

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
September 28, 2026**

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

Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to excuse the absence of Mrs. Brownknight and Mrs. Wells. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Assistant Police Chief Pittsley presented Officer Eric Hamiel for consideration of removal from his one-year probationary period to the position of Regular Employee Status. He has been with our agency since September 2025. Previously he served in the Williamsburg Police Department and Summit Behavioral Healthcare Police Department. He is a graduate of ECOT High School in Columbus, Ohio. He earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Beckfield College and is a 2020 graduate of the Great Okas Police Academy. He is doing a fantastic job and represents our Village and department in a professional manner. Chief Hines and I have received numerous comments from residents on his professional manner. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to move Officer Hamiel to Regular Employee Status. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mayor Brown said there was a gentleman paying out a ticket and complimented that the officer that gave the ticket was very professional – that officer was Eric Hamiel.

Minutes:

There was not a quorum to pass the meeting minutes from September 12th. (Dr. Lewis was absent from the meeting on September 12th and abstained from the vote).

Communications:

* From Police Chief Hines: August 2026 Monthly Report

*From Village Engineer Ertel: Bid Opening Results for Dogwood Parking Lot Project. JK Meurer proved to be the low bidder with a bid of \$89,701.54. It is below the engineer's estimate. The legislation will be passed on emergency at the next meeting. This should hopefully get us on their schedule for the fall. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to accept the award. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. It was suggested to add wheelchair ramps. It is planned to add change orders to include the ramps. Cost is approximately \$1,000 each. Council will approve once the change order is presented.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Doug Zemke, 3907 West Street, was granted permission to address Council. He announced that the Mariemont Museum sneak preview and fundraiser kickoff will be held on October 10th and 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Historic Ferris House located at 3915 Plainville Road. He invited everyone to come see the Mariemont Museum before the grand opening in July 2027. The transformation of the Ferris House is nearly completed and is \$100,000 away from reaching their fundraising goal. He encouraged everyone to explore the museum as it takes shape, discover the stories that will bring Mariemont's history to life, and share your feedback to help create an engaging museum experience for our community.

Superintendent James updated Council on the Village tree work. We had many trees damaged during storms this summer. They have addressed trees that required immediate need. The advice of Shawnee Tree is to assess and take a "wait and see" approach to some trees to see what happens. Estimated costs to remove damage trees range between \$6500 to \$9500. The department is continually evaluating the trees in the Village as safety is of the utmost importance. The new chipper will be a big help to the department for storm clean-up.

Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Finance

The Finance Committee met on September 24, 2026, at 12:02 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Dr. Marcy Lewis and Alicia Stock, Mayor Bill Brown, Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin, and Service Department Supervisor Ben James.

The only item on the agenda was consideration of purchasing a new woodchipper for the Service Department. During 2026, the current woodchipper has experienced significant downtime resulting in over \$8,000 in repairs and over \$4,500 in rental costs during the recent storm cleanup. Due to these mounting costs, Supervisor James recommends that a new woodchipper should be purchased. He got 3 quotes on this equipment and recommended to the committee that the village purchase the equipment from Vermeer at a cost of \$46,479 which includes the trade-in of the existing chipper. The urgency for the purchase is that the costs will increase by approximately \$2000 by early November. Fiscal Officer Rankin said the funds for this purchase would come from reallocation of funds within the Permanent Improvement Budget. The \$100,000 allocated for the Columbia Connector will not be needed this year according to Engineer Chris Ertel. The Committee discussed the use of the chipper, consideration of joint use with other municipalities, and understanding why the chipper was not in the 5-year plan. The Committee agreed with the recommendation of Supervisor James. Chairperson Van Stone moved that the Village should purchase the Vermeer woodchipper for \$46,479 and reallocate portions of the Permanent Improvement funds recommended by Fiscal Officer Rankin. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stock and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Safety

The Safety Committee met on Monday, August 10th, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. in the Municipal Building. Present were Safety Committee members Alicia Stock (chair), Bob Van Stone, and Matthew Ayer; Police Chief Rick Hines; Mayor Bill Brown, Maintenance Superintendent Ben James, and several Mariemont residents from Indianview Avenue.

Agenda Item: Double-sided parking on Indianview Avenue

The Committee discussed a request from the service department to change Indianview Avenue to single-sided parking to alleviate challenges with snow plowing and leaf removal on the narrow street. The residents expressed opposition to this idea due to concerns about increased speeding and cut-through traffic on their street. After much discussion, it was decided that Ben James would communicate with designated residents Chelsey Murphy and Kirsten Allen, who will help spread the word to neighbors when one-sided parking is needed to adequately perform these services. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendation of the safety Committee. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Superintendent James said they are trying a new system to pick up leaves this year and ask everyone to remove the cars from the street. They also will be suspending the brush pick up during leaf season. He asked that leaves not be swept and dumped in public parks.

Public Works & Service

The Public Works and Service Committee met on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 11am. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson, Lila Wells, Committee member Bob VanStone, and Mayor Bill Brown. The one item on the agenda was the Renewal of the Trash and Recycling Contract for 2027. This would mean accepting the final extension of the 2024 contract with Rumpke at the originally agreed upon rate increase of 4%. Specifically, the Village of Mariemont will pay Rumpke \$357,920 in 2026 and \$372,237 in 2027 for trash and recycling service (a \$14,317 difference). Mr. Bob Van Stone motioned, seconded by Lila Wells, that the Village accept the 2027 option in the current Rumpke contract. The motion was approved unanimously. A motion was given by Mr. Van Stone, seconded by Lila Wells, for the Committee Chairperson to initiate trash and recycling bids for 2028 by August 2027. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*Village Offices will be closed in observation of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day Monday October 12, 2026

*Leaf Collection will begin Monday October 19, 2026, until January 4, 2027, with the brush route being suspended during this time. An article will be placed in the Town Crier with a tentative route schedule for this year.

*Beggar's Night will be Saturday October 31, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Resolutions:

* "To Appoint Jim Kelly as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Years 2026 and 2027" had a third reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr., Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-41-26 was adopted.

* "To Confirm the Reappointment of Christopher M. Ertel as Village Engineer for Calendar Years 2027 and 2028; and to Set Compensation" had a second reading.

* "To Appoint Casi Egli as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2027" had a second reading.

Ordinances:

* "To Supplement Ordinance No O-1-26 Annual Appropriation Ordinance and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Alicia to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-14-26 was adopted.

Mrs. Stock said there is a grant opportunity from Ohio Department of Agriculture which is aimed at eradicating and stopping the spread of the Spotted Lantern Fly. It is a problematic pest which damages local plants and trees – specifically The Tree of Heaven Trees. There are five large trees at risk in the Village, three on public property and two on private property. There are more located within the Village, but these would need professional removal. The cost to remove the trees is \$4100 with the Village's obligation at 10% (\$410.00). The application is due September 30th. She has a draft application ready to submit along with letters of support from the Mayor, Sustainable Mariemont and Green Umbrella. She has been in touch with the homeowner of the trees on private property. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to apply for the grant. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Mr. Ayer asked Fiscal Officer when Council can expect the user-friendly summary reports from UAN. Mrs. Rankin said she will is hopeful to have them available for the next meeting.

Mr. Ayer said we received quotes to treat the pergola at the Concourse and asked if the Mayor has made a recommendation to do the work. Mayor Brown said he believes the work should be done. There was concern that the timeframe to get the work done this fall is so limited. Council will check availability to see if a Special Meeting of Council can be arranged for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer