

**VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 8, 2015**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Hlad, Mr. Marsland, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Schwartz and Mr. Wolter.

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

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr. Hlad to approve the minutes as written for May 26, 2015. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Police Chief Hines: May 2015 Monthly Report. Mr. Marsland thanked the Police Department for the program they have allowing residents to leave a key with the department as they needed to utilize it when the baby sitter was locked out of the house. Mr. Wolter said it is a great program and suggested the Mayor put notice of it in the next Mayor's Bulletin.

From Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer: May 2015 Monthly Report.

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: May 2015 Monthly Report. Mayor said we are thinking of auctioning off the old truck from the service department along with the skateboard ramp and extra equipment in late July.

From Building Commissioner Hodulik: May 2015 Monthly Report. Building Commissioner Hodulik said May was an all-time high with 57 permits. The total for permits issued for the first quarter was 78. They include up-grades and remodels to their homes. Mayor Policastro said we got the cleaner needed to remove the graffiti off the brick building by the church. Mr. Wolter asked if there is a power washer to use to clean it with. Superintendent Scherpenberg said yes there is one if needed. Mr. Wolter said he may lean on someone from the department to assist him with the clean-up.

From Tax Administrator Busam: May 2015 Monthly Report. Mrs. Busam said we are up 6.44% for the month and the trash fees are coming in nicely.

From Swim Pool Manager Schad: May 2015 Monthly Report.

From Assistant Fiscal Officer Eldridge: April 2015 Monthly Report/Trend Reports. Mayor Policastro said he has not seen the balance so high mid-year in a long time. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said we had a good month with tax collection and pool/tennis fees.

From Mr. Frank Uehin: Letter Dated May 25, 2015 re: Thank You

E-Mail Dated June 2 & 3, 2015 re: Corner of Miami Bluff and Mariemont Avenue

From Cincinnati Enquirer: Article Dated June 4, 2015 re: Part of Eastern Corridor Roadway Killed. ODOT is not going to go through the South 80 valley at all but instead run the route along Old Wooster to the Beechmont Levee and then up St. Rt. 32. This is great news for the Village of Mariemont. He plans to thank people instrumental in this in the next Mayor's Bulletin.

From Ed McTigue: Letter Dated June 2, 2015 re: No Soliciting Ordinance. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Rules and Law Committee. The Solicitor claims that our 'No Soliciting' ordinance is outdated. He is going to have the Solicitor prepare what we need to do and then have the Rules and Law Committee meet with the Solicitor present. Hopefully by the next Council meeting we can have a report and Ordinance ready to be passed as an emergency.

From Administration Office: PayPal Report Fees. Mayor Policastro said we paid approximately \$1200.00 in fees for online registration for the pool and tennis memberships. He referred the matter to the Health and Recreation Committee. Is it fair to those who walk up with their payment etc.? It averages approximately \$8.00 per person extra that we pay for those who sign up online. He would like to committee to discuss whether or not to have the resident pay the online fee or to leave it the way it is.

Mr. Mike Kintner, 6504 Miami Bluff was granted permission to address Council. He asked Council to prioritize the work needed to be done by his house at the corner of Miami Bluff and Mariemont Avenue. He would like the area cleaned up and fir trees planted. He had believed that the work would have been done this past spring but now is being told it should get done sometime this fall. Large trees fell down several years ago and this project has continually been pushed back. He would like affirmation that the work is a priority will commence by this fall.

Mr. Wolter said we have been cleaning up other areas. They have discovered once they get the honeysuckle off the area around the perimeter where it has been for several years allowing light to come in the area other invasive species are coming back with a vengeance. A lot of time has been spent trying different methods to deal with these plants. There is also a situation where trees have fallen and it has started to erode in a resident's back yard creating it to be a priority. In addition, there are trees that are ready to come down on their own. We are trying as hard as we can to get all the work done in a timely fashion. A lot of work is done by volunteers so it is sometimes hard to get all the work done that needs to be done. The Beech Trees are one of the last remaining large stands of Beech Woods in the State. That is one of the reasons it is such a priority. If we lose them there is almost no way to get them back

Mr. Kintner said he is sensitive to other priorities but this project has been pushed back and back and all he is asking is that it will be done by the fall of this year. With the loss of the trees there has been an explosion of weeds, poison ivy etc. Plus the wood is still sitting there from when the Fire Department cut the trees up.

Mr. Marsland asked how projects are prioritized. Mayor Policastro said the Beech Grove is the main priority because people when driving through the Village it is seen by many. The trees are all Beech trees which are very important to the Village. He hopes to have the work completed this year. They are also working at the Boathouse – which had a patio poured. Mr. Jerry Vianello is working with the Boy Scouts to clear the area between the Boathouse and Wooster Pike so people driving along will be able to see one of our greatest relics. On Mariemont Avenue we had a landslide. We already have a \$75,000 grant and are looking for a matching grant which we can apply for in October 2015. He is hopeful that Dr. Tankersley will be here in July. Whatever we do we need to be very careful because a good portion of the serpent mound is on the hill that Mr. Kintner is referring to. He would like to see the trees built on the top of the mound so it is protected. We also want to put grass in the area so a sign can be placed similar to what is at the South 80 Trails.

Mr. Marsland said trees will be needed to buffer the train noise. Mayor Policastro said White Pines is a good fast growing tree. Mr. Marsland said he has a contact at Ohio State University and indicated that he may be able to get 4-6 White Pine trees 2-3” diameter. Mayor Policastro said he learned with White Pines you have to plant them on a raised area so the water can run off. They will drown if the water cannot runoff. Mr. Wolter cautioned that deer love White Pine trees – you are not out of the woods once you get them in the ground. The fast growing aspect though is a good plan.

Mr. Wolter asked if the Service Department could haul the logs away. Until they are out of the way it would be hard to do any work. Superintendent Scherpenberg said they could.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll all; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Tuesday May 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the safety concerns around narrow streets in the Village in case of a fire emergency. Present in attendance were: Committee Members Lorne Hlad, Joe Miller, Maggie Palazzolo, Mayor Dan Policastro, Chief Hines and Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kiefer. When cars park on both sides of the street throughout many of our streets it prohibits a fire truck from passing. Fliers were distributed to residents on Center Street and Flintpoint Way in advance of the meeting. No citizens attended the meeting. Streets in discussion were Center Street and Flintpoint Way. It was decided to propose legislation to make parking available on only one side of these streets (between Mt. Vernon and Miami Bluff). The no parking side would be on the same side as the fire hydrants. The Committee asks that the Solicitor prepare the necessary legislation. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro said as the Safety Committee moves forward he would like for them to meet, discuss and make a recommendation for Mt. Vernon and Hammerstone for ‘No Parking’. Mr. Wolter said he has the original map with markings on what streets have been completed as of the Safety Chairman transition. Mr. Hlad said that would be very helpful.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Village Offices will be closed Friday July 3, 2015 in Observation of Independence Day.

Mayor Policastro said the fireworks will be held on Friday July 3, 2015 and said the Village is still accepting donations.

Mayor Policastro referred the matter of farm animals to the Rules and Law Committee. It has been requested by a school aged resident to have a teacup pig as a pet. They can grow to 50 pounds. There is nothing in the current code prohibiting such a request. If it disturbs the peace it would be a problem. He would like for the Committee to look further at this.

Ordinances:

“To Amend Section 78, Section I of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Include No Parking on Certain Streets within the Village (Flintpoint and Center) had a first reading.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Mayor Policastro reconvened the meeting at 7:30 to discuss a request from Ms. Lynn Long and Mr. Doug Welsh at the Woman’s Art Club Cultural Center. The Barn is a great asset to the Village, having attracted 10,000 individuals last year and representing the investment of the community in adaptively reusing this historically significant building (originally as “Resthaven Barn”). However, there is currently no signage on Wooster Pike, one of the main arteries in the Village to help people realize the presence of/find their way to this Ohio Cultural Arts Center. The proposed signage would help visitors find their way by placing signs in locations owned by the Village of Mariemont, yet not facing the square (the Beech Woods median separating Wooster eastbound and westbound traffic, and the triangular Beech Woods Park between Wooster and Miami). Existing signs will guide visitors from Miami Road to the Barn. Mr. Marsland asked if these would be permanent signs. Mayor Policastro said yes. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to approve the request. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer

