

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
May 12, 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 Hamilton County Sherrieff Deputy, Larry Henderson, who was tragically killed. He grew up in Terrace Park, graduated from Mariemont High School and raised his family in the Village. His children attended the high school as well. He met his daughter through Kiwanis Club.

Minutes:

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting April 28, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the minutes as written for the Special Council Meeting May 1, 2025. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mrs. Brownknight and Mr. York abstained due to their absence)

Communications:

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: April 2025 Monthly Report

*From Building Official Holloway: March 2025 Monthly Report and April 2025 Monthly Report. He commented that there were rental unit inspections during the month of April leaving approximately 18 left.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: April 2025 Monthly Report

*From Brian Sugarman, Coordinator of Experimental Education & Technology, Mariemont High School, Letter Dated April 28, 2025, re: Thank you – Incredible Day – Mayor Brown and the Mariemont Fire Department. The first and second graders came to learn what the Mayor does and toured the Police and Fire Departments. He enjoyed it immensely.

Permission to Address Council:

Engineer Ertel was granted permission to address Council He updated Council and announced the Pleasant Street Resurfacing Grant was successful. The total grant amount is \$88,000. The repairs will also include the south side of Cambridge, the loop from Mariemont Avenue to Mariemont Avenue, Lane L, and Harvard Acres.

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Manager Mariemont Branch Library was granted permission to address Council. She shared information on upcoming programs at the library. On May 13th there will be a bookmarks program for all ages and on the 20th there will be a retirement planning workshop. She announced that the library will be closed this summer for approximately 6 months for renovations to the HVAC system. She will report back once she has more information.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Finance

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 4:00 pm to discuss the health care plan for 2025 for full-time Mariemont employees. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett and Bob Van Stone, Mayor Bill Brown, Senior Administrative Assistant Joanee Van Pelt, Police Chief Rick Hines and Lieutenant Nick Pittsley.

Mariemont currently participates in the Center for Local Government Benefits Plan (CLGBP), a consortium of municipalities that pools their money to self-fund health care and dental care insurance. Horan administers the plan and provides the Committee with what other communities are offering their employees. Attachment A includes Mariemont's three current plans and what other communities in the CLGBP offer for those same plans.

In terms of HSA contribution and the percent of the monthly premium paid by the employee, Mariemont is in line with the other communities for all three plans, but the percent that employees pay for the Platinum C plan is slightly below the average. Below is a table summarizing the one change the Finance Committee is proposing so we are more in line with the average employee contribution for the Platinum C plan.

	Platinum A		Gold A		Platinum C
	Current		Current		Current Proposed
HSA Single	\$1,100		\$1,200		\$1,700 \$1,700
HSA EE + 1	\$2,200		\$2,400		\$3,400 \$3,400
EE contribution as % of premium	13%		10%		9% 10%

Because of higher health care claims over the past year, CLGBP has approved a 5.5% increase for health care premiums in 2025. Last year, premiums increased by 7.5%. In order to reduce costs, CLGBP is also recommending changing dental care providers to Delta Dental and to transition to a Pharmacy Drug list which will cause a slight increase in the cost of generics, and prescriptions that have no cost will now have a minimal cost. These changes are built into the 5.5% premium increase. The 5.5% increase for health care premiums will cause total costs for the Village to increase by \$21,720. Based on current participation across all three plans, the Village would bear \$19,242 of the cost increase and employees would bear \$2,478. Increasing the Platinum C employee contribution from 9% to 10% would reduce the Village's share of the increase by \$460. Changing the employee contribution rate requires a change to the salary ordinance for full-time employees. If council agrees with the Finance Committee's recommendation, the first reading of the new proposed ordinance will be at the May 12 council meeting. This enables the final reading and vote to occur in time for the changes to go into effect in August 2025. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee. Mr. Van Stone said the total expenditure by the Village for health care is \$416,636. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*The Memorial Day Parade will be Monday May 26, 2025

*Village Offices will be closed in observation of Memorial Day Monday May 26, 2025

*The Council Meeting scheduled for May 26, 2025, will be held on Tuesday May 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

*The State Audit will commence on May 20, 2025, and May 21, 2025

*The Budget Hearing for 2026 will be held on Monday June 23, 2025, at 5:30 with the regular Council meeting beginning upon its conclusion

Resolutions:

"A Resolution Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No.R-30-25 was adopted.

"Supplemental Appropriations" had a second reading.

"Renewal of 3.0 Mill Tax Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for Capital Improvements for the Tax Years of 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030" had a first reading. Fiscal Officer Rankin will check if it is renewed at the effective millage or the 3.0 millage.

Ordinances:

“To Amend Ordinance O-8-25 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees” had a first reading.

Mayor Brown said he spoke with Columbia Township Trustee, Dave Kubicki, regarding a possible permanent memorial for Larry Henderson.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer