

TO: Village Council and Mayor Brown  
FROM: Finance Committee, Rob Bartlett - Chair  
RE: Vehicle Registration Permissive Fee  
DATE: March 19, 2020

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The Finance Committee met on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 4:30 pm in Council Chambers to discuss the Ohio vehicle registration permissive fee. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, and Finance Committee Members Kelly Rankin and Joe Stelzer.

As background, when the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles collects their registration fee, Ohio law allows municipalities to also collect a fee. Each municipal fee is in \$5 increments with a maximum of \$30 per car. By Ohio law, the money that is collected via this registration fee has to be used for street repair and maintenance by the municipalities.

Mariemont collects \$20 per car. There are 38 municipalities in Hamilton County. Currently, 26 of those municipalities are charging more than \$20 per car. There are 12 townships in Hamilton County. Currently, 10 of those townships are charging more than \$20 per car. The Department of Public Safety, which administers this program, has estimated that each \$5 fee results in roughly \$13,500 in revenue for Mariemont's street maintenance fund, which is managed as its own separate account within Mariemont's accounting system

The Village's streets are clearly in need of repair. The Village's Permanent Improvement Fund, which is the other source for street repair work, is significantly oversubscribed (this year, council needed to cut ~\$150,000 from the original spending requests in the Permanent Improvement Fund), and it will remain so for the next 4 years as we pay off the municipal building loan and the loan for the new ambulance.

The Finance Committee is recommending that Mariemont increase its registration permissive fee from \$20 per car to \$30 per car, which would provide ~\$27,000 more per year for the repair and maintenance of our streets. If council agrees with this recommendation, it will require an ordinance to be passed. The ordinance needs to be in effect and the appropriate documents sent to the Department of Public Safety in Columbus before July 1, 2020 in order for the new fee to go into effect in 2021. If council agrees with this recommendation, the necessary ordinance will be submitted at the first council meeting in April for a first reading.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Rob Bartlett, Chairman

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Kelly Rankin, Vice-Chairman

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Joe Stelzer, Member