

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
May 8, 2023**

Mayor Bill Brown called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Brownknight, Ms. Geldbaugh, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Rankin, and Mr. York.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to accept the Council Meeting minutes for April 24, 2023, as written On roll call; four ayes, no nays. (Mr. Bartlett and Ms. Geldbaugh abstained due to their absence).

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: April 2023 Monthly Report. Solicitor McTigue commented on checks being taken from mailboxes. Chief Hines said they have been working with Postal Inspectors on some of the cases.

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: April 2023 Monthly Report. Mrs. Rankin asked if the Service Department painted the sidewalk at Plainville and Murray as it looks like they were freshened up for the Flying Pig Marathon. Superintendent said no. Mayor Brown said the crosswalk at Miami Road and Rembold will be freshened up. The crosswalk is not painted, but instead hot tape is used. Mr. York said we need a process instead of reacting to a citizen request. He sent an email with a list of crosswalks that needed attention in August, and none were touched. If we just keep reacting, we are never going to get ahead of this. We need a proactive systematic approach to this. Mayor Brown said Administrator Barlow and Superintendent Scherpenberg are working on a plan. Mrs. Brownknight asked Superintendent Scherpenberg his plans for the crosswalks. He said they got many of the curbs done, but most of the work depends on staffing and weather issues. It takes 2 to work on a crossing as one has to direct traffic around the wet paint or tape that was put down. They have also been busier with the mowing. The hot tape does last longer than paint. They do try to hit the crosswalks around the schools every year. Mayor Brown said there has been a request to repaint Miami Road hill.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: April 2023 Monthly Report.

*From Michelle Balz: Email Dated May 4, 2023, re: Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan (First Reading of Resolution will be heard)

* Spending Request Form from Mayor Brown: Electrical Service for Outdoor Lighting in Median Islands along Wooster Pike. Total amount not to exceed \$30,302.55. Ms. Geldbaugh said \$15,000 was appropriated and questioned why the cost is now \$30,000. Mayor Brown said the original estimate from the electrician was \$40,000 to do the work. After meeting with the electrician, the amount was renegotiated to approximately \$22,000. The \$7,000 shortage was donated by Spinnenweber Builders, Inc. as he was supportive of the median trees being lit at night in the median and Christmas displays. He then learned that Duke wants an additional \$7667 to run the service under Wooster Pike to the islands. The Service Department will do most of the digging work, saving additional funds. He spoke with Fiscal Officer Ford who reappropriated within certain line items which did not require coming back before Council. Ms. Geldbaugh views this as a want versus a need. Mayor Brown believes the lights in the median will add a great deal to the charm and the character of the Village. It will add a welcoming ambiance. They will be LED lights which will consume low electricity. It will allow for additional Christmas displays over the holidays and it is also much needed during the Kiwanis Arts and Crafts Show. Ms. Geldbaugh said it is a big expenditure, especially when Spinnenweber Builders will benefit the most. When speaking with the Elementary School, Spinnenweber Builders is not friendly to our residents by not allowing them to park in their parking lot for school events. Mr. York said he was willing to speak with Mr. Spinnenweber regarding the Elementary School functions. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to approve the spending request. On roll call; five ayes, one nay (Ms. Geldbaugh).

Permission to Address Council:

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to pay the bills as submitted. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis, to accept the recommendation of the Rules and Law Committee which met on April 10, 2023, at 6:10 pm. Present were Committee Chairperson Susan Brownknight, Committee members Kelly Rankin and Marcy Lewis. Also in attendance was Chuck Barlow. The Rules and Law Committee discussed recodifying the Mariemont Code of Ordinances. It was agreed and recommended to proceed with the recodification. Appropriate funds have been allocated and budgeted. The cost including shipping is not to exceed \$13,000. This recodification will also include the update of the online version. This recodification will include updates through April 30, 2023. The Rules and Law Committee recommends that the first reading of the legislation be read at the May 8, 2023, meeting. Mrs. Van Pelt verified that the recodification would include the Ohio Revised Code updates including the traffic laws and approximately 5 hard copies. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to approve the spending request (not to exceed \$13,000). On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

- Village Offices will be closed in Observance of Memorial Day Monday May 29, 2023
- Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday May 29, 2023, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The Presentation of the Outstanding Citizen will be awarded.
- Village Fireworks will be held Monday July 3, 2023, beginning at dusk.
- Village Offices will be closed in Observance of Independence Day Tuesday July 4, 2023

Resolutions:

“Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Levying a Tax in Excess of the 10 Mill Limitation for Current Expenses and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-14-23 was adopted.

“Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Levying a Tax in Excess of the 10 Mill Limitation for Recreational Purposes of the MariElders, Inc. and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-15-23 was adopted.

“To Accept Bid of the Kleingers Group for the Construction Drawings of the Rehabilitation of Dogwood Park” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin asked if the Resolution should be amended pending the receipt of money from Mariemont Preservation Foundation (MPF). Mr. Barlow said certificate of revenue has not been voted on yet by Hamilton County. It should be approved on May 16, 2023. We need the certificate in order to do the budget appropriations. He is aware that MPF passed a Resolution regarding the money. By passing the Resolution does that authorize the contract? Mayor Brown said both he and Fiscal Officer Ford would need to sign the contract. Dr. Lewis said her understanding is that before Centennial monies are distributed the whole Board of Trustees would be given a chance to vote, as opposed to just the officers. It allows for more participation. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to amend Section I to add “pending the approval of the Hamilton County Budget Commission, with said certificate being returned to the Village, and MPF approving spending on their part”. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to adopt the amended Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-16-23 was adopted.

“To Appoint Brad Lockhart as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2023” had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-17-23 was adopted.

Ms. Geldbaugh said that Becca Vianello withdrew her name for the Pool Commission as she will be hired as a swim coach. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to withdraw the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

“To Authorize the Recodification of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a first reading.

“To Appoint Tina Getter as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Year of 2023 to Fulfill the Unexpired Term of John Bentley” had a first reading.

Ordinances:

Task List and Committee Assignments:

Mrs. Rankin asked that the Mowing/Leaf Season be removed from the Public Works and Service Committee.

Ms. Geldbaugh said various committees are working on Hiawatha, Rembold and Miami. She suggested having the Health and Recreation Committee, Safety Committee and Public Works and Service Committee have one meeting to discuss what is being recommended for each section. It was agreed that a Committee of the Whole Meeting would be more appropriate.

Engineer Ertel said we need to award the contract for Hiawatha. We need to discuss where the Hiawatha project stops. We have grant money in place to rehabilitate Hiawatha and we have an alternative where we can remove the pavement of Indianview between Rembold and Hiawatha. Since we are not going to take the first alternative, which was the sidewalk down to the High School, we cannot take the second alternative either. We have to award the contract for the rehabilitation work on Hiawatha, then he can put in a change order for any additional work. If we stop the work at Indianview, then we have a clear break of what we want to do with the intersection/extension/straightening as part of another grant next year. We can apply as early as June 2nd. He suggested adding it to the Public Works and Service meeting scheduled for later in the week. Mrs. Rankin said she will hold a meeting on Friday May 12th at 4:00 to discuss the SORTA Grant Applications; Award Hiawatha Rehabilitation Contract; and Discuss OKI Grant Application.

Administrator Barlow reported that the wood poles are down. However, there is one pole located at 6961 Murray that still has hanging wires. He is in the process of getting that resolved.

Mrs. Rankin asked that the task list be updated to remove the hydrants as those are in Public Works and Service.

Mr. York said the improvements to the Bell Tower Ball Fields are complete and may be removed from the task list.

Mayor Brown said the front door and front window for the Municipal Building along with the windows for the Administration office have been ordered. The door and front window are six months out while the office windows should arrive within 45 days.

The replacement of street signs for the Village was assigned to the Public Works and Service Committee. Mayor Brown said his son has done extensive research and will forward updated information to Mrs. Rankin.

Mr. York said he received a letter from Hamilton County Planning and Development. We automatically renew unless the Village opts out. He recommended adding it to the planned Public Works and Service Committee meeting this Friday. We need to put together a proposal to spend the awarded planning grant money.

Mr. Bartlett said Fiscal Officer Ford is collecting information regarding the healthcare renewal alternatives for full-time employees. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet Monday May 22, 2023, prior to the Council meeting. We need to schedule a Special Meeting of Council to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and submit to the Center for Local Government. It was agreed to hold the meeting on Thursday May 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Richard D. Ford, Fiscal Officer