

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
February 14, 2022**

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

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to excuse the absence of Ms. Geldbaugh and Mr. Bartlett. On roll call: four ayes, no nays. It was noted that Mr. Bartlett submitted his recommendations for the Village Strategy Session.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the January 24, 2022 Council meeting and the January 26, 2022 Special Meeting of Council minutes as written. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

Communications:

From Chief Hines: January 2022 Monthly Report

From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: January 2022 Monthly Report. He said the department has been busier year-to-date and had several structural fires and aided in the Fairfax residential fire. They located and removed a gentleman from the house but unfortunately, he passed away a couple of days later.

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: January 2022 Monthly Report/2021 Annual Report. He noted that snowstorms cost the Village approximately \$2,000 each occurrence. He believes there is adequate salt left for the remainder of this season. Mayor Brown said residents were pleased with the ice and snow removal. Chief Hines complimented the department on clearing the roads. The Police Department dispatches to them as the roads become worse and they responded right away.

From Zoning Officer Holloway: January 2022 Monthly Report. He noted that Mr. Van Stone volunteered 35 hours this past month.

From Police Chief Hines: Memo Dated February 2, 2022 re: Taser Replacements. Chief Hines said the quote was from November. There has been a slight increase in price. Council agreed to this expenditure at the Permanent Improvement Meeting. Council agreed that the price is not to exceed \$6,500.

Mayor Brown said Council is putting together the Strategic Plan for the Village under the help from the Ohio Plan. It was discussed to have Council send their list to Mrs. Van Pelt and copy the other members of Council so as to reduce the number of duplications. It will be the responsibility of the Council member to contact their nominations. It was determined that bio's were not needed but new voices. Final nominations will be determined at the next Council meeting. Mr. York did not believe two Council members were needed. It was agreed that Mr. Bartlett would be the Council representative. Mrs. Rankin said with the opening up of another seat, she would like to see a senior citizen be on the Strategic Plan. Mrs. Brownknight said if we are building for a long-term future in this community, we lack diversity and people of color. We need to be mindful as we bring a multitude of perspectives to this planning process. The list should also include what demographic they will be representing.

Permission to Address Council:

Mr. Terry Gains, 3901 West Street, was granted permission to address Council. He is a resident and board member of the Emery Park Condominium Association. Council recently passed an ordinance prohibiting parking in the 200-foot stretch of West Street which affects both Emery Park and Nolen Park Condominiums. Emery Park consists of 44 residents and Nolen Park has approximately 46 residents. Both buildings have an entrance on West Street. The residents of both buildings are predominantly elderly. We have elderly guests, the US mail and delivery trucks parking on West Street during the daytime to visit and make deliveries to the buildings. The residents of Emery Park are very upset about the parking ordinance and he knows the Council has received letters and emails concerning their concerns. We all realize that there is a parking problem in that short stretch of West Street. However, that problem seems to exist only between 8 and 9 AM in the morning when school is starting and 3 and 4 PM in the afternoon when school

is letting out. Every resident agrees that parking during those hours should be eliminated. If eliminated, the restriction must be enforced by our Police Department. To eliminate parking the rest of the day creates a terrible inconvenience to those visiting (who are oftentimes elderly). When he last came before Council to address the issue, he was told by Solicitor McTigue that the Safety Committee had studied this and consulted with property owners. He can find no one in our buildings who was consulted or who discussed this with anyone on the Safety Committee. This ordinance impacts approximately 90 residents. It is inconvenient to ask elderly guests to park in the garage. He is asking on behalf of the condominium residents is that this ordinance be amended as soon as possible to prohibit parking between 8 and 9 AM and 3 and 4 PM on school days. It is also requested that the current ordinance prohibiting parking not be implemented until the change is made.

Mayor Brown said the ordinance is in effect. To revisit the issue would need it to be sent back to the Safety Committee. There certainly could be a grace period of enforcement while doing so. This issue was discussed and vetted as it went through the committee process.

Ms. Cindy Sibcy, Nolen Park Condominiums, was granted permission to address Council. She said the secondary entrance is a long walk from Thorndike. One resident is confined to a wheelchair and needs constant care. The terminology in the Disabilities Act states reasonable consideration for those with disabilities. Her understanding was this came about because of the need to get a disabled child to school. This is not the only way to get to the school, but for residents it is important that they have the access.

Mr. York suggested that they reach out to former Safety Committee Chair, Avia Graves for her input. Mrs. Brownknight said she knows that safety concerns were paramount during the discussions.

Chief Hines said he has no issue with examining and massaging the legislation and temporarily suspending the ordinance.

Mayor Brown referred the matter back to the Safety Committee for further consideration. It was encouraged that residents sign up on the Village website for notices of upcoming meeting notices and to attend the meetings to voice concerns at the committee level.

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to temporarily suspend to enforce said ordinance pending further recommendation from the Safety Committee. On roll call; four ayes, on nays.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on Wednesday February 2, 2022 at 4:00pm. Present at the meeting were Health and Recreation Committee members Randy York (Chair), Susan Brownknight (Vice-Chair), Leah Geldbaugh (Member), and mayor Bill Brown.

The Committee reviewed recommended rate increases from the Mariemont Tennis Association for the 2022 season.

The Committee agreed that the updated rates for the 2022 season will be:

	2021	2022
	Rates	Rates
Family Resident	\$130	\$150

Non-Resident Family	\$150	\$175
Adult Resident	\$60	\$70
Adult Non-Resident	\$70	\$80
Junior Resident	\$34	\$40
Junior Non-Resident	\$40	\$50
Senior Resident	\$55	\$60
Senior Non-resident	\$60	\$75

The Committee also reviewed the capital expenses necessary to maintain the 7 tennis courts. Total Tennis, Inc. has provided estimates and an overall maintenance schedule. This schedule recommends a total asphalt overlay every 20-25 years at a cost of \$455,000 - \$595,000 and a court reconditioning every four years at a cost of \$90,000 - \$95,000. This type of maintenance schedule would require a capital allocation of between \$40,750 - \$48,750 per year to fund ongoing and projected maintenance. The Committee reviewed Mariemont Tennis Association participation statistics and finances over the past four years. There were 163 paid memberships in 2021 down slightly from a high of 173 in 2019 but well above the rolling average of the past several years. MTA had revenues of \$15,150 in 2021 up from \$11,695 in 2020 and have been rising steadily since 2018. MTA has also conducted fund raising and assisted in the renovation of the tennis pavilion.

The plan of action for Mariemont Tennis will be as follows:

MTA will raise rates across the board for the 2022 season with a goal of having annual income of \$10,000 in excess of expenses that will go towards permanent improvements.

MTA will work with the Mariemont School District to establish and standardize MSD support of MTA for the use of the Mariemont courts. The goal will be \$5,000 per year over 20 years.

MTA will agree to conduct fundraising events according to a schedule that they will determine.

MTA will provide a second estimate for JK Meuer for court conditioning before the 2022 season. The Village of Mariemont and MTA will review the scope of work and the bids from the two contractors and determine a course of action in advance of the 2022 season. It is estimated that the necessary conditioning of the courts will cost between \$65,000 and \$95,000.

MTA and The Village of Mariemont will work together for a long-term solution to on-going court maintenance which may include issuing a long-term bond to cover the expenses in excess of \$500,000 to apply asphalt overlay or mill & fill that has a projected life span of 20-25 years.

MTA will work with the Village to develop a policy for the use of the courts by tennis pros for instruction or clinics. Policy will include requirements to use the courts, court time reservation criteria, standardized fees for pros and participants, and any requirements for the participants.

The Committee discussed an estimate from PSS to replace part of the piping for the lap pool. These discussions quickly lead to an overall discussion of pool operations. The Committee will work with the Mariemont Pool Board to develop a 3-year business plan. This plan will include operational and capital expense budgeting, attendance projections, community engagement initiatives, and overall programming for the pool.

The Committee also reviewed a proposal from Craftsman Electric to update the electric and provide heat to the Bell Tower bathrooms so that they could stay open longer. Three quotes for the projects were received and reviewed and Craftsman was selected because it was the most reputable with the lowest cost.

The total cost of the project is \$4,575.00. The Village would contract and pay for the work and would be reimbursed by the Preschool Parents Group.

Council discussed putting funds into a dedicated account that would only be used for specific projects and the use of money market accounts to use for long-term projects.

Mr. York said the goal for the Bell Tower bathrooms is that they would be in use year-round. The Village needs to plan for capital needs for both tennis and the pool. Hard decisions are going to be made. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

It was noted that Council could pass legislation to increase rates according to the inflation rate, thus eliminating Council having to vote year by year.

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Public Works and Service Committee which met On February 8, 2022 The Public Works & Service Committee met on February 8, 2022 at 2:30 PM to discuss solid waste and recycling service beginning in January 2023. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee Member Randy York, Committee Member Rob Bartlett, Service Dept supervisor John Scherpenberg and Mayor Brown. The Village has the opportunity to participate in the SWORRE (Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse) Consortium for the provision of waste and recycling service in a RFP along with 5 other communities. In participating in this program via the Center for Local Govt., the Village hopes to obtain more favorable rates for this service. We currently are under a contract directly with Rumpke which expires at the end of 2022. We have the option to extend for two additional one-year service at an increase of 3% annually. It is important to note that, should the bid provided by our participation in the RFP not be favorable, we maintain the ability to opt out. It does not preclude us from the option to continue Village service with Rumpke directly. The Committee recommends engaging with the CLG for refuse service and has requested the Village Solicitor to provide the appropriate legislation. Due to the deadline of March 14th for the posting of the Public Advertisement for Collection Services bid, the resolution will need to be passed as an emergency. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee met on January 21st at 4:00 PM to discuss the 2022 Street Projects. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee Member Rob Bartlett and Committee Member Randy York, Mayor Brown and Village Engineer Chris Ertel. The topic of discussion was to determine which roads to solicit bids for repair/paving. Please see the attached schedule recommendation. For the year 2022, the Committee recommends Engineer Ertel submit bid requests for the following streets:

Bank Place from Miami Rd to Wooster Pike
Mound Way from Miami Bluff Dr to Mt Vernon Ave
Mt Vernon Avenue from Indianview Ave to Center St

The areas in Wooster Pike Village Square Parking will be added to the bid in the hopes to get better pricing for paving than the cost provided by Barrett when Wooster Pike was paved. Also discussed was the plan for stormwater assessment. Engineer Ertel will work with Service Dept. Supervisor Scherpenberg to review the current list of poor pipes and catch basins. The Committee will meet again to determine a plan based on their findings. In order to allow Engineer Ertel sufficient time to secure bids, the resolution will need to be passed as an emergency. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

Annual Outstanding Citizen Award Nominations are due to Mrs. Van Pelt by March 10, 2022

Resolutions:

“To Appoint Matt Ayer as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Year of 2022” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-3-22 was adopted.

“To Authorize Adoption of a Premium Only Insurance Plan” (For Health Savings Account) had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-4-22 was adopted.

“To Confirm the Reappointment of Christopher M. Ertel as the Village Engineer for Calendar Years 2021 and 2022; and To Set Compensation” had a first reading. Mrs. Van Pelt noted that the Resolution is to change compensation only.

“Authorizing the Village of Mariemont to Participate in the Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Consortium; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading due to lack of quorum to pass on emergency. The second and third readings will occur at the next Council meeting.

“To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for 2022 Street Repairs; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading due to lack of quorum to pass on emergency. The second and third readings will occur at the next Council meeting.

Ordinances:

“To Delete in Their Entirety Sections 151.115 and 151.116, Solar Heating, Cooling, and Hot Water Systems, from the Mariemont Code of Ordinances and to Include New Sections 151.115 through 151.21 Solar Energy Systems” had a second reading.

“Ordinance to Amend Section 151.105 to Address Invisible Fences in the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a second reading.

“Ordinance Amending Section 151.091, Temporary Portable Storage Units, and Temporary Portable Toilets of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a second reading.

“To Confirm the Reappoint of Elissa Wendler as Part-Time IT Administrator for Calendar Years 2022 and 2023; and To Set Compensation” had a first reading.

“To Repeal Ordinance No. O-18-21 Pertaining to Maximum Pay Rates for All Grades of Recreation Employees and To Enact New Legislation Pertaining To Maximum Pay Rates for All Grades of Recreation Employees” had a first reading.

“To Amend Ordinance O-21-21 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances To Increase Payment for Employees; and To Declare Emergency had a first reading.

Task List:

Mr. York updated that the creation of the Village Foundation has three board members and they are looking for a fourth member. It will take approximately one year once the paperwork has been submitted. Mrs. Brownknight noted that a temporary number may be assigned.

Council agreed that Mr. Bartlett should oversee the Audit Committee.

Engineer Chris Ertel said he will handle the work on Murray Path and submit invoices to ODNR for reimbursement.

Mr. York updated Council regarding the relaunch of the Rental Inspection Program. He said property owners wanted 10-day notice prior to an inspection as opposed to the current 5-day notice. If a property meets a certain threshold there was discussion, should we grant a five-year rental inspection in lieu of the current three-year inspection. It was a good meeting and the dialogue was terrific. A tenant can initiate an inspection at their cost.

Mayor Brown said he and Mr. Ayer met regarding the Boathouse roof repair and they are currently waiting on an estimate. Mrs. Brownknight asked if steps were being taken to determine why it deteriorated so quickly. It is going to be costly to repair a roof that was put on 25 years ago that should have lasted 100 years. Mayor Brown said he hopes to have answers to those types of questions once they obtain the estimate from the contractor.

Mr. York said regarding the clean-up of Village hydrants, curb, benches etc., the hydrants can be painted any color we decide.

Mayor Brown said the bulk of the task work at the pool are being handled by himself and Mr. York. The Pool Commission is also engaged in discussion.

Mayor Brown said the roof of the metal storage building at the Bell Tower suffered a partial collapse from the snow/ice buildup. We are in the process of putting together a plan to correct it.

Mrs. Brownknight asked if funds were appropriated, what is stopping the remodel work for the improvement of the office space in the Municipal Building. Mayor Brown said he is working on is getting new front doors on the building which will be expensive. In addition, there may need to be roof repair on the building which would need to be done prior to remodel of the office area. Work in the administrative office will take considerable planning and preparation. He has had some discussion with Mr. Rich's architectural firm and his personal background in interior design will be utilized.

Mr. Van Stone said he is currently scanning files for the Building Department in preparation for the office remodel.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer