

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
FEBRUARY 8, 2010**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Black, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheezer, Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Wolter.

Mayor Policastro thanked the members of Council for sending flowers and food to his wife during her recovery from back surgery.

Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to excuse the absence of Mr. Andrews. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the Minutes of January 25, 2010 as written. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Police Chief Hines: January 2010 Monthly Report/2009 Annual Report.

From Assistant Chief Morgan: 2009 Annual Report. Mr. Scheezer said Rowan Hill runs skyrocketed from 12 to 90 from 2008 to 2009. Assistant Chief Morgan said the report shows both EMS and Fire runs. Mr. Scheezer asked for clarification on mutual aid versus automatic aid. Assistant Chief Morgan said automatic aid is when the tones drop it dispatches every company to a specific address, such as Kellogg's. Standard mutual aid is when a company arrives on scene and more help is needed a call is made to dispatch more units. It is not dispatched automatically.

Mr. Wolter commented that both the Police and Fire Department reports show quite a bit of savings in spending. He said that shows real effort.

Ms. Sullivan said the end of year report is very detailed and looks really good.

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: January 2010 Monthly Report. Mayor Policastro said the department did a great job clearing the streets during the last snow storm.

From Building Commissioner Malone: January 2010 Monthly Report.

From Tax Administrator Judd: January 2010 Monthly Report. Mr. Scheezer asked for the drop dead due date for the waste fee invoice changes. Mrs. Judd said typically she prints those invoices now so they are ready prior to April 1st. The agreement was the waste fee invoicing cannot interfere with tax collection. Mr. Black asked if she was given some volunteer assistance could the date be pushed back. Mrs. Judd said the waste fee invoicing could but not the tax collection. Clerk Tontillo said there is nothing wrong with waiting until after the tax season for supplemental invoicing. Mrs. Judd said the Ordinance requires that payment be made by July 1st. Clerk Tontillo said is if the Finance Committee goes through long deliberations and they come up with a different plan, Council can change the Ordinance. His point being nothing is irreversible.

From Mayor Policastro: Letter dated February 3, 2010 re: Traffic Study Wooster Pike/Pocahontas. Mayor Policastro said he talked to Jay Hamilton and he is very optimistic the Village can put an arrow in at the intersection. Our State Representative has been very cooperative. He believes that it will happen this time.

From Time Warner Cable: Letter/Check for 4th Quarter 2009 Franchise Fee.

From Time Warner Cable: Letter from Pam McDonald re: Ordinance O-16-09 (Reduction of Village's Franchise Fee revenue by excluding advertising sales revenue). Mayor Policastro said he has turned the matter over to Solicitor McTigue to get corrected. Clerk Tontillo said Council thought they did the Ordinance right to fix the problem and the contention of the letter is that we did not fix it. Solicitor McTigue said he was told by Mrs. McDonald on which sample Ordinance to use. We have not lost out on any revenues because Time Warner Cable is still in the processes of collecting.

From Robert Johnson: e-mail dated February 3, 2010 re: Good Energy Joint Electric Purchasing Collaborative. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Planning and Zoning Committee. The Hamilton County Municipal League put on an informative seminar about this subject. Mr. Scheeser said he would like Council to talk with the Center for Local Governments about being members. He has heard a lot about this organization. Mayor Policastro said we take advantage of it through the Municipal League. Mr. Scheeser said Center for Local Governments is a wealth of information about like size governments. Mayor Policastro encouraged the new Council members to attend the monthly meetings. If anyone wishes to attend the seminar for newly elected officials on March 6, 2010 please let Mrs. Van Pelt know.

Mayor Policastro said he is setting new ground rules for those wishing to address Council. First step up to the podium, state your name and address. Each person may speak one time and will be given three minutes to address Council.

Ms. Jane Coffey, 4315 Joan Place, was granted permission to address Council. She said she wanted to echo Ms. Maze's comments from the last Council meeting saying she would be willing to pay additional monies to keep services in Mariemont. When the tax levy was on the fall ballot she believes it was intended by some to be defeated. With a more reasonable levy amount and proper explanation it could have passed. She asked that the new Council listen. Many residents feel they are being manipulated to accept decisions made by just a few. She thanked Council for listening to what the residents wish.

Mr. Scheeser asked Ms. Coffey with the upcoming school levy does she believe there is room to ask for a Village tax. Ms. Coffey said she believes so and put it in conjunction with what services we would be losing due to the budgetary problems.

Mrs. Marty Bartlett, 3744 Indianview, was granted permission to address Council. She echoes Ms. Coffey's comments. Former Councilmember, Melissa Schmit recommended a little more than a 1 mill levy. She also asked that the Mayor wait to start the Pledge of Allegiance until the audience has had a chance to stand up. Mayor Policastro said of course.

Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Clerk and Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Thursday, January 28th in Council Chambers. The meeting began promptly at 7:00 pm and concluded at 7:50 pm. Committee Members Andy Black, Kim Sullivan and Jeff Andrews were present. Council members Dennis Wolter and Cortney Schesser participated as did Mayor Dan Policastro. Mr. Black called the meeting to order and opened with the agenda: Discuss the concept of a "Deficit Reduction Roadmap" and review the timeline for the health insurance renewal and salary ordinance. The Deficit Reduction Roadmap concept presented by Mr. Black includes a series of meetings to discuss expense reduction and revenue enhancement opportunities. Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Andrews accepted the idea and encourage collaboration from members of Village Council, the Mayor's office, village employees and residents. It was determined that these meetings need to focus on driving efficiencies within village departments, overall village services and consumption fees. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the third Monday in February and the first and third Monday in March, with the goal of presenting a clear strategy for balancing the annual budget in April. Again, participation from department heads and employees, as well as residents was encouraged by all members. Committee members also agreed to address the salary ordinance and insurance renewal as one item. It was agreed that both impact the employee's total compensation and should be treated as such. Insurance renewal negotiations will be handled by The Hauser Group and we expect to receive the options for consideration in early March. Members agreed to discuss the salary ordinance once the renewal options have been received.

Clerk Tontillo said the first meeting is scheduled on a Village holiday and asked if the Committee wanted to do something to encourage department head input in advance. Mr. Black said his thought was to have the department heads come to the March 1st meeting. Clerk Tontillo asked Mrs. Van Pelt to send a short e-mail to the department heads indicating that they do not need to attend the meeting on February 15th but they will be asked to attend the March 1st meeting with some pre-work. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Scheeser said the Rules and Law Committee is going to meet after the next Council meeting to discuss the Property Maintenance Code.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Village Offices will be closed Monday February 15, 2010 in Observation of President's Day.

Resolutions:

“To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for Street Repair and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Sullivan to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Solicitor McTigue said typically this is passed by Council on an emergency basis due to the fact that the earlier we get the bid notice out generally the better rates we get on the repair work by the contractors. Mayor Policastro said the contractors are hungry at the beginning of the year and they bid lower. If we get the bids out later contractors already have jobs lined up and their bids tend to be higher. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Black to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-4-10 was adopted.

“To Authorize Solicitation of Bids to Contract for Mowing and Trimming of Selected Village properties during 2010 with a One-Year Extension at the Village’s Option; And to Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. Mayor Policastro said it allows for us to get the bids early in the year with the same reasoning as the Street Repair work. Ms. Sullivan said it also allows time to research the company prior to awarding the bid. The Resolution had a second reading and third reading. Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-4-10 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“Ordinance Amending Section 151 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a first reading.

Mr. Black said he did some research into bringing ICRC into the Council Chambers for videotaping meetings for public viewing. He is not sure we have the space for it but he believes if it can work it would be a nice feature especially since it could be linked to the Village website. It was decided by Council to set up a site visit and if it is possible the matter would be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Black said he would set up the site visit and report back to Council.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Paul Tontillo, Clerk