

**Village of Mariemont
Special Council Meeting
July 18, 2023**

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

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York to excuse the absence of Mrs. Brownknight. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Mayor Brown said the meeting was to fulfill the vacated Council seat for Leah Geldbaugh.

Mr. Matt Ayer, 3908 Pocahontas, was granted permission to address Council. He previously submitted his resume for Council's review. He has enjoyed his time serving on the Architectural Review Board. His business is being sold to his junior partner, so he will have the time available to commit to Council. What he feels he will bring to Council is the background from owning his own business the past 18 years. It is a challenging type of work when things do not always go well. He has experience of problem solving. His client list includes many who started with him 18 years ago. From his work background, he digs into rules and has experience figuring out complex applications working with government agencies.

Mr. Kevin Veeneman, 3809 Homewood, was granted permission to address Council. He is running due to his concern for the Village. He has a master's degree in city/public administration/management and was active in the city of Norwood's fire department consolidation. He distributed pictures of renovations done to his neighboring house and the way his view has been altered. He is concerned with other matters that are happening in the Village that we need to be aware of. Trees are being indiscriminately taken down to make room for property enhancements and that cannot happen. We do not want to lose our Tree City USA designation. We cannot afford to have setback requirements that are not valid. When the zoning laws are not adhered to violations occur just as they have with the house next door to him. We cannot have builders and realtors realize there are no setback requirements in the Village because the administration has decided that anything goes. He does not want to see that happen. Mr. York visited his home several times and has seen what has happened to his home. He asked, "what's your price?" referring to what it would take to make it go away. He is not interested in price. He will not let trees be torn down and then say they are diseased because Davey Tree says so. It is not what we stand for as a Village.

Mr. York said to correct the record. He was very measured when he met with Mr. Veeneman due to some of the initial conversations that they had. His question to him was "what do you want?". His commitment to him was to look at the code and the building code permit granted to see if there were any violations. He checked the code and determined that no violations occurred and no variances were needed in the neighbor's renovation.

Dr. Lewis said the Village does not have jurisdiction over trees on private property.

Building Official Holloway said if a tree is over 12" in diameter it requires a permit. It may be taken down if it is diseased or in the way of an addition or construction of a home.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to nominate Mr. Ayer to fulfill the vacated unexpired term of Leah Geldbaugh. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Mr. Ayer was sworn in as a member of Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Interim Fiscal Officer