

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
October 12, 2026**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present was Mr. Ayer, Dr. Lewis, Mr. Van Stone and Mrs. Wells. Mrs. Brownknight arrived at 6:53 p.m.

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

Hamilton County Commissioner Denise Driehaus addressed Council on current events in the county and ways for local governments to collaborate. She referenced Menu of Opportunity pamphlet distributed to members of Council. She highlighted economic developments which the Village has participated in opportunities available through the county including the funds received for Dogwood Park design and Solid Waste District Recycling Program totaling approximately \$278,000. The Village has a very high participation rate. She noted the Office of Addiction Response which is new to the menu of opportunities. A couple of years ago collectively a lawsuit was brought against the distributors of opioids and won a settlement. The local amount awarded to the Village over the past two years was \$17,000 and is allocated in the Opioid Enforcement and Education Fund. She is the Chair of the Solid Waste Policy Committee. The Village has done a lot in partnering with recycling. They are beginning discussion on organics/composting/yard waste to divert landfill waste and become more sustainable. The county is reaching out to local communities to partner with these services. She asked for support for the Children's Services Levy which will be on the November ballot. It will be an approximate increase of \$39.00 per year per \$100,000 of property value. An increase is needed due to the increase in the cost of care resulting from abuse and neglect. The Commissioners are also looking into the storm water flooding affecting the local communities and noted the Village did receive some funding to mediate the issue.

Mayor Brown said the Village has a central location for those who want to compost and hire a third party to collect the waste. Commissioner Driehaus said what they are learning is that more collection services are needed, not housing composting sites. She will keep the Village on the list and stay in touch with Mayor Brown.

Dr. Lewis asked if the Microenterprise Advancement Passport would be something small businesses would apply for or would the Village apply for on their behalf? Commissioner Driehaus said there are programs for both. She suggested reaching out to Greg Forte who works for Alloy and Angela Rahman, Administrator for Community & Economic Development.

Mr. Ayer thanked Commissioner Driehaus and Hamilton County for the Waste Reduction Innovation Grant for recycling receptacles that was awarded for our Village parks.

Minutes:

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the minutes as written for the Council meeting on September 14, 2026. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Dr. Lewis abstained due to absence).

There was not a quorum to pass the meeting minutes from September 28, 2026. (Mrs. Wells and Mrs. Brownknight were not present at the meeting).

Communications:

* From Tax Administrator Barlow: September 2026 Monthly Report

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: September 2026 Monthly Report. He reported that the ISO report has been completed and the Village was given a rating of "2" – which is extraordinary for a department comprised

of part-time employees. Only 2600 departments out of 37,000 nationwide carry this distinction. This is comprised of several insurance companies coming and inspecting the department trucks, water system and additionally adding personnel staffing, inspections of building and how emergency services are delivered. The “2” rating provides lower insurance costs to homeowners and businesses. The department is getting busier with calls for service.

Permission to Address Council:

Mayor Brown said the temporary stop signs on Madisonville and West Street will be erected on October 17, 2026. During this time data will be collected for further review and discussion. It is estimated the signs will be up for two to three weeks.

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 29, 2026, at 9:05AM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee members Dr. Marcy Lewis and Allicia Stock, and Mayor Bill Brown.

The only agenda item was the adjustment of garbage and recycling fees paid by residents through Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW). Based on data provided by Fiscal Officer Rankin for 2025 (the last year available), the rates need to be increased 1.7% due to GCWW revenue being less than Rumpke expenses. In addition, the fees also need to be increased by 4% to cover the cost of the 2027 Rumpke contract approved by Council on September 28, 2026. The combined increase is 5.8%. After some discussion, the Chairperson proposed increasing 2027 fees for individual residences and townhouses to \$300.72 or \$25.06 per month, which is a monthly increase of \$1.38 over 2026 fees. The fees for multi-family residences (apartments) will be maintained at approximately 75% of the single home fees. For 2027, the apartment fees will be increased to \$228.48 annually or \$19.04 per month. This is an annual increase of \$12.60 or \$1.05 per month. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stock and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 AM. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the recommendations of the Finance Department. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Safety

The Safety Committee met on Tuesday, October 6th, 2026, at 1:30 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; Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin; and Mariemont Residents John Bradford, Brenda Mitchell, and Casi Egli.

Agenda Item: Safety Railing in Dogwood Park Pavillion

The Committee discussed the urgent need to repair or replace the safety railing in the Dogwood Park Pavillion due to missing sections, rotting wood, and steep drops where children gather. The Committee reviewed a quote from All Decked Out for \$16,799.29 to replace the existing railing with more durable black aluminum balusters and laminate top rail. The Committee agreed with Mayor Brown's recommendation to proceed with this proposal based on the company's outstanding performance on the Concourse pergola project, cost reasonableness, the value in their design, and the urgency of the project. Bob Van Stone motioned approving the All Decked Out

quote, to be appropriated from the Permanent Improvement Fund and voted on emergency basis at the next council meeting. Alicia Stock seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bob Van Stone requested to be excused at 1:47pm due to a previously communicated scheduling conflict.

Agenda Item: Madisonville/West Intersection Update

Chief Hines gave an update that the speed trailer was being installed this week along Madisonville Road to collect speed data for 24-hour periods on both a school day and weekend. The Mariemont Police Department will also be conducting radar checks along Madisonville Rd. Alicia Stock and Matt Ayer offered to ride along for speed data collection. The warning signs for the upcoming 4-way stop trial were implemented on Monday, October 5th, and the trial will begin on Saturday, October 17th. After discussion about how the trail data would be collected and results evaluated, Matt Ayer made a motion that Alicia Stock would prepare a survey to be approved by Chief Hines that would be sent out through the Village email system and Mariemont Elementary School communications. Alicia Stock seconded the motion.

Chief Hines and Mayor Brown requested to be excused at 2pm due to a scheduling conflict.

Agenda Item: Dogwood Park Baseball Fencing

After discussion and reviewing various safety standards including Little League and ASTM, the Committee concluded that the current 8- and 10-foot height of the new baseball fencing is appropriate, especially with the pedestrian walking path surrounding the fields. The fencing length is also appropriate due to the surrounding walking path, although it may exceed safety standards for baseball fencing. Possibilities for future aesthetic improvement could include shortening the length of the fence by the Tot Lot by up to 20 feet and shortening the second dugout fence (functional only) to 4 feet but the Safety Committee did not make any recommendations at this time and would defer to Health & Recreation committee for future decisions.

Discussion ensued regarding the urgent safety need for the railing at the Dogwood Pavillion. Mayor Brown and the Safety Committee felt this item to be of a higher immediate priority than the work at the Concourse Pergola. The grant money for Dogwood Park is not able to be utilized because it was not listed in the scope of work and maintenance/repair items are excluded. This will be paid from the Permanent Improvement Fund with money that was set aside for the connector project which will not be used this year. However, it will need to be considered with the 2027 funds.

Discussion ensued regarding the concerns from parents that they could not see through the fence during ball games. Mr. Ayer said information that was found suggests safety wise the fence we have is best for the walking path. It is possible the length of the fence down the baseline may not be aesthetically pleasing, but it is the best choice for safety. The discussion emphasis during the committee meeting focused on being able to see the Bell Tower, not necessarily parents being able to see through the fence. It was suggested that future projects with this project include more citizen engagement, but this matter may not have been caught even with more input and discussion. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the Spending Request in the amount of \$16,799.29 for the railing located in the Dogwood Park Pavillion. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The work is scheduled to begin early November.

Miscellaneous:

*Leaf Collection will continue through the week of January 4, 2027, with the brush route being suspended during this time.

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

*Village Offices will be closed on Thursday November 26 and Friday November 27, 2026, in observation of Thanksgiving.

*The Council meeting in December will be held on Monday December 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. This will be the only scheduled meeting of the month.

Resolutions:

* "To Confirm the Reappointment of Christopher M. Ertel as Village Engineer for Calendar Years 2027 and 2028; and to Set Compensation" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. 42 was adopted.

* "To Appoint Casi Egli as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2027" had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. 43 was adopted.

* "To Reappoint Kristen Van Scoy as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2027 and 2028" had a first reading.

* "To Reappoint Mary Beth York as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2027 and 2028" had a first reading.

* "To Reappoint Margaret Jevic as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2027 and 2028" had a first reading.

*To Reappoint Barb Whittaker as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2027" had a first reading.

*To Reappoint Marianne Prue as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2027" first reading.

"To Reappoint Andrew Seeger as a Member of the South 80, Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2027" 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 2027" 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 2027" had a first reading.

"To Accept Bid of J.K. Meurer Corporation for the 2026 Dogwood Park Parking Lot Project; To Authorize Contract and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to suspend the rules and allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to adopt the

resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-44-26 was adopted.

Ordinances:

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

“To Supplement Ordinance No. O-1-26 Annual Appropriation Ordinance; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third reading. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-15-26 was adopted.

Chief Hines said Steve Watt who served many years with our Police Department is recovering from triple bypass heart surgery. He asked everyone to keep Steve and his family in their thoughts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer