

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
January 26, 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:

Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to approve the minutes as written for January 12, 2026. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: December 2025 Monthly Report. He said they are still having an issue with people leaving car fobs in their cars which leads to higher probability of cars being stolen. It is a problem throughout the whole Tri-State area. He has sent many reminders to lock cars and not leave valuables and the key fobs in the cars. This year though they have not had as many packages stolen off of front porches.

*From Mariemont Legacy Foundation: Letter Dated January 14, 2026, re: Appoint Council Representative to the Legacy Board. Dr. Lewis said her husband is on the board. Ms. Stock said she would be interested in serving. Mayor Brown said he will take it under advisement.

*From Dial One Security, Inc.: Security Camera Quotes to dissuade crime in Dogwood Park and the Municipal Building. Wi-Fi still needs to be installed at Dogwood Park. It would also provide some coverage for the Tot Lot as well. There was a second quote that was significantly higher. Mayor Brown referred the matter to the Safety Committee. The money has not yet been appropriated and would be charged to the General Fund.

*From Police Chief Hines: Spending Request Dated 1-26-26: Docking Equipment for Police Vehicles \$12,902.50. Hamilton County requires an equipment upgrade which happens approximately every 5 years. The expense has been budgeted and funds were appropriated. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to approve the spending request. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

*From Building Official Holloway: November/December 2025 Monthly Report

*It was noted that Rumpke service will be delayed one day due to the weather conditions.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Alicia Stock, 6501 Mariemont Avenue was given permission to address Council. Sustainable Mariemont is excited to introduce **ListMariemont**, a listserv for residents in the Mariemont School District to connect neighbors via a single email distribution list. Kim Beach approached us with the idea last year based on the popularity of Terrace Park's listserv and the need for more localized curb alerts. Thanks to a generous grant from Kim and the Hatton Foundation, we are officially launching the listserv now and accepting participants. Approved users can send a single email to ListMariemont@simplelists.com with curb alerts, personal services (babysitting, pet-sitting), lost/found pet alerts, and more! Users can choose to receive a daily digest summary of emails or receive emails individually.

Pay the Bills:

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to pay the bills. The expense for the leak repair was for the fire bay roof. The roof is scheduled to be replaced late spring/early summer. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

The following were removed from the agenda for Committee Assignments: Repair/Replace Boathouse Roof, Planning Steps for Miami Intersection – Mariemont Connector, Traffic Calming Miami at Mt. Vernon, Hamilton County Grant for Water Station, Safety Improvements – Miami at Bank Place, RFP, Proposals & Potential HSIP Funding for Crosswalk/Systemic Safety Study of Square March 1, 2025 (12-16-24).

The following were moved to the Health & Recreation Committee from the Safety Committee: Racing/lap pool

Mayor Brown referred to the Safety Committee: Sidewalks/Crosswalks (Crystal Springs, Madisonville Road and West Street)

Mayor Brown had a conversation with Lance Hollander, Mariemont Elementary School, regarding complaints of low lighting in the parking lot when children leave from basketball games etc. The parking lot is school property; therefore, the lighting is their issue. It was suggested to email the Superintendent of School to make him aware of the situation There is a Duke light that is out and they have been notified.

Dr. Lewis asked that property line setback changes be referred to the Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee. Elements of the Zoning Code Industrial Park CRA was moved from the Rules & Law Committee to the Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee.

Mayor Brown referred to Public Works the light in the Municipal Lot at the Waldorf School.

Mayor Brown referred to the Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee the matter of the Zoning Code review expenditure.

In the Rules & Law Committee - Sandwich Signs and Review Sign Legislation were consolidated as well as refine code section 151.075/code section 150 and the Historic Code Update

Rules and Law Committee

Mariemont Village Council

Rules and Law Committee Minutes

Date: January 19, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Present:

Mayor Bill Brown; Councilwoman Lila Wells; Councilman Matt Ayer; Councilwoman Susan Brownknight; IT Consultant Michael Manford; Senior Administrative Assistant Joanee Van Pelt

Meeting Overview

Historic Code Update

The Committee discussed a proposed timeline to streamline and clarify the Historic Code:

- **By April 1, 2026:** Matt Ayer, in collaboration with Building Administrator Rod Holloway, will review and propose edits.

- **April–May 2026:** A two-month review period involving MPF, SHPO, Rules & Law, Building Department, and other stakeholders.
- **By August 1, 2026:** Proposed edits will be presented to the Rules and Law Committee for final recommendation to full Council.

Mayor Brown, Matt Ayer, Susan Brownknight, and Lila Wells reviewed and endorsed the proposed timeline.

Cybersecurity Policy

The Committee reviewed the attached cybersecurity plan proposed by IT Consultant Michael Manford. Minor edits were made. The only material change was a request for additional guidance regarding authorization to assign accounts to non-employees (e.g., volunteers conducting official business). The policy should clarify that other than the IT Consultant, non-employees will not have an email account. The plan must be adopted by full Council by **July 31, 2026, per Ohio Revised Code.**

Sandwich Signs

The Committee discussed the current use of sandwich signs on the Square and determined that the existing temporary signage resolution is adequate. However, if businesses do not continue to self-regulate regarding size, appearance, and quantity, the Committee may revisit proposed regulations to protect the integrity of the Town Square.

Private Use of Public Property

Any ticketed event or activity involving the exchange of money or goods on public property likely requires regulation and liability insurance. The Committee requested that legal counsel provide best-practice language for these situations. Currently, sports camps and other ticketed activities are taking place on Village property without regulation.

The Committee also recommends coordination with the Mariemont Recreation Commission (MRC) to ensure consistency and transparency in any forthcoming public-property regulations. It is recommended that the Mayor place MRC's 2026 and beyond plans before the Rules and Law Committee and invite MRC representatives to discuss future programming to ensure transparency and alignment with any future public property regulations.

Grant Application Process

The Committee discussed and recommended adoption of the following grant-writing process:

“External funding opportunities shall be presented to the full Village Council and assigned to the appropriate committee. External funding opportunities up to \$100,000 may be presented to the Mayor for approval without full Council discussion.”

Lila Wells, Matt Ayer, and Susan Brownknight agreed this language should be presented to Council with unanimous endorsement.

Mayor's Discretionary Spending

The Committee recommends that an assessment of the Mayor's discretionary spending limit be referred to Committee for review.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the wording “presented to the Mayor for approval without full Council discussion”. Mrs. Brownknight said it was mostly for the grant work that Engineer Ertel does for the street rehabilitation work that the Village would automatically do and are ongoing projects.

Discussion ensued regarding including if any sidewalk, bike path, or any structure in a park would require public discussion. At a minimum there should be schematic renderings available but engineering drawings would be preferred. Mr. Van Stone cited the Dale Park sidewalk as an example of a project that caused uproar. If engineering work needs to be performed and paid by the Village, so be it. The project should be understood by Council before the grant is applied for. Council debated whether the report needed clarification and how it should be worded. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to table the section "Grant Application Process" to allow the committee to further discuss the issue. On roll call; three ayes, three nays (Mr. Ayer, Mrs. Brownknight and Mrs. Stock dissenting). Mayor Brown voted aye. The matter will remain on the agenda.

Dr. Lewis suggested the role of the Mariemont Recreation Association be referred to the Health and Recreation Committee for review to be consistent with other boards in the Village. Our parklands which are historic landmarks. She has heard concerns from residents that the ball fields are being expanded to other communities which do not pay taxes. Mayor Brown referred the matter to the Health and Recreation Committee.

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the rest of the recommendations from the Rules and Law Committee report. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Health & Recreation

The Health & Recreation Committee (HR) met on Thursday January 22, 2026, at 3:20 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were HR members Matthew Ayer (Chair); Marcy Lewis (Member); Lila Wells (Member); Mayor Brown; and Terry Donovan of the Pool Commission.

Mr. Ayer informed Mayor Brown that the Pool Commission recommends Maggie Kenner to serve as a Member, replacing Alicia Stock.

Mr. Donovan presented proposed pool fees for 2026 (attached).

Mr. Ayer presented proposed pay rates for pool employees (attached).

After discussion, HR unanimously agreed to present the proposed fees and pay rates to full Council for approval, and for a conforming Ordinance to be prepared by Staff to update the pool pay rates. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Mr. Ayer commented that member fees were increased at the rate of inflation (2.8%), swim team/swim lessons were increased based on the Swim Pool Commission analysis. Salaries were increased to meet minimum wage and increases were given to Assistant Swim Coaches and Instructors to be paid more than lifeguards. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*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.

*Nominations for Outstanding Citizen of the Year are due to Mrs. Van Pelt by March 10, 2026.

*Village Offices will be closed in observation of Presidents' Day Monday February 16, 2026.

*Mayor Brown referred to the Finance Committee the matter of purchasing a new vehicle for the Assistant Fire Chief.

Resolutions:

Ordinances:

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer