

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
September 13, 2021**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 6:32 pm. Present at the meeting were Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Graves, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Rankin, Mr. Stelzer, and Mr. York.

Mayor Brown stated that Vikki Hill has completed her 180-day probationary period and is recommended to be moved to full-time employee status as Police Clerk. Police Chief Hines stated that Ms. Hill has done a stellar job especially since they had started using a new computer system. He said she had done a phenomenal job transitioning to the new system. Solicitor McTigue said he also thinks she has done a fantastic job and is very organized and responsive. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to move Ms. Hill to full-time status. On roll call, six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Brown announced that there was going to be a presentation about our Sister Cities. Joe Schneider began the presentation by introducing himself and retired Mariemont School teacher Larry Goetz. He and Mr. Goetz are both residents of Venice, Florida. Mr. Schneider and Mr. Goetz spend their summers in Ohio and their winters in Venice. Mariemont and Venice are connected in a special way. They are both John Nolen Planned Communities. In Nov of 2016, Venice city council passed a resolution creating an organization of municipalities that were created by the renowned city Planner John Nolen. In April of 2017, Mariemont Village Council passed Resolution R-9-17, recognizing and creating the association of Nolen communities. Larry and Mr. Schneider and Mr. Goetz are to present to the Venice Area Historical Society Lecture Series titled "The John Nolen Communities of Mariemont and Venice, Florida". They will bring the story of Mariemont to the residents of Venice on April 19th 2022 in that lecture series. They invited the Mayor and any Council members to attend. The Venice local newspaper will make April 2022 Mariemont month in Venice, Florida. Their mission is to not only share the story of Mariemont with residents of Venice but to entice the more than 25 other John Nolen communities across America to become part of this Association. They asked Council to consider funding an official visit by Mayor Brown to attend the lecture series in Venice in April 2022.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to accept the minutes of the regular Council meeting of August 23, 2021, and the minutes of the Special meeting of Council on August 31, 2021, as written. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

From Police Chief Hines: August 2021 Monthly Report. Chief Hines stated there were certifications attached to his report showing the Police Department is in full compliance with the Ohio Collaborative. There is a lot of work involved to receive the certification and not all of Ohio's police departments are in full compliance so he is very proud of the department's achievement. Mr. York noted there have been a total of 32 accidents on Wooster Pike and asked why it had increased so much from last year. Chief Hines said that it was due partly to fact that there was less traffic last year because of COVID and more traffic now that things are opening back up. Mrs. Rankin asked if that was the same reason there were increased citations on Miami Road. Chief Hines said there is more traffic this year and the department has also increased its enforcement of speed limits in that road due to the concerns of the residents there. He said he had been working with Mrs. Graves on the issue and she has been a big part of the increased enforcement. A special post was set up and now people can see the police car as they are coming down the hill and they slow down and that has helped.

From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: August 2021 Monthly Report. Fire Captain Jim Henderson said that he was filling in for Assistant Chief Copeland who could not be at the meeting. He pointed out that the report showed some of the statistics for the year to date. There have been 197 fire dispatches, which is up from 103 last year. He said the increase for the fire dispatches was in line with what Chief Hines had said with the COVID pandemic. There were also 257 EMS dispatches so far in 2021 and last year it was 224. The mutual aid shows the number of times Mariemont gave mutual aid and the times we received it. We have automatic mutual aid (AMAR) so we receive an

automatic dispatch we have with our surrounding fire departments, so even though we categorize it as mutual aid, they are getting dispatched at the exact same time we are. For August, even though kids are currently in school, we had our final walk-through at Mariemont High School. This is about five times we have had a final walk-through. As you know, it is a brand new building and is very large. The kids are super safe in that building. In regards to radio communications, both for police and fire, the teachers can let the kids know about lockdowns and things like that and the school is like Fort Knox sitting up on that hill. We had a Safety Day at the elementary school, which we have done for the past 10 years. It is just a little safety brief. As always, we have worked hand in hand with the Service Department helping with things like tree removal and helping get roadways cleared when we have storms. We had a major accident on Wooster Pike. I was involved with that single vehicle accident where the car hit a tree. The driver was fine. The Fire Department worked with the Police Department to get the drive taken care of and then passed him on to the Police. It was not a busy month, but we keep everybody safe and that is our job. Mayor Brown asked when they had last inspected the Kellogg Plant. Captain Henderson replied that it gets done once per year. It is an annual thing with the state.

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: August 2021 Monthly Report. Mr. Scherpenberg said he is supposed to meet with Shamrock on Tuesday in reference to do a dye test. We are still pumping in some of the chemicals that are left over. After next week, we should start doing other testing if they cannot find much with the dyes. Hopefully we will be able to find something. Primarily the testing is just in the lap pool and the baby pool. We know the baby pool skimmer needs repair. The main pool needs a couple of welds. We will be monitoring the level of the water to see if it is leaking. Hopefully the testing will allow us to get it all repaired this year.

From Tax Administrator Darrah: August 2021 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown said that Mrs. Darrah was not present and if anyone had any questions, they should contact her directly.

From Interim Building Official: August 2021 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown said Mr. Van Stone had put together a fairly comprehensive report of the activities over a 30 to 31 day time period. This is a busy time of the year. There is a lot going on in that office. The report is formatted to break down different permits. This is very helpful. Mr. Van Stone is working very hard at the job. He did meet with a gentleman on Friday, so we have a potential candidate to take the position. It will take him some time to get up to speed and learning all the ins and outs, but he seems enthusiastic about the job so we should be able to make the transition. Dr. Lewis asked about the category on questions. She asked if those questions came from residents or from parties from all over. Mr. Van Stone replied that he gets questions from realtors and contractors as well as residents.

From Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler: August 2021 Fiscal Officer's Report. Mrs. Wendler is not present tonight. If you have any questions, you can email or call her or you can ask Fiscal Officer Mr. Borgerding. Mr. Borgerding said that the timing when tax money was collected was a little bit off, so collections so far this year were just \$1,000,063. Last year they were only 246 and \$700,000 of real estate money including the roll back that came in a month later last year. The expenses were pretty close this year at 434 and last year at 425, so not a whole lot of variance in expenses.

We have a thank you from Chief Hines regarding the flowers for his father.

Mr. Bartlett said Mrs. Wendler is working on moving towards a new report, because it is automated. She has been creating the report from CMI and it is re-keyed in all over again. The opposite side of the page is the automated report. I have encouraged her to use the automated report because I don't think there is a lot of value added to have anybody re-enter this data. I would like her to use what comes out of the system automatically and save some time for that so she is including what we will be transitioning to as this being the official, ongoing cash balance report and separately she is going to still do the other items that are at the bottom right of her report. This will be easier and will be the new report going forward. We are working to make the print larger and easier to read.

From The Hines Family: Thank You for the Flowers

We have half a dozen communications here giving their opinions about a Village Administrator. They are as follows:

From Lorne Hlad: Email Dated August 4, 2021 re: Village Administrator

From Cortney Scheeser: Email Dated August 4, 2021 re: Village Administrator

From Eric Marsland: Letter Dated September 8, 2021 re: Village Administrator

From Maggie Palazzolo: Letter Regarding Village Administrator

From Dennis Wolter: Letter Dated August 9, 2021 re: Village Administrator

You can read those at your leisure.

Permission To Address Council:

Pat Van Stone, 4050 Lytle Woods Place, Mariemont, Ohio 45227, was given permission to address Council.

Mayor William Brown and members of the Mariemont Village Council, thank you for the privilege of allowing me, a concerned resident of the Mariemont Village, to speak to you. The first observation I would like to make is one that concerns justice and ethical fairness. I quote now from the Miriam Webster thesaurus which states that justice is the act or practice of giving to others what is their due. I venture that most of you here act out of good intentions. The word justice therefore is highly applicable. The words conscience and integrity can be added to the proposal which I am going to discuss here. The point of my presentation is to show the woefully low amount of our mayor's salary. Recently I learned from public records that the salary of our dedicated mayor is only \$8,000 per year. Speaking for myself I was outraged and shocked to learn that. Where is the justice of a person of such high caliber who is so grossly underpaid? Our mayor deserves, out of decent fairness, a salary increase which matches the values of our community. Let's do some math. If we break down \$8,000 divided by 52 weeks at 40 hours a week the amount of hourly pay comes to about \$3.80 an hour. That's obviously far less than the minimum wage. I find this so-called salary totally unconscionable in part because Mayor Brown is virtually an ambassador of goodwill in helping to handle in a positive manner the many issues which come up. He works to help others solve a vast array of community projects and problems perhaps unknown to many of our residents here. He has in fact always been vibrant and well-mannered. I would like to contrast his \$8,000 salary with the proposal to spend up to \$160,000 for a Village Administrator. It is not clear to me that the Village needs that additional expense at a time when some Council members focus on the issue that the Village is already in the red by spending more than its revenue. One argument for an administrator is to get additional grant funding but it's difficult when we live in a Village with such architectural charm, required green space, and very little land available for economic development. We do not get the taxes or grants that Fairfax gets but would you want to live near a Walmart? Not I. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mayor Brown thanked Mrs. Van Stone, but explained that he does what he does because he loves this Village. He said I do what I do here as a civic duty public service kind of thing. No one on this Council is in these positions for money. I appreciate the sentiment, but I'm very happy doing what I'm doing.

Larry Wessel, 7011 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, Ohio 45227 said he was at the meeting to discuss leaf collection. He said every year there is a requirement you're not allowed to rake or blow your leaves into the streets, but each year people do that anyway. It seems like it's the same households and he thinks there needs to be a way of notifying them one time and if it continues to give them a fine. Mayor Brown said if there is an egregious breach of the requirement, we do actually send an officer around or Mr. Scherpenberg to remind the resident not to do that. Chief Hines said the leaves in the street are dangerous, especially when it rains. It can be as slippery as ice. Mrs. Rankin said landscaping companies are the biggest violators and wondered if they could be fined. Mayor Brown said no fines can be imposed unless there is an ordinance in place making it a law. Chief Hines said he would work with Mrs. Rankin to look into that. Solicitor McTigue said he would also look into it.

Aileen Beatty, 6757 Murray Avenue, Mariemont, Ohio 45227 said she wanted discuss the procedure in establishing the position of village administrator. She reminded Council that the prescribed laws and procedures as they pertain to this are found in Mariemont Code of Ordinance 31.07 and the first sentence reads the legislative authority meaning Council and the Mayor may establish the position of administrator by

ordinance. She said it is not clear what “by ordinance” means. It could be just simply that the ordinance allows for the creation of it or it could mean that an ordinance is required in order to create the position. Regardless, the position does not exist today. The only thing Council has approved to date was during the April 26 Council meeting and the decision made was to simply start the search, not specifically that the Village is hiring an administrator. That’s the only thing this body has voted on and approved. If no ordinance is required, it’s pretty simple. All that needs to happen is a motion to establish the position must be made in a Council meeting so that you can vote to approved or reject it. Then if an ordinance is required, it’s the same procedure for any ordinance. It will have to be voted on and approved in Council. Mr. McTigue would have to write it. It would have to have three readings. Three readings would be required because this would not qualify as an emergency measure. To qualify to be considered an emergency, the ordinance must be necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety which doesn’t apply here or to preserve the welfare of the Village and the impact the a Village Administrator would not be realized for months. Therefore waiting for three readings is not going to materially jeopardize the welfare of the village. An additional final note is the requiring of three readings or even just one Council meeting affords the residents of Mariemont the opportunity to exercise their right to participate in governance in the governmental process which is a right for all U.S. citizens. Please just be mindful of our laws as you move forward with this process.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis, to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

Rallye Porsche Mariemont September 18, 2021

Leaf Season will begin Monday October 25, 2021 and Run Through Thursday December 23, 2021

Resolutions:

“To Reappoint Louise Schomburg as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years of 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Marcia Duval as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years of 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Joan Vago as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years of 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Eric Marsland as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Brian Kelly as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Karen Berkich as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Tom Gilmore as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Lorne Hlad as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Mike Kintner as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years of 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Brad Lockhart as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Andrew Seeger as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Steve Spooner as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Mark Glassmeyer as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Jason Brownknight as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint John Fakes as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Jon Morgan as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Marcy Lewis as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Mary Beth York as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Marianne Prue as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint John Bentley as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2022” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Martin Koepke as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2022” had a first reading.

Ordinances:

“To Reappoint Anthony Borgerding as Village Fiscal Officer for the Calendar Years 2022 and 2023” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Elissa Wendler as Village Fiscal Administrative Assistant for the Calendar Years 2022 and 2023”; To Set Compensation” had a first reading.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Elissa Wendler as Part-Time IT Administrator for Calendar Years 2022 and 2023’ had a first reading.

“Ordinance Amending Section 151.04 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances Regarding Fence Construction”.
Third Reading was Tabled 7-12-21

Motion to Go into Executive Session to Discuss the Three Candidates for the Administrator Position

The meeting adjourned following the conclusion of the Executive Session.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer