

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
February 24, 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.

Minutes:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting January 27, 2025. On roll call; five ayes, no nays (Dr. Lewis abstained due to absence).

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the minutes as written for the Council Meeting February 10, 2025. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mr. Ayer and Dr. Lewis abstained due to absence).

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the minutes as written for the Special Meeting of Council February 17, 2025. On roll call; Five ayes, no nays (Dr. Lewis abstained due to absence).

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: January 2025 Monthly Report. There were 3 more reported auto thefts. Mayor Brown reminded everyone not to leave keys in the car to and to lock your automobile. There was an email blast reminding residents of the same. It was also posted on the Mariemont Police Facebook page.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: January 2025 Monthly Report. Mr. York asked if projections were increased 5% for the year. Mayor Brown thought Mr. Barlow was a bit more conservative but would find out.

*From Building Official Holloway: January 2025 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown noted the new additional construction that will be going on at the old Steam Plant.

*From Arbor Day Foundation: 2024 Village of Mariemont Tree USA Recognition. This year Arbor Day will take place at the Elementary School.

*From Engineer Ertel: Spending Request: To Authorize Choice One to Prepare Grant Application ODOT's Pedestrian and Bicycle Special Solicitation for the Village Due April 1, 2025, for \$5,000. Mayor asked that he be kept in the loop and be made a contact so he has time to review the materials. Dr. Lewis verified that this was a non-matching grant. She will vote to prepare the application, but accepting the grant will be a separate vote for her. Mr. York moved to approve the spending request, seconded by Mr. Bartlett. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Permission to Address Council:

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to pay the bills. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Miscellaneous:

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

Mr. Ayer said there has been discussion regarding the right-handed turn to westbound Wooster at Madisonville. ODOT requires a detailed safety study in order to make any changes at that intersection. Discussion included better synchronization of the traffic lights and crosswalks and heightened police enforcement. It might be worth looking into a cost estimate of a comprehensive square study. It was confirmed by Engineer Ertel that funding is available for traffic studies.

Resolutions:

“A Resolution Authorizing Application for Pedestrian and Bicycle Special Solicitation; and Contracting with the Ohio Department of Transportation” had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, one nay (Mr. Van Stone dissenting). Resolution No. R-8-25 was adopted.

“To Increase the Racquet Club Fees for the 2025 Season” had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-9-25 was adopted.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of David Russell as the Mariemont Racquet Sport Club Professional; and to Authorize Contract” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-10-25 was adopted.

“To Appoint Jim Goetz as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year of 2025 and 2026” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Leigh Sullivan as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year of 2025 and 2026” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Jerry Stephens as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year of 2025 and 2026” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Carolyn Hohl as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025 and 2026” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Tom Eckhart as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Greg Wells as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025” had a second reading.

“To Appoint John McIlwraith as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Kyle Kropog as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Mike Sunderman as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Frank Marzullo as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025” 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 Confirm the Reappointment of Village Zoning Officer Rod Holloway for Calendar Year 2025; and To Set Compensation” had a second reading. Mayor Brown said Mr. Holloway does a whole lot for this Village.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Kelly I. Rankin as Village Fiscal Officer; and To Establish Pay Rate” had a second reading. Mayor Brown said she is doing a wonderful job with the financial software. Dr. Lewis asked if there was a job description. Mrs. Rankin said yes there is.

“To Confirm the reappointment of Michael Lockhart as Swim Pool Manager for Calendar Years 2024 and 2025; and to Set Compensation” had a first reading.

“To Set Forth Building Fee Schedule to be Utilized by the Village of Mariemont Building Department” had a first reading.

Ordinances:

“To Revise Section 37.03 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances; Parks Advisory Board” had a second reading.

“To Amend Ordinance O-11-24 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees” had a second reading.

“To Repeal Ordinance No. O-3-24 Pertaining to Maximum Pay rates for All Grades of Recreation Employees and to Enact New Legislation Pertaining to Maximum Pay Rates for all Grades of Recreation” had a first reading.

Mr. McTigue said while reviewing the paperwork for the Dogwood Park Project, there is a provision that states if the Village does not do the work for whatever reason, any money that has been advanced will need to be reimbursed and the Village will be required to transfer the fee simple interest in the real estate comprised of the park to the State of Ohio. Mr. York said we have approximately one million dollars. We have not received the bids back yet, but absolutely we could do the loop trail first. He is not surprised that the language exists – it helps to ensure that the work is performed. After further discussion, Council agreed that Mayor Brown should sign the document.

Mr. Ayer updated Council on the pool construction. The wading pool should be installed in three weeks.

Mayor Brown updated Council on CRA. Everything is lined up to form the CRA, except the one person from the School Board. They are to meet and nominate someone formally at their next meeting. Updates were given on the status of the Pease Brothers and Haney Graphics.

Mr. Bartlett asked for an update on the Special Meeting of Council with Envision. Dr. Lewis said she is waiting to hear dates Emil is available to attend. She will forward those to all of Council once she receives the information. She is hoping to have those dates this week.

Mrs. Brownknight said she was contacted by Commissioner Driehaus regarding whether the Village would make a pledge to participate in pay equities through benchmarking salaries, etc., which the Village does do. She will forward the information to Mayor Brown. The pledge signing will be March 5, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer