Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
May 27, 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.

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

Police Chief Hines said Officer Simon and Sergeant Geraci have both completed their probationary periods and he recommends that they be made Regular Full-Time employees. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to move both the Regular Full-Time Employee status. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting May 12, 2025. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Maria Borgerding, Energy Alliances, Email Dated April 30, 2025, re: Electric Aggregation Renewal. Mr. Dan Deters explained the current contract is set to expire. He estimated that the average household in the Village saved approximately $15.00-$175.00. They will be evaluating the markets in the coming days and will need someone to be authorized to sign the next iteration of contracts. He recommends signing a one-year contract. He explained the renewal process and answered various questions from Council. Council agreed to name the Mayor as the authorized contact to sign the contract. Council also agreed to change the resolution (from an ordinance) to include both the language for gas and electricity. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to amend the current Ordinance by retitling it to a Resolution and to include language for both gas and electric/electricity. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

"Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Electric/Gas Agreement with Electric/Gas Supplier Recommended by Energy Alliances, Inc., the Community's Energy Aggregation Consultant, The Mayor can Enter into Subsequent Agreements with Regard to this Program to Reduce costs as needed; and To Declare Emergency". Mrs. Brownknight 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. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-31-25 was adopted.

*From Police Chief Hines: April 2025 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown noted that citations are down overall and speeding tickets are down 80%. Chief Hines said radar enforcement has been stepped up. Officers are watching the area for over 45 minutes and not seeing any violations. He believes the police presence and the mounted speed sign are keeping the numbers down. He believes the numbers going down are a good thing. Mayor Brown noted the percentage of speeding tickets on Miami Road is down 30%. He is harping on this because he hears from residents (and he himself has witnessed) speeding down Miami Hill. He recommends that the patrol continue. Mrs. Brownknight said she believed the speeding had decreased approaching the Murray Path. Fiscal Officer Rankin brought to Chief Hines attention that the crosswalk button from the hotel to the dentist's office is not working.

*From Superintendent James: April 2025 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown is now a certified pesticide handler.

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: Spending Request $12,165.34 for 2.5-year renewal for service contract on all Stryker products (cardiac monitors). Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the spending request. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

*From Administration Office: Hamilton County ReSource: residential Recycling Incentive Program $9,144.13. the Village diverted 1600 tons of materials from the landfill. Dr. Lewis said we no longer have recycling containers in the parks. Fiscal Officer Rankin is going to reach out to Hamilton County to see if they have containers they can supply.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Ed O'Connell, 6708 Miami Bluff, was granted permission to address Council. He has enjoyed the community and services of the Village for 23 years. Unfortunately, his neighbor over the last 2 years has let the property deteriorate. He distributed pictures for Council to view the trash, debris, mattresses in the back yard, and overall lay of upkeep including a damaged gutter laying in the side yard. It is an eyesore. The trash overflows into their yard. He is concerned about the value of his house and surrounding houses. Mayor Brown said he is working with Building Official Holloway and they are looking into the code violations. Mr. Holloway has tried to speak with her on several occasions but was unsuccessful. It appears a person-to-person contact is the next step. The police can address the trash issues.

Mr. O'Connell reported a large fallen tree across the street. He feels it is a hazard. Mayor Brown said he will make arrangements to have the tree removed.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Health and Recreation

Solicitor McTigue said the report does not qualify to meet our Rule 22 in Council. However, the first three points in the committee report do. He suggested it be moved to bifurcate the report where the three points of the committee report are a true committee report with a majority of the committee signing it. The 4th point submitted in the report shall be submitted as a minority report. The report indicates that one member was absent and the other abstained. His opinion is the report should have two separate votes.

The Health & Recreation Committee met on Wednesday May 21st in Council Chambers. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair) and Matthew Ayer (Member). Also in attendance were Mayor Brown, Jim Goetz, and Doug Zemke.

The purpose of the committee meeting was to:

1. Review of Mariemont Park Board requests from their memo of 5/20/25
2. Review quotes for the Dogwood Park demolition

The Committee reviewed the May 20, 2025, Parks Advisory Board Report (attached) and unanimously agreed to:

1. Request that the Mayor work with the Maintenance Department on the park follow-up tasks as identified by the board on an on-going basis.
2. Request guidance from the Mayor on resident inquiries concerning the status of Concourse Park.
3. Accept the PAB recommendation and propose to Village Council that a traditional teak bench be the standard for park bench additions (specifications detailed on the attached sheet).

The Committee reviewed the quotes received for the demolition at Dogwood Park. The Committee unanimously agreed to accept the bid of Cincy Property Cleanup for a total of $28,535.00 from the Dogwood Park fund. The H&R Committee will consult with the MRA on the timing of the demolition to minimize disruptions in the park. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.

It was verified that the $28,535.00 would come from grants and donations to perform clean up work at Dogwood Park. Discussion ensued regarding the park benches and the replacement schedule. There has to be an additional cost added to new benches to factor in maintenance and upkeep. Mr. York said it will be discussed at an upcoming Health & Recreation meeting and recommendations will be in a separate report. Frank Marzullo has done a wonderful job pressure washing the benches to the point they look like new. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendations of the Health and Recreation Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The Health & Recreation Committee met on Wednesday May 21st in Council Chambers. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair) and Matthew Ayer (Member). Also in attendance were Mayor Brown, Jim Goetz, and Doug Zemke. The Committee discussed accepting the PAB recommendation and accepting the Querc Studio proposal to develop park plans for Ann Buntin Becker Park and Concourse Park. Please note that Council Member Matt Ayer recused himself from discussion or input on this matter. Lacking a quorum at the Committee meeting, the Committee Chair requests that this bid be presented to the full Council for review and deliberation. If approved, the H&R Committee Chair requests that a Purchase Order Request be prepared for $3,100 for initial payment to Querc. The remaining $3,100 (total contract $6,200) will be payable upon completion of the project. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Four bids were sent out, with 2 choosing not to leave a bid. The other bid was higher. This was the lowest and best bid. This is to develop plans for Ann Buntin Becker Park and the Concourse. $3400 will be used from the Ann Buntin Becker Park Fund and we approved $11,500 from the Permanent Improvement Fund for park renovations. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation from the minority report submitted by the Health and Recreation Committee Chaiman. On roll call; four ayes, no nay (Dr. Lewis abstained).

Miscellaneous:

*Mayor Brown referred to the Finance Committee the Liability Insurance Renewal and the fees for waste and recycling. The Public Works and Service Committee should have their recommendations and legislation in place for the waste and recycling renewal by the second meeting in September.

*Village Offices will be closed Thursday June 19, 2025, in observation of Juneteenth Day.

*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.

*The fireworks display will be held at dusk on Friday July 4, 2025. Mayor Brown said MPF graciously and generously will be contributing $4,000 towards the fireworks display to help maintain the same standard of the show.

*Village Offices will be closed in observation of Independence Day July 4, 2025.

Resolutions:

"Supplemental Appropriations" had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-32-25 was adopted.

"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 second reading. The levy will renew at the effective rate which will generate approximately $481,000. We are working with 1981 dollars. Council discussed whether the levy should be replaced or renewed and the pros and cons. It was agreed to wait until more information could be gathered. If the levy was put in the ballot as a replacement and failed, the Village would not get any of those capital improvement funds. We cannot put ourselves in a sink or swim position. If Council determines more funds are needed, it should be a separate levy.

Ordinances:

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

Mr. Bartlett asked for an update on the CRA. From the meeting with Envision, he felt job retention and the CRA committee looking at the Industrial Zone. Dr. Lewis said she has received the information but has some follow-up questions. She is planning an Economic Zoning & Planning meeting soon.

Mr. York said Lisa Hopkins is applying for a grant for the National Exemplar and asked if Council would write letter on their behalf. He drafted up a letter and asked Council to sign if they were agreeable to it. A copy was sent to Ms. Hopkins for her review and input.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer