

**Village of Mariemont  
Special Council Meeting  
July 8, 2021**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Graves, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Rankin and Mr. Stelzer.

Mayor Brown said the purpose of the Special Meeting of Council was to nominate a replacement to fulfill the unexpired term of former Council member Maggie Palazzolo.

Ms. Susan Brownknight, 6958 Nolen Circle, addressed Council with her desire to be elected to Council. She is currently a CEO for a non-profit that houses adults with developmental disabilities. She is responsible for the health and safety of hundreds of our communities most vulnerable along with 200 frontline employees supporting them. She believes that the past year shows that united we are stronger. Making hard decisions make us the hero of our own story. Our businesses, children, elderly and frontline workers stood strong, and she believes now more than ever she must. We need to build for the future. Mariemont has so much to be proud of under your leadership, but it is not enough to say we were the first planned community, a Tree City USA recipient or that our schools are exceptional. She believes when a community is as blessed as Mariemont that we must commit to our citizens to build our Village not just for us, but for those who come after us. This means inclusive economic development, especially in the Historic District and industrial area. We need sustainable reserves that allow the Village to invest in long-term infrastructure and also creating a Tree Commission that comes to fruition for the next generation. We can both embrace our history and pivot towards our future. Mariemont with our impressive volunteers, green spaces and gardens and leading recycling levels can be a model for sustainability both environmentally and fiscally. We can embrace our small businesses and incentivize more to come. We are all here because of your commitment to our community. She thanked Council for their service and asked for their support.

Mr. Randy York, 6767 Wooster Pike, addressed Council with his desire to be elected to Council. His is a 35-year resident. He thanked each member of Council for the time they afforded him. Council should be proud for what they have accomplished. His career was professionally rewarding. He retired at the end of 2016 and is blessed that he has the opportunity to do this. He will bring big ideals. He will be honest and empower people to serve others to do the right thing. When he gets involved, he tends to stick with it. He was the editor for the Town Crier for 17 years, baseball commissioner for 10 years, recreational board for 10 years taking a group of kids from tee-ball to AA ball. He is heavily involved with 1n5 which has a big presence in the Village. This fall he will be teaching Sunday School or CCD for 20 years at St. Gertrude. He is excited about the prospect of doing this now because of the Village's upcoming centennial. He is excited to be an advocate for the renters in the Village and being a steward for the Old Town Center. He wants to do what is possible to support local business. He would like to put together a comprehensive overview of the resources in the Industrial Park. He has been involved with grant writing. As for most residents, he is very grateful for everything those before us have done and he would like to be a part going forward.

Mr. Brad Lockhart, 3875 Oak Street, was granted permission to address Council. He is a 25-year resident and endorses Randy York who along with his wife, Mary Beth, have lived in the Village for 35 years. He has raised 3 wonderful children and is committed to his family and community by always looking for ways to support those around him. He knows Randy to be trustworthy, reliable, a great communicator and listener. He trusts Randy to make any community decision by keeping the interest of the Village citizens a priority. He recently retired for a successful career in Sales & Marketing, however, he always found time to give to the community that he dearly loves. He was a journalist for the Town Crier, recreational Baseball Coordinator and Coach, Scout Leader and was honored as 2011 Mariemont Citizen of the Year. He carries the qualities of a respectable and honorable man. He is proud to call him a friend and neighbor.

Mr. Todd Keyes, 6825 Hammerstone Way, was granted permission to address Council. He supports Randy York for Mariemont Village Council for many reasons. A community that is characterized by preservation and tradition needs as much experience and knowledge of the past as possible to continue what has enabled Mariemont to thrive. Randy has longevity in the Village and has been deeply involved in the community to enable him to give the leadership Mariemont needs at this time. Randy has said that when we lose the ability to dialogue and have civil discourse on matters, we disagree on then we all have lost. He wants to bring civil discourse back into the community and he supports him doing that. He stepped up to be a coach in the Mariemont Men's softball league and is a down to earth guy that everyone can relate to. As a past Chairman of Town Meeting, he would like to have his Village District (3) represented on Village Council.

Ms. Nancy Miller, 6715 Hammerstone Way, was granted permission to address Council. She is a 30-year resident and the Executive Director of the 1N5, a local non-profit that works with mental health education programs. The Warrior Run is a highly successful event the non-profit organizes. Randy has been a part of the Warrior Run from the very beginning but their friendship dates 40 plus years. He is a kind, caring and involved person. He works to find solutions which she finds important in our Village. With all of his involvement in the Village, Randy will bring expertise and knowledge that will be very beneficial. It has been a trying time and he will be looking at how to bring more businesses to the Village and engage people at a higher level.

Ms. Karen Fallon, 6966 Murray Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. She supports the nomination for Randy York who will bring a business component that she believes is necessary. Her endorsement for any candidate for Council is predicated on a candidate's business capabilities. They have to successfully understand the needs, assess the options and execute challenging decisions. He earned his MBA at Miami before going to have a successful career as a Senior Vice-President and was pivotal in three acquisitions. His leadership was instrumental in company profitability, and he encouraged employees to share in the success of the company they all worked to build. She believes he will add business professional qualifications to an already dedicated Council.

Ms. Kim Beech, 10 Albert Place, was granted permission to address Council. She also has her business, Village Insurance, at 3914 Miami Road. She is supportive of Randy York being nominated for Council. She has known him for many years and worked with him on the Town Crier and many non-profit events. She described him using acronyms: R – reliable; A – approachable; N – neighborly; D – dogged in his fiscal responsibilities; Y – year-round volunteer; O – organized; R – reliable; K – kind.

Ms. Maggie Palazzolo, 6600 Miami Bluff, was granted permission to address Council. She is supportive of Susan Brownknight for whom she has known for 11 years. They shared childcare having children of similar ages. Susan assisted going door-to-door helping get signatures for her second term Council seat. Her past years on Council, she has been inspired by the commitment and passion she has seen from all past Council Members. We all have a drive to make Mariemont a community that continues to thrive and adapt. Rest assured that Susan is a fit for this team. She is moving for family reasons, but her investment and love for Mariemont will remain unwavering. She believes that Susan has the experience, leadership and vision to build on the momentum we have worked so hard to achieve. She will focus on issues that matter for the citizens of the Village and is not afraid of the difficult decisions. She will bring the skill and attitude that will make Council stronger and more capable.

Mr. Bob Van Stone, 4050 Lytle Woods, was granted permission to address Council. Mayor Brown said that Mr. Van Stone was going to read a letter that was hand delivered to the office late today by Thomas Walsh, 6702 Mariemont Avenue. The letter stated: 'I am writing to endorse Randy York for the vacant Council seat. I am unable to attend due to scheduling conflict. When I came up with the idea to line Mariemont streets in June 2020 with small American flags for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Randy was the first call I made for two reasons: 1) he is the most patriotic person I know and 2) when you want to do a project you want Randy on your side. With Randy as part of the team we were able to sell nearly 5,000 flags last year in three weeks. An additional 2,500 were sold this year enabling a significant donation each year to the fireworks fund. Randy has been involved in all aspects of this community from coaching to being named Citizen of the Year in 2011. After a successful career, he has both the time and the energy to devote to Council. Randy is smart, honest, politically astute, energetic and enthusiastic. I cannot imagine a better addition to our Village Council than Randy York'.

Mr. Don Keyes, 6904 Mr. Vernon, was granted permission to address Council. He was going to say all the things about Randy that have already been said, but he has actually seen Randy get upset and he handled it very well.

Ms. Dina Wilder, 6716 Hammerstone Way, was granted permission to address Council. She is supportive of Randy as he is able to represent many in the community regardless of age, sex, job, how they talk etc. He is extremely approachable and will talk and listen. Several of her neighbors also voiced their support of Randy.

Mr. Dave Wilder, 6716 Hammerstone Way, was granted permission to address Council. He said Randy has been a great neighbor for 20 years. The interactions with him have always been exceptional. He is always involved, always available and always approachable.

Mrs. Graves thanked both candidates for their interest for the Council seat and certainly hopes that both will run in the November election. Dr. Lewis and Mrs. Rankin both concurred.

Mr. Stelzer said he enjoyed the conversations with both candidates, and both are qualified. Both candidates voiced support for issues that are dear to his heart as he completes his term on Council. Those being seeking a qualified Administrator and studying options to solve the present inefficiencies from fire departments one mile away from another. Also, to provide services to residents that they expect without raising taxes. He too expressed desire for both candidates to run in November.

Mr. Bartlett echoed that both are great candidates and would bring a lot to Council. He encouraged both to run in the November election.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to nominate Mr. York. Mrs. Graves moved, seconded by Mr. Stelzer to nominate Mrs. Brownknight.

On roll call; Mr. Bartlett voted Mr. York; Mrs. Graves voted Mrs. Brownknight; Dr. Lewis voted Mr. York; Mrs. Rankin voted Mr. York; Mr. Stelzer voted Mrs. Brownknight.

Mr. York was congratulated and welcomed to Council.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer