Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
July 28, 2025

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

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

Minutes:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the Council minutes as written from July 14, 2025. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Duke Energy: Letter dated July 9, 2025, re: Gas Leak/Corrosion Inspections. Representatives will have IDs. It has been put on the Village website and sent via Group Distribution Email if residents have questions.

*From Chief Hines: June 2025 Monthly Report. Chief Hines said the auto thefts still continue to be on the rise in Hamilton County. The Village has recovered 16-18 stolen cars over the last year and half. Most occur when left unlocked and/or keys left in the vehicle.

*From Mayor Brown: Gas Aggregation Agreement that secures a rate for the Village for a one-year period. Any resident who wishes to opt-out may do so by submitting the form provided. Residents are automatically enrolled unless they opt out.

*From Engineer Chris Ertel: Dogwood Park Field and Baseball Project Award Memo

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Mariemont Branch Library Manager, was granted permission to address Council. The library will be closing for renovation Friday August 1, 2025. The anticipated reopening is December 2025. Any books that have been placed on "Hold" will be sent to the Anderson Branch, unless otherwise advised. There will be some level of programs, such as Adult Book Club and Tweens and Teens programing. happening at the Fairfax Recreation Center. All activities will be announced on their website. The closest open branches will be Madisonville and Madeira.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. York questioned the amount of bank fees for PNC Bank. Fiscal Officer Rankin will look into the charges which she believes include credit card fees. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to pay the bills. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

This is a continuation of the Health and Recreation Committee Report already read and accepted by Council

Engineer Ertel said he and Building Official Holloway contacted references for Tumlin and Sons and Team All Sports regarding the Dogwood Park Field and Baseball Project. Team All Sports would be doing 90% of the work instead of sub-contracting. The sub-contractors did not have extensive work doing ball fields. Their recommendation is to award the project to Team All Sports.

Mr. York asked what transpired at the pre-construction meeting. Mr. Ertel said the project needs to be awarded based on the $637,000 bid figure. It was a pre-award meeting to discuss items to remove, such as irrigation and excavation, which would change the price. With change orders, the work is estimated to cost approximately $397,000-$400,000. At the pre-construction meeting he will present change orders to take out work not to be performed. Mr. York was concerned Council vetted the project for 2.5 years and voted unanimously to accept the plan. All 45 applications filled out had these plans. The people who donated – donated to this plan. Will this effect the six federal grants that had the plan narrative? He is worried of cutting work out of the plan when Council did not discuss it and was not part of the plan from the beginning. Mr. Holloway said they are looking for guidance as there are not enough funds currently to do the entire plan and vision. They thought their work was to figure out with the available funds what elements of the plan we could execute with the money we have. We are not changing the vision but creating building blocks to the vision with the funds available. Replacing the entire irrigation system is an option to be removed and replaced with modifications to the system. Another item for removal is exporting the material off-site just to bring in new material for the field. It was stressed that the grass needs to be planted in September or we compromise the spring season.

Mr. Holloway explained that a watering head was an alternative plan to what was previously provided. The watering head would be located behind the pitcher's mound and would keep the mound wet to prevent dust etc. keeping the field in better shape. Team All Sports felt confident they could start work August 4, 2025, and finish the work and not leave the fields torn up. For safety reasons, it was recommended that fencing be erected so those using the Bell Tower will not be walking in the construction area.

Fiscal Officer Rankin said a blanket purchase order will be prepared for $637,046.25 (bid amount) and all work vendors will be paid from said purchase order. Council discussed that Team All Sports projected cost will be approximately $397,000-$400,000.

The Economic Development and Planning & Zoning Committee's report regarding the CRA will not be read at this meeting due to lack of signatures on the report.

Miscellaneous:

Resolutions:

"To Accept Bid of Team All Sports for Dogwood Park Field and Baseball Project; To Authorize Contract; and to Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nay. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-41-25 was adopted.

"A Resolution Implementing Sections 3735.65 through 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code, to Expand the Boundaries of Community Reinvestment Area in the Village of Mariemont, Ohio" had a first reading.

Fiscal Officer Rankin said the Resolution passed at the Special Meeting of Council on July 25, 2025, needs to be amended per the Hamilton County Auditor to include one sentence referencing the renewal tax levy will be first levied in tax year 2026 and first collected in calendar year 2027. "To Amend Resolution No. R-40-25; Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Levying a Tax in Excess of the 10 Mill Limitation for Permanent Improvements and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith; and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Ayer said Council is agreeing to pass legislation that was not on the agenda. Fiscal Officer Rankin said she consulted with Solicitor McTigue. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-42-25 was adopted.

Engineer Ertel said he has a pre-construction meeting with J.K. Muerer for the Pickleball Courts tomorrow.

Mr. York said he will submit for the next Council meeting information from the Waldorf School regarding the garden plots at Ann Buntin Becker Park.

Ordinances:

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer