

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011**

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 and Mr. Wolter.

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

Mr. Andrews asked that the Committee of the Whole minutes from August 25, 2011 be amended to reflect the following changes... Pg. 2, 4th paragraph 'gaining to be changed to gaming' and 1st page, 9th paragraph to read 'Council should not only be looking at how much it may cost but we should also look at economic development'. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to accept the minutes as written for August 22, 2011 and as amended for the Committee of the Whole meeting August 25, 2011. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Assistant Fire Chief Travers: August 2011 Monthly Report. Mr. Wolter said he is looking forward to getting the new operations manual. He understands it has been delayed but he wanted it in the records that we are to expect the draft by October 1, 2011. Chief Hines said he spoke with Assistant Fire Chief Travers and was reassured that the finished product will be complete by October 1, 2011. The document will need to be reviewed and signed off by the Solicitor, Mayor and Safety Committee Chairman.

Mr. Black said he has been in conversation with Chief Hines to hold a community event and they are in the preliminary stages of having a chili cook-off Friday October 21, 2011. It will be Mariemont's finest versus Mariemont's bravest. They are still working out the details but they are thinking \$5.00 all you can eat chili & beverage, a raffle for children 12 and under. The winner will be part of the pre-game coin toss festivities at the final home football game. We want to make sure it is publicized. They are planning to have it in front of the municipal building and he is hoping that the landscaping in front will be complete by then. Mayor Policastro said Hafner & Sons is going to supply us with the fill dirt. He is planning on doing a proclamation for them next week.

Chief Hines said the 9/11 10th Anniversary Service was a nice event and had a great turnout with several hundred people.

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: August 2011 Monthly Report

From Building Commissioner Malone: August 2011 Monthly Report

From Tax Administrator Judd: August 2011 Monthly Report/Waste Collection Report

From Swim Pool Manager Beck: August/September 2011 Monthly Report

From Millard Rogers: e-mail dated September 1, 2011 re: Opposition to Proposed Cyclocross Event

From Betty Rhoades: e-mail dated September 6, 2011 re: Opposition to Proposed Cyclocross Event

From Louise Schomburg: e-mail dated September 6, 2011 re: Opposition to Proposed Cyclocross Event

From Judith Kagrise, Garden Club of Mariemont: Letter dated September 7, 2011 re: Opposition to Proposed Cyclocross Event

From Mariemont Parks Advisory Board: Meeting Minutes September 6, 2011

Mayor Policastro said there are a lot of people in the Village against this bike race. He believes it is time to let Mr. Graham know that this is something he does not believe we should do. It is Council's decision. The proposed trail will be going around the church, war memorial which is where we honor our fallen soldiers. It will be going around memorial trees planted in memorial of deceased relations. He does not think running the race through that area would be showing respect. He feels most of that area is hallowed ground. He does not think any insurance company would pay the Village because we will be assuming the risk by allowing them to conduct the race and we have been warned by Mr. Graham that there will be damage. Therefore it will not be a negligent act on their part. Solicitor McTigue said he would not think an insurance company would pay for damage either.

Mr. Andrews said in the Committee of the Whole meeting a point was made and agreement made that we should conduct a survey. He asked if the survey had been conducted. Mayor Policastro said no he was going to do it and then all these letters starting coming in. As far as he is concerned that is the survey. Mr. Andrews said

these opinions are just as important as any other opinion in the Village. These are five opinions and the point was to get a broad set of feedback. He has had people approach him against it but most have been in favor of it but they do not have any information. He encouraged people to come to the next Committee of the Whole meeting where they can share their thoughts and ask questions and get answers. At this point he is not in favor of it or against it but for some reason we did not execute the survey and for that reason we should at least have the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mr. Black said he still intends to hold a Committee of the Whole meeting. He brought it before the Committee because someone approached him with an opportunity for economic development within the Village. He does not want to come across as a 'no no' Council. If we decide this is not going to work and the race should be on pavement he has no qualms with that. He thought it was an interesting idea and worthy of hearing Mr. Graham out. He has heard from people that the Village of Mariemont is very hard to work with and he would like to dispel the idea and let people know that it is not true.

Mayor Policastro said he was going to put the survey in the Mayor's Bulletin. The Garden Club was against it unanimously and they have about 35 people along with the seven people against it from the Parks Advisory Board. Once people find out what it is and where it is going to be held people are against it.

Mr. Scheeser said Mr. Andrews' point on education is important. We have 3402 people in the Village which means there are a lot of voices we have not yet heard from. He applauded Mr. Black for bringing the idea forward. He believes there are both concerns and merits with the idea. He looks forward to another Committee of the Whole meeting to make the right decision for the Village.

Mr. Wolter said we need to educate the residents of the Committee of the Whole meeting so attendance is populous. His concern is delaying the ability of Mr. Graham to find another venue for this event if we tell him at the last moment should Council decide against it.

Mr. Andrews said the most important thing to learn from this opportunity is how to access the economic value of opportunities that are brought to Council. We need to be able to identify opportunities and go after them. We need to have ways of getting good feedback and deciding when it is good to spend a few dollars to make a few dollars plus. We have not had an economic discussion on this and he finds that is the missing part of the formula. He would like to figure that out as a Council so they can entertain more of these opportunities.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Finance Chairman and Clerk. Mr. Scheeser questioned the \$500.33 payment for hardcover journal books from Proforma Albrecht & Company. Chief Hines said those are the last of the promotional items bought through the drug fund which was given out to community members. Mr. Andrews asked about the no parking signs on school days signs/reflectors for new stops signs in the amount of \$292.45 from Kleem. Superintendent Scherpenberg said as far as he knows they are replacement signs for the area in front of the Parish Center. Chief Hines said we had to change the route to school because of the construction. This involved moving signs to coordinate the change in the route. Mr. Andrews asked what happened to the old signs. Superintendent Scherpenberg said they are at the maintenance facility. Chief Hines said there are several signs that need to be replaced because they are fading. Clerk Borgerding asked if the reflectors were part of the new mandate. Superintendent Scherpenberg said no. We need to have a plan for replacement in place by 2012 and the new signs will take effect 2015. There is still debate and concern on whether the signs will be uppercase or a combination of upper and lower case letters. Mr. Andrews questioned the \$745.00 annual renewal contract for the emergency generator from Buckeye Power Sales. He asked if we had ever bid that out and asked if it is something we should be paying. Mayor Policastro said it is important that the building not shut down like it did during Hurricane Ike. The Fire Department checks it every week. It is an expensive piece of equipment. Mr. Andrews said the water/sewer charges seemed high and asked if this was a typical quarter. Mrs. Van Pelt said it may reflect filling the pools. Superintendent Scherpenberg said they have been filling up the water carts for watering around the Village. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Resolutions"

"To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for Street Repair" had a first reading

Ordinances:

"To Add Section 51.18 to Chapter 51 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances" had a third reading. Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-17-11 was adopted.

"To Renew Current Contract for the Following Kinds of Insurance: Real and Personal Property, Comprehensive General Liability, Business Automobile and Other Coverages; To Pay Premiums" had a second reading.

Mr. Scheeser said he had a conversation with Jay Gohman, Mayor of Terrace Park, regarding the progress of the schools, routes to school etc. He personally is mourning the loss of walkable schools for all his kids 13 grades. He said they came up with an idea to task a route to school between Fairfax Junior High School and Mariemont Elementary. It is .98 miles. It could be named the Warrior Mile and it becomes a dedicated route which will be safe and lit. He suggested putting a blue stripe the entire length to make it a fun commute. He has run the idea by the Superintendent and the Principals of both schools. They are all excited about it. He would like Council's approval to approach Fairfax to see if and how we could bring something like this to life. We

could have crossing guards on bikes going each way and make it a fun community connecting route. We could use Safe Routes to School type grant money to pay for it. He would like to have a plan in place by the time the schools open in fall 2012.

Mr. Wolter asked about infrastructure changes. Mr. Scheeser said this would be very low tech but we would need to figure out the route. He suggested going along Hawthorne where it dead ends into the pedestrian pass however the bollards may have to be separated. Mayor Policastro said the Hawthorne route has always been used by our children and the Village was sued by the resident who lives there and she did not want the children going past her place. Mr. Scheeser asked if it is public right-of way. Mayor Policastro said we have a prescriptive easement to get through there. Solicitor McTigue said part of the settlement was to put in the bollards at a certain distance from each other. Mr. Scheeser said it is one route and there may be other routes. He would like to be able to talk about the particulars. Mr. Andrews asked what Committee it should be referred to. Mr. Scheeser said it could go into Safety or Public Works & Service. Mr. Andrews said we should learn from the cyclocross that we should not make too quick a judgment on any idea. He suggested getting it to a smaller group of people in the right Committee and let them talk about it and bring back a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Wolter said intuitively he likes the idea of keeping young people away from Wooster Pike and a dedicated route is probably the best way. Mr. Black said there may be a couple of people who are not in favor of this but to him it seems it would be something good for both communities. Mayor Policastro asked Solicitor McTigue to research the lawsuit in regards to the prescriptive easement before referring the matter to a Committee. He is meeting with Fairfax Mayor, Ted Shannon, next week and he will bring up the matter to him as well.

Mayor Policastro said he has been working with Columbia Township Administrator, Mike Lemon, on the bicycle path. We want to do the bicycle path from the library down to Kroger's but to get federal money we have to have a complete plan. They are looking at a small blacktop area along the right side Murray in Mariemont to Oak Street and then have it tie in with Columbia Township. It could be a walking path.

Mr. Andrews said at the last Council meeting it was said the parking study should be done in two weeks and asked if it had been completed yet. Mr. Miller said it is not done yet. Mr. Andrews asked if Council will have it by the next meeting. Mayor Policastro said the school has been having problems and they need to work with the school's engineers. He does not believe the school is ready and he does not see doing the project until next year. Mr. Andrews said we do not know what the project is. The contractor should be able to access the parking across the Village without any school delay. The school delay should not impact the study. Mayor Policastro said we have to work with the school. Mr. Andrews asked to work with the school to do what. Mayor Policastro said to do parking on West Street. Mr. Andrews said that is not the project that Council approved - what was approved was a broad Village wide parking study. He asked what was the status of the parking study approved by Council two months ago. Mayor Policastro said West Street is a big part of the study. Mr. Scheeser said we paid for engineer drawings and design and a Village wide parking needs assessment. The school situation should not stop the first step and he too wonders why we are waiting. Mr. Andrews asked if we are getting parking study updates from the company we hired. Mr. Miller said yes that he talked with them today. The information has been gathered but the gentleman that is finalizing it is on vacation. He will contact him upon his return.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk