

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
September 22, 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. York asked that the September 8, 2025, Council minutes be amended to reflect that Mr. Van Stone said the Old Town lights would be deferred to 2026, not work in progress. Mrs. Brownknight said the leaf vacuum should be \$50,000. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer, to accept the Council minutes as amended. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. York asked that the minutes from the Special Meeting of Council on September 8, 2025, be amended to reflect that he was not in attendance. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to accept the minutes as amended. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mr. York and Mr. Ayer abstained due to their absence).

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the minutes as written for the Special Meeting of Council September 11, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: August 2025 Monthly Report

*From Building Official Holloway: Dogwood Park Centennial Project Update. Mr. York said Council approved a plan and we need to be sensitive to the plan that donors contributed towards. He does not see anything that deviates from the plan. We are still unable to appropriate \$69,000 until the signed copy is received from the Hamilton County Commissioners. He does not want to compromise any part of the project and calculates there is enough funds to do the Tot Lot. Work is proceeding and bids will need to go out for the Tot Lot and share with Hamilton County Planning and Development.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Mariemont Branch Public Library, was granted permission to address Council. She updated Council on the library remodel and said the estimated reopening is still planned for mid-December. She said many residents are utilizing services at nearby branches.

Ms. Alicia Stock, 6501 Mariemont Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. She thanked Council for considering the request proposed 2026 recommendations that will be presented by the Safety Committee for the pool. Surveys that are sent out annually to members always indicate that cleanliness is a priority for our members. The wading pool was an immense success and transformed the look and feel of the facility. Mayor Brown thanked all those who contributed to the project.

Ms. Joyce Monger, 3923 East Street, was granted permission to address Council. She has lived in the Village for 45 years and is concerned about the possible permanent road closure of Rowan Hill between Cambridge and Haines Avenue. She understands this was discussed at the Safety Committee meeting last week, but she was unable to attend and no minutes were yet distributed. She spoke to Council on this topic previously and indicated her concern and opinion on the 'test' that was being conducted. In the public forum held on January 8, 2025, only 21% of the people that completed the survey thought the road closure was a good idea, with 71% of respondents responding negatively. As a taxpayer and one who holds a great deal of respect for the principles the Village was founded on, she finds it highly disappointing that the town meeting was disregarded. It has been announced that there will be another public meeting. She respectfully requests that the process by which the decision will be made is addressed in that forum.

1. On what basis and criteria will the decision for road closure be made?
2. Who and how will the decision be made?

3. The original intent/purpose of the evaluation was 'safety' but the data collected is about traffic flow, not safety. The total number of cars in the area did not change. Other streets were heavily, negatively impacted. The redistribution of traffic does not change the total amount of traffic at the crossing of Miami Road, making it any safer. What are we really accomplishing with a change?
4. Where is the historical consideration in the process? Changing the Village map, when the development of different areas of the town is such a significant part of its history, is of major consequence.
5. If Council makes the decision, will anyone with a vested interest recuse themselves? (Residence in the benefited locale area of Haines, Lytle Woods and lower Rowan Hill)
6. If residents do not agree with the decision made, what recourse do residents have?

This idea is costing the taxpayer's money. We have many financial needs in our Village. If this goes forward, she would like to understand the true value and rationale. What "problem" are we solving?

Mayor Brown said part of the basis for the test was to gather data to see what it would do to traffic flow. And it was to study safety to a large extent. If the bike path crosses Miami at the crosswalk we will need to know how to make that as safe an intersection as we can. No decision has been made.

Mr. Ayer said he will reach out to Ms. Monger to discuss the matter in greater detail. He plans to hold a public meeting sometime in October to discuss further.

Mr. Chris Johnson, 6990 Bramble Hill Drive, was granted permission to address Council. He also had concerns regarding the possible road closures. When looking at the public comments, the numbers are not very clear. As a resident of Bramble Hill, he saw a lot of traffic increase on Bramble Hill and disregard for stop signs. There are many children walking to school. Safety concerns need to be put into effect on the streets where the traffic will be redirected. He suggested also looking at the traffic flow through the square, which can be horrendous.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mr. Bartlett asked about the rewiring work at the Tennis Courts. Mayor Brown said the new service has been run under the courts to the panel box. There is a hitch at the street connection – Duke needs to make a new connection, but the Village's part is done. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to pay the bills. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee (SC) met on Monday September 15, 2025, at 4 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were SC members Matthew Ayer (Chair); Rob Bartlett (Member); Randy York (Member); Mayor Brown; Chief Hines; Councilmember Bob Van Stone; and residents Mandy Rohal, Rex Bevis, Syd Sabo and Marcia Duval.

1. 2025 Capital Improvements for Pool Facility

Pool Commission President Mandy Rohal requested that the Village proceed with epoxy coating the floor throughout the poolhouse. This project has been prioritized to enhance the facility in appearance and ease of cleaning. The cost is \$21,900. It is preferred to complete the work this Fall rather than try to fit it in when Staff is busy with startup in May.

A Sherwin-Williams commercial flooring specialist recommended the Contractor. 3 Pool Commission members and Mr. Ayer inspected the Contractor's work on various floors at McNicholas HS.

\$10,000 had been appropriated for 2025 poolhouse improvements. After discussion, the SC unanimously recommended the project, and that the necessary emergency legislation be prepared to approve contracting for the work.

Vehicle Speeds on Miami Road hill

Mr. Ayer summarized the results of evaluating vehicle speeds, potential traffic calming measures, and resident comments. See attached Evaluation Summary.

After discussion, the SC unanimously recommended:

- a) MPD continue periodic radar monitoring and also occasional placement of a “decoy” patrol vehicle.
- b) MPD supplement the “speed feedback sign” with the portable “speed trailer” further uphill, at Mariemont Care Center, on an experimental, temporary basis.
- c) MPD provide SC with costs for converting the feedback sign to solar power; an additional sign with solar power, then deploy the existing sign as needed for other speed control tasks.

No additional traffic calming measures were recommended at this time.

2. Evaluation of Experimental Closure of Short Murray/Rowan Hill Drive “cut-through”

Mr. Ayer summarized the traffic count information compiled by Choice One and resident comments (all posted on Village website). The SC unanimously recommended presenting this information in an Open House on a weeknight in October at Mariemont Elementary (ME). The event will be focused on the results of the experiment and potential alternative traffic calming measures, with opportunities for residents to provide verbal (up to 3 minutes) and written comments. Mr. Ayer will check with ME for available dates/times.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Mr. Ayer explained and elaborated that the current 85th percentile peak is 33 mph which was measured by the Mariemont Police Department (MPD) and Devou Foundation. Mrs. Brownknight asked where does the Village need to get to be safe? Is the 85th percentile acceptable? She wants to be able to define safety success and saying we have met it. Mr. Ayer said according to the experts the theory is given the number of drivers and data the 85th percentile represents a safe speed. A speeding problem is perceived when drivers are going 7-10 mph over the 85th percentile speed. Speed bumps/humps/cushion etc. are not applicable for a hill that steep. The flashing warning lights are helping to slow cars down at the crosswalk and make them more pedestrian aware. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Public Works and Service

Mayor Brown updated Council that he and Building Official Holloway met with Mr. Simpson of the Waldorf School. He and Engineer Ertel will be meeting with Choice One to go over the Municipal Lot layout. They will be reviewing the parking lot to ensure the best utilization of parking spaces. There was an updated bid with the apron that came in less than expected at \$60,000, but it does not include the Choice One design work. The work could be performed during their fall break October 29th – 31st. The conversation they had with Mr. Simpson also include strengthening dialogue with the neighbors, including having direct lines of communication with the residents as opposed to going through the Village. The relationship he has with Mr. Simpson is the best that he has had with any administrator in the past and he feels positive going forward.

Discussion ensued regarding the Waldorf School contributing towards the cost of the parking lot. Solicitor McTigue said the Village signed a non-exclusive easement agreement with the Waldorf School years ago. One of the provisions in the easement is that they would not have to contribute towards the maintenance of the parking lot. It exists in perpetuity unless both parties agree otherwise. Mr. Ayer said the contract the Village has with the Waldorf School is explicit that the Village is responsible for repaving the parking lot when needed. Waldorf School is to contribute towards sealcoating, striping, and snow removal. Mayor Brown said he also spoke with Mr. Simpson regarding the upkeep in the parks, which he was receptive to. There were two easement agreements. It appears Council did have discussion in 2012 regarding the use of public property for what is essentially private business, but Mayor Policastro signed the second easement agreement allowing the school to use Dale Park for playground purposes. Dr. Lewis said having the easement agreement prior to the meeting would have been very helpful. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to notify JK Meurer prior to the October 1, 2025, deadline to proceed with the work, up to \$77,000, and to allow Mayor Brown to continue the discussions with Waldorf School. The work will include the striping. The work is to be completed in 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*Leaf Collection will begin October 4, 2025, and will end December 2025

*Village Offices will be closed in Observation of Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day on Monday October 13, 2025

*The December Council Meeting will be held Monday December 15, 2025

*Mayor Brown referred to the Planning & Zoning and Economic Development Committee the matter of changes to the Zoning Map (per the recommendation of the Planning Commission)

*Mayor Brown referred to the Health & Recreation Committee the Police Memorial Project (intersection Plainville & Murray). It is a joint project with Columbia Township and the hope is that it will be fully funded by donations.

*Mayor Brown referred to the Finance Committee the 2026 Salary Ordinance for Full-Time, Part-Time and Appointed Officials.

Resolutions:

"To Confirm the Reappointment of Michael Lockhart as Swim Pool Manager for Calendar Years 2026 and 2027" had a first reading.

"To Reappoint Andrew Seger as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026" had a first reading.

"To Reappoint Steve Spooner as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026" had a first reading.

"To Reappoint Mark Glassmeyer as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026" had a first reading.

"To Reappoint John Fakes as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026" had a first reading.

"To Reappoint Jon Morgan as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2026" had a first reading.

"A Resolution Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Ohio Public Works Commission" had a first reading.

"To Accept Quote from Monster Cote for Epoxy Floor Work at the Pool, To Authorize Contract; and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight 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. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-48-25.

Ordinances:

None

Mr. York said he had sent an email regarding adding to the agenda the processes of applying for grants. Mrs. Brownknight said the matter is already in the Rules and Law Committee.

Mr. Bartlett asked for an update on the Pease Brothers grant. Fiscal Officer Rankin said the process is on track to spend the money.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer