

**Village of Mariemont  
Council Meeting  
January 9, 2023**

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.

Mr. York motioned, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to accept the Capital Improvement Meeting minutes and the Council Meeting minutes for December 19, 2022 and the Emergency Council Meeting minutes from December 28, 2022. Mr. York asked for clarification in the minutes for the Capital Improvement Meeting that the \$40,000 for the parking lot was just a request, the other items listed were all approved. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

**Communications:**

From Police Chief Hines: December 2022 Monthly Report. Chief Hines pointed out the letter from the Hamilton County Regional Underwater Search and Recovery Team. Detective Rennie has been a member of that team for several years. They recently did some amazing work and pulled a car out of a river that has been involved in an old case out of Delhi. He also noted that Officer Geraci was selected, along with an officer from Fairfax, will be receiving the Award of Valor from the Hamilton County Police Association at the awards banquet on Thursday night at the Montgomery Inn. It is a very prestigious award.

From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: December 2022 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown discussed the thank-you note that was included in the report for the police and fire department, thanking them for bringing the truck to a birthday party.

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: December 2022 Monthly Report. Superintendent Scherpenberg clarified the cleaning of the storm drains that Mrs. Rankin asked about. Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Scherpenberg and the crew for doing a fantastic job on snow removal for the big storm around the holidays.

From Tax Administrator Barlow: December 2022 Monthly Report. Mr. Barlow noted that the first three quarters of 2022 did really well, but the fourth quarter was not quite as successful. Individual collections and withholdings were up but we were down about 2.1% in net profits from the business returns. He is anticipating that we might get a large payment in 2023 and suspects it might just be a timing issue.

From Alloy Economic Development: Development Qualifications: Mayor Brown referred the matter to Planning and Zoning & Economic Development Sub-Committee. Mayor Brown said the Alloy Development proposal and other proposals from Ohio Plan and Envision will go into Dr. Lewis's sub-committee and will be evaluated as to what works best for the Village. A report will be generated and shared with Council for discussion. A meeting will be set up with REDI Cincinnati for February 8<sup>th</sup> and that will also be in the mix. Mayor Brown explained that we will circle back to the strategic plan, but the emphasis right now is on economic development.

**Election of President Pro-Tempore of Council:**

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to nominate Randy York for Vice-Mayor. On roll call: six ayes, no nays. Mr. York will serve as the next Vice-Mayor. Dr. Lewis thanked the Council for the opportunity to service as Vice-Mayor for the past year.

**Motion to Pay the Bills:**

Mrs. Rankin 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: six ayes, no nays.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Village Offices will be closed Monday January 16, 2023, in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Ms. Geldbaugh is the current Council Representative on the Planning Commission. She wishes to continue on in that role. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to nominate Ms. Geldbaugh for the Planning Commission. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

- Dr. Lewis is the current Council Representative on the ARB. She wishes to remain on the ARB to continue working on a review of the Historic District and working with Matt Ayer on some training materials to help members of the ARB and educate them on historic properties. Ms. Geldbaugh moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to nominate Dr. Lewis for the ARB. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.
- Annual Outstanding Citizen Award nominations are due to Mrs. Van Pelt by March 16, 2023.

**Resolutions:**

“To Reappoint Leah Geldbaugh as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2023 and 2024” had a first reading.

**Ordinances:**

“To Delete Section 150.18 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a first reading.

**Committee Updates:**

Mrs. Rankin announced that a Public Works meeting is scheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the mowing plan for the year.

Ms. Geldbaugh provided an update on the park benches. She said they will not be teak and will probably be a combination of a metal frame and wood composite slats. She wants to be sure that whatever they choose will not be out of production anytime soon because they won't be able to afford to replace 64 benches all at once. She wants to find something that will be in production for at least ten years to give them time to replace the benches with the same style bench. She is looking for a simple design that looks good with the teak that they can slowly change out.

Mr. York and Ms. Geldbaugh are going to schedule a meeting regarding the pool. They are going to be scheduling three health and recreation committee meetings in the next few weeks to set rates for pool, tennis, and South 80 garden plots. They also need to make recommendations for the Centennial Park improvements and update the ordinance as to if they will allow people who live outside of the Village but in the school district to purchase pool memberships. They will be setting rates for tennis memberships as well, but Mr. York still needs to reach out to the tennis association. Mr. Bartlett asked if we looked at charging a rental rate for the facilities. Mr. York said we increased those fees for the shelters last year.

Solicitor McTigue provided an update about the wooden poles and Duke Energy. He sent a text message to the general counsel for Duke Energy but he has not received a response yet. Solicitor McTigue will let Mayor Brown know when he receives a reply. He is sure he's willing to help as best as he can. Mayor Brown said if pursuing them legally doesn't work then they will do something else. Solicitor McTigue commented that there hasn't been much success in going through the normal chain of commands and he is hoping contacting someone higher up might help with Duke Energy to get something done with those poles.

Mr. Bartlett asked who is responsible for following up after Duke Energy was digging at Mt. Vernon and Center because of a gas smell. Village Engineer Chris Ertel said he would be following up with them to make sure the metal plate is removed. Mr. Bartlett suggested adding the formation of an inclusion committee to the task list. Mr. York and Mrs. Brownknight will be working together to discuss the formation of the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Richard D. Ford, Fiscal Officer