

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
August 11, 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, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Van Stone, and Mr. York.

Minutes:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone, to accept the Council minutes as written from July 28, 2025. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. (Mrs. Brownknight and Dr. Lewis abstained due to their absence)

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the Special Council minutes as written for July 25, 2025. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mrs. Brownknight and Dr. Lewis abstained due to their absence)

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the Special Council minutes as written for August 4, 2025. On roll call; five ayes, no nays (Mr. Bartlett abstained due to his absence)

Communications:

*From Chief Hines: July 2025 Monthly Report. Chief Hines said the Amberley K-9 car is being outfitted for patrol. Lt. Pittsley brought to his attention the idea of keeping both K-9 cars reasoning that the cost for a new car is approximately \$90,000 after being outfitted. Dasty has a few more years before he retires and putting that much money into a car that cannot be used for other purposes might not be the best use of funds. Council will have to decide after Dasty retires if they want to bring on another K-9 or let another community take on the responsibility. In the meantime, Council agreed to keep both K-9 cars for now and to rotate them for patrolling.

He explained the increase in Total Service Demands comes from an increase in vacation checks, radar etc. With the shift schedule there are more things being done on a 12-hour shift.

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: July 2025 Monthly Report

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: July 2025 Monthly Report. Last year there was a large payment that should not be expected going forward.

*Committee of the Whole Project Priority Ranking/August 12, 2024, Committee of the Whole Council Meeting Minutes. Council discussed the projects and asked if additional resources were needed:

(1) New police car and equipment – Completed

Replace cardiac monitors – Completed

New wading pool – Completed

Patriot Park picnic pad replacement – Completed

Administration Office Remodel – Completed

Concourse – Clean, tuckpoint, restore sidewalk – Project has started. Mr. York asked if Mayor Brown wanted help with the Concourse work. He knows someone who could help with band sawing and notching. Mayor Brown said he has bought all the remaining cedar to finish the east wing. He anticipates all the work being done by the fall except the center. He may need help with the center section. There was money allocated for assistance with the project.

Attachment for Skid Steer – Bucket Grappling – Completed

LED Lights – Project is underway and progressing

Columbia Connector: Survey & Title Work - ODOT is working through consulting for Safe Street Plans. We are working on land consolidation/subdivision so the connector can be built on the library parcel. Plan is to bid out the project later this year and start construction in 2026.

Pool Bathhouse – Flooring will be done in 2026

Leaf Vac or Loader Backhoe – The desire is to work the loader as long as possible. We need to set money aside for a new leaf vacuum

Dale Park Sidewalk – Final design & construction – project was terminated

Old Town Municipal Lot – Council allocated \$63,000 to have the work done. It was discussed if Waldorf School would take it over from the Emery Foundation. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Public Works Committee.

Municipal Sidewalk Repairs – Mr. Van Stone surveyed all of the Village owned sidewalks (adjacent to parks and Village properties) and has given the information to Mr. Holloway. It was suggested that fees be waived for residents who perform work on their private sidewalks by the contractor hired by the Village to do street repairs. Cost estimates need to be secured – some sidewalks may be able to be grinded. Mayor Brown will talk with Mr. Holloway about getting some of the work started. It was hoped to have a cost estimate by the next Council meeting.

Mary Emery Park Repair Stone Aggregate Walkway - Completed

Ann Buntin Becker Park – Parks Board will have recommendations put together by August 28, 2025

Boathouse Roof Repairs – The Village was not successful with the grant. There are missing stones, but the roof is not yet leaking, but doing the work now would prevent a much more expensive project. It was recommended to put in the 2026 budget.

Municipal Building: Adding copper to the main roof is expensive. Mayor Brown will get a new cost estimate to clean the slate roof. It is a maintenance issue whereas adding the copper would be a permanent improvement.

Old Town Center: Signage/lighting parking lot. Waldorf School has offered to clean the signs.

Mayor Brown referred to the Finance Committee the five-year plan forecast.

It was asked that Fiscal Officer Rankin send out an updated budget for the permanent improvement fund on what has been spent.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Mariemont Branch Library Manager, was granted permission to address Council. The library is closed for renovation on Friday August 1, 2025. The anticipated reopening is December 2025. 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 fees for PNC Bank. Fiscal Officer Fiscal Officer Rankin has a meeting set up with PNC Bank to discuss this matter. The bill list reflects charges not fees. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to pay the bills. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 4:00 pm to discuss renewing the Village's risk management insurance. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett and Bob Van Stone, Mayor Bill Brown, Senior Administrative Assistant Joanee Van Pelt, Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin and Karie Novesl from Ohio Plan. The Finance Committee reviewed the proposal for risk management coverage from Hylant for 2025. The cost of our insurance in 2024 was \$43,115. The proposed cost for 2025 is \$47,308, an increase of \$4,193 or 9.7%. The overall base rate increase is 4%. However, the cost of replacing our property and equipment has increased by \$831,303 in total, which is the reason for the jump all the way to 9.7%. Ms. Novesl shared there might be an opportunity to reduce the costs of the cyber coverage while also improving the coverage. However, that will take some time to pull together and the 2025 coverage has to go into effect on August 26, 2025. Ms. Novesl will gather information on this possibility and present it to the Finance Committee at a later date. If it does result in a lower cost and/or better coverage, the Finance Committee will come back to council with a proposal and the premium can then be pro-rated for the rest of the year. There were also some questions as to the dollar amount of the coverage for the furniture and fixtures in the Municipal Building (currently \$226,193). Ms. Novesl said we could get an outside appraisal and if it resulted in a lower value, we could implement that in 2026. She provided the name of two firms (Cebiz and Kroll) who have an agreement with Ohio Plan members that can reduce the cost of an appraisal. The Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend that we accept the 2026 insurance premium of \$47,308. The Finance Committee also agreed to

work with Ms. Novesl on assessing the other option for cyber coverage and get quotes from Cebriz and Kroll on what it would cost to do an appraisal of the furniture and fixtures in the Municipal Building and determine if it is worth paying for this work. If council agrees with the recommendation on the increase in the new premium, it needs to be passed via an emergency resolution so it can go into effect by August 26, 2025. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 4:00 pm to discuss the waste and recycling fee that is charged to residents via Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW). Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett and Bob Van Stone, Mayor Bill Brown, Senior Administrative Assistant Joanne Van Pelt and Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin. Earlier this year, the Public Works Committee recommended, and council approved, accepting Rumpke's one year extension of the current contract at an increase in cost of 4%. The goal of the Finance Committee has been for the fee that residents pay for waste and recycling plus the money we receive from Hamilton County for our recycling efforts to equal the cost the Village is charged by Rumpke. As such, the Finance Committee is recommending we increase the resident's fee by 4% in 2026. This would result in a fee of \$23.68/month for houses and \$17.99/month for apartments. The Finance Committee also recommends the increase go into effect with GCWW's December billing, so the Village will receive the increased revenue in January 2026, the same month that the Village's costs will increase with Rumpke. If Council agrees with the recommendation to increase residents' waste and recycling fee by 4% for 2026, then council will need to pass legislation before the end of October updating our current ordinance in order for the increase to go into effect in December 2025. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Planning and Zoning & Economic Development

On Tuesday June 3, 2025, the Economic Development, Planning and Zoning Committee met in order to discuss the creation of a commercial CRA in Mariemont's Industrial Zone. Present at the meeting were Committee Chairperson Marcy Lewis, Vice Chairperson, Bob Van Stone, Member, Susan Brownknight, and Mayor Bill Brown. Three parcels are undergoing some significant changes. Specifically, Pease Doors, officially moved into Mariemont, Haney Packaging has closed, and Cincinnati Gear has been acquired by the German company RENK. The Committee voted unanimously to incorporate the entire Industrial Zone into the new CRA. Legislation is being prepared and after the Resolution is passed, Mayor Brown will meet with the Tax Incentive Review Council who will make recommendations to Council for the terms and conditions of the CRA. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

Village Offices will be closed Monday September 1, 2025, in Observation of Labor Day

Resolutions:

"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 second reading. Dr. Lewis questioned the wording of expanding the CRA in the title – she believes this is creating a new CRA. Solicitor McTigue said he and Mr. Holloway had discussion about this but will further discuss. Mr. Bartlett asked to have the referenced attachment and "Exhibit A" attached to the legislation. Section 4 was discussed and Council found the language confusing. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to amend the legislation to read from 50% to "up to 75%. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

"To Renew Current Contract for the Following Kinds of Insurance; Real and Personal Property, Comprehensive General Liability, Business Automobile, and Other Coverages; To Pay Premiums, and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings.

On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-44– 25 was adopted.

“To Amend Section 51.17 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances, To Increase Fees Collected for Garbage and Refuse Pickup” had a first reading.

Mr. York said Ohio State Representative Cedrick Denson resigned. Ashley Bryant is running to replace Mr. Denson and represent Ohio’s 26th district.

Mr. Ayer asked if the RFP for the loop trail could be put together to go out to bid as soon as possible. Engineer Ertel will work with Mr. Holloway to put something together.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer