

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

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

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to excuse the absence of Mr. Ayer. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting February 24, 2025. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: 2024 Annual Report. The \$100,000 received over the course of the year from Medicount goes back into the Paramedic Fund.

*From Maintenance Superintendent James: February 2025 Monthly Report

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: February 2025 Monthly Report

*From Building Official Holloway: February 2025 Monthly Report. He indicated that January 2025 was a record revenue and activity month. 1/3 of all permits are compliance driven. February was cold and he was not out looking for those who did not file for a permit. He updated Council with the rental unit inspections. A letter was drafted by Solicitor McTigue that was sent to two of the larger rental companies who filed 0 rental certificates. A meeting was held with CMC last week and now there is a path forward. It may go beyond the timeline, but to get 100% compliance by October was found to be a good compromise. Hopefully, word of mouth will help to let them know the Village is getting serious, before citations need to be issued.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Joyce Monger, 3923 East Street, was granted permission to address Council. She wanted to address the possible road closure on Rowan Hill Dr, just south of Cambridge Avenue as a “test” to be started at the end of the month. She is unclear as to how this test will be evaluated and interpreted. The communiques of today says “The Safety Committee will deliberate concerning results and comments in a public meeting and then the Safety Committee will make a recommendation for consideration by full Council. Subjective feedback has already been given on this topic. The survey taken at the meeting which included this idea, and was published by the Village, showed that only 21% of the people thought this closure was a good idea. 30% of the respondents were outright against the idea and 41% thought there were better alternatives. In all 71% responded negatively to the idea. And yet, we are proceeding. Proceeding because (she quoted the minutes from the January 27, 2025, Council meeting) “based on citizen input”, but that was not the citizen input that was disseminated to the Community. She could find no discussion on how we will weigh and evaluate the unintended consequences suggested. She imagines it will have to be subjective. How are we measuring the effect and impact? Direct measurements of altered traffic flow patterns sound reasonable. But are we measuring impact on all effected streets? Increased traffic on other routes as drivers go north on Miami to Bramble Hill and south the East St. and Thorndike? This closure creates more problems, and instead of spreading out the traffic on various routes, it squeezes traffic into fewer options. Perhaps, Wooster Pike will get traffic as well, but how will we know? We cannot measure accurately the effects to all of the streets that will bear the burden and she sees no indication of signage that we are suggesting traffic reroute to “major arteries”. Additionally, how long it really takes drivers to adjust and when we will accurately know the real impact. Haines, Lytle Woods and the southern Rowan Hill will benefit – a small area compared to the overall effect on many other streets. In addition, there are some intersections that will become much more dangerous. Especially near the parking lot north of the town square. This area is pedestrian-rich and has 2 blind curves. (She distributed a handout with a visual representation of her concerns). In addition, the character of the Village will be impacted. We have a responsibility to preserve our community as it was originally designed. Artificial dead ends are isolating and distract from the charm and accessibility of our Village. Residents who are now advocating for this change should have understood the traffic when

they purchased their homes. This plan benefits a few and burdens many. She encouraged Council to be clearer and data driven and put their stewardship to the residents first.

Mayor Brown said traffic counts will be conducted before and after the experiment, which will not be announced when they will happen. A traffic count will also be conducted on East Street. It is hard to know what will happen until you do something. The experiment will run for 30 days to allow, to Ms. Monger's point, time to allow those to adjust and find what alternative routes might be best. Council does want this to be data driven. His hope is that resident comments are going to be more highly valued than individuals who do not live in the Village and merely cutting through diminishing the quality of life for those who live on the cut through streets. The intention is not to shift traffic elsewhere, causing a burden.

There will be another public meeting where the data will be provided and residents will have opportunities to voice their concerns.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to pay the bills. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Miscellaneous:

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

Resolutions:

"To Appoint Jim Goetz as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year of 2025 and 2026" had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-11-25 was adopted.

"To Appoint Leigh Sullivan as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year of 2025 and 2026" had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-12-25 was adopted.

"To Appoint Jerry Stephens as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year of 2025 and 2026" had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-13-25 was adopted.

"To Appoint Carolyn Hohl as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025 and 2026" had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-14-25 was adopted.

"To Appoint Tom Eckhart as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025" had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-15-25 was adopted.

"To Appoint Greg Wells as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025" had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-16-25 was adopted.

"To Appoint John McIlwraith as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025" had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-17-25 was adopted.

"To Appoint Kyle Kropog as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025" had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-18-25 was adopted.

“To Appoint Mike Sunderman as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025” had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-19-25 was adopted.

“To Appoint Frank Marzullo as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2025” had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-20-25 was adopted.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Christopher M. Ertel as Village Engineer for Calendar Years 2025 and 2026; and to Set Compensation” had a third reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-21-25 was adopted.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Village Zoning Officer Rod Holloway for Calendar Year 2025; and To Set Compensation” had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-22-25 was adopted.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Kelly I. Rankin as Village Fiscal Officer; and To Establish Pay Rate” had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-23-25 was adopted.

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

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

“Supplemental Appropriations and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Fiscal Officer Rankin said this was to appropriate the additional donations received for the wading pool this year. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-24-25 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Revise Section 37.03 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances; Parks Advisory Board” had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-4-25 was adopted.

“To Amend Ordinance O-11-24 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-5-25 was adopted.

“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 second reading.

Mayor Brown referred to the Finance Committee the Health/Dental Care Renewal for full-time employees.

Mr. Bartlett thanked the Mariemont Boys Varsity Tennis Team for their assistance helping prepare the courts and getting them ready for the spring/summer season.

Chief Hines said the Flock Cameras should be installed as soon as next week.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer