

**Village of Mariemont  
Council Meeting  
December 18, 2023**

Mayor Bill Brown called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mr. Ayer, Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Brownknight, Mrs. Rankin, and Mr. York.

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

**Minutes:**

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York, to accept the Council Meeting minutes from November 27, 2023, as written. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

**Communications:**

\* From Police Chief Hines: November 2023 Monthly Report. Chief Hines reported that due to a more proactive patrol, they have been able to reach the goal of reduced thefts.

\*From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: November 2023 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown said Mr. Scherpenberg will be missed by many as he nears his retirement at the end of the year. Chief Hines thanked Mr. Scherpenberg for many years of working together and for his friendship.

\*From Tax Administrator Barlow: November 2023 Monthly Report. He reported that the Village is up \$330,000 over last year. He projects that the Village will be able to carry over \$300,000 to 2024.

\*From Building Official Holloway: November 2023 Monthly Report/Ordinance O-15-22 Implementation. He noted that rental certificates have trickled to a halt. He previously sent to Council a memo looking for recommendations for increasing the enforcement otherwise by the end of 2025 we will be out of compliance with the Ordinance. His recommendation was to send another note indicating when inspections will be conducted in plain view and citations will be issued for violations per the International Property Maintenance Code. The letter will be reviewed by the Village Solicitor prior to distribution.

Mr. York said the outreach has been exceptional, but we have not seen results. By following Mr. Holloway's recommendations will show that the Village is serious about this.

Council was in support of Mr. Holloway's plan of action which was reviewed by Solicitor McTigue. He did not find that it presented any liability exposure for the Village.

\*From Fiscal Officer Rankin: November 2023 Monthly Report. Mr. York asked that he and Mrs. Rankin go over the numbers for Dogwood Park, as his numbers differ.

\*From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: Thank You - Retirement

**Permission to Address Council:**

**Motion to Pay the Bills:**

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

**Committee Reports:**

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday December 12, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss the annual salary increases for Mariemont employees in 2024. Present at meeting were Finance Committee Members Rob Bartlett, Kelly Rankin and Marcy Lewis. Also in attendance were Mayor Bill Brown, Chuck Barlow, Joanee Van Pelt, Allison Uhrig, Rich Hines, Bob Van Stone and Ben James. Salary data was collected from a number of neighboring communities of similar size to see how Mariemont’s salaries compared for different roles. The goal of the Committee is for Mariemont’s roles to be in the middle of their salary range. To be clear. The salaries that are being voted on establish the maximum pay for each role and are based on what the marketplace is paying for that role. The salary ranges are not indicative of the performance of the person in the role. The direct manager is the person who manages the individual’s salary based on performance using the salary ranges and the annual bonus. Attached are two documents which show where Mariemont’s maximum salaries stand relative to the other communities, as well as an attachment with the proposed increase in the maximum salary for each role. For full-time employees, The Finance Committee is recommending a base increase of 3%. For those roles that were not in the middle of the salary range, adjustments were made to the percent increase to move the roles closer to the average. The salary changes in the attached were unanimously approved by the Committee. These changes would go into effect with the second pay period in April, which would start on April 14, 2024.

Mr. Bartlett said the report should include a 3% increase for the Assistant Fire Chief. Mr. Ayer moved, seconded by Mr. York to amend the report to include an increase for the Assistant Fire Chief role. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Thursday December 14, 2023, at 5:00 pm. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee members Matthew Ayer (Chair) and Rob Bartlett (Vice Chair). The Committee discussed the opportunity to apply for a WRIG grant to purchase and install a water bottle filling station at the Pool. The grant requires a 25% local match. The total installed cost for the unit is between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Matt would firm up an estimate for the installation before preparing the grant application for signature by the Mayor. The grant has no firm application date, it is a “rolling” grant, with awards given continuously with available funds for qualifying projects. However, submitting an application immediately will help make it possible to install the unit for the upcoming season. For that reason, it is recommended to pass a Resolution as an emergency. The Committee recommends applying for this grant. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Tuesday December 12, 2023, at 5:30 pm. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee members Matthew Ayer (Chair), Rob Bartlett (Vice Chair), and Randy York (Member. The Safety Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to Council the adoption of the Pool Commission’s suggested rates, and to have legislation prepared for the December 18, 2023, meeting. The Pool Commission is planning to commence its membership drive beginning in January. For that reason, it is recommended to pass the Ordinance as an emergency.

<b>2024 MARIEMONT POOL MEMBERSHIP FEES &amp; DAILY PASS RATES</b>				
<b>Village of Mariemont Residents</b>				
Season Memberships				Daily Pass
Family	Family & Babysitter	Individual (Adult or Child)	Senior Individual	
<b>\$469</b>	<b>\$589</b>	<b>\$199</b>	<b>\$179</b>	<b>\$15</b>

<b>School District Residents Outside Village of Mariemont</b>				
Season Memberships				Daily Pass
Family Season Membership	Family & Babysitter Season Membership	Individual (Adult or Child)	Senior Individual	
<b>\$549</b>	<b>\$699</b>	<b>\$249</b>	<b>\$215</b>	<b>\$18</b>

**Swim Team: \$100      Swim Lessons:      \$75**

Mr. Ayer said the Committee also agreed to eliminate the free guest passes. The Ordinance will need to be amended to reflect the same. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The Public Works & Service Committee met on November 30th at 4:00 PM to discuss recommendation of street projects to go to bid for 2024. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee member Rob Bartlett, Committee Member Randy York, Councilperson elect Bob Van Stone and Village Engineer Chris Ertel. Discussion was had to submit the previously recommended 2024 road projects for bid. Also, Building Administrator Rod Holloway had submitted photos regarding issues with various street conditions. Mr. Ertel requested time to review these conditions before making any recommendation.

The Committee recommends Village Engineer Chris Ertel request bids for the following 2024 street projects:

1. Pocahontas Ave (from Hiawatha to Wooster).
2. Grove Ave (to be shared with Columbia Township).
3. Pleasant St. Stormwater repair.
4. Significant street damage deemed needing repair as recommended by Village Engineer.

Legislation will need to be passed on an emergency in order to allow sufficient time for the bid process.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to amend the report to include obtaining a bid for the chapel parking lot. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to accept the amended report. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Leaf Season will end the week of December 18, 2023
- 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 Reappoint Louise Schomburg as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years of 2024 and 2025” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-62-23 was adopted.
- “To Appoint Alicia Stock as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-63-23 was adopted.
- “To Appoint Tim Wiley as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a first reading.
- “To Appoint Dave Middleton as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2024 and 2025” had a second reading.
- “To Appoint Larry Gray as a voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2024” had a second reading.
- “To Appoint Steve Pipkin as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for Calendar Year 2024” had a second reading.
- “To Reappoint Marianne Prue as a Non-Voting Member of the Tree Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2024” had a second 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 third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-64-23 was adopted.
- “A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Mariemont to Apply for a 2024 Saving America’s Treasures (“SAT”) Federal Grant for the Family Stauary Project; and to Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to table the Resolution for now and reapply at a later date. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.
- “Resolution Approving Grant Application with Hamilton County Solid Waste district for a Water Filling Station at the Mariemont Pool 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. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York 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-65-23 was adopted.
- “To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for 2024 Street Repairs; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to suspend the rules to allow for the second reading and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to amend the Resolution to add the bid for the chapel parking lot. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York 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-66-23 was adopted.

- Resolution to Update Swimming Pool Fees for Calendar Year 2024; 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. The Resolution had a second reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to amend the Resolution to remove the line “free guest passes”. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved seconded by Mr. York 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-66-23 was adopted.

**Ordinances:**

- “Ordinance Amending Certain Provisions of the Village Income Tax Code; To Wit: Sections 98.01 et. seq., of the Mariemont Code of Ordinance; 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 Ordinance had a second reading. Mr. Barlow said this will make the Village compliant with House Bill 33 incorporating verbiage changes. The Ordinance had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. York to adopt the Ordinance. 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. Ordinance No. O-17 was adopted.

**Task List:**

Mr. Bartlett asked to have energy aggregation referred to the Public Works and Service Committee.

Mr. Bartlett asked to have the Waste and Recycling contract merge with Center for Local Government referred to the Public Works and Service Committee.

Mr. Bartlett asked for an update on the job descriptions for the Village Administrator and Fiscal Officer. Mayor Brown said they are coming along.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

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William A. Brown, Mayor

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Kelly I. Rankin, Fiscal Officer