

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
November 8, 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, and Mr. York.

Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis, to excuse the absence of Mrs. Rankin and Mr. Stelzer. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2021, regular Council meeting and the minutes of the October 28, 2021 Special Meeting of Council as written. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: October 2021 Monthly Report

*From Building Department: October 2021 Monthly Report. Mr. York asked if Mr. Holloway is fully employed. Mr. Holloway responded that he started on Monday but isn't sure it is official yet. Mayor Brown explained that we're transitioning. He is sort of in the learning process. Mr. Van Stone commented that Mr. Holloway is doing a great job. Mayor Brown explained Council could only do the first reading of the ordinance to make Mr. Holloway's appointment official because there weren't enough Council members present to pass it as an emergency.

*From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: October 2021 Monthly Report and Spending Request with Supporting Memo. Mayor Brown commented that leaf season is well under way. He then pointed out that Mr. Scherpenberg had also submitted a Spending Request Form, which is a new procedure Mariemont would be using from now on. The way this will work is that the department heads will fill out what is it they need. This is for non-emergency spending, but it would be spending that wasn't ordinarily allotted. It would be for something like an engine goes and we have to replace it. This gives Council a chance to review the request. Mr. Bartlett said Mrs. Van Pelt and Ms. Uhrig had helped to put this together and it should be very good to have. Mr. Scherpenberg said this request is for a new engine. Mayor Brown said this procedure does not preclude emergency purchases the mayor could authorize if there is a natural disaster or a man-made calamity. The mayor would still have the authority to authorize the purchase of anything that could be deemed important to secure the Village, but it would only be for things such as emergency equipment that cannot wait for it to come to Council.

*From Tax Administrator Darrah: October 2021 Monthly Report. Mr. York said the numbers are double from last year. He asked Fiscal Officer Borgerding if it is an anomaly. Mr. Borgerding said he spoke to Mrs. Darrah and asked if a deadline had been moved or something. She had explained she still believes COVID had caused numbers to go down last year because people were out of work. The City of Cincinnati was still withholding taxes last year because people working from home was only temporary, but now it is more permanent for to be working from home. We might be taking in more money because of that. Mr. York said it is almost double from 2019, so these are good trends. Mr. Borgerding said more companies are withholding Mariemont instead of Cincinnati because that's their place of work and that's what they have been instructed to do by the governor. Mr. Borgerding said Mrs. Darrah has done some research on it and some of the bigger companies have already started doing this even though they had until the end of the year to do so.

*From Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler: October 2021 Fiscal Officer's Monthly Reports. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said the General Fund this year stands at \$408,000 and last year it was only \$284,000, but we got the extra \$119,000 in from earnings taxes. Overall, receipts were \$476,000 last year and \$439,000 this year. Last year we did get some COVID money of \$127,000 so that reconciles that we're still off by \$10,000 to \$15,000 and expenses were pretty close to \$331,000 this year versus \$387,000 last year, but we spent a lot more money on permanent improvements on some streets and Murray Path that we didn't last year. The General Fund spending was about the same, but some of that Murray Path expense has yet to be reimbursed. Mr. Borgerding said he is not sure where that stands, such as the donations Mr. Stelzer has talked about. They has not come in yet. Mayor Brown said the Village pays some of the bills in advance of getting reimbursement. Mr. Ertel said he doesn't expect to see reimbursements until next year.

*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: October 2021 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown said that he and Asst. Fire Chief Copeland have been having a discussion regarding the used backup ambulance. We are discussing the probability of selling it because we have had a couple of inquiries about it. We are currently in a situation where used equipment like the ambulance commands a premium because of supply chain issues. They are hard to get and new ones are very expensive. We are announcing here that we are going to pursue the sale. Mr. Bartlett asked if we are going to put it out to a broader bid. Mr.

Stelzer's point when we sold the fire engine was that this is how it should have been done. Mayor Brown said we are gathering comps to determine what the thing is worth. He said he would probably check with the same company he contacted about the sale of the fire engine. It is good to get comps and we should follow a process for the sale. Solicitor McTigue said with the fire engine we had a firm offer from Park Hills and we did not want to take a chance of losing the deal because we were delaying the sale to see if we could get other offers. Mayor Brown said the sale of the ambulance is different. We have a tentative offer and we need to compare it to any comps we can get. Mr. Bartlett said to meet the requirements of ORC we need to put it out there that we are taking offers for the ambulance. We have time to do that this time when we didn't with the fire engine. Solicitor McTigue agreed that we should compare the offer to any comps we can get and if the offer is more than the comps, then we could vote to sell it to that municipality. Chief Hines and Asst. Chief Copeland said we need to consider what it would cost to keep the ambulance.

*From Bob Van Stone: Supporting Document Provided by Mayor Brown Re: Fire/EMS Shared Services Spending. Mr. Kramer will be at the next meeting to address any questions.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mayor Brown asked for a motion to pay the bills. Mr. York asked if the payment to the Fred Nemann Company for \$86,000 was the last payment for Petoskey. Village Engineer Ertel said that it was. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett asked if there had been an official vote on Mr. Scherpenberg. Mayor Brown said we had not and Council should vote on it. After discussion about possible options other than replacing the engine, it was decided a new engine as the best and most economical fix. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

The Safety Committee met on October 25, 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, Chief Rick Hines, Mayor Bill Brown, and village resident Ron Ross. The meeting began at 5:15 pm to discuss lighting for crosswalks on Wooster Pike. After an analysis was conducted there is not sufficient lighting at the crossing off West Street and at Street. The committee recommends we increase the wattage at both of these intersections. If the additional wattage does not give Plainville sufficient lighting to light up the cross walk at additional light should be added to West Street (cost approximately is \$3500) in addition we identified a few lights on Wooster that appear to have duct tape on the inside of them or are extremely dirty (Oak and Wooster is an example). It is the recommendation of the committee that these lights be cleaned and any duct tape removed. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the report. Mayor Brown asked Mr. Scherpenberg if he had looked into these lights. He said they have not done so yet, but they do have the lights in stock. We have to see if it is obviously our light and not Dukes. Mayor Brown asked about the one at Plainville crossing Wooster. Mr. Scherpenberg said they had not checked that one yet, but they got the ones by Patriot. Mrs. Graves and Mr. Scherpenberg discussed some of the lights that needed more immediate attention and which lights needed to be replaced and which ones just needed cleaning. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

The Safety Committee met on October 25, 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, Chief Rick Hines, Mayor Bill Brown, and village residents Ron Ross. The meeting began at 5:15pm to discuss placement of speed tables on Miami Road. The residents of Miami Road wanted the placement of the groves in the pavement to slow cars to be placed in Indian Hill. Indian Hill has declined. Committee feels continued police presence and speed sign continue to have an impact on speed reduction and will continue these measures. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves, to accept the report. Mrs. Graves said there has already been a lot of discussion about this over a long period of time. The report is labeled speed tables, but what was actually discussed was the installation of rumble strips, which are grooves in the pavement. We wanted residents' input because the strips can cause noise as cars pass over them. Everyone wanted to put them in Indian Hill at the top of the hill on Miami. We should continue talks with Indian Hill about at least moving the flashing yellow sign to the top of the hill. Chief Hines said that sign does help and we could continue to split the cost of the electricity for the sign the way we do now. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

The Safety Committee met on October 25, at 5:15 pm. Present at the meeting were committee chairman Avia Graves, committee members Randy York and Kelly Rankin, Village Superintendent John Scherpenberg, Chief Rick Hines, Mayor Bill Brown, and Village resident Ron Ross. The meeting began at 5:15 pm to discuss the parking spot on Murray Avenue and Homewood Rd. A request was made to allow an additional parking space that was removed at this corner. Originally the space was removed when Murray was a two-way street. The committee feels that we can reinstate this spot as a compact car only.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the report. Mayor Brown said a compact car parked there would not be a hazard in any way. Mrs. Graves said the spot can be marked to say compact car only. Chief Hines can have it checked to make sure people are observing the compact car only spot. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

The Safety Committee met on October 25, 2021 at 5:15 pm. Present at the meeting were committee chairman Avia Graves, committee members Randy York and Kelly Rankin, Village Superintendent John Sherpenberg, Chief Rick Hines, Mayor Bill Brown, and Village residents Ron Ross. The meeting began at 5:15 pm to discuss Invisible fence code requirements. The committee feels that we should look at potentially adding legislation so that invisible fences are not in the right of way or at a minimum 3 feet back from the sidewalk. The committee doesn't see this as a safety issue, but perhaps one with lines getting cut etc. being in the right of way. Committee is referring this to Rules and Law to investigate further. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the report. Discussion centered on how to make sure an invisible fence is not installed in the right of way or to require a zoning permit to make the property owner aware that if the fence is in the right of way and gets cut or dug up, it would be the responsibility of the property owner to fix it. Mrs. Graves suggested the issue be moved to the Rules and Law Committee for a final decision on how to best address this very rare matter. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

The Safety Committee met on October 28, 2021 at 5:15 pm. Present at the meeting were committee chairman Avia Graves, committee members Randy York and Kelly Rankin and Mayor Bill Brown. The meeting began at 5:15 pm to discuss parking on West Street. Parking was limited a few years ago so that cars could not park on West Street in front of the condos during the hours of 7 to 9 a.m. However, since the street doesn't have enough space for two cars to pass when there are cars parked on the road and the fact that the road backs into a busy intersection at Madisonville we continue to have a problem and a safety issue. Committee recommends that we eliminate parking on West Street in front of the condos. There is plenty of parking on Thorndike. Mrs. Graves pointed out that the report should be corrected to read Madisonville Road and not Plainville Road. She said there have been several complaints from residents and this is the right thing to do from a safety perspective. There is plenty of parking on the other side. Most of the problem comes from service vehicles that park there while doing work or making repairs. The condo owners have two parking spaces underneath. Mayor Brown said a motion and a second was needed to amend the report to say Madisonville. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves, to amend the report. Solicitor McTigue will draft legislation to say there is no parking on West Street between Thorndike and Madisonville. On roll call: four ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the report. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

The Special Committee for Economic Development (approved by Council on October 25, 2021) met on Friday, October 29, 2021 at 1:15 pm to discuss next steps for possible economic development of the Mariemont's Industrial Zone. Present at the meeting were Council Members, Marcy Lewis, Randy York, Kelly Rankin and Mayor Bill Brown. This group had met previously in two informational sessions with Ken Geis, of Geis Consulting Group Ltd. Mr. Geis had outlined various options for Mariemont to pursue Economic Development. The most promising of the options discussed was doing further research into Mariemont's Industrial Zone. Mr. Geis subsequently presented a proposal to investigate opportunities for the Mariemont Industrial Zone (see attachment). Also upon Mr. Geis's recommendation to acquire additional input, on October 6, 2021 a different group, consisting of Council members Rob Bartlett, Kelly Rankin and Randy York, had met with Mike Hinnenkamp to investigate of The Ohio Group to see if his organization could provide the same kind of service. Mr. Hinnenkamp explained that this type of consulting was not what The Ohio Group could provide. Given his experience and expertise in economic development, his familiarity with the Mariemont area in particular, and the cost effectiveness of his proposal, Dr. Lewis, Mr. York, and Mrs. Rankin unanimously recommend accepting Mr. Geis's proposal. The Special Committee for Economic Development recommends that the Solicitor prepare the necessary legislation.

Dear Dr. Lewis,

In a follow-up to my letter on October 18, 2021, I would like to identify some additional information regarding the process I will employ if the Village engages. Specifically: Item 4, *Make contact with Owners/Representatives of existing real estate* a. Evaluate current operations b. Discuss future projections within 60 days, I will report the progress of determining what plans the current owners of the parcels have for their real estate. Then, based upon their (current owners) response, I will be able to make recommendations to the Village on options such as (not all-inclusive)

A. Continuing the current operations B. Enhancing the current operation through new investment C. Redeveloping their property I will also give you a potential revenue projection based on assumptions from Item 4, such as earning revenue based upon potential end-users. If you have any questions or comments on this approach, please let me know.

Very Truly, Ken Geis

Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis, to accept the report. In discussion Mr. York said Mr. Geis's proposal will give us and assessment of what we have and what our options are or are not. From there we can get a road map moving forward. He

is very comfortable with what Mr. Geis is offering. Solicitor McTigue said Mr. Geis is the gold standard on this sort of thing in this state. After further discussion following questions from Mr. Bartlett, it was decided that it would be a good idea to continue working with Mr. Geis while looking at other resources for services and grants. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

Mayor Brown made the following miscellaneous announcements:

- Leaf Season is October 25, 2021 through Thursday December 23, 2021. (Don't rake leaves into the street. Rumpke will take bagged leaves if residents don't want to wait for the leaf vacuum truck.)
- Proposed sale of second ambulance.
- Village offices will be closed November 25-26 for Thanksgiving.
- Council Meeting in December will be Monday, December 20th.
- Village offices will be closed Friday December 24th and Friday December 31st.

Resolutions:

“To Confirm the Appointment of Rod Holloway as Village Zoning Officer; to Set Compensation and to Declare an Emergency” had a first reading. The resolution could not be passed as an emergency because there was not a quorum. The second reading will be at the next meeting.

Ordinances:

“An Ordinance Creating Position of Village Administrator” had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to adopt the ordinance. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett said Mrs. Rankin had put an email out about how there is a group and it doesn't fall under the Finance Committee per se or in line with issues we're doing. I think it was because we said there's two special groups of Mr. York, Mrs. Rankin, and myself. I would like to take that out of Finance. There were two special committees set up at the October 25, 2021 meeting and they should probably stay under Economic Development. Mayor Brown and members agreed.

Mr. York thanked everyone who has participated or has agreed to participate in the *Town Crier* project. He said residents had commented on the article about the Service Department. This is really good and interesting information for the residents to have, as will be the future articles about the other departments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer