

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
May 11, 2026**

Vice-Mayor Van Stone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present was Mrs. Brownknight, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Stock and Mrs. Wells. Vice-Mayor Van Stone said Mayor Brown was under the weather and would not be in attendance tonight.

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

Minutes:

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to approve the minutes as written for April 27, 2026. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. (Mrs. Brownknight abstained)

Communications:

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: April 2026 Monthly Report

*From Maintenance Superintendent James: April 2026 Monthly Report. The new online tool to submit work order requests for the department is now available for residents to use. The link is located on the front page of our website.

*From Administration Office: Follow-up on Residential Recycling Rewards Incentive Program

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Colleen Sarna. Wooster Pike was granted permission to address Council. She wanted to thank Council for re-examining rules for off leash dogs in Mariemont parks. She appreciated the conversation about the topic during the last Council meeting. In late March her daughter was attacked by two dogs playing off leash in Ann Buntin Becker park. The dogs ran out of the park and into the lane where she was standing with her husband. The dogs jumped on her and pushed her to the ground. Her injuries included a broken wrist and bites on her face, arm and hand. In addition to her injuries, there has been a huge psychological toll. She resists playing in their backyard, going to the park to play with friends. Taking walks and always asking if there are dogs around. She does not want anyone else to experience this. Unfortunately, even the most well-behaved dogs can act unpredictably in places like a park. To ensure that the most vulnerable in our community are protected, she supports an ordinance where people must keep their dogs on leashes in our parks, especially where children frequently play.

Vice-Mayor Van Stone said there will be a Safety Committee meeting tomorrow morning to further address this matter.

Dr. Lewis said at the last meeting she proposed specified dog hours in the South 80 Parks. Ms. Sarna said she was supportive of that proposal understanding that dogs need exercise.

Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on May 5, 2026, at 12:00 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Bob Van Stone, Committee Member Alicia Stock, Mayor Bill Brown, and Senior Administrative Assistant Joanne Van Pelt. The only item on the agenda was the renewal of the Village Employees health and life insurance policies. Prior to the meeting Mrs. Van Pelt met with the Center for Local Government (CFLG) and their insurance providers. In the end, negotiation with Jefferson Healthcare along with contributions from CFLG resulted in zero percent increase in next year's healthcare premiums. The total premium annual cost is approximately \$408,000 of which the Village employees pay between 10 and 13 percent. Reliance Matrix Life and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance cost will be increased by approximately \$105 annually which will be paid by the Village. This is the first increase in AD&D insurance in 15 years.

Mr. Van Stone moved to recommend that the policies with Jefferson Healthcare and Reliance Matrix Life be renewed for next year. Mrs. Stock agreed. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0. There will be no need to update any employee contribution schedules due to no change in the premiums. Mrs. Van Pelt will arrange for an open enrollment period where employees will be given the opportunity to change their coverage plans from among the 3 currently offered. The meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM. Mrs. Brown knight moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the recommendation of the Finance 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.

*The Budget Hearing will be held on June 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. with the regular Council Meeting beginning upon its conclusion and/or at 6:30 p.m.

Resolutions:

"To Amend Resolution R-12-82; To establish the Outstanding Citizen Award" had a second reading.

"Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Levying a Tax in Excess of the 10 mill Limitation for Permanent Improvements and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith; and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mrs. Brown knight moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading. Fiscal Officer Rankin said this is necessary to renew the Permanent Improvement levy which will expire at the end of the year. The Village needs to submit a resolution to the Hamilton County Auditor declaring the levy is a necessity. The next step will be to certify the funding the Hamilton County Auditor estimates the levy will generate. This levy is renewed every five years at the same rate. This is strictly a renewal levy. She explained that the emergency is needed due to the need to file with the county in a timely manner in order to receive the numbers to be certified in the legislation that needs to be passed in July. Discussion ensued whether the Village should discuss a replacement levy or look at alternative ways to increase revenue in the Village. A replacement levy runs the risk that it will fail and the Village would not receive any levy funds. Mrs. Van Pelt noted that assessing the needs of the Village was referred to the Committee of the Whole in February 2023. Council agreed to move this to the Finance Committee for further review and discussion. The Resolution had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Stock moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-28-26 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 second reading.

“To Supplement Ordinance No. O-1-26 Annual Appropriation Ordinance; 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 Ordinance had a second reading. Fiscal Officer Rankin said the Village received \$250,000 from MPF for the Dogwood Park Renovation Fund. In order to spend the money, it needs to be appropriated. The Ordinance had a third reading. Mrs. Wells moved, seconded by Mrs. Stock to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mrs. Wells to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-7-26 was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer