

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
JANUARY 10, 2011**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Andrews, Mr. Black, Mr. Miller, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Scheeser and Mr. Wolter.

Mayor Policastro presented and read to Mrs. Bevis a Resolution in Recognition of Service to former Council Member and Vice-Mayor Rex Bevis. Mayor Policastro also presented to Mrs. Bevis a key to the Village. Mrs. Bevis thanked Mayor Policastro and members of Council on behalf of her husband.

Mayor Policastro said Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Travers has completed his 180-day probationary period and it is recommended he be moved to Regular Full Time employment status. He has done a great job and he thanked him for all the great things that have happened in the last 180 days. Chief Hines said he seconded the Mayor's comments and recommended that Assistant Fire Chief Travers be taken off probationary status. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Ms. Sullivan moved seconded by Mr. Scheeser to accept the minutes as written for December 27, 2010. On roll call; four ayes with Mr. Andrews and Mr. Scheeser abstaining.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Police Chief Hines: December 2010 Monthly Report. Chief Hines said a thank you card was received from a resident addressed to the Mariemont Fire Department which read: "I want to thank you for serving our community. Our family is eternally grateful for your quick action to assist me on my trip to Bethesda North Hospital on Sunday December 19, 2010. Your quick response helped to put into motion the saving of my life. I was in a state of shock from internal bleeding when you picked me up. I was able to receive emergency surgery in less than two hours after our call to you. Thank you for serving and risking your life for us." The fire personnel on the scene were Assistant Chief Travers, Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Getha, Firefighter/Paramedic Boyd Collett, Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Ramsey and Firefighter/EMT Josh Watren. It was a really good job by our troops and he is proud of them.

From Assistant Fire Chief Travers: December 2010 Monthly Report. Assistant Chief Travers said in regards to the call they were responding to a woman complaining of flu like symptoms. She was 7 ½ months pregnant and complaining of belly pain. Upon examination they did not find anything trauma wise but they knew she needed to go to the hospital. She is the mother of several young children and she did not want to go to the hospital but they basically talked her into it. They got her in the squad, took her vitals and started an IV and transported her to Bethesda North. The follow up they received was that she was bleeding internally and required emergency surgery.

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: December 2010 Monthly Report/Annual Report.

From Building Commissioner Malone: December 2010 Monthly Report. Mr. Wolter asked about the building code violations on the Steam Plant. He has been greatly concerned about safety issues for several years. He asked what the specific violations were. Building Commissioner Malone said basically the building is falling apart and there are a host of dangerous situations. The chain link fence that was designed to keep kids out is no longer there. Looking inside the building you can tell that there is significant partying going on. It has been an uphill fight with the property owner who has not been responsive to Village directives to get the building demolished or corrected. Mr. Wolter asked what the outcome can be long term. Building Commissioner Malone said the only sure fire way to get the problem taken care of is to start condemnation proceedings which are quite elaborate and difficult to do. Once the building was condemned the Village would have the authority to arrange for demolition at our cost and then put it on the property as a tax lien. The whole process could take years. Mr. Wolter asked if the owner has the resources to pay for the cost. Building Commissioner Malone said he does not believe so. Mayor Policastro said if the owner does not do something we have no choice but to continue citing him. Mr. Wolter asked about getting estimates to block the openings. Solicitor McTigue said we cannot do that without the property owner's permission. However, he believes the owner may be willing to work with the Village on getting estimates to lock the building. Every day the property stands in violation it is a new criminal offense. Mr. Wolter said the first priority is the safety and keeping kids out of the place. Solicitor McTigue said the property owner has asked for a continuance in Mayor's Court but he can only continue the matter for so long. To date we have not pushed too much because we are more interested in getting the matter resolved than collecting revenue through fines. It was determined to cement block the openings would be approximately \$1000.

From Tax Administrator Judd: December 2010 Monthly Report/Waste Collection Report/Annual Report. Mr. Judd reported that we were 3.7% down in collections last year which is better than the previous year.

From MariElders: Monthly recap ending November 2010

From Treasurer Borgerding: Preliminary December 2010 Monthly Report. Mayor Policastro said the report shows that we will balance the budget for 2010 and we will end with a million dollar balance for the 10th straight year. Treasurer Borgerding said he is still waiting on the bank statement from Star Ohio Bank. Once the interest payments are reallocated we should end with plus \$26,000. Mr. Scheeser said last month it was projected we would have a \$65,000 deficit estimate a month ago so we really turned the corner. Treasurer Borgerding said it really shows the hard work that has been done this year. Mayor Policastro said in the last couple of years we have had a lot of hard decisions to make and he thanked the Councilmen who supported the combining of the Police/Fire Chief positions which was a huge savings. He said the next couple of years are going to be tough. The new Governor may cut funding which comes to us including Inheritance Tax. We still have to stay on our toes and be frugal. He is going to watch everything that comes into his office as close as he can. Anywhere we can save we are going to save without having to cut services. Treasurer Borgerding said he should have the annual report ready for the next Council meeting.

From Engineer Ertel: Memo dated January 7, 2011 re: Street Rehabilitation Project. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to Public Works & Service Committee. He asked Superintendent Scherpenberg to get a list of the sidewalks that need repair. He believes if we get the bid out early we may be able to save some money.

Mr. John Fakes, 3817 Settle Road, was granted permission to address Council. He is Scout Master for Troop 149 and wanted to thank Council and the community for helping with the tree sale fundraiser. They appreciate the use of the municipal lot and they will re-seed the lawn as soon as weather permits. They addressed several concerns this year - one being the lighting. They significantly reduced the number of lights onsite and they also put them on timers which he hopes helped make for good neighbors. They had their personnel park in the Comey & Shepherd lot to reduce parking on the street. It was his third year working the tree sale and all the customers love the way it looks. They get a lot of repeat customers. They sold upwards of 95% of the trees and they ordered just fewer than 1,000. It will help fund two big projects this year. Mayor Policastro said it is our pleasure to allow the tree sale. Mr. Wolter said it is a great thing for positive community interest. He believes it is a major improvement for the scouts and the Village. Mr. Miller said it helped the restaurants, bars and movie theatre.

Mr. Miller said due to Mr. Black and the Finance Committee's outstanding job he moved to nominate Mr. Black as President Pro-Tem of Council, seconded by Mr. Wolter. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

"An Ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Mariemont, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011" had a first reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second reading. Mr. Andrews questioned the \$106,000 salaries for 101.703 Clerk & Treasurer. Mrs. Van Pelt said it includes the Administration salaries in addition to the Clerk & Treasurer's salaries. Mr. Andrews said if it is Administration salaries why not call it that. Mr. Black suggested putting it under Mayor and Administrative Offices 101.701. The Ordinance had a third reading. Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-1-11 was adopted.

Ms. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Clerk and Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Village Offices will be closed Monday February 21, 2011 in Observation of Presidents' Day

Ms. Sullivan nominated, seconded by Mr. Black to appoint Mr. Miller to the Planning Commission. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Black nominated, seconded by Mr. Wolter to appoint Mr. Andrews to the Income Tax Board of Review. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Black nominated, seconded by Mr. Andrews to appoint Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Scheeser to the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro announced Council Committee Assignments for 2011 which are unchanged from 2010.

Mayor Policastro referred the Salary Ordinance for Full Time, Part Time (New Minimum Wage Rate State of Ohio) and Appointed Officials to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Andrews said everyone knows that texting is now the thing. It is easy and convenient especially among young people. Driving and texting has become very dangerous. Several years ago Mr. Bevis wanted the Village to pass an Ordinance against texting and driving. The State House sponsored to pass Bill 415 which is now before the House Senate. He would like for Council to pass a vote of support of Bill 415 for the legislation so it can either be county or state wide. Council unanimously was in favor of the idea. Solicitor McTigue said he will prepare a Resolution for the next Council meeting. Mr. Andrews said he does not know how enforceable the law would be but in his opinion anything Council can do to communicate to the public how dangerous it is would be effective. Mr. Wolter said if the Bill is still several years off perhaps we can do something else to be proactive in the Village. Mr. Andrews said it could be something we pass and work with the High School and other neighboring communities.

Ordinances:

“To Amend Ordinance O-6-10 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees” had a second reading.

“To Increase Building Permit Fees to Equal Fees Charged for Building Permits in Hamilton County” had a first reading.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Paul Tontillo, Clerk