

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
February 10, 2025**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Van Stone and Mr. York.

Due to a lack of a quorum, Mayor Brown said there will be no official business discussion, but because so many residents have come, he allowed three minutes for those who wished to address Council.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Mandy Rohal, 3707 East Street, was granted permission to address Council. She is representing the Mariemont Pool Commission (including Terry Donovan, Thom Gilmore, Becca Hlad, Brian Kelly, Alicia Stock and Tim Wiley). The Pool Commission wished to express concern over the decision by the Village Administration to integrate BridgePayment as a third-party payment processor and go cashless at the Mariemont Pool for the 2025 summer swim season. For the 2024 season, cash represented 46% of pool sales for a total of \$14,000 in cash purchases. One third of daily pool passes and the majority of snack shack sales (53%) were purchased with cash. Neighborhood kids, the core customer for the snack shack, get excited about bringing their allowances to pick out an ice cream or candy bar of their choice. A line of kids at the snack shack is a common sight on a hot summer day and is part of the charm and culture at our community pool. Ohio Senate Bill 30 has recently been introduced with bipartisan support to prevent businesses from discriminatory trend of refusing cash as tender. Cash is the most effective means of payment for kids at the pool and seniors in our community who may not have access to credit cards and payment apps. We also do not want to encourage kids to bring digital payment device around large bodies of water when they should be focused on play and safety. For the summer of 2024, the Village paid \$668 in square credit card processing fees, which was only 2% of total sales and slightly higher than the cost of one family pool membership. We respectfully ask that these matters be turned over to the Mariemont Safety Committee to further review to determine if Square reporting can cover the alleged gaps in fiscal compliance to eliminate the need for a third-party payment processor.

Ms. Alicia Stock, 6501 Mariemont Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. She said the Pool Commission has worked hard to run the pool like a business. We work hard to keep the pool in the green as to not take away resources from the Village. She does not know of any business that would go cashless when 53% of the business is cash. Cash represented \$14,000 of the sales at the pool last year. In 2024 the Snack Shack had a 94% increase over the prior year. With the new amenities, such as the new wading pool, she believes it will be a better year. She does not want to lose the momentum they have experienced by going cashless. Mayor Brown said the decision came from research and discussion with Fiscal Officer Rankin and Administrative Assistant Allison Uhrig. He cannot refer the matter to the Safety Committee at this meeting.

Mr. Terry Donovan, 6622 Pleasant Street, was granted permission to address Council. He has spoken to many neighbors, pool members and friends and not one of them thought this was a good idea. He wanted to bring it to Council's attention to save them from many phone calls should this go through.

Mr. York publicly acknowledged the members of the Pool Commission. We have to respect what our volunteers do. His perspective is he will do everything in his power to help achieve what they want.

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Mariemont Public Library Branch Manager, was granted permission to address Council. They are introducing a new Non-Fiction Book Club which will be the first Wednesday of the month. Leap into Froguary this February at Mariemont Library, where we're celebrating all things frog with a ribbeting month of fun! Hop on over for frog-themed scavenger hunts, toad-ally awesome story times, and frog-inspired crafts. On February 25 there will be a workshop for adults to plan for financial emergencies.

Mr. Jim Goetz, 3900 West Street, was granted permission to address Council. He was a new member of the pool last year and felt that it was so well run. It is a great place to meet new neighbors. He announced that the Parks Board continues to meet and consists of 12 people that want to work to improve and raise awareness of our parks. We are planning a Spring Blitz to do some spring cleaning in the parks. They plan to collaborate with all the groups in the Village such as Mariemont Racquet Club and Sustainable Mariemont.

Ms. Stock said Sustainable Mariemont will be holding April clean up days in honor of Earth Day. They are also planning a community recycle drive April 5, 2025, from 9-5 in the Municipal Building parking lot. List of acceptable items will be coming out in the Town Crier and will be placed on the Village website and social media.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer