

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
January 23, 2023**

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

Police Chief Hines introduced David Roberts and asked for consideration of appointment as a Patrol Officer with the Mariemont Police Department. After a thorough hiring process, Mr. Roberts was selected over a number of other well qualified candidates. He worked for the Forest Park Police Department for the last six years. He served our country for seven years in the Ohio Air National Guard and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. He is excited to have Mr. Roberts and his family become a part of the Mariemont Police family. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to confirm the hiring of Mr. Roberts. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mayor Brown swore in Officer Roberts. A short recess was called so Council could congratulate Mr. Roberts and his family.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the Council minutes as written from January 9, 2023.

Communications:

*From Building Official Holloway: December 2022 Monthly Report. He updated Council on the rental inspections. There was a meeting with the rental owners early January. They hope to do 130-140 inspections annually and are roughly on track. Reminders are being sent out on a timely basis.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Don Slavik, 3717 Homewood Road, was granted permission to address Council. He stated that during leaf collection there was one service department employee working so he offered to help. At the end of the day, he smelled of diesel fuel. He realized the vent was pointed directly out instead of up. He suggested having that looked at as inhaling fumes cannot be good. Mayor Brown said he will talk with Service Superintendent Scherpenberg to see if adjustments can be made for next season.

Mr. Slavik also noted that since the new drain was put in several years ago, the flooding issue on Homewood has been fixed.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to pay the bills. Mrs. Rankin asked what was the process for being reimbursed for the Kleinger's Group study. Mayor Brown said the leftover monies from the Murray Path project has paid a substantial part of the study. His understanding is the Crown Group will be paying for the balance of the study. The point person overseeing the process is Engineer Ertel and resident Matt Ayer. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Geldbaugh to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on Friday January 13th at 4pm at the Mariemont pool and reconvened in Council Chambers at 5pm. Present at the meeting were Health and Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Leah Geldbaugh (Member) and Mayor Bill Brown. Also in attendance were Pool Board president Mandy Rohal and Tax Administrator Chuck Barlow.

The purpose of the committee meeting was to assess the maintenance and rehabilitation priorities for the pool in advance of the 2023 season. The committee came up with a list of 18 action items. The committee will coordinate with the service department to determine which tasks may be completed internally versus externally and assign a projected cost for each. The committee will prioritize the list based upon need and projected return.

The committee accepted a proposal to open up pool membership for the 2023 season to non-residents of the Village of Mariemont who reside in the Mariemont school district. Since Mariemont tax dollars underwrite the operations and capital improvements of the pool a premium will be charged to non-residents. The proposed rates for 2023 would be as follows:

2023 Mariemont Pool Membership Fee Schedule	Individual Daily Pass	Individual Membership*	Individual Senior Membership**	Family Membership	Family plus Babysitter Membership***	Non-member daily pass for 2 or more of the same household - rate per person	Swim Team	Swim Lessons
2023 Mariemont Village Resident Membership Fees	\$10.00	\$199.00	\$169.00	\$449.00	\$559.00	\$8.00	\$100.00	\$75.00
2023 Mariemont School District Resident Membership Fees	\$12.00	\$250.00	\$200.00	\$550.00	\$700.00	\$10.00	\$100.00	\$75.00
# of Free Guest passes	0	4	4	10	10	0	0	0
Free Guest passes with membership								
All guests must be accompanied by a Mariemont Village or School District resident.								
* Individual Memberships are available to Mariemont Village or Mariemont School District residents age 9 or older on or before May 28, 2023								
**Senior Memberships are available to Mariemont Village or Mariemont School District residents age 65 or older on or before May 28, 2023								

The committee did not review rates from by the Mariemont Tennis Association. The MTA is waiting to confirm the timing of the tennis court refinishing and the anticipated disruption before establishing rates. The committee recommends, consistent with the recommendation of MTA that the \$25.00 per family capital improvement fee remain for 2023.

The committee reviewed the rates proposed by the South 80 Trails, Garden and Park Advisory Board for garden plots for 2023. The committee accepted these proposed rates for 2023:

	2022		2023	
	First	Additional	First	Additional
South 80	Plot	Plot	Plot	Plot
Garden Plot Fees	\$20	\$10	\$30	\$20

The committee further recommends that the Village Solicitor prepare the necessary legislation.

Mr. York noted that the \$25.00 fee for capital improvements is charged to those family members who play while reserving the court, such as the men's "hit clinic". Last year \$1820.00 was raised which was matched. He does want to have a conversation with Superintendent Scherpenberg about the option/concerns about opening the restrooms April 1st when most of the high school students start play. Communication would be handled regarding opening the pool membership district-wide by flyers and school monthly email notification. Software to track residency is too expensive so they will be relying on volunteers to check those who sign up. The goal is to add 54 family

memberships, but it will be open to all levels of membership. If it reaches capacity, joining will be cut-off. The hope is also to build the swim team. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on Monday January 16, 2023, at 5:00 pm. Present at the meeting were Health and Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Susan Brownknight (Vice-Chair), Leah Geldbaugh (Member) and Mayor Bill Brown. Also in attendance were Village Engineer Chris Ertel and Tax Administrator Chuck Barlow. The purpose of the committee meeting was to review the statement of qualifications that we received from Human Nature and The Kleingers Group. The Committee unanimously accepted the Statement of Qualifications from the Kleingers Group and to proceed with the negotiations to go under contract with The Kleingers Group for the plans for the rehabilitation of Dogwood Park. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 4:00 pm in Council Chambers to discuss the annual salary increases for Mariemont employees. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett, Kelly Rankin, and Marcy Lewis. Also, present were Richard Ford, Chuck Barlow, Joanee Van Pelt, Allison Uhrig, Rick Hines, and John Scherpenberg. Salary data was collected from a number of neighboring communities of similar size to see how Mariemont's salaries compared for different roles. The goal of the committee is for Mariemont's roles to be in the middle of their salary range. To be clear, the salaries that are being voted on establish the maximum pay for each role and are based on what the marketplace is paying for that role. The salary ranges are not indicative of the performance of the person in the role. The direct manager is the person who manages the individual's salary based on performance using the salary ranges and the annual bonus. Attached are two documents which show where Mariemont's maximum salaries stands relative to the other communities, as well as an attachment with the proposed increase in maximum salary for each role. For full-time and part-time employees, the Finance Committee is recommending a base increase of 3%. For those roles that were not in the middle of the salary range, adjustments were made to the percent increase to move the roles closer to the average. The salary changes in the attached were unanimously approved by the committee, except for the increases for the Service Department Superintendent and the Payroll/Clerk role, where Mr. Bartlett and Mrs. Rankin voted for, and Dr. Lewis voted against the slightly lower proposed increase.

Ms. Geldbaugh moved to table the report until further discussion can occur in a Committee of the Whole meeting with Fiscal Officer Ford. She has had multiple discussion with Fiscal Officer Ford and believes it would be beneficial for all Council members to have the same discussion. She was unsure why the Village was paying for the crossing guards. Chief Hines said they have always been under the jurisdiction of the Police Department. When it was negotiated to hire a School Resource Officer, it was agreed that the school would pay 80% of the cost due to the Village paying for the crossing guards. Mayor Brown was unclear why some of the benchmarking was blank. Mr. Bartlett said most municipalities pay one person to do the Fiscal Officer position while the Village has two people. Dr. Lewis seconded Ms. Geldbaugh's motion to table the report. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. York will schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting with Fiscal Officer Ford and Chuck Barlow being present.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Thursday October 6th, 2022, at 3:00 pm. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee members Leah Geldbaugh (Chair), Rob Bartlett (Vice-Chair), Mayor Bill Brown, Service Superintendent John Scherpenberg, Engineer Chris Ertel, residents Jeff & Marion Molski and Justin Walker. Multiple street safety concerns were discussed regarding Miami Avenue, Rembold Avenue, Hiawatha Avenue and the intersection of Plainville Road and Wooster Pike. Concerns regarding Miami Avenue, Rembold Avenue and Hiawatha Avenue are ongoing, additional research is being conducted and will be further discussed with the residents and the Safety Committee. A decision was reached at the meeting to not allow a left turn from Plainville Road onto Wooster Pike during the hours of 7:00am to 9:00am and 3:00pm to 6:00pm. However, after additional research including discussions with Chief Hines, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, additional concerns with residents it appears it would be a better solution to not allow a left turn to be taken at any time. Ms. Geldbaugh discussed this with committee members Rob Bartlett

and Randy York on December 19th, 2022. The Committee recommends that a no left turn sign at any time be placed at the corner of Plainville Road and Wooster Pike. Should legislation be needed, the Committee recommends the Solicitor prepare said legislation.

Ms. Geldbaugh said she spoke with Tom Arnold of ODOT. A traffic signal was not a choice due to it being cost prohibitive. In his opinion, a restrictive turn would be confusing. His recommendation would be to have no turn at all. There would be three signs erected alerting motorists that no left turn was ahead. The signs would be located at Murray and Plainville, by the tennis courts and a sign on the stop sign. The Village would pay for the signage in Columbia Township and ODOT will pay for the maintenance of the signs. They will put notification in the Town Crier. Ms. Brownknight questioned the process with the recommendation coming later from the Committee outside of a public meeting. The committee met in October and then made a different decision in December. It makes the appearance that the Committee did not like the outcome and changed the recommendation without being transparent. Council and Solicitor McTigue agreed that the report should be tabled, and another Safety Meeting advertised so public input can be heard. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to table the report. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee which met on January 10th at 3:30 PM to discuss the 1.) the mowing service for 2023 and 2.) the 2023 Street Projects. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee Member Rob Bartlett and Committee Member Randy York, Mayor Brown and Maintenance Supervisor John Scherpenberg. Village Engineer, Chris Ertel, joined at 4:30. The first topic of discussion was to determine which, if any, Maintenance services will be outsourced for 2023. As a reminder, the Service department purchased 2 mowers last year for \$14,798. Discussion was had regarding the options of outsourcing specific areas in the Village for mowing and also shortening the mowing period for such. Also discussed was the option of outsourcing painting of the street signs. Mr. Scherpenberg will obtain bids on both of these items and the Committee will reconvene to make recommendations. For the year 2023 Street Rehabilitation Project, the Committee recommends Engineer Ertel submit bid requests for the following streets:

Hiawatha Avenue Rehabilitation* \$220,000 Estimated Cost.

Grove Avenue Rehabilitation (Partner with Columbia Township) ** \$ 85,000 Estimated Cost.

* Hiawatha cost breakdown: \$99,000 OPWC Loan, \$40,000 MRF Grant, \$81,000 Village Local Match.

** This is the total cost. This cost would be split 50/50 with Columbia Township

Also mentioned was paving the Old Town Municipal lot located between Mariemont Community Chapel and Waldorf School and the Administration parking lot. The Fiscal Officer advised this cannot be paid with Street Funds. The Committee will request an estimated cost of \$ 91,000 for the 2024 budget. The Committee has requested the legislation for street bids be prepared.

Dr. Lewis asked if insurance will be contributing since the parking lot was damaged in part due to the roof repair at the church. Mayor Brown said he had conversations with the roofers. The condition of the lot prior to the roof repair was in bad condition. The roof company amended the lot back to a useable state after the project was complete. Dr. Lewis said the Waldorf School uses that lot everyday and asked what they were contributing. Mrs. Rankin said they have not had that conversation. Mayor Brown said there is a discussion to be had in terms of the commitment Waldorf School will be making to the lot. There is an agreement of how they are to contribute, but it has not been enforced. It was discussed that Engineer Ertel, Mrs. Rankin and Ms. Geldbaugh speak with Susan Gray of the Waldorf School. Mayor Brown said the church will benefit from the lot repair and suggested that they be part of the discussion as well. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

- Annual Outstanding Citizen Award nominations are due to Mrs. Van Pelt by March 16, 2023.
- Village Offices will be Closed Monday February 20, 2023, in Observation of Presidents' Day

Resolutions:

“To Reappoint Leah Geldbaugh as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2023 and 2024” had a second reading.

“To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for 2023 Street Repairs and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. The Resolution had a second and third readings. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Geldbaugh to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Geldbaugh to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-1-23 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Delete Section 150.18 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a second reading.

Task List:

Ms. Geldbaugh provided an update on the park benches. She received a quote of approximately \$8,000 to replace four benches at the square for the Centennial. The company is out of Canada and provides Brazilian walnut benches which requires minimal maintenance. They will make a plaque to go on the bench. She was provided a pictured of a weathered bench. A succession plan was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Richard D. Ford, Fiscal Officer