

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
October 23, 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.

Mayor Brown asked for a moment of silence in memory of resident Martin Koepke. He was a great guy and was of tremendous value to our Village. He and Mr. Ayer were able to see him recently and presented him with a proclamation. His loss will be felt throughout Mariemont.

Minutes:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to accept the minutes as written for October 9, 2023. Mr. Bartlett referenced the fire bay heater. According to the five-year forecast it was budgeted for Capital Improvement, but the spending request shows the payment coming from the General Fund. Mrs. Rankin said she would work with Ms. Uhrig should an appropriation change be needed. On roll call; five ayes, no nays (Mr. Bartlett abstained due to his absence).

Communications:

From Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency: Email Dated 10-9-23 re: Resolution of Adoption.

Permission to Address Council:

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to pay the bills as submitted. Mr. York asked if the Village received reimbursement from Hamilton County on the mini planning grant. Mrs. Rankin said approximately \$18,000 was received and Engineer Ertel was to submit a request for reimbursement of \$12,000 for Kleinger's Group. She said the \$40,000 from MRF was received as well. On roll call: six ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee which met on October 17th at 3:00 PM to discuss the Service Department structure with the retirement of John Scherpenberg and Kevin Schmid at the end of the year. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee Member Randy York, Village Council Member Marcy Lewis, Village Administrator Chuck Barlow, Maintenance Supervisor John Scherpenberg, Maintenance employee Ben James and Mayor Brown. Discussion was had to determine what classification type of employees is best suited to allow the department to run effectively. There is a need for two individuals to be hired. It was decided that further analysis of one of the roles of the Service Dept is necessary to decide precisely what skills are desirable. Chairperson Rankin and Ben James will investigate the possibility of a maintenance agreement with Honest One in Fairfax. This will be revisited in the week of 10/23/23. The Committee recommends launching an immediate search for the job description attached to allow sufficient time for the search process.

Mrs. Rankin said the Committee discussed whether we needed a mechanic to fill the upcoming vacancy of Kevin Schmid. The thought was to check with Honest One to do standard maintenance on the service and police vehicles. After talking with Chief Hines, he indicated that the police department has a good working relationship with Tire Discounters on Red Bank Road. She believes it would be in the best interest of the Village to have a conversation with them as well. Mayor Brown said we do not need a mechanic to change oil. The scale and scope of the work needs to be more defined. Mr. Ayer commented that Kevin Schmid, who is retiring at the end of the year

possesses strong special mechanical skills – he will be hard to replace. It is possible he may be willing to come back on a part-time basis.

It was discussed and agreed that the job for the general laborer would be posted with the Center for Local Government. Part-Time Administrator Barlow said he will reach out to Great Oaks/Scarlet Oaks to post the position as well. It was suggested to post on Indeed.com. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

- Leaf Season will begin the week of October 23, 2023, and end the week of December 18, 2023.
- Beggar’s Night will be Tuesday October 31, 2023, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Village Offices will be closed Friday November 10, 2023, in Observation of Veterans Day. Items for the Council packet must be received in the Village Office on Thursday November 9, 2023, by 11:00 a.m.
- The Council Meeting in December will be held Monday December 18, 2023, immediately following the Permanent Improvement meeting at 5:30. However, the Council meeting will start no later than 6:30 p.m.

Resolutions:

- “To Reappoint Brad Lockhart as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a third reading. Mr. York moved seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-41-23 was adopted.
- “To Reappoint Tina Getter as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a third reading. Mr. York moved seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-42-23 was adopted.
- “To Appoint Aileen Beatty as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Year 2024” had a second reading.
- “To Reappoint Brad Lockhart as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2024” had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-43-23 was adopted.
- “To Reappoint Brian Kelly as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-44-23 was adopted.
- “To Reappoint Tom Gilmore as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a third reading. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-45-23 was adopted.
- “To Confirm the Reappointment of Michael Lockhart as Swim Pool Manager for Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-46-23 was adopted.
- “To Reappoint Andrew Seeger as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024” had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-47-23 was adopted.
- “To Reappoint Steve Spooner as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024” had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-48-23 was adopted.

- “To Reappoint Mark Glassmeyer as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024” had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-49-23 was adopted.
- “To Reappoint John Fakes as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024” had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-50-23 was adopted.
- “To Reappoint Jon Morgan as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2024” had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-51-23 was adopted.
- “To Reappoint Barbara Whittaker as a Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2024” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-52-23 was adopted.
- “To Reappoint Marcy Lewis as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-53-23 was adopted.
- “To Confirm the Reappointment of Chuck Barlow as Part-Time Village Administrator for Calendar Year 2024” had a second reading. Dr. Lewis thanked Mr. Barlow for the work he had done. He has worked hard at the pool and at the tennis courts. She noted that he took on some of Richard Ford’s roles after his departure and has helped Mrs. Rankin in the Interim Fiscal Officer position. He has been helpful to the Economic & Development Steering Committee with his wide base of knowledge of tax and municipal government has been instrumental and helpful. Mr. Bartlett said he spoke with Solicitor McTigue regarding Sunshine Law and going into Executive Session to consider appointment of a public employee. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to go into Executive Session at the end of the regular Council meeting to discuss the reappointment of Chuck Barlow as Part-Time Village Administrator. Dr. Lewis noted from a seminar that certain aspects of employment are allowed in Executive Session and certain personnel issues must be specific. Mr. York stated the code reads Council may enter Executive Session “to consider appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion/demotion or compensation of a public employee”. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.
- “To Confirm the Appointment of Kelly I. Rankin as Village Fiscal Officer, and To Establish Pay Rate” had a first reading.
- “Resolution Adopting the Hamilton County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; 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; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-54-23 was adopted.
- “A Resolution Authorizing the Village to Apply for 2024 Community Development Block Grant (ACDBG@) for the Dogwood Park Project; and To Declare Emergency”. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading. Mr. York said he knows they do like to fund parks. There is also a community economic development grant which could do street scapes. He will circulate the information to rest of Council. The grant is up to \$300,000 with no match. It is a payback reimbursement. The deadline to apply is November 28, 2023. The target is to get funding for senior services/accessibility. The Resolution had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett

moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-55-23 was adopted.

- “To Accept the Amount and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor; 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; six 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; 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-56-23 was adopted.

Ordinances:

- “To Amend Section 51.17 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances, To Increase Fees Collected for Garbage and Refuse Pick-Up” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-16-23 was adopted.
- “To Repeal Ordinance O-14-14; To Enter Into Contract with H. Hafner & Sons, Inc. for Brush, Gravel, Dirt Construction Fill and Leaf Dumping in Consideration for Money and the Right to Farm Part of the South 80 Acres” had a first reading. Mayor Brown explained the nature of the contract. Mr. York said the South 80 Committee has some questions regarding the contract. He will circulate those to Council. One of the big questions is Village’s “out” of the contract. It is a good arrangement for the Village, but there are questions to be answered. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Ayer to change the title to a Resolution versus Ordinance due to it pertaining to a contract. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Task List:

Dr. Lewis asked how much time Mr. Barlow is spending in the Part-Time Administrator role. Is it 50/50? PT Administrator Barlow said he did not think it was supposed to be 50/50 as it was never really defined, but it probably equals that depending on the project.

Mr. Bartlett asked for an update on the decision on the Village website. According to Ms. Wendler, if we are going to make a change, Council should make the decision by this month. PT Administrator Barlow said he has been in touch with Civic Plus (they provide the website for many local municipalities). He is in the process of setting up a zoom meeting. The Mayor is also in the process of talking with an IT Administrator replacement.

Council moved to Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to return to Regular Council at 8:34 p.m. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Kelly I. Rankin, Interim Fiscal Officer