

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
December 15, 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.

Chief Hines announced that Police Officer Meucci has completed his one-year probationary period. He read the following:

- Officer Trent J. Meucci was hired as a patrol officer for the police department on December 8, 2024.
- Officer Meucci has 17 years of Law Enforcement experience.
- Officer Meucci comes to Mariemont from the Cincinnati Police Department where he served for ten years.
- Officer Meucci started his career in law enforcement as a Corrections Officer Recruit with the Hamilton Co. Sheriff's Office
- He has also served as a patrol officer with the Maineville Police Department, Cincinnati State Campus Police Department, and the New Richmond Police Department.
- Officer Meucci has done an excellent job in his first year. I (Chief Hines) have received numerous emails, notes, and verbal comments commending Officer Meucci for going above and beyond in his duties.
- Graduated from Oak Hills High School
- Studied Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati
- He is a graduate of Great Oaks Police Academy and the Cincinnati Police Academy
- He is married and has two sons
- He loves to spend time with his family and coaches his sons in sports
- We are extremely happy to have Trent as part of our MPD family and feel that he has a very bright future here.

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone for Officer Trent Meucci to be removed from the probationary employee status to a regular employee status. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Chief Hines said on Thursday, August 14, 2025, Officer Patrick Kuhl was on routine patrol when he observed a male subject disoriented and bleeding profusely in the driveway of 6600 block of Mariemont Ave. Officer Kuhl immediately without hesitation exited his patrol car not knowing if the individual had been assaulted or if someone was in the area who had caused the injuries. The individual was unable to converse what had happened to Officer Kuhl and was unable to call 911. Officer Kuhl immediately applied direct pressure to the arm of the person and called for paramedics. It was determined that the individual had cut himself with a saw while working alone at the residence. Paramedics from the Mariemont Fire Department indicated that due to Officer Kuhl's quick thinking and knowledge from his training that he had changed the outcome of this person for the better. It is believed that without Officer Kuhl's actions that the individual would have likely perished. The selfless act of Officer Kuhl not knowing what he was dealing with initially, and acting quickly is worthy of the **"Medal of Valor"** award, which is the highest honor awarded by the Mariemont Police Department. We are blessed to have Officer Kuhl as part of our Mariemont Police family and congratulate him on this prestigious award. Awarded this 15th day of December 2025.

Mayor Brown asked for a five-minute recess at 6:40 p.m. to allow Council to thank and congratulate both officers and for pictures to be taken. Council resumed at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the minutes as written for the Council Meeting November 24, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett asked if the roof repairs would be done this year. Mayor Brown said he is hopeful, but the weather now can be an issue. A leak has developed in one of the windows in Council. He believes it may be from the snow melting. He will have to have it looked at as well.

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the minutes as written for the Special Meeting of Council November 24, 2025. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Chief Hines: November 2025 Monthly Report.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: November 2025 Monthly Report

*From Anna Strand: Thank You Mayor Brown & Staff: Thank You Luminaia. Mayor Brown said the weather cooperated this year and the tree looked really nice. He thanked the Lockharts who donated the 2000 lights for the tree. The Maintenance Department did a really nice job and he thanked them for their work in making it special this year. This time of year, they are very busy with leaf pick-up, luminaria and snow removal. He gave a shout out to his grandsons for their help with the cleanup and his son for the help with placement of cones on the streets and setting up the street routes.

*From Building Official Holloway: Service Department Software. He said he supplied additional information on the software for the Service Department. He recommends iWorQ due to the similarities of the software used with the Building Department, training, work planning and resident engagement. He suggested the three-year commitment beginning January 2026. They will move to a work order system which can collect data. The citizen engagement module hopefully will eliminate the calls, texts and emails. Getting the training done during the winter is ideal. It was suggested to have Superintendent James change his phone number. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the Mayor signing a three-year contract. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Syd Sabo, 3857 Indianview, was granted permission to address Council. He asked for an update on what is going to happen at the bottom of Miami hill. There has been a major accident and he himself has almost been hit at the Rembold intersection. People are not stopping and he is concerned someone is going to get killed because of the new bike path. The intersection is mass confusion. He suggested the update go out Village wide.

Mr. Ayer said there was a pending grant application that was rated high in our ODOT district, but it did not make the state cut. We need to plan to get everyone together to go over the traffic counts indicated etc. He is hopeful of having a meeting in late January/early February to make a presentation to the community. The Village is still in the process of getting feedback from everyone.

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Manager Mariemont Branch Library, was granted permission to address Council. She said they are tentatively scheduled to reopen January 3, 2026.

Mr. Matt Tripepi, 3865 Settle Road, was granted permission to address Council. He is still concerned regarding the economic development in the Village and the open store fronts. He put together findings from different cities in Ohio regarding legislation on the books allowing a municipality to fine commercial property owners that have had commercial properties vacant for six months or more. He has been asked to share the

information with Dr. Lewis. He is hopeful the Village can take the information and act sooner than later. He saw the economic development survey from August. He is not sure what the results of that were, but he and many suggested why consider new economic development, when we do have these open areas that could be utilized.

Mayor Brown said we have new contact information for the owner of the medical building along Wooster Pike.

Pay the Bills:

Mr. York asked about the codification. Mrs. Van Pelt said Council determines when to update the Code of Ordinances. This also includes the cost to have the code online and incorporates updated state laws.

Mr. York commented the cost for the trees in bags for Patriot's Park should not come out of the Parks Advisory Budget as these are park trees, not street trees.

Mr. York asked if the street trees by the Elementary School were being removed. Mayor Brown said the trees were dying and will be replaced with 2 inch Red Maple trees.

Mr. York asked about the charge for Hall signs. Mayor Brown said those are rudimentary signs, not street signs.

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to pay the bills. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Finance

The Finance Committee met on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 4:00 pm in Council Chambers to discuss the annual salary increases for Mariemont employees. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett, Bob Van Stone, and Marcy Lewis. Also in attendance were Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin, Joanne Van Pelt, Chief Rick Hines, and Mayor Bill Brown.

Salary data was collected from a number of neighboring communities of similar sizes to see how Mariemont's salaries were compared for different roles. The goal of the committee is for Mariemont's roles to be in the middle of their salary range. To be clear, the salaries that are being voted on establish the maximum pay for each role and are based on what the marketplace is paying for that role. The salary ranges are not indicative of the performance of the person in the role. The direct manager is the person who manages the individual's pay based on performance using both the salary ranges and the annual bonus. Attached are two documents which show where Mariemont's maximum salaries stand relative to other communities, as well as an attachment with the proposed increase in maximum salary for each role and a table showing the salary spending over the last 4 years for the Police, Fire and Service departments.

For full-time and part-time employees, the Finance Committee is recommending a base increase of 3%. For those roles that were not near the middle of the salary range, adjustments were made to the percent increase to move the roles closer to the average. The salary changes in the attachment were unanimously approved by the committee. Chief Hines, as head of the Police and Fire Departments, has reviewed these changes with Lt. Pittsley and Assistant Fire Chief Copeland. They are in agreement with the changes as well. The committee also recommends that a role description be developed for the Administrative Assistant to ensure the role is similar to our benchmark communities. The salary increases will go into effect in the second pay period in April. Since the Safety Committee is handling most items associated with the swim pool, it was agreed that the Safety Committee would make a recommendation on the salary increases for the various swim pool roles. Mr. Ayer has confirmed he will lead this process again this year working with the Pool Commission.

Mr. Bartlett said he misspoke in the Committee meeting regarding the Maintenance Department. The Village is the second highest of the four communities and feels it should be changed back to the original recommendation that he and Fiscal Officer Rankin had. Mr. Bartlett suggested amending the table to reflect a 2% increase.

Mr. Ayer thanked Mr. Bartlett for this level of benchmarking over the last seven years. He felt it might be helpful to Department Heads to have the bonus pool expanded to recognize outstanding employees. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to amend the report to reflect the 2% increase for the Maintenance Department. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the amended report. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*Leaf Collection will continue until all leaves are picked up. Please do not rake leaves into the street. Mayor Brown said with the snow and rain, the Maintenance Department will work into January to gather up all the leaves.

*Village Offices will be Closed Wednesday December 24, 2025, and Thursday December 25, 2025, in Observation of Christmas.

*Village Offices will be Closed Thursday January 1, 2026, in Observation of New Year's Day

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Bartlett and Mr. York for their years of service on Council. They will be missed.

Mayor Brown said Council will welcome Alicia Stock and Lila Wells at the first meeting in January 2026.

Resolutions:

"To Confirm the Reappointment of David Russell as the Mariemont Racquet Club Board Professional and To Authorize Contract" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-80-25 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Brian Kelly as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2026 and 2027" had a second reading.

"To Reappoint Tim Wiley as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2026 and 2027" had a second reading.

"To Reappoint Tom Gilmore as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2026 and 2027" had a second reading.

Ordinances:

"To Amend O-5-24 Mariemont Racquet Club Board; and To Increase Board Members from Five to Seven" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance O-14-25 was adopted.

"To Amend Section 37.03 Parks Advisory Board of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances" had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-15-25 was adopted.

“To Supplement Ordinance No. O-11-25 Annual Appropriation Ordinance; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second reading. Fiscal Officer Rankin said there was a significant tax refund that must be paid. The State Auditor advised that we appropriate for the expenditure this year. The Ordinance had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-16-25 was adopted.

“An Ordinance to Make Temporary Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the Village of Mariemont, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Ms. 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 Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-17-25 was adopted.

Mr. York recognized and expressed his gratitude for many he worked with over the last 4 ½ years.

In 2021 he filled an open Council seat. He is thankful to Marcy Lewis, Kelly Rankin, and Rob Bartlett and to those who came that day and spoke on his behalf. He wanted to work with this body to accomplish seven things. Together, we accomplished six of those seven and that is hall of fame numbers, you should all be very proud.

He thanked Joanee Van Pelt and Allison Uhrig. It seemed that every time that he asked for something he felt like they dropped everything and took care of him. He visited the office many times and figured out they made everybody feel like that. He was appreciative for their responsiveness, attention to detail, kindness and concern for every citizen in the Village.

He thanked Rick Hines, Chief of Police, our entire police force and Assistant Fire Chief Dan Copeland and our firefighters. As a public official our first priority is the safety of our residents. We have never had to have a Special Council meeting to address a safety issue. This Village has been blessed by the leadership and dedication of Chief Hines.

He thanked Ben James and our Service Department. Employees can be sent to a management seminar but it cannot teach one how to care. Ben cares. He is thankful to Solicitor Ed McTigue for his skills and his grace, guidance, wisdom and friendship.

He thanked Building Official Rod Holloway. Council created an impossible situation for Mr. Holloway by asking him to be involved with so many things. He has handled this with determination and optimism. Elmer is a nickname given because he is the glue that holds us all together. He thanked Engineer Chris Ertel. Council has kept Mr. Ertel very busy over the past several years with quotes, bids, and reimbursement forms.

He thanked Congressman Greg Landsman, Chris Dalton, Alexa, Abbi, Leslie and all of Team Landsman for their support. To former State House Representative Sedrick Denson and Kennedy Cole from the Ohio House. Current House Representative Ashley Bryant Bailey, Jersey, and her entire team. To former Ohio senators JD Vance and Sherrod Brown. To current senator Bernie Moreno. To State Senator Catherine Ingram and Daija Kidd and Nara. To the Hamilton County Commissioners Alicia Reese, Denise Driehaus, and Stephanie Dumas. To Dr. Darrin Wilson of Northern Kentucky University. To Steve Johns, Chris Schneider, and April Gallelli of Hamilton County Planning and Development. To Brenden Cull of the Cincinnati Regional Chamber. To Doug Mooreman of Madeira. Kreg Keese of the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority, Steve Anderson of METRO.

To Lee A Carter, John F Barrett, Michael A Hirschfeld, Thomas L Williams, and Jeffrey P March of the Thomas J Emery Memorial – unconditional support, Kent Mulachy and Mandi Beecroft of the Cincinnati Public Library, Jamie Markle of Ignite Philanthropy, Heidi Jark at foundation office at 5th/3rd, Kim Vogelgesang of the Duke Energy Foundation, Pretty much the entire staff at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. He is thankful for his partner and best friend Mary Beth being the real instigator “big ideas” and grounding him on the ones you never heard of.

He is thankful to the many organizations that support our Village. An article in the December issue of the Town Crier outlined their impact on the Village. We could never do what we do without our volunteers. This year alone we planted 70 trees, built a new wading pool, added pickleball courts, rehabilitated Dogwood Park, cleaned our park benches, added a new drinking fountain, converted to LED streetlights, and upgraded our parks and green spaces. They donated \$340,000 to the Village for these projects. Volunteerism value of over \$200,000 for those 6,000+ volunteer hours. That’s just 2025. We proposed a volunteer appreciation event, and he alone can easily come up with 110 names.

It is appropriate to specifically acknowledge and thank Rob Bartlett for his seven years of service to this Village on Council. He really led us in so many ways, fiscally, with strategic planning, setting priorities, pushing for accountability. Mr. Bartlett was never afraid to ask the hard questions, to push us forward.

Finally, he is thankful for Mayor Brown and his fellow council members. Mr. Ayer is the most resourceful one, meticulous, and organized; that is why he is so effective. Mrs. Brownknight is intentional, deliberate, and purposeful. Her thoughtful foresight has served us more than you may realize. Dr. Lewis is the caring one, her empathy reminds us of making sure we consider how our decision might affect someone/anyone. Mr. Van Stone is practical and prudent, the engineer on the team that makes us all better. He is hopeful for Alicia Stock and Lila Wells and for all those who will fill these seats.

He learned very early on, it is much easier to do nothing in this room, there is great inertia in this chamber to do nothing. This chamber doesn’t overflow with residents who agree with what we are doing; there is no such thing as consensus in public service, you really only hear when there is disagreement, and that’s ok; that’s how public discourse works. This body has had the courage and fortitude to make bold decisions, hard decisions, necessary decisions. We did things, hard things, and we did a lot of really good things. We can and will disagree, that’s normal and healthy, but we have and will always continue to respect and love each other, that’s how Mariemont works and he is most thankful for that.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer