

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
April 27, 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, Mr. Van Stone, and Mrs. Wells.

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

Mayor Brown asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Sue Singleton who was a longtime employee of the Administration Office for 17 years. She was a tremendous help to him when he first came on Council.

Police Chief Hines said Officer Mitchell Powers has completed his probationary period and he recommends that he be moved to Regular Full-Time Employee status. Officer Powers started his law enforcement career with Mt. St. Joseph University Police Department serving from January – October 2021. He served with the City of Hamilton from October 2021 to March 2022; Newtown Police Department October 2022-April 2023; Terrace Park Police Department from April 2023-April 2025. He was hired by the Mariemont Police Department in April 2025. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo in Criminal Justice and also graduated from the Great Oaks Police Academy in July 2020. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to move him to Regular Full-Time Employee status. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Minutes:

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to approve the minutes as written for April 13, 2026. It was noted that the committee report should be the Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Committee not Public Works. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to approve the minutes as written for the Special Meeting of Council April 20, 2026. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Building Official Holloway: March 2026 Monthly Report and Spending Request – Proposal to update the zoning map and zoning district requirements per proposal not to exceed \$20,000. He said the zoning map is old and contains errors and omissions. This will clean up the residential descriptions as well. The vendor was recommended by a member of the Planning Committee. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to approve the spending request. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

*From Administration Office: Mariemont 2025 Residential Recycling Incentive Program \$8,400.37. It was noted that the amount was less than the previous year, but with the help of Sustainable Mariemont, it is hopeful that the Village will return to the number one position.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Terry Gaines, Emery Park, was granted permission to address Council. He petitioned Council to install a four-way stop at West Street and Madisonville Road. The West Street crossing is used by both elderly adults and children. There have been two accidents and several near misses because of speeding traffic on Madisonville Road. He is convinced there will be an injury or death at that intersection due to the vehicles speeding along the road.

This matter has been considered in the past but was not enacted upon due to concerns of traffic backing up. Traffic is becoming heavier with the no left turn from Plainville Road to Wooster Pike. Most of the residents located in the three condo buildings are in favor of a four-way stop. He added that stricter enforcement in the area would also be appropriate and more enforcement of the “no through truck” ordinance. He also suggested speed bumps, which he understand are very noisy.

Mayor Brown said there has been an issue getting a crossing guard at that location. He referred the matter to the Safety Committee for further discussion and review. He does believe that it will entail hiring a traffic engineer to do a traffic study.

Ms. Amy Carmie, Emery Park Condo resident was granted permission to address Council. She has several grandchildren and the scariest time is not during the “traffic times” but during the middle of the day. She witnessed a lot of close calls. She stressed the urgency to look into this matter. She too is in favor of looking into the utilization of speed bumps. She also asked that the police patrol be stepped up along this stretch of the Village. Chief Hines said that the department is focusing on the area and did ticket a driver going 39 mph and they will continue to patrol the area.

Pay the Bills:

Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Dr, Lewis to pay the bills. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Rules & Law Committee

Mariemont Council Rules and Law Committee Report

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, April 8

Time: 4:30 PM

Attendance:

Council members Susan Brownknight, Matt Ayer, Lila Wells and Mayor Bill Brown

Agenda:

Review and discussion of criteria for Mariemont’s Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award

Summary:

The committee convened to evaluate and consider potential updates to the existing criteria for the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award. Discussion focused on inclusivity and recognition of individuals who have made significant contributions to the community, including those who may no longer be living.

Motion:

A motion was made by Susan Brownknight and seconded by Matt Ayer to amend the criteria for the Mariemont Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award to allow for nominees who have passed away within the past 24 months.

The motion passed unanimously and the committee asks that a resolution be prepared to formerly update the current selection practice. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to accept the recommendation of the Rules & Law Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee met on Monday April 20, 2026, at 10:10 a.m. in the Municipal Building. Present were Safety Committee members Alicia Stock (chair), Bob Van Stone, and Matthew Ayer; Council Members Lila Wells and Dr. Marcy Lewis; Mayor Bill Brown; Police Chief Rick Hines; Village Solicitor Ed McTigue, Building Administrator Rod Holloway, and several Mariemont residents.

Agenda Item: Dog Ordinances

The committee reviewed a recent incident that occurred by Ann Buntin Becker Park involving an attack on a child by 2 off-leash pitbulls. The child was seriously injured with bites to the face and hand/arm/fingers and required surgery for a broken wrist. The current Village Ordinance 90.01 does not require dogs to be leashed in select named parks, including Ann Buntin Becker Park where these dogs were roaming free just prior to the attack. Solicitor McTigue independently had researched local codes and confirmed that the Mariemont ordinance was less protective than peer communities. He and Chief Hines also noted that codes referring to “voice control” and similar language were vague and extremely difficult to enforce. Chief Hines stated that there have been multiple attacks on other dogs at the South 80 Gardens/Trails in recent years. Mariemont Resident Doug Zemke shared that seniors are also at greater risk with off-leash dogs in the Village. The committee reviewed local ordinances by other communities (chart attached) and noted that neighboring Fairfax and Terrace Park communities do not allow dogs off leash in public areas. After much discussion, it was unanimously agreed to recommend that Ed McTigue draft a new ordinance for the Safety Committee to review at the next committee meeting (date to be determined) requiring dogs to be leashed in all public areas of the Village and to include increasing penalties for repeat offenses. It was also discussed that the current outdated dog ordinance sign in Ann Buntin Becker Park will be removed promptly, and new signage will be installed in all previously off-leash areas if a new ordinance is passed.

Local Dog-at-large Ordinances - Updated 4/16/26

Ordinance Options	Description	Example Municipality	Pros	Cons
Designated Off-Leash Areas (Local Control)	Permits off-leash only in named parks; requires “positive leash or immediate verbal control.” Ordinance 90.01	Mariemont	Supports recreation	Ambiguous during incidents (e.g., bites in off-leash zones). Local law enforcement can only act after dog is declared “dangerous”
State-Deferred (Reasonable Control)	Defers to Ohio R.C. § 955.22 — dogs may be off leash if within sight/hearing and respond to commands.	Columbia Twp., Newtown	Aligns with state law; flexible for responsible owners.	Hard to enforce; subjective “reasonable control.”
Conditional Off-Leash (Strict Control)	Allows off-leash only if dog shows instant response and causes no nuisance. Ordinance 90.02	Madeira	Balances freedom and accountability.	Difficult to prove “instant response”; inconsistent enforcement.
Leash-Only (Full Restriction)	Requires dogs to be leashed or confined at all times on public property. Ordinances 90.14 (Fairfax), 90.01 (Terrace Park)	Terrace Park, Fairfax	Simple, enforceable, minimizes risk.	Limits off-leash recreation; less flexibility for well-trained dogs.

Dr. Lewis asked if it would make sense, just because so many dog walkers use the South 80 Park to post off leash hours in this park. Dogs need exercise and Mariemont yards are small. Solicitor McTigue said he would draft an ordinance to be discussed by the Safety Committee at a future meeting. It can exclude dogs who have been cited by the Village of Mariemont. There was discussion of registering dogs and if that would increase liability for the Village. Solicitor McTigue said the risk to the Village to be held liable for someone’s dog mauling a person is minimal, but he also believes it is bad form to have dogs unleashed so close to a playground. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

*Memorial Day Parade will be Monday May 25, 2026

*Village Offices will be closed in observation of Memorial Day Monday May 25, 2026

*The regular Council meeting May 25 will be held on Tuesday May 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

*Dogwood Park Re-Dedication May 3, 2026, at noon.

Mrs. Stock announced that Sustainable Mariemont received a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and will be holding an event on May 9 from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of the Municipal Building. Cobalt will be accepting electronics (no large appliances and nothing with freon) and for a small fee will be accepting computer monitors and televisions. Royal Document Destruction will have a truck available to take documents. The documents will not be destroyed onsite but will be taken to their highly secure and highly rated shredding facility. MariElders will have a booth available to donate items for their summer auction fundraiser. The event is free and available to those who live in the Village, Mariemont School District or 45227 zip code.

Resolutions:

“To Appoint Nine Iredale as a Member of the Mariemont Racquet Club Board for the Calendar Year 2026” had a third reading. Mr., Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nay. Resolution No. R-25-26 was adopted.

“To Appoint Alvaro Pasquel as a Member of the Mariemont Raquet Club Board for the Calendar Years 2026 and 2027” had third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-26-26 was adopted.

“To Amend Resolution R-12-82; To establish the Outstanding Citizen Award” had a first reading.

“A Resolution Authorizing Donation by the Village of Mariemont to Cindependent to Benefit the Village of Mariemont for the opening and Operation of the Mariemont Theatre; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Allyson West, Director of Cindependent, will be given a copy of the Resolution before the funds are dispersed. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to invoke the emergency. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-27-26 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Amend Ordinance O-18-18 Code Section 31.03(Mayor’s Spending Authority) of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances had a first reading.

“To Supplement Ordinance No. O-1-26 Annual Appropriation Ordinance; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Van Stone moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. It would be symbolic if all three communities, Mariemont, Fairfax and Columbia Township, could present the funds together. Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mr. Van Stone to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-6-26 was adopted.

Fiscal Officer Rankin announced that we received the first half property tax disbursement from Hamilton County in the amount of \$739,845.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer