

**Village of Mariemont  
Council Meeting  
July 24, 2023**

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

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the Council Meeting minutes from July 10 and the Budget Hearing from July 10, 2023, as written. On roll call, five ayes, no nays (Mr. Ayer abstained). Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the Special Meeting of Council minutes from July 18, 2023, as written. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mr. Ayer and Mrs. Brownknight abstained).

**Communications:**

\*From Police Chief Hines: June 2023 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown called attention to Officers Steve Watt and Matt Kurtz for assisting in Indian Hill with the apprehension of a couple of auto theft suspects and a stolen gun. There was also a letter in Chief Hines monthly report thanking Police Clerk Vikki Hill for going above and beyond.

\*From Council Member Bartlett: Village Financials June 2023 vs. June 2022. Mr. Bartlett put a comparison together from this time last year with this year and found that overall, the Village is doing well. Revenue is up, mostly because income tax is higher. Expenses are below where they were last year, but last year we had the purchase of the ambulance so if you took the ambulance out we would be about 4.3% higher. That is something to keep an eye on as it is more than we have in the 3% budget. Mayor Brown pointed out that this is just a quick snapshot and there are some grants included here that are not recurring. Dr. Lewis and Mr. Bartlett discussed the condos with tax abatements. Former Fiscal Officer, Richard Ford, gathered data from the Hamilton County Auditor and made a list of which condo units are coming off abatement in 2023.

**Permission to Address Council:**

**Motion to Pay the Bills:**

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

**Committee Reports:**

Village Engineer Chris Ertel got from The Kleingers Group and Choice One for the way the bike path is going to come through Hiawatha and Rembold. Mayor Brown is putting the evaluation of those two estimates and making a determination into which one is the better option into the Safety Committee. We need to take the "Hiawatha, Rembold and Miami Road Recommendations" out of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ayer can hold the committee meeting and make a determination on which company we will use and let them proceed. From there we can decide which committee it will then go into.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Only one member of Council may serve on the Planning Commission and on ARB. Mayor Brown appointed Dr. Lewis to Planning Commission, to fulfill the vacancy from Ms. Geldbaugh. Mr. Ayer will stay on ARB.
- Village offices will be closed on September 4, 2023, in observance of Labor Day.

- Dr. Lewis stated that they met with Envision on July 19, 2023. They will have a follow-up meeting on August 14, 2023 with Emil later in the day so that Council members will have a chance to meet with him and answer any questions.
- Mrs. Rankin has been working diligently on getting the tax budget submitted to the county auditor. It has been submitted successfully. Mayor Brown thanked Mrs. Rankin for her work on the submission.
- Mr. York brought up the Centennial puzzle. The Village owns the rights to the Centennial print done by artist Kate Albert. MPF is asking for permission to make puzzles out of that print for fund-raising purposes. Mayor Brown will work Solicitor McTigue to prepare something to be signed. MPF would like to see these at the Taste of Mariemont on August 27<sup>th</sup>. It can be brought before Council at the next meeting for approval. Mr. York said the funds raised would go into the Centennial budget.

**Resolutions:**

- “To Convert and Appoint Village Zoning Officer, Rod Holloway, from Independent Contractor to Part-Time Village Employee Calendar Years 2023 and 2024” had a second reading. Mayor Brown stressed again how well Mr. Holloway is doing in this role. Solicitor McTigue agreed.
- “Resolution Approving Appropriation Reallocations in Fund 4901; 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. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading. The \$15,000 is coming from the Kubota that we are not going to purchase for the Service Department. The remaining amount is being reallocated from a line in 4901 to a new line in 4901 that Fiscal Officer Rankin will create. The National Exemplar will reimburse the Village for the restoration of the clock. Mayor Brown expects that it will take a couple of months. The Resolution had a third reading. Mrs. Brownknight moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-33-23 was adopted.

**Ordinances:**

**Task List and Committee Assignments:**

Mr. Ayer asked if the pool tasks would be in the Safety Committee or in the Health and Recreation Committee. Mayor Brown said Ms. Geldbaugh is still engaged with issues at the pool. Mr. Ayer could consult with Ms. Geldbaugh about pool-related issues through the end of the pool season. Mr. York and Terry Donovan are working together on a five-year plan for the pool. It was agreed to put the pool tasks back in Mr. York’s committee.

Mrs. Rankin suggested we remove the “long-term plan recommending painting of lamp poles” from Public Works as that work has been finished. Mr. York discussed the “village wide benches” under Health and Recreation. He has sent information to resident Brenda Westfall who is going to put some recommendations together for the benches. He expects to have a report in a few weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Kelly I. Rankin, Interim Fiscal Officer