

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
July 10, 2023**

Mayor Bill Brown called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Brownknight, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Rankin, and Mr. York.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Brownknight, to accept the Council Meeting minutes from June 26, 2023, as written. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: June 2023 Monthly Report

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: June 2023 Monthly Report

*From Building Official Holloway: June 2023 Monthly Report

*From Solicitor McTigue: Email Dated July 3, 2023 re: Renewal 3.08 Mill Generating Operating Levy Resolution.

*From Administration Office: Spending Request from Mayor Brown re: Paint/Repair/Install Clock in front of the National Exemplar and Spending Request from Chief Hines for additional monies needed to purchase police vehicle. Mayor Brown said the clock repair has been discussed for quite a bit. The estimate from The Verdin Company is \$17,544. They will send personnel to help dismantle the clock and our service department will transport to their shop. Once work is complete, Verdin Company will bring it back and re-install. The Village is to take care of the electrical hook-up to the foundation. Engineer Ertel said once the clock is removed, he will be able to better judge what the work will entail. The National Exemplar is to reimburse the Village \$17,500. Any cost above that would be paid for by the Village which will be determined after the clock has been removed. Council would be apprised of any additional cost once it is known. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to approve the spending request. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Chief Hines said the police car that was ordered is still not supposed to be delivered until the end of the year. While working with Joseph Chevrolet, they were able to locate a Chevrolet Tahoe in Texas that is available immediately for an additional \$10,939.00 which includes the shipping. Presently we have police cars that should be out of the fleet but are not because police car packages are so far back ordered. The cost for 2024 cars is not yet known. He says we should budget for two cars for next year. The funds are being paid from the Alcohol Enforcement and Education account. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to approve the spending request. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Permission to Address Council:

Engineer Ertel updated Council on the Mariemont Connector meeting. They received 21 comments. His recommendation is to move forward with the field survey from northside of Hiawatha to the southside of sidewalk of Rembold to determine where we want to place the trail. The cost would be \$7500. The study evaluation price of the intersection at Miami, Lytle Woods, Hiawatha and Rembold is due back Friday. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to approve the allocation of \$7500.00 to Choice One for the survey. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Brownknight was excused to leave the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to pay the bills as submitted. Mr. York asked if there was a separate track of all the expenses related to the Farmer's Market. He remembers that it was brought up previously as to the impact on The Village. This bill list includes \$200.00 for a musician at the Farmer's Market. Mayor Brown and Mr. Bartlett said there is an expense line item and revenue line item for the Farmer's Market. Mr. York said he had a resident inquire about the Davey Tree situation on Sheldon Close and asked how that situation occurred. Mr. York asked if there was a public meeting on this matter and if it was necessary. Mayor Brown said it came about from the Park Board and conversations with the residents in the area and Davey Tree. The big tree was leaning, and the other tree had a fork split in it making it very prone to wind damage. Both trees were deemed to be dangerous. Mr. York said better communication to the residents and Council would be helpful. On roll call: four ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of The Public Works & Service Committee which met on July 5th at 2:00 PM. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee Member Rob Bartlett and Committee Member Randy York, and Mayor Brown. Topic for discussion was to determine whether to proceed with entering into an energy aggregation program by Energy Alliances for Village residents. As a reminder, Energy Alliances is an independent energy broker and consulting firm that provides comprehensive energy procurement for businesses and communities. This program would be an aggregation for Village residents. There are both electric and gas aggregation programs. This requires a vote of Council to put it on the ballot for residents to vote on whether to participate in the program as a group. The consultant for EA will hold public meetings to provide more information on the program to residents after the election should the ballot pass. Energy Alliance attended the May 22nd Council meeting with a presentation of their program. Their presentation is attached. The Committee recommends placing both the electric and gas aggregation programs on the ballot. Legislation will need to be passed on an emergency in order to submit to the BOE by the August 9th deadline.

Mrs. Rankin said residents will have the option to opt out. The company has communications that will be available for those who do not wish to participate. She contacted other communities that have worked with Energy Alliance and they were all very pleased. On roll call; three ayes, no nays. (Dr. Lewis abstained due to her absence from the Council meeting when the presentation was given).

Miscellaneous:

Mayor Brown said the fireworks were well attended and this year's show was very good. Donations this year have not been the same as in previous years. Donations are still being accepted and can be used towards this year or next year's presentation. Assistant Fire Chief Copeland said the department is working with the company to save the Village money next year. One of the biggest costs is transportation to the Village by truck. The department, as fire marshals, is able to sign off and pick-up and bring the fireworks to the Village saving approximately \$600.

Mayor Brown said the fountain in the square is tarped. The fountain needed to be drained and it needs to be dry order to install the new liner.

Resolutions:

- “Adopting the Budget for 2024; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Dr. Lewis 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. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-29-23 was adopted.
- “To Accept Bid of MSD, Inc., To Authorize Contract; 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. The Resolution had a second reading. Mr. Barlow said several bids were received. The MSD contract was the best fit and it additionally will cover the Boathouse. The Village is designated one person to call. The need for the emergency is so they can come in and clean the units ASAP. They also will video the work completed on all equipment. The Resolution had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded and Mrs. Rankin 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-30-23 was adopted.
- “Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Levying a Tax in Excess of the 10-Mill Limitation for Current Expenses and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith; 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. York 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-31-23 was adopted.
- “Renewal of 3.08-Mill Tax Levy in Excess of 10-Mill Limitation for General operating 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. Bartlett. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis 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-32-23 was adopted.
- “To Convert and Appoint Village Zoning Officer, Rod Holloway, from Independent Contractor to Part-Time Village Employee for the Calendar Years 2023 and 2024” had a first reading.

Ordinances:

- “An Ordinance Authorizing all Actions Necessary to Effect a Governmental Electric Aggregation Program with Opt-Out Provisions Pursuant to Section 4928.20, Ohio Revised Code, Directing the Hamilton County Board of Elections to Submit a Ballot Question to the Electors; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to suspend the rules and allow for the second and third readings. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-13-23 was adopted.

- “An Ordinance Authorizing all Actions Necessary to Effect a Governmental Natural Gas Aggregation Program with Opt-Out Provisions Pursuant to Section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code, Directing the Hamilton County Board of Elections to Submit a Ballot Question to the Electors; and To Declare Emergency”. 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 Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Ordinance. 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. Ordinance No. O-14-23 was adopted.

Task List and Committee Assignments:

Mr. York said he got a proposal from Dominion Energy regarding the EV stations, but he has yet to review it. He will circulate to members of Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Interim Fiscal Officer