

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
DECEMBER 12, 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, Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Wolter.

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

Mr. Miller moved seconded by Ms. Sullivan to accept the minutes as written for November 22, 2010. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro said he was sad to announce that Clerk Tontillo will be taking a promotion with Procter & Gamble and will be moving to Tennessee. He will be missed.

Clerk Tontillo said he received word that he is being transferred to the site in Jackson, Tennessee effective February 1, 2011. He has mixed emotions about leaving but believes that they have done a lot of work over the past three years. He feels confident leaving with such strong leadership in place. He is very bullish about the future of the Village. He will be able to take care of the year end business and work with Treasurer Borgerding.

Mr. Andrews said that in the first year with the new Council he gained a lot of respect for people in the room especially Clerk Tontillo. He served the Village well and provided helpful insight. Mr. Wolter echoed Mr. Andrews's views.

Mayor Policastro read Clerk Tontillo's letter: "Mayor Dan Policastro, My employer is transferring me to a position out of state, so I must resign as Mariemont Fiscal Officer, effective February 1, 2011. It's been my great pleasure to serve the Village over the past three years. I leave feeling confident that we are in a solid financial position, with strong leaders in place going forward. We've made great progress on deficit reduction, strengthened internal controls, and helped educate residents through the office hour's program. I'd like to thank you personally for all the help and support you've given me, and also recognize the current and previous Council members, and the Department Heads for all their help. I have been very impressed by the commitment and competence they bring to their roles. A very special thanks to Joanee and Sue, who have so generously shared their deep expertise and their insight with me. I will take care of all year-end reporting commitments, and I will work closely with you and Mr. Borgerding to ensure a seamless transition plan. Best Regards, Paul Tontillo".

Mayor Policastro and members of Council thanked Clerk Tontillo for all his service and wished him all the best with his new job responsibilities.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Police Chief Hines: November 2010 Monthly Report. Chief Hines said he attended the AAA Awards Banquet. The Village was presented with the 2010 AAA America's Platinum Community Traffic Safety Award which is the highest award you can achieve. Only six communities in the Tri-State received this award: Villa Hills, Wyoming, Blue Ash, Sharonville, Cincinnati and Miami Township. He wanted to give credit to all of his officers for keeping the Village streets safe and for their diligent traffic enforcement. He also thanked Lt. Ostendarp who oversees this program. Last year we won the gold award our first year in the program.

Chief Hines said the department delivered Christmas gifts to two needy families in the Village. The funds were donated by the officers and corporate donations. Hopefully they are able to make both families' holidays a little bit better.

Chief Hines said the food drive is in place and we will be collecting can food goods and non-perishables for needy families here in the Village. Bins will be available in the lobby or Clerk Maupin's office.

Mayor Policastro read a note sent to Chief Hines: "Dear Chief Hines and Firemen of Mariemont's Fire Department: I want to thank you so very much in assisting with the cure of my mom. If you did not help she would continue to have significant skin breakdown issues, as well as being unsafe on an air mattress that pushed her out of bed. Thank you for helping me make my mom's final days on this earth as safe as possible. Best Regards, Karen Koetzle". Mayor Policastro said a lot of credit goes to our Fire Department.

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: November 2010 Monthly Report. Mr. Wolter said the streets were in good shape at 5:30 a.m. All of our services in the Village are good and it is easy to take them for granted. He said we are blessed with really good departments and we should appreciate the men and women who serve the Village.

Mayor Policastro asked if we still had an agreement with Indian Hill to clean Miami Hill. Superintendent Scherpenberg said once the snow hits the Police Department will call us when the hill is starting to get bad. Indian Hill sometimes gets out earlier than we do. We usually flip flop on clearing off the hill so it is usually always taken care of. It works well and is a good partnership.

From Building Commissioner Malone: November 2010 Monthly Report.

From Tax Administrator Judd: November 2010 Monthly Report/Waste Collection Report.

From Mariemont Preservation Foundation: Meeting Minutes October 28, 2010

From Traffic Calming Commission: Meeting Minutes November 23, 2010

From Police Clerk Maupin: Mayor's Court Statement October 2010

From Chief Hines: Memo dated December 6, 2010 re: Corporate Donations

From Sue Singleton: e-mail dated November 30, 2010 re: Thank you Service Department

From Treasurer Borgerding: November 2010 Monthly Report. Treasurer Borgerding said he expects the year may end with a million dollar balance. This month had three payroll periods which only happens twice a year. Mayor Policastro said last year and this year Councils have made some hard decisions and both deserve a lot of credit.

From Joanee Van Pelt: Thank you Kroger gift card

Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Clerk and Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Andrews said there are several payments to Don Pennington regarding quarterly maintenance and he thought the Finance Committee was going to perform IT assessments. The Finance Committee recommended modifying the quarterly plan. He asked if the Administration or Council is waiting for the Finance Committee to make a firm recommendation to what the maintenance plan should be. Mayor Policastro said we need a report outlining the guidelines. He referred the matter back to the Finance Committee.

Assistant Fire Chief Travers explained the need for an electronic EMS Reporting System. Currently we are paying approximately \$2.79 per triplicate sheet that needs to be submitted to the hospital, the state and Medaccount. The information is manually input after the squad returns from the run. This would allow us to input the information directly while at the hospital which can be uploaded to the hospital. Essentially this will allow us to go paperless. The turn around time would allow us to get monies due from Medaccount quicker. It is essentially a \$3200 investment to get started. Clerk Tontillo said the Committee of the Whole built in \$2500 for this program out of the Permanent Improvement Fund. He wants to be respectful to all the planning that has gone into the IT work already done in the Finance Committee and suggested they review this in more detail. Mr. Andrews said it sounds like the right thing to do but he believes we should have another set of eyes on any IT purchase. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Finance Committee. Mr. Miller commented that the fire department personnel saved the Village several hundreds of dollars by doing some of the vehicle maintenance in house. Mayor Policastro said we will be hiring more firefighters in the near future. On roll call; five eyes, no nays.

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Ms. Sullivan to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met Tuesday, November 23, 2010, in Council Chambers to review Police-Fire Chief Rick Hines's proposal for restructuring the rank and salary scales in the Police & Fire Departments. The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. and concluded at 6:30 p.m. Committee members Andy Black, Jeff Andrews and Kim Sullivan were present. Clerk Tontillo and Chief Hines were also present. Chief Hines presented members with his proposal to restructure rank and salary scales based on tenure and recently redefined roles and responsibilities in the Police & Fire Departments. With regards to the Police Department this included creating a Captain/Assistant Police Chief rank with a salary scale of \$51,870 to \$67,579 and a Sergeant rank with a salary scale of \$46,884 to \$58,820. Chief Hines recommended maintaining the existing salary appropriation the Police Department currently receives annually. With regards to the Fire Department, Chief Hines recommended restructuring the Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal salary scales. Chief Hines suggested increasing the salary scale for the Assistant Fire Chief from \$49,869-\$63,200 to \$51,870-\$67,579. Hines also suggested adjusting the Fire Marshal's salary scale from \$46,884-\$58,821 to \$46,884-\$61,010. Committee members reviewed the proposed items and agreed unanimously on the following: The proposed realignment in the Police Department, which included the creation of the Captain/Assistant Police Chief rank and salary scale and creation of the Sergeant rank and salary scale. Members also agreed to increase the salary scale for the Fire Marshal rank in the Fire Department. These adjustments produce a maximum net spend of \$2,189 against the General Fund. On roll call; five eyes, no nays.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee which met Monday November 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss possible traffic routing and calming options for cut-through streets on the north side of U.S. 50. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee members Dennis Wolter, Andy Black and Joe Miller, Mayor Dan Policastro, Police/Fire Chief Rick Hines, Village Engineer Chris Ertel and approximately 30 Mariemont residents. After much discussion between Village Officials and residents, the following traffic calming tools were identified as being potentially effective in reducing speeding and careless driving in this area between the hours of 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. and 4:00-6:00 p.m.

1. No left turn signs eastbound at Homewood and Beech between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
2. All-way stop signs at Rembold & Petoskey, Petoskey & Hiawatha, Pocahontas & Hiawatha
3. Portable speed humps on Settle and Hiawatha
4. Additional traffic enforcement
5. Traffic counts, initially on Homewood, Settle and Hiawatha, with other streets added later
6. Changing the south side of Murray to one-way westbound between Plainville and Settle
7. Making Rembold one-way westbound and Hiawatha one-way eastbound

The Committee supports making these changes on an incremental basis in order to evaluate their effectiveness on each street. They agreed to add additional portable speed humps in various locations until optimum results are achieved. The Committee established a list of volunteer street representatives who will monitor the traffic situation on their streets as these measures are undertaken. They will also communicate any concerns and suggestions their neighbors have. The Committee feels that the first priority is to work with the troublesome areas on Homewood, Settle, Belmont, Indianview, Rembold and Hiawatha. The Committee recognizes that as we meet with success on one street, the problem could likely move to another street, requiring additional efforts to keep commuter traffic on Wooster Pike, Plainville, Miami and Madisonville Roads. The Committee last discussed a plan to implement an enhanced safety program at the High School. The Committee also recommends earmarking \$5000 of the 2011 budget for the purchase of four speed humps and related signs. Ms. Sullivan said the report states that the following traffic calming tools were identified as being potentially effective - she asked if this means we are doing all the listed items? Mayor Policastro said this is more like a verbal report - no decisions have been made. Mr. Miller said it was more information gathering. Mr. Wolter said it was information that they think will help solve the problems. Once we investigate further then we will start implementing some of these to see if they work. Mr. Black said there will be further meetings on the issue. Ms. Sullivan said she appreciates the work of the Traffic Calming Commission but feels something like making Murray a one-way street would need intense discussion. Mr. Black said they are trying to eliminate any surprises. Mr. Wolter said we need to push surveys similar to the City of Cincinnati with all the neighborhoods. Ms. Sullivan said she wanted to make sure that there was another layer of approval for each item. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Black to amend the report to add the hours 4:00-6:00 p.m. on the no left turn signs eastbound at Beech and Homewood. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Committee report was passed five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

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

Village Offices will be closed Friday December 24, 2010 in observation of Christmas

Village Offices will be closed Friday December 31, 2010 in observation of New Year's Day

Mr. Scheeser and Ms. Sullivan were nominated as Trustees to the Volunteer Fireman's Dependant Board for 2011. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Andrews said the Health & Recreation Committee met to discuss the tennis facility, pool facility and the Tot Lot. MPPG wants to participate in improving some of the play equipment in the Tot Lot. They are considering a fence around the area estimated to be approximately \$6000. The purpose of discussing the tennis and pool facilities was to get a jump on the maintenance needs so funds can be budgeted for next year. They need to find out from the school what their plans are regarding a retainer wall by the tennis courts so they can determine what to do with the fence. The next meeting they will finalize their needs and a report will be presented to Council with their recommendations.

Ms. Sullivan said progress is being made with the lighting issue in the Historic District. Building Commissioner Malone said he met with a representative from Duke Energy. They walked they area between Chestnut, Oak and Beech Street and decided on three new light fixtures in the area which would about double the lighting there now. Duke Energy made it clear they are not going to pay for any of this project so the cost would be entirely up to the Village. He is waiting to hear from Duke Energy on the cost estimate. At that time we can evaluate if we can come up with something more economical. Mr. Wolter asked if the wiring is adequate. Building Commissioner Malone said it probably is. With the reduced consumption of power and the more economical lighting he does not think the wiring sizing will have to be changed.

Resolutions:

"In Recognition of Rex Bevis" had a second reading.

"To Confirm the Reappointment of Edward J. McTigue as Solicitor for the Village of Mariemont for the Calendar Year 2011 and 2012" had a second reading.

Ordinances:

"To Amend Section 78.01 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances, Schedule IX and Schedule II Changing the Speed Limit on all of U. S. Route 50 Through the Village of Mariemont from 35 mph to 25 mph" which was tabled 7-12-10 was removed from the agenda due to the fact that the State of Ohio has jurisdiction. Mr. Wolter said he has been working with the Village Engineer on petitioning the State to allow the Village to lower the speed limit in front of the Municipal Building. Engineer Ertel said the State will require us to do a speed study before anything can be changed. He will check with the Police Department to see if they can do the speed study.

“To amend Mariemont Code Section 32.13, Rules of Council 17(f) and 19(f) of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a third reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-28-10 was adopted.

“To amend Mariemont Code Section 78, Schedule III of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a third reading”. Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. Sullivan to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance O-29-10 was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Paul Tontillo, Clerk