

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL  
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO  
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER  
OCTOBER 25, 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. Andrews, Mr. Black, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser, Ms Sullivan and Mr. Wolter.

Mayor Policastro said Rick Hines has completed his 180 day probationary period as the Fire Chief and recommends that he be moved to regular employee status. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to remove Chief Hines from probationary status. On roll call; five ayes, one nay (Mr. Scheeser dissenting).

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to accept the minutes as written. On roll call; five ayes, no nays (Mr. Andrews abstained).

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Police Chief Hines: September 2010 monthly report. Chief Hines said the DROP program will be in effect November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The program allows residents to bring to the police/fire departments any medications that need to be discarded. It prevents the drugs from getting flushed in with our water supply. The program will be posted to the Village website. He is also going to get some materials out through the MariElders so residents know what is acceptable and what is not. Mr. Wolter asked if residents could not make it to the Municipal Building are arrangements available for the drugs to be picked up. Chief Hines said yes that residents can call and an officer or firefighter will go pick them up. He is also going to make arrangements with MariElders should that service be needed.

Mr. Black asked how the speed issues were on Homewood. Chief Hines said the police have increased their presence in the area. They are not writing a lot of citations because hopefully being there is slowing down the traffic but obviously they cannot be there around the clock. They are utilizing the speed trailer. He is hopeful that those things are making a difference although he said there is still a problem with people cutting through. The problem is not yet solved.

Mr. Wolter said another step we are taking is installing 'speed strictly enforced' signs to the speed limit signs.

Mr. Black asked what the next step is in the process. Mr. Wolter said the next step is going to be to meet with residents who want to be 'street representatives' to gather information on which streets are problems. The second plan is then to looking at different possibilities such as making Murray a one way street. The objective is to keep people on Wooster Pike and not to use the side streets as a cut through. Mayor Policastro said new resident, Jonathan Brodhag, is an Economic Development Attorney for the City of Cincinnati. He will be placed on the Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee. Years ago it was looked at making Murray a one way but we could not get much cooperation from the City of Cincinnati. Now we have someone who can help us. Mr. Wolter said the next meeting will not be a Safety Committee meeting but will be a meeting with the residents who live in the area to discuss ideas and inventory the streets that need to be addressed. Homewood and Settle are under the most pressure right now. Mr. Wolter said he has a phone list that he will utilize to get the word out to those who might be interested in attending.

From Assistant Fire Chief Travers: September 2010 monthly report

From Don White: Letter dated September 23, 2010 re: Replacement of Terry Gaines/Resume

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: Outsourcing & Mowing Contract Renewal. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to Public Works & Service. He said he does not know if we can just renew the contract because next year the Fire Department will start cutting the grass around the Municipal Building. Ms. Sullivan said it is not a huge part of the contract. Mayor Policastro said a couple thousand dollars is worth taking advantage of the savings.

From Chief Hines: Letter dated September 27, 2010 re: Magistrate position

From MariElders: Monthly recap ending September 30, 2010

From Michelle Balz: e-mail dated October 12, 2010 Recycling Awards Breakfast Invitation. Mayor Policastro said the Village is the best recycler for communities with less than 10,000 people. He asked if anyone would like to go to the awards ceremony to let Mrs. Van Pelt know. Mr. Scheeser suggested a raffle in the recycling/compost class to allow residents to go. Mayor Policastro said that would be fine but we should have an official from the Village.

From Cincinnati Insurance: Reimbursement for fire hydrant/bushes on Square \$4400.52

From Mariemont Parks Advisory Board: Meeting minutes October 13, 2010

From Mayor Policastro: Mayor's Bulletin Volume 6 Issue 7. Mr. Scheeser asked if Council signed up for leaf collection beginning November 1 through the third week in December. He thought we shortened the number of weeks. Clerk Tontillo said the understanding was we would take two weeks off the beginning. Ms. Sullivan said in the Mayor's article regarding the Roundabout she understands that the Mayor was paraphrasing some of what Council happened in Council but the last paragraph where the Mayor refers to 'if it is not broken don't fix it' she felt Council was very strong in that meeting that they wanted to reach out to Columbia Township not just adjacent communities. They specifically said they wanted to reach out to Columbia Township and work better together. She did not see that reflected in the Mayor's Bulletin. She said she knows the bulletin is his and comes from the Mayor but if he is paraphrasing Council she would hope that he would be accurate as to what Council's intentions were. Mayor Policastro said it was a misstep because in that area is also the City of Cincinnati. What he meant was to work with both communities in that intersection area.

From Treasurer Borgerding: September 2010 Monthly Report. Treasurer Borgerding said we have a surplus of \$164,000 at the end of the third quarter. Fourth quarter of 2009 we had a deficit of \$284,000. He is projecting a deficit this year of \$120,000. However this is not quite apples to apples because he does not have estate tax reported yet. Last year it was reported in the third quarter but this year we did not get it until the fourth quarter. Clerk Tontillo said we are better than we thought we would be with inheritance tax but not as good as we thought with earnings tax. He pointed out that the Paramedic Fund is operating on fumes now. We are not allowed to go negative on a fund. Almost immediately we are going to have to start shifting purchase orders and expenses into the General Fund which will be another drain on the General Fund in the fourth quarter. Mr. Andrews asked if it is approximately \$28,000 risk to the General Fund. Clerk Tontillo said \$25,000-\$30,000 is an average month. Treasurer Borgerding said revenues are about the same as last year and expenses are down quite a bit in the General Fund. Clerk Tontillo said it shows that the hard decisions Council has made over the past year are really kicking in and really making a difference. He believes we will end \$100,000-150,000 in the deficit which is significant progress over the initial projection of \$350,000-\$400,000.

From Administration Office: MTD/YTD 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter report

Mr. Jerry Vianello, 6570 Wooster Pike, was granted permission to address Council. He is thankful to Mr. Wolter for all his help. He calls Mr. Vianello once or twice a week to find out how things are going. He knows that Chief Hines received an e-mail from the O'Brien's stating that things are not where they would like to see them but the stop sign certainly helped. Mr. Wolter has been very upfront about putting a group of people together and trying to set the next stage to gather information to take back to the Safety Committee. He feels very good about Mr. Wolter's involvement and his communication process.

Mr. Vianello said he brought it up before that he thought the Village was waiting too long to pick up the leaves. He is getting inundated with people asking why the Maintenance Department is telling them they cannot put their leaves out but instead they have to bag them. He does not believe that was Council's intent. The Mayor's Bulletin did clear up some of the miscommunication but he did want Council to know that there was some confusion. He said he received an e-mail from a resident which asked him to address some concerns with the Mayor and Council. He did give the Mayor a copy and asked that Council be given a copy as well. The resident asked that he thank Council for taking care of the problem on Wooster Pike at Pocahontas. She would also like to see the speed changed along Wooster Pike to 25 mph. She is appreciative of the Police Department and the attention given to the area along the turnaround area just past Indianview. She is requesting a stop sign at Indianview and Rembold. She also addressed the confusion with leaf pick up and the Maintenance Department. Her e-mail reads "As I take walks through the community throughout the year, I often see maintenance sitting in their trucks at the Bell Tower or on a street OR nowhere to be seen for days". With funds being the way they are someone should be looking into that. She had a different perspective on Murray Avenue. She suggests we should talk to Fairfax and get a tie through from Murray to Plainville. He remembers Council talking about this at one point but cannot recollect why it was rejected. She believes there is still a problem at the proposed Roundabout intersection. She is hopeful that Council would be open to looking at the situation and perhaps come up with a traffic signal but not necessarily a Roundabout.

Mr. Andrews said over the past five months the need for an Economic Development Committee has come up quite a bit. The issue came up at the last meeting and he apologized for missing the meeting. There are many definitions for economic development from land use to everything else under the sun. There is not a lot of remaining land in Mariemont. He believes economic development should include land use but also include a long range planning committee for issues and opportunities that would impact the quality of life in Mariemont. It should be a group that includes discussing ways to promote cooperation with neighboring communities. It should include developing ideas and plans to mitigate tax pressures that we have felt in the past few years. It should also promote the assets of the Village and encourage people and businesses to move here. It should also encompass things that we can do and take action on making people work here, eat here, shop here and employ here. All of these things would have a positive impact on the economy of the Village. He knows in his mind what the objective of the economic development committee should be but that should be something the Economic Development Committee of Council should discuss and determine at its first meeting. He would like to act upon this tonight. He does not want to create more for Council to do therefore he recommends that it not be made a seventh Council Committee. He also does not recommend that it be an outside Committee of Council because then again it is one more thing they have to go to. If a public group wants to get together and create a forum for economic development that would be fine. He wants to make sure that the six Council Committees are always focused on the areas we need to be focused on. There are a few Committees that do not meet that often and Economic Development is a need we have and will always have. He moved to modify Section 32.19 of the Code

of Ordinances to reflect the change in the name of the Planning and Zoning Committee to the Economic Development and Zoning Committee, seconded by Ms. Sullivan. Solicitor McTigue said there should be a Committee of the Whole meeting where notice is given to the residents that this is what we are going to do. Mr. Andrews said this is a minor change and in his opinion Committee of the Whole should be reserved for things that are very big in nature. This process will have to go through three readings of the Ordinance so he feels there would be plenty of time for public input. Solicitor McTigue said Council can go forward this evening and he will prepare the revision to the Ordinance. Mr. Miller said it makes good sense to him as his Committee has only had two meetings all year. Mr. Black said he agrees 100%. We already have an outside Committee (MPF) that gave us a forum to start developing the plan that was debated at the last Council meeting whether to have it heard in the Committee of the Whole. It would not be necessary if there was a new Committee to debate the Vision Plan. Solicitor McTigue said it appears the new Committee would be more proactive than reactive. Mr. Black said this would give us focus on the long term and it would give us a good start of what our vision can be. MPF's vision plan is a good place to start. Mr. Wolter said he believes it is an ideal fit and he is looking forward to working on the Committee and working with MPF. Mayor Policastro said we are fortunate to have Rick Greiwe and Rick feels a citizen/merchant ad hoc committee is very important to serve to the Committee. Mr. Greiwe is part of the Port Authority and knows people who would be able to help us. Mr. Scheeser said the first agenda item of the new Committee should be to figure out the short and long range purpose. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

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

Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met Monday October 11, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the following: 1. Progress report on the Fire Department under the management of Police/Fire Chief Rick Hines and Assistant Chief Jeff Travers 2. Possible installation of stop signs and yellow no parking stripes at the intersection of Denny Place and Pleasant Street 3. Installation of a stop sign for the southbound lane of Indianview Avenue at the intersection of Rembold Avenue. Committee Chairman, Dennis Wolter, read a very complimentary letter from Dr. Baruch Fertel about the high quality services provided by Mariemont paramedics Lewis and Hurley. Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Travers then presented a detailed and positive report on the progress and future challenges of the Fire Department. The Committee recommends the installation of a stop sign and yellow "no parking" curb markers at the west end of Denny Place at Pleasant Street. The Committee also recommends installing a stop sign southbound on Indianview at Rembold, as well as supplemental "four-way stop" signs to be installed directly under each of the four signs at this intersection. Mr. Wolter said he found it interesting that Mrs. Weinland suggested the very stop sign the Committee is proposing. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Sullivan to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Committee which met on September 27, 2010 to review building permit fees. Committee members Andy Black and Dennis Wolter along with Building Commissioner Dennis Malone were in attendance. The Committee voted unanimously to increase the fees to match Hamilton County. It was noted that Madeira and Anderson Township fees are higher than the proposed increase. Indian Hill and Fairfax fees are the same as Hamilton County. Mr. Andrews asked what percentage the increase was. Mr. Miller said average 10-15%. The fees have not been increased in 10 years. Mr. Andrews asked what impact it would have on the budget. Clerk Tontillo said it would be nominal. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Beggar's night will be Sunday October 31, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Leaf pick up will begin Monday November 1, 2010 and will end Monday December 20, 2010.

Tree Lighting Ceremony/Luminaira will be Saturday December 4, 2010 5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

#### Resolutions:

"To appoint Lisa Gordon as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Mike Benson for the calendar years of 2010 and 2011" had a third reading. Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-21-10 was adopted.

"To appoint Darla Michaels as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2011" had a second reading.

"To appoint Don White as Magistrate to fill the unexpired term of Terry Gaines for Calendar Year 2011; To set Compensation" had a second reading.

"To appoint Louise Schomburg as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2011 and 2012" had a first reading.

"To appoint Charlie Thomas as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2011 and 2012" had a first reading.

"To reappoint Dave Tensi as Inspector for the Building Commissioner for the Calendar Years 2011 and 2012" had a first reading.

“To confirm reappointment of Christopher M. Ertel as Village Engineer for Calendar Years 2011 and 2012” had a first reading.

“To reappoint Peggy Keyes as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2011 and 2012” had a first reading.

“To reappoint Carl Stich as a Member of the Planning Commission for Calendar Years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016” had a first reading.

“To reappoint Gretchen Thomas as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Year 2011” had a first reading.

“To appoint Scott McIntosh as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Year 2011” had a first reading.

Ordinances:

“To amend Ordinance No. O-5-04; To increase membership in the Parks Advisory Board from seven members to eight members and to have said Board report to the Mayor” had a third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-25-10 was adopted.

Mr. Scheeser reminded Council of the Recycling/Compost class that will take place on Saturday November 6, 2010.

Mr. Miller suggested next year if we experience another drought to change leaf pick up by one week in the fall and one week in the winter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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Dan Policastro, Mayor

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Paul Tontillo, Clerk