

**Village of Mariemont  
Council Meeting  
March 28, 2022**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:33 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Brownknight, Ms. Geldbaugh, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Rankin and Mr. York.

Mayor Brown introduced Nick Pittsley who will be sworn in as a Lieutenant with the Police Department. Chief Hines said Sergeant Pittsley graduated from McNicholas High School and earned a Bachelor of Political Science at Northern Kentucky University. He served as a deputy for the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office from February 2013 to June 2014 when he was hired with the Village of Mariemont. He was assigned to the D.A.R.T. for one year in 2017 and served as an undercover drug agent. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2018. He has grown in his position and Chief Hines feels strongly that he is ready to be a key part of the administration of the Police Department and recommends that he be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to promote Sergeant Pittsley to Lieutenant. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. He was presented with a plaque, Lieutenant bars and badge.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting March 14, 2022 and the Special Meeting of Council March 23, 2022 as written. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

**Communications:**

From Administrative Office: Spending Request Form/Project Agreement Contract for Village Centennial Artwork. Mr. York said the Village will enter into the contract with Mariemont Preservation Foundation reimbursing the Village. The original artwork would be 18x24. He had the contract reviewed by the Eisley Studios who found it a reasonable fee. (10) 18x24 pieces will sell for \$300 each, (100) 16x20 pieces will sell for \$100 each with the original print to be auctioned off with an estimate of reaching \$5,000. Any second edition the Village will receive 40%. We do not own the copyright, but the Village owns the right to reproduce.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to approve the spending request. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

From Police Chief Hines: February 2022 Monthly Report

**Permission to Address Council:**

Mr. Matt Ayer, 3908 Pocahontas, was granted permission to address Council. His is a member of an Ad Hoc Committee to promote the Murray Path Project. He distributed to Council the following handout of three related pieces to the Multi-Purpose Trail Planning. He reminded Council that the grant application process only happens once per year.

ODOT is proceeding with engineering to connect the LM Trail with Mariemont. The Columbia Connector (CC). Chris and Bill walked the route with ODOT, Great Parks and CT representatives earlier this month.

- a. Design process includes public meetings and participation
- b. Construction anticipated in Fiscal 2026

2. After consultation with CROWN/ Tri-State Trails, ODOT, a volunteer team is putting together a DRAFT Scope of Work for a Route Study for connecting CC to Murray Path/Wasson Way/CROWN network. This DRAFT scope (again, just for the Route **STUDY**) will be led by our Village Engineer, circulated to Council, CT, CROWN for comment and suggestions. CROWN indicates it is highly likely that they can help fund the study. This is Mariemont's study, we are directing the Scope.

- a. What are alternatives/options to connect CC to Murray Path/Wasson Way?
- b. Public participation and consideration of alternatives

c. Council selects preferred alternative

Proposed Steps:

- a. Scope of Work defined
- b. Get cost estimate for study
- c. Seek and obtain funding for study
- d. Conduct study/public participation
- e. Council selects preferred option

Expected Timing

- a. Scope developed by 5/1/22
- b. Cost estimate 6/1/22
- c. Find funding 7/1/22
- d. Conduct study 7/1/22 to 10/1/22
- e. Evaluate options 10/1/22 to 1/15/23
- f. Select preferred option 1/15/23

3. Mariemont has an opportunity to apply for another ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund Grant, Murray Path Phase 2 (MPP2). Recommended by Tri-State Trails as there may be little competition this cycle.

- a. Choice One can help with application – due April 15, 2022 – will have cost estimate then
- b. Application prep cost to Choice One (\$2800) paid from Donor Fund from MPP1
- c. Grant would be for MPP2 from base of Pocahontas to Miami – all Village property
- d. ODOT has confirmed that CC design can connect to MPP2
- e. Competitive grant – we may or may not get it – notification in 11/22
- f. 25% match needed – seek private funding to extent possible as in MPP1
- g. If awarded, Village could accept in ~March 2023, construct MPP2 in 2023
- h. Suggest review in more detail at a Health & Rec meeting in near future
- i. If we do not decide to apply for a grant now, we wait another year in the grant cycle. Note: We also may need a couple attempts to win this.
- j. Need Ordinance to proceed with application at 4/11/22 meeting
- k. Council is not committing to spending \$\$ on application or with any particular path alignment or project; decisions flow from Route Study and Public Participation and Council.

Council discussed the need that this process has to be transparent and fully vetted with the residents. It was stressed that this is just to apply for the grant that will be funded through private donations. It will allow for a year to look at options and have open discussion whether the residents of the Village want to do this. Concern was raised and questioned that the path design may be dictated to the Village and many residents along Rembold/Hiawatha/Murray do not want this path. Further discussion ensued that it will not obligate the Village to proceed with any project or project design. For the record, it was noted that the pathway that has been discussed does not yield any meaningful economic impact to the Village. A good scope of work would need to be prioritized and route options would need to be discussed.

Mayor Brown referred that matter to the Health and Recreation Committee. Mr. Ayer will forward to members of Council the preliminary plans he has to date. Council moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with Choice One to proceed with the grant application. On roll call; five ayes, one nay (Ms. Geldbaugh dissenting). Solicitor McTigue will prepare the necessary legislation with the emergency clause to apply for the grant obligation.

Mr. Bob Van Stone, 4050 Lytle Woods, was granted permission to address Council. He commented that the plan presented by Mr. Ayer will be a very contentious plan. It is his belief if Council follows that timetable it will be interpreted that it is the plan Council is endorsing. He recommends a change to the timetable with 3 months in the beginning to give public input. If the plan is to go to Miami Road, then the last phase would be very restrictive on where it can go. He believes that is even more contentious along Murray Avenue given the parking spots etc. He noted that there is a 14' easement along Mt. Vernon. There are many other options that have never been discussed. He recommends using the time now till the

end of the school year to get a consensus of where this can possibly go because Council needs public input ASAP.

“To Repeal and Replace Ordinance O-1-22 and To Make Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the Village of Mariemont, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022” had a first reading. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said this is to replace the temporary budget. Going forward there will be other changes that will need to be made, but this better aligns the departments to know what the budget is going forward. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third reading. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second reading. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said there will be money in a contingency fund that Council would need to review and approve for changes. It is not a perfect budget, as there are already changes that need to be made with the Swim Pool and the new outsourcing of mowing. The Ordinance had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-9-22 was adopted.

#### **Motion to Pay the Bills:**

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

#### **Committee Reports:**

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee which met The Public Works Committee met on March 22, 2022 at 3:00 PM to discuss the mowing service for 2022. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee Member Randy York, Committee Member Rob Bartlett, Maintenance Superintendent John Scherpenberg and Mayor Brown. Information was gathered as recommended in the March 10th meeting, which was to perform the services in house. Mr. Scherpenberg obtained pricing information on the purchase of two semi commercial mowers. The best pricing came from Bramble Mower, which has state bid pricing on a 60” mower of \$7,599 and a 52” mower of \$7,199. Mr. Scherpenberg has a list of 8-10 fire personnel who have expressed a desire to perform the mowing for the Village. The maximum forecast for labor cost is \$57,600. This is calculated on \$20/hour x 8 hours x 5 x 2 persons x 36 weeks. The \$20 is a pay rate of \$18/hour plus the cost of employer (OPERS and Medicare) taxes. As a reminder, the bid from Grass Cor was \$64,808. The crew will consist of one Service Dept employee and two PT firefighters. Mr. Scherpenberg will work out the logistics with the Senior Administrative Assistant and the Village Solicitor.

The Committee recommends the following: That the Village proceed with the purchase of both of the mowers at a price not to exceed \$15,000. So that the Village can take delivery of the equipment promptly, the Committee recommends the Resolution be passed on an emergency basis. That the Village proceed with the hiring of the PT fire personnel for the position as Service Dept. employees. The Committee also recommends the Salary Ordinance for the Part-Time Service Department Labors be increased to \$20.00 per hour. The Committee further recommends that this Ordinance also be passed on an Emergency Basis so the in-house mowing costs can be paid effective April 1, 2022. Superintendent Scherpenberg said this is a pilot program to see how it performs. They will be also doing the mulching. He will have more flexibility to monitor during the dry season to not mow if not needed. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

Village Offices will be Closed in Observation of Good Friday April 15, 2022

#### **Resolutions:**

“To Increase the Tennis Fees for the 2022 Season” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-9-22 was adopted.

“Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Levying a Tax in Excess of the 10 Mill Limitation for Permanent Improvements and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith” had a first reading.

“Authorizing the Purchase of Mini-Pumper for the Mariemont Fire Department; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading. Mrs. Brownknight reiterated that the process of governance was not followed. This is too big an item to not have been budgeted. We were planning on doing without it for one year so it is not a safety concern. The Resolution had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the resolution. On roll call; four ayes, two nays (Mr. Bartlett and Mrs. Brownknight). Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-10-22 was adopted.

### **Ordinances:**

“Ordinance Amending Chapter 150 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances regarding Building Regulations General Provisions” had a third reading. The rental unit inspections will be covered in a separate Ordinance. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-10-22 was adopted.

“To Amend Ordinance O-8-22 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances To Increase Payment for Employees; 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; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-11-22 was adopted.

### **Committee Updates:**

Rules and Law: Mrs. Brownknight said she will be holding a meeting this Monday April 4, 2022.

Finance: Mr. Bartlett said he would like the line-item Employee Evaluation Process to read Employee Bonus Evaluation.

Finance Sub-Committee: Mr. Bartlett said the job listing has been published for the Part-Time Operations Manager. Residents have been contacted for the Village Strategic Planning session which will be held Saturday April 30, 2022. They are meeting with Hamilton County Planning & Development on April 5, 2022 to discuss assessment of grant opportunities.

Safety Committee: Ms. Geldbaugh said she has had discussion with some residents of the condominiums and they have come up with a preliminary plan for the parking issue that she will present to the Committee.

Planning, Zoning & Economic Development: Dr. Lewis said the CRA Council has been established. Solicitor McTigue said if she provides him with the names of those to be appointed, he can prepare the necessary legislation. Dr. Lewis said she has talked with Mr. Geis who is trying to contact Kellogg's. Mr. Bartlett suggested Mr. Geis help with exploring economic incentives. Dr. Lewis said she

will be sending to members of the Committee the proposed legislation from MPF prior to setting a meeting. The legislation has been vetted by Solicitor McTigue.

Public Works & Service: Mrs. Rankin said the trash/recycling contract is in collaboration with Center for Local Government with the bid going out March 31, 2022. She said Service Superintendent Scherpenberg is waiting to meet with someone to look at painting the lampposts. The 2022 Street Rehabilitation Project bids are due March 31, 2022.

Health and Recreation Committee: Mr. York said he is planning an upcoming meeting to address the review process for naming and use of Village properties. Mayor Brown and Ms. Geldbaugh joined him at a meeting with the Waldorf School. An email was sent out asking residents who wanted to be part of the Waldorf Neighborhood Advisory Group with five expressing interest which will include Ms. Geldbaugh. The group is being formed to engage cooperation with the Waldorf School. He is looking at setting a date for a meeting to hold a site visit to look at a planting plan for the summer. The Committee met prior to the Council meeting to discuss the miscellaneous tasks for the swim pool. Mayor Brown referred to the Committee (1) Shelter Rental Fees and (2) Abandonment of Garden Plots in the South 80 Gardens.

Committee of the Whole: Dr. Lewis said she is meeting with Chief Hines and Assistant Fire Chief Copeland this week to discuss the safety issues outlined in the Kramer report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer