

**VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT MERCY ST. THERESA
MAY 29, 2018**

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: Mrs. Graves, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Marsland, Ms. Palazzolo, Mrs. Rankin and Ms. Schwartz.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the minutes as written for May 14, 2018. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Nina Coats: Note regarding opposition to bike path

From The Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati: Approval of plaque. Mayor Policastro said it was approved by the ARB. They want to put a plaque to honor Peter and Jane McDonald. Solicitor McTigue said he does not think they need permission to put it on their private property. Mayor Policastro said Building Administrator indicated that it also required a vote of Council. Council voted unanimously to allow the plaque.

From Building Administrator Keyes: Memo re: Tax Abatement request 6998 Murray Avenue. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Planning & Zoning & Economic Development Committee. Mayor Policastro said to Chairman Schwartz to get with Building Administrator Keyes because he has a map of the areas we should give abatements.

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

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on May 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Theresa Auditorium. Present were Mariemont residents, Rob Bartlett, Linda Bartlett, Melissa Schmidt, Gretchen Griffith, Mandy Schulkers, Mandy Rohal, Tom Woodruff, Lisa Woodruff, Amy Kraynick, Kim Smith, Jaimie Robinson, Amanda Conners and Alan Smith Peterson; Mayor Dan Policastro; Council Members Avia Graves, Kelly Rankin and Maggie Palazzolo; Committee Member Mary Ann Schwartz; Committee Vice-Chairperson Eric Marsland and Committee Chairperson Troy Hawkins. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a proposal from the Mariemont Preschool Parent's Group for a new Pocket Park in the greenspace between East Street and Rowan Hill Drive near the intersection with Murray Avenue. Minutes are provided as an attachment to this report. The Committee recommends Council hold off on action related to the proposed pocket park until a location can be agreed upon. Mayor Policastro said he will look at the green space between Rembold and Hiawatha. He would like to talk with the surrounding residents for their input. Mrs. Graves said she did not think that the greenspace between East Street and Rowan Hill was the right space for a pocket park, but she did like the idea of a gazebo. Mrs. Van Pelt asked for clarification if it needed to stay on the agenda. Solicitor McTigue said to take it off the agenda and it can be referred at a later date. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Graves moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Committee which met Sunday May 20, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Present at the meeting were Chair Mary Ann Schwartz, Vice-Chair Avia Graves and Member Maggie Palazzolo. Also present were Bill Brown and Bob Rich. The Committee met to conclude a review of the interior furnishings selections for Council Chambers. Bill Brown presented cost figures for new Autostrada table-desks, Knoll deck chairs an Amish made podium, 30 guest chairs, plantation shutters for three windows, and two flat-screen TV's to be installed in Council Chambers. Total for all items listed, including installation, set-up, and delivery is \$22,100. Because we are a municipality, a special pricing consideration was granted and no sales tax is being charged. The Committee recommends to allow for any slight variations in price or any unforeseen costs, the sum of \$24,000 be approved. The Committee would also like to thank Bill Brown for his time and invaluable advice regarding the furnishings. His assistance and guidance is very much appreciated. Mayor Policastro also thanked Mr. Brown and the Committee for working so hard on this project. Ms. Schwartz said she anticipates we should be back in Council Chambers mid-July to early August. She said it will really look nice when it is all done. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Council will meet Monday June 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at Mercy St. Theresa

Resolutions:

“Renewal of Present 3.08 Mills Tax Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for Current Expenses for Tax Years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022” had a third reading. Ms. Swartz moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No R-15-18 was adopted.

“Renewal of Present Tax Levy of One Mill in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for Recreational Purposes of the MariElders, Inc. for Tax Years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-16-18 was adopted.

“Fixing a Time for Public Hearing on the 2019 Budget” had a third reading. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-17-18 was adopted.

“Resolution Authorizing the Upgrading of Traffic Signal Equipment at Certain Intersections Within the Village of Mariemont and Authorizing the Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation to Complete the Project; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Hawkins to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. Hawkins clarified that this does not include the lights themselves. Mayor Policastro said he is working with Tom Arnold of ODOT on that. Mr. Marsland asked if the State of Ohio is responsible for replacement of the lights. Mayor Policastro said not necessarily. He believes the Village may be. ODOT does repairs to the main part of the road but the middle cuts are Village responsibility. Solicitor McTigue said he would check with Mr. Arnold if needed. Mayor Policastro said he will find out for sure. The Resolution had a third reading. Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-18-18 was adopted.

“Resolution Authorizing Account with PNC Bank; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third reading. The Resolution had a second reading. Mayor Policastro said if he remembered correctly the Fiscal Officer was going to use half a million to invest in some CD's. The Resolution had a third reading. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-19-18 was adopted.

“To Establish New Code Section 31.03 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” (Mayor’s Spending Limit) had a first reading.

Mr. Marsland asked where we stand with the Steam Plant project. Mayor Policastro said he and Bill Brown hired Nordloh to do a survey. We cannot do anything until we know what exactly our property is and what Mr. Heines’s property is. Mr. Brown said that Mr. Heines is in negotiations with the condo association next door regarding the retention/detention pond. There is a plan to enlarge and share the pond. The existing pond is in deplorable condition. If there is no agreement it could be a big thing for Mr. Heines. Mayor Policastro said once we get the survey we were going to meet with the Hamilton County Soil & Water engineer because he is concerned about the hillside.

Mr. Marsland said he has spoken to several residents who live on Pocahontas and Mt. Vernon who have said they have been approached by Mr. Heines regarding selling his part of the hillside to the homeowners. It was not a smooth conversation. Mr. Brown said in his opinion that would not be advisable. Mayor Policastro said Mr. Heines is putting the innuendo out there that he may build on the hillside that he owns. Mr. Heines is also implying that the path along the bird sanctuary belongs to him which Mayor Policastro disagrees with. He said we should still demand that a wall be built at the base of the hill. Mr. Heines promised that when he started the project with his original presentation. Mr. Hawkins asked when building should begin. Mayor Policastro said it should begin in the fall. Mr. Brown said there seems to be a lot of dirt that is being moved around and he has cut into the toe of the hillside somewhat. Mayor Policastro said that is what scares him – this is where the engineer, Aaron Habig, from Hamilton County Soil & Water can help us. We need to do all we can to protect the hillside. Mr. Brown said is also talking with Mohammad Islam who is a geo-tech engineer with Hamilton County who is willing to help the Village but he is not going to do it for us. He is not sure if the Village should have our own geo-tech engineer consulting on this. To this point we have yet seen good geo-tech drawings or plans as to the final solution with the hillside. Ms. Palazzolo asked if Mr. Heines is required to come to the Village. Mayor Policastro said yes and he would have to go before Planning Commission in order to ensure he is meeting Village code. The concern of Council was that Mr. Heines may meet Village code but not Hamilton County code and Solicitor McTigue said there may not be much the Village can do regarding that. Ms. Palazzolo asked which government would go through the permit process first. Solicitor McTigue said it would start with the local government. He asked if it would help to have our building inspector go out and look at the site. Mr. Brown said he has had many conversations with Building Administrator Keyes about this. Mr. Habig is sending Mr. Keyes correspondences about what he has observed but he is under water with his own work. Solicitor McTigue said we should keep our finger on the pulse of what is going on down there. Mr. Marsland asked who the point person on this project is. Mr. Hawkins said we said it was the Building Administrator before but he is picking up from Mr. Brown and that Mr. Keyes may be too busy to keep up with this. Mayor Policastro said Mr. Keyes should be the person involved but we really need to hear what the Hamilton County Engineer has to say.

It was agreed by Council to have the “Steam Plant” remain on the agenda for updates and discussion as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony Borgerding, Fiscal Officer