

**Village of Mariemont
Council Meeting
November 13, 2023**

Mayor Bill Brown called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Ayer, Mr. Bartlett, Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Rankin, and Mr. York.

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

Minutes:

Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to accept the Council Meeting minutes from October 23, 2023, as written. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Communications:

*From Police Chief Hines: October 2023 Monthly Report.

*From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: October 2023 Monthly Report. Superintendent Scherpenberg noted that the Village has had an agreement with Hafner & Sons since 1983. Nothing has changed other than pricing. There is not an actual contract in place other than the legislation. It has been tweaked over the years. As long as we buy our supplies from them, we get the leaves and brush dumped for free. It saves us between \$3,000-\$10,000 annually. If we did not have the contract, it would be \$55-65 per truckload. The other change is that the gardeners now till their own plots. Mr. York confirmed with Superintendent Scherpenberg that we have an on-demand out of the agreement, as does Hafner.

*From Tax Administrator Barlow: October 2023 Monthly Report

*From Tree Advisory Board: Email Dated October 25, 2023: re: Position on Dogwood Park Centennial Proposal. The Tree Advisory Board made some proposals and recommendations regarding the trees in Dogwood Park. Mr. York met with the board and discussed updates with Kleingers based on the recommendations of the board.

Permission to Address Council:

Ms. Karen Koetzle, 3865 Beech Street, was granted permission to address Council. Ms. Koetzle did not understand why her leaves were not picked up until the fourth week of leaf collection. In the past, she said she has always had weekly pickup. Mayor Brown explained that the leaves dropped later this season and we have three working trucks. Ms. Koetzle wanted it on the record that she was not happy about the leaf collection. She also expressed dissatisfaction with the streetlight that was replaced with a peach-colored light rather than a white light, based on the request of a neighbor, Mr. Wolter. Ms. Koetzle is concerned that it is too dark and poses a security risk near her property. Mayor Brown spoke with Duke Energy about the replacement. Duke said there would be an additional monthly charge if we were to change it back to white. Ms. Koetzle suggested that Mr. Wolter should have to pay that expense. Ms. Koetzle was also upset about large trucks trying to drive on Lane A. Yesterday there was an accident with a U-Haul truck that did a considerable amount of damage. She said that the signs do not keep the trucks from driving on the lane and the police are not keeping the trucks off the lane and are not following up with the drivers. Ms. Koetzle suggested putting a canopy up to keep tall trucks off Lane A. Ms. Koetzle explained that she is frustrated that this is still a problem after 40 years. Mayor Brown promised to personally follow-up with the insurance company to make sure the claim is handled properly and the corner is restored. Mayor Brown said that Chief Hines will need to speak with the officers on how to address the truck traffic. They will discuss it further and try to come up with a solution.

Ms. Mandy Beecroft, Manager at the Mariemont Branch Library, was granted permission to address Council. She went over some of the programs planned for November. They are having “dinovember” all month long for the kids. They will have dinosaur puzzles, dinosaur scavenger hunts, a dinosaur excavation ball pit, and dinosaur-themed story times. On December 5th they will host a holiday spectacular, teaching kids to sing holiday songs from around the world, and a card-making program for adults on November 18th. On December 2nd they will host a Saturday morning coffee club with free local coffees for people to sample.

Motion to Pay the Bills:

Village Engineer Ertel confirmed that OPWC gets billed directly for the other portion of the work on Hiawatha. The final invoice came in and is split 45/55 with OPWC. Interim Fiscal Officer Ranking confirmed to Mr. Bartlett that the Village had received the \$40,000 MRF grant money. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to pay the bills as submitted. On roll call: five ayes, no nays.

Committee Reports:

Ms. Rankin prepared to present her report from the Public Works & Service Committee but wanted to make an amendment to the report. She inadvertently left off one item and wanted to make a change on the streets that they want to submit for the SORTA grant that came as a result of the 5-Year Capital Meeting.

The Public Works & Service Committee met on November 1st at 3:30 PM to continue discussion regarding 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 Rob Bartlett, Committee Member Randy York, Village Administrator Chuck Barlow, Maintenance Supervisor John Scherpenberg, Maintenance employee Ben James, Councilperson Marcy Lewis, and Mayor Brown.

The Committee also met at 4:00 to discuss the recommendation for streets to be submitted for SORTA grant in 2025. Village Engineer Chris Ertel joined the meeting.

Discussion was had to determine the second role classification (as recommendation for one of the roles was made at the October 23rd Council meeting). The Committee recognizes the need for someone to be the point person and/or on-site contact for certain projects and a leader for the department. The Committee recommends posting a position for the Maintenance Supervisor immediately. Due to the limited timeframe, the Committee agreed to allow the job to be posted prior to the 11/13 meeting.

The second topic regarded the streets to be selected for the SORTA grant application for 2025 funding. After discussion and recommendation by Engineer Ertel, the Committee recommends the following streets to be selected for grant submission:

Mariemont Connector: Plainville & Murray Intersection (only)

Pleasant St – Mariemont to Mariemont

Miami Bluff Dr – Midden Way to Harvard St (amend this; bump this out to 2028 and submit application to do entire Miami Bluff; move the Rembold project to 2025)

Center St – Miami Bluff to Mt Vernon Ave

Note: the street projects selected may need to be revised based upon the funding priorities of the 2024 Transportation Infrastructure Funds guidance documents.

Village Engineer Ertel explained that based on their schedule and the way we have funding lined up for the Mariemont Connector to be built from Miami to the library, that will be completed at the end of next year so we could apply for Rembold the year after that with the construction finished on the Mariemont Connector work.

It makes more sense to apply for the funding for Rembold instead of Miami Bluff. We can apply for the entirety of Miami Bluff in 2026 or 2027.

Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the report of the Public Works and Service Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. York, to amend the report of the Public Works and Service Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Village Engineer Ertel said the amendment is for the applications for the SORTA grant. In 2024 we will go to bid on Grove and Pocahontas. That requires legislation and can be discussed at a future meeting. Ms. Rankin's amendment is to change the streets for 2025 and to add on the recommendation for Hamilton County Stormwater grant application legislation.

Miscellaneous:

- Leaf Season will end the week of December 18, 2023
- Village Offices will be Closed Thursday November 23rd and Friday November 24th in Observation of Thanksgiving. **Materials for the November 27th Council meeting must be received by the office before noon on Wednesday November 22nd.**
- 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.
- Village Offices will be Closed Monday December 25, 2023, in Observation of Christmas.
- Village Offices will be Closed Monday January 1, 2024, in Observation of New Year's Day.

Resolutions:

- "To Appoint Aileen Beatty as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Year 2024" had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-57-23 was adopted.
- "To Confirm the Reappointment of Chuck Barlow as Part-Time Village Administrator for Calendar Year 2024" had a third reading. Dr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; four ayes, one nay (Mr. York dissenting). Mr. York was not comfortable voting yes as there is no job description and no measurables. Mr. Bartlett confirmed that Mayor Brown and Mr. Ayer are working on the job description and measurables and will have those finalized by the Council meeting in December. Mayor Brown said the job description will be finished by the end of the year. Resolution No. R-58-23 was adopted.
- "To Confirm the Appointment of Kelly I. Rankin as Village Fiscal Officer; and To Establish Pay Rate" had a second reading. Mr. Bartlett and Ms. Rankin have been working from former Fiscal Officer Ford's MOU to establish the job description and measurables for the Fiscal Officer position. That will be finished by the end of the year. Mr. Ayer asked what specific training Mrs. Rankin is taking to meet the qualifications listed in the Ohio Revised Code to be a Fiscal Officer. Mrs. Rankin was told by the Auditor of State that there is no point in taking the training now, as it won't count until she is officially in the Fiscal Officer position. In the meantime, Mrs. Rankin has been reading the official Fiscal Officer's Handbook.
- "To Reappoint Louise Schomburg as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years of 2024 and 2025" had a first reading.

- “To Appoint Alicia Stock as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a first reading.
- “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.
- “Resolution Authorizing Application and Contracting with Hamilton County for the Hamilton County Stormwater Infrastructure Grant; 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; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. York moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin, to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-59-23 was adopted.

Ordinances:

Task List:

Mr. Bartlett suggested that there be a separate entry for the LED lighting because that is a separate grant from the EV charging stations. Mayor Brown noted that for the EV stations, most of the sites they looked at were private property and we can't use private property. Engineer Ertel and Mayor Brown have been talking about having Duke Energy come out and tell us if there is enough juice in the street in the parking area near the square where we could put maybe one or two charging stations. If there is enough power available there, then we will move forward with the grant.

The ARB met in the historic area about LED lighting and made a selection about which was most appropriate. It was agreed to put the issue back in the Public Works committee. Council also agreed to change 2023 to 2024 for the “Transit Infrastructure Fund Application Grant” in the Public Works and Service Committee.

Mr. Bartlett requested that the 2024 salary increase be added to the Finance Committee. Mr. York noted that Dale Park is on the agenda twice in Health and Recreation. It was agreed to remove “Dale Park Plan” from the agenda and leave “Review Dale Park Rehabilitation Plan.”

Mr. Ayer suggested that we remove “establish process to address traffic and speed concerns” from the Safety Committee as it is vague. Chief Hines said they put the speed sign up on Miami and increased the police presence there. It would make more sense to address specific areas as they come up. Chief Hines agreed with Mrs. Rankin that the speed sign on Miami has been effective, and it is important to keep it there now.

Mr. York wondered, with Issue 2 passing, if we should look at rules about cannabis being grown in the South 80. Solicitor McTigue said it is municipal property so we can prohibit it in that area. People can grow up to six plants on their own property. Solicitor McTigue will work on an ordinance to prohibit the planting of marijuana on municipal property. The Village already has existing ordinances about selling it, but growing is a separate issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Kelly I. Rankin, Interim Fiscal Officer