

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
March 9, 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 Mr. Ayer to approve the minutes as written for February 23, 2026. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Appropriation Ordinance:

“To Make 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. Mrs. Stock 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 this is for the permanent appropriations for this year. The temporary appropriations made at the end of 2025 allow for the first quarter of spending per the Hamilton County Auditor. She looks at what was appropriated the previous year and the actual expenditure for the previous year. She increases the appropriations by 5%, but allocates more for fuel and insurance, and special purchases such as the security cameras and the update to the zoning code. She does not appropriate all the funds as there should be money left in the General Fund for emergencies. The Ordinance had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer moved. Seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-1-26 was adopted.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: January 2026 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown noted that traffic stops were down though his observation is motorists are not slowing down. Assistant Police Chief Pittsley said they were down. They had a department meeting and those numbers should increase.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: February 2026 Monthly Report

*From Service Superintendent James: January 2026/February 2026 Monthly Reports. Mrs. Stock asked about the streetlight that is out across from the Mariemont Elementary School. Mayor Brown said it was misunderstood that Duke owned the light, when actually the Village owns that light. It is one of the particular lamps that the electricity cannot be switched off at the bottom. When switching out the bulb, it needs to be done live. He has been in contact with an electrician who can perform the work. Mrs. Brownknight asked what process is for repairing potholes. Mayor Brown encouraged residents to let the Service Department know of any potholes and Superintendent James will assess with the assistance of Engineer Ertel. Hot patch is not available until late March for repairs. The hope is to have the potholes repaired with the street rehabilitation work. There is a possible sink hole on the Miami hill which will be an emergency change order to the contract. An email can be sent to residents alerting them how to report a pothole.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Mandi Beecroft, Manager Mariemont Public Library, was granted permission to address Council. She announced upcoming events at the library including: Becoming Bold – building confidence, crafts and helping young girls (K-8) find their voices; Pi Day March 14 – for those K-8 kids with math aspiring interests;

March 18 – Real or Scam- how to keep from falling victim class for adults; April 4th – color, coffee and conversation for adults; April 7th – learn how to play Mahjong.

Ms. Karen Fallon, 3909 Oak Street, was granted permission to address Council. She attended a Council meeting last month and thanked Dr. Lewis and Mrs. Stock for responding with enthusiasm. She has not yet heard from any other members of Council, nor have they reached out to the new business owners in Old Town Square. At the last meeting she attended, she brought up the issue of parking - her question was when will the ordinance that is already in place be enforced for the 8 parking spaces in front of the business locations? Assistant Police Chief Pittsley said the department is aware of the situation. He suggested the store owners call the police with cars that have been parked too long. Ms. Fallon stated that the building owner (both business and tenants) has agreed to send a letter to the tenants informing them that this ordinance will be enforced going forward from 8 am and 6pm as it is posted. There are the same cars parking there every day all day long. They are trying to bring in high end clientele, but the lack of parking is frustrating. Her belief is if residents are aware that the parking ordinance is going to be enforced, they will not park there all day long. Discussion ensued if 4 hours or 2 hours would serve the area better. Mayor Brown said he will stop by and they can discuss the issue further.

Ms. Erin Rothfuss, Director at MariElders, was granted permission to address Council. MariElders is a vital community connector and was founded after a meeting of the Mariemont Kiwanis. Local leaders recognized a growing need for older adults in the community to gather and stay active and to access support. What began as a community conversation became a lasting commitment to serving adults 55 and better. It reflects what MariElders is still today – a community-driven organization built on partnership. Right now, during tax season, MariElders partners with AARP to host free tax preparation assistance. Through this partnership, trained volunteers provide accurate, trustworthy guidance. We work with the Council on Aging to assist members and non-members alike to get help with heating assistance, aide to their homes and access to a myriad of other services. MariElders also connects members with Meals on Wheels and today that partnership goes beyond meal delivery. While nutritious meals are vital, Meals on Wheels also support older adults with technological assistance. At MariElders, we teach tech talks and provide needed assistance to our members to navigate devices and use apps which increase independence. We are not operating alone – we are part of the community. We are a trusted hub where older adults can learn and transportation options, benefit programs, health resources, food access and social opportunities. For many older adults, systems can feel overwhelming such as government programs, nonprofit services and healthcare providers. MariElders offers a familiar face, a welcoming space. She invited Council to join them during their Open House the week of April 13-17. She asked Council to partner with MariElders by volunteering times, sharing expertise and becoming a program sponsor. Together we can continue building a community where aging is celebrated.

Pay the Bills:

Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to pay the bills. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Health and Recreation

The Health & Recreation Committee (HR) met on Tuesday February 24, 2026, at 5:00 PM in the Municipal Building. Present were HR members Matthew Ayer (Chair); Marcy Lewis (Member); Lila Wells (Member); Mayor Brown; Jordan Gaietto and Tim Wiley of Mariemont Rec Association (MRA); Jim Goetz of the Parks Advisory Board; Biff Black and Rex Bevis of Mariemont Preservation Foundation; and resident Matt Painter.

Mr. Gaietto presented an overview of MRA, a 501(c)(3) organization serving 1,100 to 1,300 youth participants in five sports and cheerleading (see attached summary). Discussion with the Committee and Mayor centered on MRA's collaborative relationship and communication with the Village. HR unanimously

recommended that MRA and our Village Solicitor develop a mutually agreeable Use Agreement for Mariemont parks that demonstrates compliance with applicable codes and standards.

With input from Mr. Gaietto, the Committee then discussed the need for a comprehensive maintenance plan for the Dogwood Park fields, a key Village asset in which we are investing nearly \$1M for renovation. Our current field contractor, Team All Sports, has provided a proposal for all three fields, that covers vegetation control for the infields (4X); irrigation system maintenance from startup to shut-down; annual infield regrade and related services to remove irregularities, add infield mix if needed, and maintain a clean, smooth, even interface with turf; repair home plate areas; turf management including fertilization (6X), weed control (3+X), core aeration (2X) and slit seeding. Total 2026 cost \$28,320.25. Mr. Gaietto suggested that MRA contribute \$10,000 to this comprehensive annual program. Mr. Ayer estimated that current village costs for irrigation maintenance and turf treatment are approximately \$4,000. Thus, the total annual incremental cost to the Village would be approximately \$14,300, and result in well-maintained, safe fields that will not require total renovation in the future. Mowing/trimming would continue to be performed by the Service Department. After discussion, while the Committee generally endorses a comprehensive maintenance plan, it was decided to seek one or more competitive bid, also requesting potential “green” options. Mr. Ayer agreed to seek competitive bids.

Finally, Mr. Ayer presented a Fact Sheet (attached) concerning the recent \$936,000 Community Project Funding award for Dogwood, Dale and Hopkins Parks, and its administration by HUD. It is expected that we will receive the official Letter of Invitation from HUD in 60 to 90 days. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday March 10 at 1:00 PM. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Mr. Ayer said the meeting for March 10, 2026, has been postponed to allow for time to our Village Solicitor and MRC to come up with a Use Agreement draft for the Committee to review. Mr. Van Stone stated that the maintenance agreement would be nice to have, but questioned if it was a necessity. It is a annual operating cost. The other sports facilities are roughly a break-even scenario for operating. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendation of the Health & Recreation Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on February 23, 2026, at 8:45 AM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Members Dr. Marcy Lewis and Alicia Stock, Mayor Bill Brown, and Supervisor Ben James.

The sole agenda item was the purchase of a dump truck and auxiliary equipment for the Service Department. Mr. James reported that he has been in negotiations to purchase a Ford 4-wheel drive dump truck for a price not to exceed \$123,600. The price is substantially higher than the \$90,000 estimate from 2 years ago primarily due to the tariffs on the computer controls for the snowplow and salt dispersing equipment. Council has already appropriated a total of \$90,000 for the truck. Prior to this meeting, the Fiscal Officer gave the chairperson the option that \$60,000 in the Capital Improvement budget appropriated for the repaving of the Dogwood Park parking lot be reappropriated: \$33,600 for the dump truck and \$27,400 for streets. The Chairperson made a motion to purchase the truck and reappropriate funds in the Capital Improvement budget as described above. Mrs. Stock expressed concern that there was no current funding source for the repaving of the Dogwood Park parking lot. After some additional discussion, the motion was seconded by Dr. Lewis. The motion was approved on a 2-1 vote with Mrs. Stock dissenting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 AM.

Mr. Ayer asked in the Permanent Improvement Fund, did we look at what the priority list was that Council established by ranking projects. One project that was right on the cusp was the \$20,000 suggested to develop construction drawings for the lap pool, which is failing. If there is extra money in the Permanent Improvement he would like to see the \$27,400 go towards having construction drawings in hand for a shovel

ready project at the pool than street repairs. Mr. Van Stone said Council is going to have to do major reappropriations in the Capital Improvement Fund. We have to fund the security systems and the roof for the fire bay still needs to be repaired and other needs such as potholes/street repairs. Discussion ensued regarding the two sources of grant money that the parking lot project could be funded with. After discussion, Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to amend the report to read “\$27,400 will be reallocated back to the Permanent Improvement Fund”. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to accept the amended report. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee met on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building. Present were Safety Committee members Alicia Stock (chair) and Matthew Ayer; Mayor Bill Brown; Police Chief Hines; IT Consultant Mike Manford; Senior Administrative Assistant Joanee Van Pelt; Village Engineer Chris Ertel, and Mariemont resident/MPF Vice President Doug Zemke.

Agenda Item 1: Security Cameras

The Committee reviewed costs for security access control and video intercom installation at the Municipal Building and for security camera installation at the Dogwood Park Bell Tower. Village Engineer Chris Ertel explained that we do not yet know the one-time boring cost for the fiber optic cable in the Dogwood Park buildout. After discussion, Matt Ayer made a motion for the Safety Committee to recommend to Council to approve capital and maintenance fees for security systems for the Dogwood Park Project and the Municipal Building as detailed in the following table, with understanding that the installation for fiber optic cable will not exceed \$10k. Alicia Stock seconded the motion; on roll call 2 ayes, no nays.

Village Security Estimates	Capital Expense	Annual Maintenance	3-Year Maintenance	Capital + 3 Year Maintenance
Dogwood Park	\$ 10,975.00	\$ 3,360.00	\$ 10,080.00	\$ 21,055.00
Municipal Building	\$ 32,015.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 35,615.00
Total	\$ 42,990.00	\$ 4,560.00	\$ 13,680.00	\$ 56,670.00

Dogwood Park Notes:

Capital Expense includes max \$1k for fioptrics hardware

Caprtial Expense does not include fioptrics boring cost (not to exceed \$10k)

Annual Maintenance does not include *optional* service contract of \$73/mo for Dogwood Park (\$876 annually)

Agenda Item 2: Crosswalk Safety

Village Engineer Chris Ertel provided an update that the Village is applying for a grant through Safe Routes to School (SRTS) to update an ODOT-approved School Travel Plan (STP), building on prior work performed by the Mariemont School District. Updating the STP is a necessary first step to apply for funding for safety studies and potential safety improvements in the Village Square. The SRTS application deadline is Friday, March 6th. On recommendation from Mr. Ertel, Mayor Brown authorized Choice One to prepare the application for a fee of \$600. The grant proposal requests full funding for the STP update (no local match). Alicia Stock made a motion that we recommend proceeding with updating the STP if awarded the grant by ODOT. Matt Ayer seconded the motion; on roll call 2 ayes no nays. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The cost for the Municipal Building cameras will come from the Permanent Improvement Fund. Mayor Brown is in the process of getting more estimates for the fire bay roof. For now, the repair work that was done is working, but the roof will need to be replaced in 2026.

Miscellaneous:

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

Resolutions:

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Christopher M. Ertel as Village Engineer for Calendar Year 2026; and To Set Compensation” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-13-26 was adopted.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Village Zoning Officer Rod Holloway for Calendar Year 2026; and to Set Compensation” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-14-26 was adopted

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Kelly I. Rankin as Village Fiscal Officer; and To Establish Pay Rate” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-15-26 was adopted.

“To Appoint Maggie Kenner as a Member of the Pool Commission for Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-16-26 was adopted.

“To Appoint Richard L. Kay as a Member of the Pool Commission for Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-17-26 was adopted.

“Resolution Adopting Cybersecurity Policy for Village” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-18-26 was adopted.

“Resolution Transferring Balance of Funds in Wading Pool Project Fund to Permanent Improvement Fund” had a second reading.

“To Enter into Contract with the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation to Complete the Safe Routes to School Projects; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Engineer Ertel said if we get funding we will be able to use an ODOT qualified consultant to update the traffic plan. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to amend the wording to School Travel Plan. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-19-26 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Repeal Ordinance No. O-6-25 Pertaining to Maximum Pay Rates for all Grades of Recreation Employees and to Enact New Legislation Pertaining to Maximum Pay Rates for All Grades of Recreation Employees” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-2-26 was adopted.

“To Amend Ordinance O-9-25 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees” had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance O-3-26 was adopted.

“An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority” had a first reading.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer