

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
September 11, 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, Dr. Lewis and Mr. York.

Mayor Brown said this is the 22nd anniversary of 9-11. He asked for a moment of silence to remember the families of those who lost their lives and the heroes who raced to help others.

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

Minutes:

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis, to accept the Council Meeting minutes from August 28, 2023, as written. On roll call; two ayes, one nay (Mr. York), Mr. Bartlett abstained due to his absence from the meeting. Mr. York said he cannot approve the minutes because he does not believe they accurately describe what happened at the meeting. He does not want to make corrections in this forum. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to table the minutes until the next Council meeting as the vote did not accept the minutes. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Mr. Ayer asked if Mr. York could work on correcting the minutes and give to Mrs. Van Pelt his suggestions which represent more appropriately what happened at the meeting. Mr. York said sure.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: August 2023 Monthly Report. He said tomorrow one of the Village's distinguished decorated residents, Jerry Vianello, retired Colonel with the US Marine Corps, will be on the honor flight to Washington, D.C. He plans to attend as it is well deserved.

Officer Rachel Hays was successful in the promotion process and will be promoted to Sergeant on September 17, 2023. She will be attending the Council meeting on September 25, 2023. She was also recently inducted into UC Clermont's Sports Hall of Fame. She was an All-American volleyball player.

*From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: August 2023 Monthly Report

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: August 2023 Monthly Report

*From Engineer Ertel: Memo Dated September 7, 2023 re: Hiawatha Avenue Additional Work. The work has begun with the milling, leveling, grinding and eventually the curb work. He anticipates the work to take 30 days. The Choice One intersection study traffic counts were to start tomorrow, but he asked them to hold off while the construction is underway. The plan is to do a three-day study (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday). The study could happen while they are doing the curb work, but he has asked them to wait. Mayor Brown said he believes we need to have the traffic study to review before we make the decision to do the additional work. Mr. Bartlett agreed and added if the removal of the Indianview cut through is linked to path going across, then the path project should pay for it, not the street project.

Permission to Address Council:

Motion to Pay the Bills:

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

Committee Reports:

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 4:00 pm to discuss the waste and recycling fee paid by residents of the Village. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, Finance Committee Members Kelly Rankin and Marcy Lewis, Mayor Bill Brown, and Part Time Administrator Chuck Barlow. Council recently approved accepting a 3% increase in 2024 on the fee that Rumpke charges the Village for collecting waste and recycling. Based on year-to-date actuals, the expenses incurred by the Village are projected to exceed the revenue collected via the waste and recycling fee plus the recycling rebate we receive from Hamilton County by ~\$400. Taking into account the 3% increase from Rumpke, in order for the Village to be break even (including the recycling rebate), the Village would need to increase its fees by 3.3%. Currently, the fee is \$19.00/month for a house and \$14.26/month for an apartment and is collected via Greater Cincinnati Water Works. With a 3.3% increase and rounding up to maintain a \$4.75 differential between houses and apartments, the proposed fees for 2024 would be \$19.75/month for a house and \$15.00/month for an apartment. The Committee voted unanimously to support the new proposed fees for 2024. If Council agrees with this recommendation, the fee increase needs to be passed via resolution. The first reading of the resolution would be at the next Council meeting. All three readings can then be completed in time such that the fee increase can go into effect on January 1, 2024. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

- Mayor Brown referred to the Public Works and Service Committee discussion regarding the re-organization of the Service Department with the upcoming retirement of John Scherpenberg and Kevin Schmid. Those roles will then be posted.

Resolutions:

- “To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for the Dale Park Improvement Project” had the third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-38-23 was adopted.
- “To Appoint Steve Pipkin as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2023 and 2024” had a second reading.

Ordinances:

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Task List:

Mayor Brown said Mrs. Rankin requested to have the Dog Park removed due to the lack of liability insurance coverage. A private citizen could continue to look into the matter if the park was located on private property.

Mr. Bartlett said he knows Mrs. Rankin has been filling in as Interim Fiscal Officer and hopes that she applies but was curious if the Fiscal Officer position had been posted. Mayor Brown said he has sent inquiries to eight other traveling clerks and had correspondence with several of them. No interest was noted. During the interim time, Mrs. Rankin was expressing a greater interest in becoming the Fiscal Officer. He is allowing her this time to complete whatever studies she wishes to do to formulate her decision.

Mr. Bartlett asked Mayor Brown the status of the financial recap. He feels the information would be helpful to residents and it is part of our Code of Ordinances. Mayor Brown said his hope would be to put something together at the end of the year once the role of the Fiscal Officer is established. Dr. Lewis said Mr. Ford did a year-to-date report before he left that was helpful. It was suggested to use that report as a template to follow as it was easy to read.

Mayor Brown updated Council on the fountain repair. The project is close to being finalized. The base of the fountain leaks and needs to be sealed with a layer of cement. Once dried, it needs to be re-painted, but he hopes the fountain will be up and running soon.

Mr. Bartlett asked if the Village received a bill from Meurer for the tennis court repairs. His understanding was that some of the payment was going to be held back due to the courts puddling. Engineer Ertel said we did receive a bill and 90% of the payment was authorized. They will come back and repair when there is a break in play at the courts.

Mayor Brown said he and Mr. Ayer are working on three of the sections of trellis at the Concourse (there are approximately 40 sections). He is in the process of cutting the cedar cross member. They were extremely pleased with the quote they received for the lumber and materials. The cedar is authentic to what is there so the look will be replicated. The Service Department will help with the dismantling and the cutting down of the wisteria. Mr. Bartlett noted that \$80,000 was set aside this year and \$80,000 for next year. It will be helpful to have a better number to budget for Capital Improvements for next year. Mayor Brown said they are working to realistically determine what it will cost to finish the project. Mr. Ayer said the cedar was approximately \$40,000. The scroll work was much higher than anticipated. Residents have volunteered to do the cutting of the scroll work. The wisteria will be cut to the ground. It will take a couple years to grow and re-flower. Dr. Lewis said to be cognizant that October 6th is Homecoming and many will take their pictures at that location.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Interim Fiscal Officer