

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
January 13, 2025**

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.

Mayor Brown asked for a moment of silence for Jerry Vianello, who passed away, this weekend. He was a personal friend and a larger friend to the Village dedicating so many years of service to the Village.

Minutes:

Mr. Bartlett noted that the Capital Improvement minutes should state copper ridge. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone, to approve the minutes as amended for the Permanent Improvement Meeting held December 16, 2024. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting December 16, 2024. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council minutes held December 23, 2024. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mrs. Brownknight and Mr. York abstained due to their absence.

Mayor Brown introduced, George Marsland, who is working on his Eagle Scout Project and presented Council with a copy of his proposed project. Mr. Marsland said he lives at 3600 Center Street and is a Life Scout in Mariemont Troop 149. He would like consideration for his Eagle Scout Project consisting of replacing two of the community posting boards and to construct one new one. The proposed replacement posting boards are located next to the Fire Department driveway on Crystal Springs Road and the one located on Miami Bluff at Flintpoint Way. These two posting boxes are in disrepair and need to be replaced. He would like permission to construct and place a new posting box at Dogwood Park in a location to be determined after all phases of the upcoming construction have been completed. He believes this new posting box will have greater visibility with the high volume of foot traffic anticipated in the area. In addition to the posting boxes, he would like to install a dog waste bag dispenser on the new posting board at Dogwood Park. This addition will facilitate greater adherence to the “pick up after your pet” rules and could increase readership of the Village postings while dog owners are pulling bags. Pending approval, he would like to construct the posting boards to be identical to the existing posting boards using more weather resistant materials. The posting boards will also adhere to the traditional color scheme of “Mariemont brown”. Construction would begin sometime in March utilizing volunteers from his Troop and close friends. He thanked Council for their consideration. Mayor Brown said he will make arrangements, if needed, to work in the Maintenance Facility and help with the material selection. It was noted that the Code of Ordinances may need to be changed, as they reference specific locations of the posting boards, unless it would be an unofficial posting board.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: December 2024 Monthly Report. Chief Hines noted that two more cars were taken last week in the Village, both having the keys left in the car. The have been recovered and processed. He stressed to call 911 if someone sees something and not to approach them as some car thefts in the Tri-State area have been made by armed thieves.

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: Two Spending Requests: 1. Radios and Installation not to exceed \$24,321.02 and 2. Turnout Out Gear not to exceed \$15,000. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to approve the requests. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: December 2024 Monthly Report

*From Building Official Holloway: November 2024 Monthly Report and December 2024 Monthly Report. He reported being busy with permits to clean up abandoned gas lines, most were not capped properly, at the site of the new condominiums. In November, the 100th rental inspection was performed which is roughly one quarter of all the units. There was a three-year grace period to get everyone compliant, which leaves us six months away from dealing with an issue. He will work with the Village Solicitor on how to address the issue. Communications in the past has not resulted in compliance.

*From Administration Office: Spending request for fireworks not to exceed \$6500. Mayor Brown said he is hopeful that the residents will donate at least half. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to approve the spending request. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Manager of the Mariemont Branch Library, was granted permission to address Council. She announced on January 25th will be a demonstration of English and Scottish country dancing! Enjoy a performance with the opportunity for some participation. All ages are welcome and no registration is needed. On the 28th there will be an Identify Theft Workshop which will identify the types and signs of identity theft and fraud and build strategies to protect your personal data. Presented by Jeanette Trujillo from Fifth Third Bank. On the 21st through the end of February stop by and pick up a surprise from our "Blind Date with a Book" display! Each book is wrapped up with just a few hints on the outside—no judging a book by its cover! Take a chance on a new read and enjoy the mystery. Plus, earn points for our "Winter Checkout Challenge" while discovering your next favorite book.

President Pro-Tem

Dr. Lewis nominated Mr. Van Stone for Vice Mayor. Mr. Bartlett nominated Mrs. Brownknight for Vice-Mayor. On roll call; for Mr. Van Stone: Two ayes, four nays (Mr. Ayer, Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Brownknight and Mr. York dissenting). On roll call for Mrs. Brownknight: five ayes, one nay (Dr. Lewis dissenting).

Motion to Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday January 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss the annual salary increases for Mariemont residents. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett, Bob Van Stone and Marcy Lewis. Also in attendance were Kelly Rankin, Nick Pittsley, Joanne Van Pelt, Rick Hines and Mayor Bill Brown. 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 salary based on performance using the salary ranges and the annual bonus. Attached are two documents which show where Mariemont's maximum salaries stand relative to 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 near 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. The salary increases will go into effect during the second pay period in April. Since, the Safety Committee is handling most items associated with the swim pool, it was agreed that the Safety Committee would make a recommendation on the salary increases for the various swim pool rates.

Mr. York asked about the status of the part-time Tax Clerk in 2023 so our Tax Administrator could do other duties and questioned if the role was still necessary. Mayor Brown said as far as he is concerned the answer is yes, she is valuable and does good work. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Brown reminded Council that Committee reports should simply include day/date/time of the meeting, who was present and what was discussed. The report should also include the Committee recommendations. Any additional narratives can be attached to the report. Even with multiple topics, the report should remain concise.

Mayor Brown referred to Public Works and Service Committee a review evaluation of the Maintenance Department. Mr. Ayer does not feel it is appropriate for Council to evaluate a department head and their department since they report to the Mayor. Mayor Brown said the Committee would make recommendations to the Mayor. The main focus will be staffing, outsourcing and evaluating workload. Any recommendations would go before Council.

Miscellaneous:

*Village Offices will be Closed Monday January 20, 2025, in Observation of Martin Luther King Day

*Outstanding Citizen Award Nominations are Due to Mrs. Van Pelt by March 13, 2025

*Village Offices will be Closed Monday February 17, 2025, in Observation of Presidents' Day

*Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to nominate Mr. Van Stone as Council Member to the Planning Commission. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

*Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to nominate Mr. Ayer as Council Member to the ARB. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

*Dr. Lewis and Mrs. Brownknight agreed to remain on the Firemen's Dependents Board.

*Mayor Brown referred to the Safety Committee the Pool Personnel Salary Ordinance.

Resolutions:

"To Update Rates with XPEX for the Purpose of Enforcing the Building Codes Applicable to the Village of Mariemont" had a third reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-1-25 was adopted.

"To Increase the Tennis Fees for the 2025 Season" had a first reading. Mr. York asked to have it changed to read Racquet Club Fees.

"To Appoint Keri Malafa as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Year 2025 and 2026" had a second reading.

“To Accept Bid of John P. Tumlin & Sons, LTD., for the Construction of a Sidewalk in Dogwood Park Along Pleasant Street; To authorized Contract and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. Engineer Ertel clarified that there is no date restriction in the Sorta Grant agreement other than under construction by February 20, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-2-25 was adopted.

“To Appoint John L. O’Shea as Mayor’s Court Magistrate for Calendar Years 2025 and 2026; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The emergency is due to the retirement of Mr. Gibson. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-3-25 was adopted.

“Resolution to Update Swimming Pool Fees for Calendar Year 2025; and to Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York 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. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-4-25 was adopted.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of David Russell as the Mariemont Raquet Sport Club Professional; and to Authorize Contract” had a first reading.

Council agreed that the Resolutions regarding the Parks Advisory Club would be tabled and read at the next meeting due to the decision to not have voting/non-voting members per the discussion Mayor Brown with Mr. Goetz. The Board will be limited to 13 members with all members having an equal voice. Mr. Lockhart and Mr. Pipken were already reappointed in 2024. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to table the Resolutions. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Ordinances:

“To Amend Sections 151.005, 151.025, 151.060 and 151.085 Relating to Accessory Buildings” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-1-25 was adopted.

“To Revise Section 37.03 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances; Parks Advisory Board”. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to table the legislation in order to make the necessary changes regarding the number of members striking the voting/non-voting status.

“To Update the Village Code of Ordinances Section 32.25 Contracts by the Legislative Authority or Administrator” had a second reading. This reflects the change in Ohio Revised Code regarding the threshold of when it is required to go out for public competitive bid.

“To Amend Section 51.17 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinance, To Increase Fees for Garbage and Refuse Pickup” had a second reading.

Mayor Brown announced that the Santa mailbox located in the median will be picked up tomorrow.

Mr. Bartlett questioned the status on the meeting will Envision. Dr. Lewis said she understands he asked Mrs. Rankin for an update and was curious why he did not ask her directly. She has spoken will Emil and he is willing to come and a date is being worked out.

Mr. Ayer said the Village Code states that the Mayor shall provide the State of the Village report at the first meeting of January. He would like to follow rules and asked Mayor Brown to have a report prepared for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer