

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

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

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to approve the minutes as written for December 15, 2025. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mrs. Stock and Mrs. Wells abstained)

Communications:

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: December 2025 Monthly Report

*From Ohio Plan: Complying with Ohio's New Public Entity Cybersecurity Requirements. Mayor Brown referred the matter to the Rules & Law Committee.

*2026 Council Committee Assignments: Mr. Ayer questioned the process in which the committee members were selected. Mayor Brown said he and Mrs. Brownknight sent out a request of what Council felt they were best qualified for. They met and discussed the assignments at length. He understands not everyone may have gotten the committee assignments desired, but he feels this is a good fit. Mr. Ayer said Mrs. Brownknight was on the Health & Recreation Committee which accomplished an incredible amount of work over the past four years. She requested to be put on that committee and he also requested that she be assigned to the Health & Recreation Committee. Mayor Brown had no reason to believe the committee as assigned would not be as successful. Changing the assignments for one creates changing the assignments for others. Mr. Ayer referenced the code which says the committee assignments are made by the Mayor with the consent of Council. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to request Mrs. Brownknight be placed on the Health and Recreation Committee. On roll call; three ayes, three nays (Dr. Lewis, Mr. Van Stone and Mrs. Wells). Mayor Brown voted nay, breaking the tie. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to accept the Council Committee assignments proposed by Mayor Brown. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

*From Administration Office: Spending Request \$7500.00 for Fourth of July Fireworks Display. Mayor Brown said this bid was essentially to replicate the display from last year. The Village could pay \$2,000 more for a slightly more extended show. Last year MPF made a significant donation to the display. He is hopeful for continued private donations as well. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the spending request. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

*From Ohio Municipal League: Newly Elected Officials Training

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Dennis Hamilton, rental property landlord in the Historic District, was granted permission to address Council. His concern is the limited parking available on Chestnut Street from Plainville Road to Oak Street due to The Waldorf using the parking spaces in front of the rental units. It causes difficulty for contractors to park to perform repair or remodeling work. He suggested limiting street parking to residents and agents associated with the properties Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm. by displaying parking permits. It was asked if there was room to put parking pads at the back of the property. Mr. Hamilton said yes, but that would just allow for more on street parking for The Waldorf School. Mayor Brown referred the matter to the Rules & Law Committee.

Mr. Brad Bowers, rental property landlord in the Historic District, was granted permission to address Council. He stated that several other landlords have put parking pads behind the property and it does not help alleviate the problem with on street parking. He is certain all want to be good neighbors and come to a resolution.

Ms. Karen Koetzle, 3865 Beech Street, was granted permission to address Council. When The Waldorf School was Dale Park Elementary School, most parents walked their children to school and there was not this parking issue. She suggested they use their property to expand for more parking use. She stated for the second year she does not think that leaf season went well. She suggested reviewing other communities and their process. She proposed signage to announce when leaf pick-up is to take place so residents have time to move their cars.

Mayor Brown said the Maintenance Department staff does an exceptional job with the resources they have. He has requested the residents not to rake their leaves into the streets every chance he has. Their first priority during leaf season is the residences and then the public parks and spaces.

Ben James, Superintendent of the Maintenance Department, was granted permission to address Council. Leaf collection is hard to manage. There are two ways to dispose of leaves. Rumpke will take bagged leaves every week on collection day. The Maintenance Department is not on a specific schedule. Some streets take longer than others, but they are doing the job as fast as they can. They simply cannot get to everyone every week. Pending no weather events, they should be able to service all leaves every two weeks. The equipment does not work when the leaves are wet or covered in snow. December had two unprecedented snowfalls. This involves the truck equipment needing to be switched out, which is very time-consuming. They will do their best to work around cars parked on the street. Moving cars off the street would be helpful, but it also adds to the parking problem issue. He did not utilize outside help this year. He is fortunate to have a crew that cares about the Village and how it looks.

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Manager Mariemont Public Library, was granted permission to address Council. She announced that the library was open for regular hours and all activities.

Election President Pro-Tem

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to nominate Mr. Van Stone as President Pro-Tem (Vice-Mayor of Council). On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Miscellaneous:

*Leaf Collection will continue until January 15, 2026

*Limb and brush collection resumed with dates posted on the Village website calendar

*Village Offices will be closed for Observation of Martin Luther King Day Monday January 19, 2026

*Monday February 23, 2026- Brief Presentation to Council from Hamilton County Auditor Jessica Miranda regarding Property Tax relief Services will be held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the start of the regular Council Meeting. Please advise Mrs. Van Pelt if you will not be able to attend.

*Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to appoint Mr. Van Stone as the Council representative on Planning Commission.

*Dr. Lewis stated she would like to be reappointed to the Architectural Review Board. She gave up her appointment when Mr. Ayer became a member of Council. Mr. Ayer said he would prefer to stay on the Architectural Review Board. He is also a member of Rule and Law Committee and ARB is working on revising the Historic Code. He anticipates the work being completed this year. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to appoint Mr. Ayer as the Council representative for 2026 and Dr. Lewis would be appointed for 2027. On roll call; three ayes, three nays (Dr. Lewis, Mr. Van Stone and Mrs. Wells dissenting). Mayor Brown said it sounded like a reasonable compromise. He voted aye to break the tie.

Resolutions:

“To Reappoint Brian Kelly as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2026 and 2027” 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-1-26 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Tim Wiley as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2026 and 2027” 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-2-26 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Tom Gilmore as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2026 and 2027” 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-3-26 was adopted.

Ordinances:

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer