred to the Safety Committee the Flock Camera System recommended by Chief Hines. He said it is a good tool to protect the safety of the community.

Mr. Van Stone asked to remove the following agenda items from Public Works and Service Committee: Painting the fire hydrants, 2025 SORTA grant opportunities and Patriot Park Damage.

Mr. Ayer asked to remove the following agenda items from the Safety Committee: Wading Pool bid specifications and Parking west side of Pleasant Street.

Miscellaneous:

*Village Offices will be Closed in Observation of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day Monday October 14, 2024

*Reminder Fraud Reporting and Training is mandatory and must be completed by September 28, 2024. Please provide Mrs. Van Pelt with a copy of completion. This is a State Audit requirement.

*Leaf Season will begin Monday October 21, 2024

*Beggar's Night will be Thursday October 31, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*December Council Meeting will be held Monday December 16, 2024, beginning immediately after the end of the Capital Improvement Meeting which starts at 5:30 p.m. Monday December 16, 2024.

Resolutions:

"Resolution To Appoint Lisa Wharton as a Member of the Community Reinvestment Area to Fill the Vacancy of Charles Martinez" had a third reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-48-24 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Aileen Beatty as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2025 and 2026" had a second reading.

"To Reappoint Peter Wren as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2025 and 2026" had a second reading.

"To Confirm the Reappointment of Christopher M. Ertel as Village Engineer for Calendar Years 2025 and 2026; and To Set Compensation" had a second reading.

"To Reappoint Rick Gibson as Mayor's Court Magistrate for Calendar Years 2025 and 2026" had a second reading.

"To Reappoint Brad Lockhart as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025" had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Steve Pipkin as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2025 and 2026” had a second reading.

Mayor Brown said we are not fully staffed with the Parks Advisory Board. It was suggested that notice be placed in the Town Crier and sent out via email to the Group Distribution List.

“To Reappoint Terry Donovan as a Member of the Pool Commission for Calendar Years 2025 and 2026” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Mandy Rohal as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2025 and 2026” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Andrew Seeger as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2025” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Steve Spooner as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2025” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Mark Glassmeyer as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2025” had a second reading.

“To Appoint John Fakes as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2025” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Jon Morgan as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2025” had a second reading.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Edward J. McTigue as Solicitor for the Village of Mariemont for the Calendar Years 2025 and 2026” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Barb Whitaker as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2025” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Kristen Van Scoy as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2025 and 2026” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Steve Pipkin as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2025” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Marianne Prue as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2025” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Larry Gray as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2025” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Mary Beth York as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2025 and 2026” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Margaret Jevic as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2025 and 2026” had a first reading.

“To Appoint Scott Remer as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2025” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Scott Hamlin as a Member of the Audit Committee For Calendar Years 2025 and 2026” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Stan Bahler as a Member of the Audit Committee For Calendar Years 2025 and 2026” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Kevin Taylor as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club for the Calendar Year 2025” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Stan Bahler as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club for the Calendar Year 2025” had a first reading.

Mr. Van Stone was surprised it was not named the Mariemont Racquet Board.

“A Resolution Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Ohio Public Works Commission; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. This is for the repaving project of West Street and Pleasant Street. Mr. York moved, seconded Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-49-24 was adopted.

Ordinances:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer