

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
June 9, 2025**

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

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

Mr. Mike Whittaker, Mr. Biff Black, and Mr. Doug Zemke from Mariemont Preservation Foundation presented a check to the Village of Mariemont in the amount of \$4,000 for the annual fireworks display. Mayor Brown expressed gratitude for the generous sponsorship donation.

Ms. Kim Beach, Mr. Ted Beach and Mr. Stan Bahler presented the Village of Mariemont with a check in the amount of \$106,107.44 for the new pickleball courts. The campaign kicked off at the beginning of the year. The Pickleball Committee and Mayor Brown thanked the residents of the Village for their generous donations. Village Engineer, Chris Ertel, is working on the bid specifications so work can begin later this year when the pickleball season is over.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting May 27, 2025. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. (Mr. Ayer abstained due to his absence)

Communications:

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: May 2025 Monthly Report. Mr. Van Stone noted for the record in 2024 there was a one-time bump in the business income tax.

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: May 2025 Monthly Report

*From the Cincinnati Enquirer: Best Teachers in the U.S. – Mariemont ranked #1. Chief Hines said the Village was also ranked as a top 25 community to live in Ohio. Mariemont was ranked #2 behind Blue Ash.

*From Council Member York: Spending Request Dated 6-9-25: Replacement of Drinking Fountain Dogwood Park (Funding Available through the Mariemont Pre-School Parents Group and Dogwood Park Fund) \$6601.32. Mr. York said \$5,000 will be donated. The new Hunter Green drinking fountain will be located by the Clarence Erickson Shelter location. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to approve the request. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Permission to Address Council:

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. York asked about the payment to Pease Brothers. Mayor Brown said it was a pass-through payment. It was reimbursement via grant. We are trying to have Hamilton County pay Pease Brothers directly going forward. Mr. York asked about the payment to McAaron. Mayor Brown said it was payment for all the benches and the column on the east side of the Concourse. We will need to get an estimate to finish the rest of the work. Mayor Brown said the Service Department is working on getting the rest of the streetlight bulbs/globes replaced. The new lights really look good. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to pay the bills. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mayor Brown updated Council on Dr. Lewis's report regarding the CRA. There is still some work that needs to be done regarding the wording of the boundaries. He is hoping to have the report for the next Council meeting.

He talked with the realtor handling the sale of the Haney Graphics building. They are close to inking a deal. His understanding is that an engineering design firm with light assembly work is looking to buy the building.

Miscellaneous:

*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. Council asked to have budget materials in advance of the meeting to allow sufficient time to review.

*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. Construction work is scheduled to start after June 24th at Dogwood Park.

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

Mayor Brown referred to the Rules & Law Committee the issue of posting boards in the Village. It is part of an Eagle Scout project. Solicitor McTigue will into the ORC for the most current guidelines. Our ordinance states the number of signs and the locations – any changes made by the Rules and Law Committee would need to be reflected by passing amended legislation.

Resolutions:

“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 third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, one nay. (Mr. York dissented citing it was not vetted properly) Resolution No. R-33-25 was adopted.

“Supplemental Appropriations and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight 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. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-34-25 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Amend Ordinance O-8-25 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-9-25 was adopted.

Engineer Ertel gave an update on the pickleball court bid process. Bid specifications were put out with no bids submitted. He is working with Kim Beach and Linda Bartlett on reaching out to Prus Construction who gave an initial cost estimate. He asked them for an updated quote. He is also waiting for color coating estimates.

Engineer Ertel gave an update on the Dogwood Park solicitation for bids on the field, backstop etc., which went out to 18 contractors. Once received from Kleinger’s he will send out revised plans. The opening of bids will be June 30th.

Mr. York said we will need to notify organizations such as Taste of Mariemont, Police Night Out, 1N5 Race, etc. We need to get the grass seed planted by September in order to have useable fields in the spring. We should be able to keep the Tot Lot and bathrooms open but the fields will be closed. Mr. York will work on the list of those to notify.

Mayor Brown verified that timers were turned on for the lights along the Wooster Pike median.

Council discussed having a public meeting on the street closing at Cambridge, Rowan Hill and short Murray Avenue. Mr. Ayer said the next step is to compile all the feedback comments and the traffic counts and then hold a public

meeting. There is no funding to do anything anytime soon unless the Village is awarded the ODOT grant. Mr. Van Stone said many of the residents would like to see the roads closed. We should know something about the grant by September.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer