

**Village of Mariemont  
Council Meeting  
May 25, 2023**

Mayor Bill Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Brownknight, Mrs. Rankin, and Mr. York.

Mayor Brown asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Darlene Judd who served 20 plus years as the Tax Administrator for the Village.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight to excuse the absence of Dr. Lewis and Ms. Geldbaugh. Mayor Brown said Ms. Geldbaugh sent an email announcing her resignation. He believes that it was sent while she was somewhat under duress, and he did not wish to accept it under those circumstances. He has been in touch with her, and she has requested to have time to recollect herself. She does wish to remain on Council. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the Council Meeting minutes for May 8, 2023, as written. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Mr. Dan Deters from Energy Alliance, Inc. gave a brief presentation. They provide energy aggregation throughout Southwest Ohio. Citizens within a municipality are given the opportunity to opt out of the program. It is proposed that Duke Energy will have a 60% hike in their electricity rate. Those not on a program will see a significant increase in their rates come June. He would recommend doing both electricity and gas. Should we be able to get the ballot initiative on the November ballot we will be able to help Mariemont residents next year by saving approximately \$30-\$40 per month. They will file all fees and reports to get it up and running. They can price renewable, regular route, brown, green choice or combinations of either/or. Mayor Brown referred the matter to the Public Works and Service Committee.

**Communications:**

\*From Fiscal Officer Ford: April 2023 Financial Reports

\*From Assistant Fire Chief Copeland: April 2023 Monthly Report

\*From Building Official Holloway: April 2023 Monthly Report. Mr. Bartlett asked if the new rates were in effect. Mrs. Van Pelt said her belief was they would go into effect July 1, 2023.

\*From Village Office: Email Dated May 9, 2023: RE 2023 Wasted Food Stops with US (WFSWU) – Community Hero. Mr. York suggested the form be filled out that would feature the Village.

**Permission to Address Council:**

Ms. Kim Beach, 10 Albert Place, was granted permission to address Council. Mariemont is a huge dog friendly community, and she would like to further investigate the addition of a Dog Park in the Village. She developed an acronym, B-A-R-K. B= Builds Relationships with Neighbors. It provides an opportunity for neighbors to talk and get to know one another. A= Active Lifestyles. R= Roam – allows dogs to roam and develop social skills. K= “Kummity” allows for walkable community neighborhoods. Statistics show when people are out walking dogs, and know each other, safety is better. Light discussion occurred regarding potential areas. Mayor Brown referred the matter to the Public Works and Service Committee.

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

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to pay the bills as submitted. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

### **Committee Reports:**

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 12:00 noon to discuss renewal of the Village's health care plan for full-time Village employees. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee members Rob Bartlett and Kelly Rankin, Mayor Bill Brown, Police Chief Rick Hines, Service Department Supervisor John Scherpenberg, and Administrative Assistant Allison Uhrig. The Village's health care plan is via the Center for Local Government consortium and is administered by Horan Associates. Fiscal Officer Richard Ford had been exploring some alternative ways of structuring the health care plan, but there wouldn't be enough time to implement the changes given a decision needs to be made by the end of this month. Mariemont's health care plan continues to be comparative to other municipalities where Horan has collected data. As such, the Finance Committee is recommending no changes this year to the three healthcare options that are offered. However, because of claims last year within the health care pool, the board for the consortium has approved the need for a 7.5% increase across all plans. So, the costs incurred by the Village will increase by 7.5%, as will the premiums paid by the employees. The increase will go into effect in August. Of note: there was no increase in premiums last year. The Finance Committee voted unanimously that the Village should not make any changes to the three plan options which we offer, other than the 7.5% increase in premiums for the Village and the employees. A decision is required at the May 25 Council meeting in order to meet Horan's timeline for 2023. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the recommendation of the Public Works and Service Committee which met on May 12th at 4:00 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee Member Rob Bartlett and Committee Member Randy York, Mayor Brown, Tax/Village Administrator Chuck Barlow and Village Engineer Chris Ertel. Discussed were the following 3 items:

1. Recommendation for awarding contract for Hiawatha Rehabilitation.
2. SORTA grant application
3. OKI grant application

The Committee discussed the Hiawatha Avenue Rehabilitation bid results. The Committee recommends awarding the contract to JK Meurer for the base bid amount of \$175,081.00. The Committee further recommends the administration prepare the necessary legislation on an emergency basis.

Next topic discussed was potential project applications for the Transit Infrastructure Fund from the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA). After much discussion the Committee recommends applying for the following projects in this priority order:

- 1) Grove Avenue Rehabilitation
- 2) Pleasant St and Dale Park Sidewalk Project
- 3) Pocahontas Avenue Rehabilitation

The Committee discussed the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) grant programs. The Committee recommends applying for the Mariemont Connector project from the Kleingers feasibility study dated March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Committee further recommends that the necessary legislation be prepared to apply for the OKI grant program on an emergency basis as the applications are due on June 2, 2023. The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to Chris Ertel for all of his hard work.

Mayor Brown clarified that the rehabilitation on Hiawatha will stop at Indianview for the time being. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Village Offices will be closed in Observance of Memorial Day Monday May 29, 2023
- Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday May 29, 2023, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The Presentation of the Outstanding Citizen will be awarded.
- Village Fireworks will be held Monday July 3, 2023, beginning at dusk.
- Village Offices will be closed in Observance of Independence Day Tuesday July 4, 2023
- The State Audit will be Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Resolutions:**

“To Authorize the Recodification of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a second reading.

“To Appoint Tina Getter as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Year of 2023 to Fulfill the Unexpired Term of John Bentley” had a second reading.

“A Resolution Approving the Update of the Solid Waste Management Plan of the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District” had a second reading.

“To Accept Bid of J.K. Meurer Corporation for the Hiawatha Avenue Rehabilitation Project; to Authorize Contract; 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; four ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-18-23 was adopted.

“A Resolution Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana Regional Council of Governments; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. The resolution had a second and third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to invoke the emergency. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-19-23 was adopted.

“Supplemental Appropriations and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third reading. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-20-23 was adopted.

“Renewal of 3.08 Mill Tax Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for General Operating for the Tax Years of 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028; and To Declare emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; four ayes,

no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-21-23 was adopted.

“Renewal of 1.0 Mill Tax Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitations for Recreational Purposes of the MariElders, Inc. for the Tax Years of 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027; 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 reading. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-22-23 was adopted.

### **Ordinances:**

### **Task List and Committee Assignments:**

Mr. Bartlett asked that the following be added to the Task List:

1. Hire IT Person
2. Recommendations for Village Website
3. Quotes for Repair of Trellis at the Concourse by December 2023
4. EV Charging Stations

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Richard D. Ford, Fiscal Officer