

**Village of Mariemont
Regular Council Meeting
July 26, 2021**

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

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to excuse Mrs. Graves. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the minutes as written for the Special Meeting of Council July 8, 2021. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From The Ohio Grants Partnership: Email Dated July 14, 2021, re: Grant Opportunity Registration from American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Ohio Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government \$184,257.12 First Allocation. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said we should get the second half installment (\$184,257.12) within 12 months.

*From Council Member Randy York re: Mariemont Centennial Committee. He said this committee would be put together to do centennial projects. He has outlined a mission statement and a vision of what the members would be doing and some guiding principles. The centennial is April 23, 2023. It could be possible to have some projects completed prior to that date. Certainly, we would want to look at long term projects that would celebrate the centennial. Another component would be signage or placards announcing the celebration of 100 years. The committee would drive all of this with possible funding by the Village and grants. MPF would need to be a big part of this, and his recommendation would be 2 members be from MPF. He suggested publicizing for members and Council asking residents if they would have interest. He will work on formulating a basic structure of what it would look like.

Mr. Stelzer said the Village was born with a lot of planning. He asked where the planning document is now indicating that it needs to be updated. It would be a good time to start thinking about putting together a new plan for the next 100 years. When picking projects, you want them to last 100 years. The Vision 2021 did that to some extent. The master plan for Mariemont was not completely realized due to the war. He will reach out to the professor of the UC Department of Architecture which has sessions with the community to see what potential changes can be made, such as the area where the Statutory sits. They may have ideas on how else we can utilize the space. Mr. Bartlett said Columbia Township did a master plan and they may be a resource to use for what goes into those types of plans. It does help with economic development if a master plan is in place.

*From Council Member Stelzer re: Murray Path Landscaping bids: Due to the recent rain, it was decided to do the final seeding/grading in September. A credit was negotiated from the paving company of \$6750. It is believed that costs in the initial bid will be \$10,000 less than originally bid. The bid from Raymond Landscaping was recommended by the Murray Path Group and Village Engineer, Chris Ertel. The recommendation is to accept the bid for landscaping not to exceed \$65,000. The topsoil number seems to be inflated and the amount of topsoil needed will not be known until they get on site. The cost of bringing water service to the area is unknown. With water tap permits it is estimated at \$12,000. The project is still well within budget of the monies from ODNR, Columbia Township and private donations. Council unanimously agreed to go with the Raymond Landscape bid not to exceed \$65,000.

Permission To Address Council:

Motion To Pay Bills:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mayor Brown said the Village did receive the insurance money for the damage done to the light post. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 4:45 pm to discuss renewing the Village's risk management insurance. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, Finance Committee Members Joe Stelzer and Kelly Rankin, Mayor Bill Brown, Council Member Randy York, Fiscal Officer Tony Borgerding and Karie Novesl from Hylant. The Finance Committee reviewed the initial proposal for risk management coverage from Hylant. If we don't change any of the coverage levels in the plan versus last year, the Village's cost would go from \$35,739 in 2020 to \$35,383 in 2021. Last year, the Finance Committee benchmarked coverage levels with Fairfax, Terrace Park, Newtown and Columbia Township and made some changes such that we are now more in line with the other communities. The reason for the decline in costs is twofold: 1) the rate increase on our base premiums this year was less than 1%, and 2) our loss ratio points increased significantly from last year, as some larger claims dropped off our 5-year history, resulting in a larger discount being subtracted from our base premium. The Finance Committee recommends going forward with the current coverage and quote of \$35,383. Because this needs to be passed as legislation and it needs to be effective by August 26, 2021, if council accepts this report, then the legislation will need to be passed as an emergency measure at the first council meeting in August. Mr. Stelzer commented that the fact that the Village is not getting an increase is a great deal. There are massive increases throughout commercial real estate. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on July 12, 2021, at 5:15 pm. Present at the meeting were Committee Chairman Avia Graves, Committee Members Randy York and Kelly Rankin, Village Superintendent John Scherpenberg, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, Chief Rick Hines, Mayor Bill Brown, and Village residents Jeff & Marion Molski, Tony Drake and Jeff Bloomer. The meeting began at 5:20 pm to discuss options to curb speed on Miami Road. The Committee recommends that we place grooving in the pavement a set of three, place to be determined by Chris Ertel working with Indian Hill, Mayor and residents. The grooving will leave space for bikes to pass safely. Additional signage should be added to alert drivers and bikers of the grooves. In addition, a bike path (standard biker and arrow) should be painted on the pavement to direct bikers to the proper place to ride their bicycle. In addition, the Committee recommends that we purchase another speed radar sign to increase our ability to move them throughout the village where we have problem speeding. Approximate cost is \$3500. Mr. Stelzer voiced concerns for grooves in the pavement for bicyclists due to location of the grooves, speed on the hill etc. He would like to be shown where this has been implemented before on this similar type of grade. Mayor Brown's understanding was the grooves would be shallow and close together. The noise from cars going over the grooves will be concerning. Mr. York said grants are being looked at for lights at the top of the hill and there will be more targeted police presence in the area. Mr. Stelzer said citing cyclists who are not obeying the law would help. Council agreed they did want to see the rendering from Engineer Ertel. Mr. Stelzer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee to purchase another speed radar sign and increase police presence, but tabled the portion regarding grooving in the payment until further information is provided by the Safety Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

Village Offices will be closed in Observation of Labor Day, Monday September 6, 2021.

Resolutions:

"Adopting the Budget for 2022; and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading. Mr. Stelzer said expenses have exceeded revenue and taxes are not keeping up with inflation. Additional problems include the elimination of the Inheritance/Estate Tax which averaged \$300,000 annually. In the past the claim was we had a one-million-dollar balance in the General Fund and that the Village was healthy. We now learned that is an unreasonable low goal. It does not include the debt brought on to do the Municipal Building addition and the purchase of the new ambulance. The new Safety Services levy was passed, but soon the expenses exceeded the monies it generated. He outlined chronic underspending areas in the Village including: roads (estimation 3 million), trees (estimation 1 million), building cash reserves (estimation 2-3 million covers 7-9 months), adequate fire department facilities, tennis courts, sewers (100 years old), replacement of the main pool, lap pool and wading pool (estimation 1.5-2 million). We need to be very transparent with the residents of what the Village is facing. We need to provide them with financial information. The Village is going to need additional revenue from somewhere – he does not believe we can get there by simply reducing

costs. He would like to know how Mariemont taxes compare to other communities. What do we need to do to stay competitive and how much room is there to raise taxes? He asked Mayor Brown and Fiscal Officer Borgerding to put that information together in the next 60 days and determine a plan to communicate this with the residents. The majority of the real estate tax bill goes to the school district, but residents typically do not care where it goes – they just do not want it to go up. If we develop a good plan, we can find the money. The industrial area is underutilized. The Resolution had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-26-21 was adopted.

Ordinances:

Mr. York said he was going to reach out to Claire, who Joy referenced would love to come work with Mariemont, from the HUD presentation and look at options for historical preservation. Mr. Bartlett said he is already working on that with Joy and the Finance Committee. He is trying to work out a time in August to meet and will include Mr. York on the notification.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer