

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
June 27 , 2022**

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

Mayor Brown introduced Mr. Richard Ford as the new Fiscal Officer. He will be transitioning into the position with the help of Fiscal Officer Borgerding and Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler.

Police Chief Hines said it is his honor to stand before Council this evening to present the most prestigious award that a law enforcement officer can receive. The “Medal of Valor” is the highest decoration for bravery exhibited by a public safety officer, comparable to the military’s Medal of Honor. It is easy for all of us to take for granted the faithful and dedicated service that our police and fire personnel provide by willingly to put their lives on the line to save another at any moment. On January 19, 2022, Officer Adam Geraci was the first officer on the scene of a house fire in Fairfax. The house was full of flames and heavy smoke. Officer Geraci was advised that there were people trapped inside the burning house. Without hesitation he ran to a window where he saw an individual who was confined to a wheelchair trapped inside the structure. He began lifting the individual through the window while taking on heavy smoke to the point of having difficulty breathing himself. Officer Kaminsky from Fairfax responded and assisted Officer Geraci in getting the individual the rest of the way out of the window. The individual was taken to the paramedics on scene and was transported to the hospital. There were two other individuals who were also trapped inside the structure who were located and removed by the Mariemont Fire Department personnel and other responding fire departments. Unfortunately, these individuals did not survive. It is without question that Officer Geraci’s heroic actions saved the individual’s life, who was unable to exit the house due to being confined to the wheelchair. Officer Geraci required medical attention and was sent to Jewish Hospital for treatment of heavy smoke inhalation. He responded to the hospital to be with Officer Geraci and when I saw him, he asked how he was doing. Officer Geraci responded by saying “Chief, I could not let that lady die, I had to get her out”. He presented Officer Geraci with the Mariemont Police Department “Medal of Valor” for risking his life for the sake of another. He concluded by saying he was proud of Officer Geraci and that he is a true hero.

Mayor Brown called for a brief recess to allow Council time to congratulate Officer Geraci and for pictures to be taken.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the minutes as written for June 13, 2022 and the Special Meeting of Council June 16, 2022. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

Communications:

From the Audit Committee: Village of Mariemont’s Response to the Audit Response and Management Letter (Covering the 2020 and 2019 Fiscal Year). Fiscal Officer Ford said most of the items from the audit have been addressed and resolved. The Audit Committee recommends that every member of the Council get a copy of the audit results.

From The Ohio Plan: Strategic Planning Session Report Summary. There will be a Special Meeting of Council on Tuesday July 26, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss. Mrs. Rankin will confirm that Mike Hinnenkamp, from the Ohio Plan Management Resources Team, will be available to attend.

Permission To Address Council:

Mr. Terry Gaines, 3901 West Street #1, was granted permission to address Council. He complimented and expressed his appreciation to Council for the decision made months ago to maintain the Mariemont Fire Department

and not merge with Little Miami Fire District. Both he and his wife in the past weeks have had to utilize the services of the Mariemont Fire Department and found them to be professional, kind and knowledgeable. He was very impressed with the impeccable highly quality personnel the Village has.

Ms. Karen Fallon, 6966 Murray, was granted permission to address Council. She too echoed support for the Mariemont Fire Department. She asked for an update on the Duke Energy wood poles. It has been 4 years and it has been 11 months since she approached Council on this matter. She is frustrated that no action has taken place and questioned the matrix process the Mayor follows when taking on a project. She asked if Public Utilities of Ohio has been contacted. She asked for a list of names and contact information and said she would be happy to assist by following up herself. She is discouraged with the talk of the bike path that the poles are still present. She is disappointed that after 4 plus years the situation is not resolved.

Mayor Brown said he along with Superintendent Scherpenberg and Engineer Ertel have had conversations with Duke Energy. We make contacts and then the people move on – it is a continual dance to get anything done with the poles. He is told the same story that it is another union or entity that is responsible for the removal of the poles. He said he would provide to Ms. Fallon the contact information as he is just as disappointed and frustrated. He does not like their process and finds them hard to deal with. The poles are on their right-of-way. He would be happy to have Ms. Fallon participate.

Mr. Bartlett suggested that this matter be added to the Task List.

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. Mr. Bartlett clarified that payment for the following bills were being charged to the noted account: Mini-Pumper (ARPA Account), painting streetlights (Street Highway Fund), Municipal mower (Mr. Bartlett thought it would be better charged to Service, but it was noted that the mower is used at the Municipal Building by the fire department and not part of the mowing package), Service department truck (Permanent Improvement). On roll call: six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Brownknight would like to see more cost centers set up in the accounting software for tracking spending.

Committee Reports:

Miscellaneous:

- Village Offices will be Closed in Observation of Independence Day Monday July 4, 2022
- Village Fireworks will be held at Dusk Monday July 4, 2022
- Village Flag Walk Saturday July 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
- Budget Hearing will be Monday July 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Resolutions:

“Fixing a Time for Public Hearing on the 2023 Budget” 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-27-22 was adopted.

“Renewal of 3.5 Mill Tax Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for Permanent Improvements for the Tax Years of 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026” had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-28-22 was adopted.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to remove “Resolution Authorizing Mayor To Execute Contract with A359 Partners in Architecture” from the agenda. The Village will not be signing the contract –

Mariemont Preservation Foundation will be signing the contract. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. There will be a letter giving MPF authorization to have the work done on Village property.

Ordinances:

“To Enact New Section 151.094 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Synthetic Grass” had a second reading.

“To Amend Section 79, Schedule I of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances Regarding No Parkin on West Street Between Thorndike and Madisonville Road” had a first reading.

Council reviewed their Committee assignments:

Rules & Law: Mrs. Brownknight said the signage legislation is still under review. She has met with the Department Heads regarding the Employee Handbook. She anticipates a draft for the Committee to review for Council’s approval by the end of the year. The fences related to corner properties was removed. Bed and Breakfasts in the Village was removed. There are two presently in the Village that have received no complaints. The Village could tax them, but the return would be small. It was felt to wait until the State of Ohio has made a determination on the matter. Hot Tub Regulations have not yet been addressed.

Health & Recreation: Mr. York said the process for naming and use of Village properties has been completed and may be removed from the agenda. The creation of the Waldorf Neighborhood Advisory Group has been completed and may be removed from the agenda. They are waiting for a bid to take a look at the Dale Park hillside. Ms. Geldbaugh said there is a large tree down on the Waldorf property. Work with the Pool Commission to address miscellaneous tasks is an ongoing saga. The proposed bike path connector study has been completed with Council’s approval to use the Kleingers Group and should be removed from the agenda. The Committee is looking at what process to use to access the benches Village wide. Mr. Koepke has made some recommendations.

Finance: Mr. Bartlett is waiting on getting the Committee together to talk about the employee bonus process and is also waiting for the quote for the liability insurance from underwriting. Finance Sub-Committee: Assessing the need for Operation Manager should also be Operation Manager/Administrator. He asked to have Identifying Someone to assist the Village develop a strategic plan be removed, as that has occurred and Council will be meeting to discuss. Assessment of grant opportunities with Hamilton Council Planning & Development was removed from the agenda. Mr. York has applied for a mini-grant.

Safety: Ms. Geldbaugh said she has not received any complaints regarding traffic and speed concerns. Mr. Bartlett will forward to her a study put together by former Council member Dennis Wolter regarding traffic studies. Chief Hines said he feels purchasing the speed trailer has helped. It is transportable and they have increased enforcement.

Planning and Zoning & Economic Development: Dr. Lewis said regarding exploring financial incentives for local businesses, he and Mr. Geis will be meeting this week to discuss. The MPF demolition and new construction ordinance is almost done. Paver/patio installation regulations is next to be worked on.

Public Works & Service: Mrs. Rankin said the trash/recycling collection contract bid with Center for the Local Government did not produce favorable results the Village was looking for. There was discussion regarding the wording of the legislation regarding the monthly charge to residents on their Cincinnati Water Works bill. Mrs. Rankin asked that the wording of “Development of Details/Submit Application for CDBG Funds for Painting Lamp Posts be re-worded to read “Long-Term Plan Recommending Painting of the Lamp Poles”. She is waiting to hear from Engineer Ertel and Service Superintendent Scherpenberg regarding pedestrian crosswalk at the library.

Committee of the Whole: Dr. Lewis said the Village does not have the funds to address the Municipal Building Renovations/Additions at this time and asked the matter to be removed. The police and fire departments have applied for grants but they are no longer available this year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Richard D. Ford, Fiscal Officer