

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
OCTOBER 24, 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, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the minutes as written for October 10, 2011. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Building Commissioner Malone introduced Mr. John Bagano and Mr. Greg Bell from CDS who conducted the Mariemont Parking Occupancy Report. This is Phase One of the parking study. The scope of the analysis was limited to documenting parking occupancy on a Saturday night as defined in their scope of service memo dated May 26, 2011. It will be up to Council to make a determination if they want to go to the second phase which would be the actual details of providing additional parking on West Street and facilitate parking needs for future plans such as the Vision 2021 Plan. It is the belief that if some of those plans go forward there will be a need for a bigger inventory of parking in the Village in place and ready to be utilized such as the Theatre expansion and the occupancy of the Pub. He prepared a spread sheet of what might be considered by the Village in the future. That part of the study was pure conjecture on his part.

Mr. Bagano said CDS was retained to do a parking occupancy study for existing conditions on a typical Saturday evening. The day they observed was Saturday August 27, 2011 because there was no rain nor was rain forecasted. They studied the Village Square area. The specifics on the count can be found on the last page of the report. The study was divided into 14 sub-areas so it would be easy to look at the entire study or break it down by areas so focus could be put in individual parking areas if needed. There were a total of 550 parking spaces with assumptions being made on unmarked parking areas. The unmarked areas were on Wooster Pike (south and east of West Street, South Miami and Crystal Springs Road. The results of the study are indicated on Table I with the highest hour of occupancy being 8:00 p.m. with 75% of the parking spaces being occupied. The study was conducted by three CDS technicians between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. There were several areas where there was never a vehicle observed parked during the entire study period. (Off-street lot, bounded by Bank Place, Wooster Pike and Southeast Miami Road; Southwest Miami Road; Off-street lot, bounded by Southeast Miami Road and Crystal Springs Road). The areas south of Wooster Pike are not utilized very heavily. It also was noted in the report that one of the police officers stopped and talked with one of the technicians and commented that it was a "light traffic" Saturday night. Lot #2 (Off-street lot, bounded by West Street, Wooster Pike and Madisonville Road) had the highest occupancy with 96% usage. Practical capacity is 90-95% occupancy. Once the figure is higher it becomes more frustrating for people to find parking.

Mr. Miller commented that it may have been a light night due to the fact that there were no blockbuster movies at the Theatre. Mr. Kulesza said it was the weekend right after school started and the weekend before Labor Day.

Mr. Andrews said the intent this evening is to get surface questions answered and then have the Committee discuss further.

Mr. Wolter asked if it was typical to do additional studies in this same format. Mr. Bagano said if the perception is the study was not performed on a typical Saturday night then it could be beneficial to re-do the study. Mr. Wolter asked what the cost would be. Mr. Bagano said he would have to sit down and look it over. After the study was completed it was felt that if another study was needed that it might be able to be accomplished with two people.

Mr. Andrews said the intent of the study was to make decisions around parking that would impact the next 10-20 years. He thinks it would be a wise move to get one more study sample as long as the cost is not too out of line. Mr. Wolter said perhaps a couple Council members could volunteer to help with a second study. He said we should contact the Theatre to see when one of their hot venues will be playing and then look for good weather. Mr. Scheeser said his concern is that we do not want to stack the deck. We want an average night. He does not want to tamper with and potentially bias the results by looking for the blockbuster night. He feels that would discredit the entire objectivity of the study. Mayor Policastro said you would take an average of the studies. Mr. Scheeser said as a market researcher he feels it would be slipping down a slippery slope. The data speaks for itself. He would not be opposed to another study but he does not want to monkey with results that would lead to bias.

Mr. Andrews said if the cost is reasonable it would be good to have another sample to either confirm what we see in the first study or if it would be higher or lower. Ms. McCarthy said she agreed with Mr. Scheeser that we should not pick a blockbuster night. Mr. Black asked if we are basing this on the comment that it was a light traffic night by Officer Shaw. Mr. Bagano said it was put into the report because it was a comment from an employee who is familiar with the Village. His comment did not alter any data. Mr. Black said going forward we may have some bad weather. Mr. Bagano said that is a valid point. He said he is inclined to go with this study

and have the Committee look into it further. Mr. Miller said the majority of people are going to the two lots most people are familiar with. Mr. Scheeser said we need to draw awareness of good and well lit parking areas south of Wooster Pike which provide safe crosswalks.

Mayor Policastro said the issue is presently in the Economic Development and Zoning Committee and will be discussed further at a future meeting.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Frank Uehlin: Letter dated October 2, 2011 re: Thank you from Oktoberfest Block Party

From MariElders: Monthly Recap ending September 30, 2011

From Treasurer Kulesza: September 2011 Monthly Report

From Administrative Office: MTD/YTD Expense Report September 2011

From Clerk Borgerding Quarterly Reports. Clerk Borgerding said these reports are nine month actual to budget expenses for the various departments. Mr. Andrews said the Tax Department shows a positive situation in Tax Refunds and asked if that should hold through the end of the year. Clerk Borgerding said he spoke with Tax Administrator Judd who said there is one large business client that is due a refund but they have elected to roll it over to next year - so he does expect the figure to hold through the end of the year. This has been their practice for years. Mr. Black said the expenses have been held down so far this year. Clerk Borgerding noted that \$70,000-\$75,000 was spent from the General Fund early in the year to pay for the paramedics but overall it is looking good.

From Mariemont Preservation Foundation: Meeting Agenda, Meeting Minutes and Mission Statement from Sister City

From Building Commissioner Malone: Preliminary Draft - Mariemont Parking Occupancy Report

Ms. McCarthy asked how/what correspondence goes on the agenda. She noticed that the e-mail from Ms. Kirby who lives on Beech Street is not listed. Mayor Policastro said he sets the agenda. He did give the e-mail to Superintendent Scherpenberg to look into. Mr. Andrews asked if the Mayor was saying not everything that comes into the office goes into the Council packet. Mayor Policastro said eventually it does after it has been worked on.

Mayor Policastro said Steve Jones is the resident who wants to help with the IT installation. He is volunteering to do the work which would save the Village \$12,000. Mr. Andrews said he and Tax Administrator Judd met with InTrust and CMI several times. All of the purchase orders have been created and all the agreements have been signed. The work has already started. He offered to meet with Mr. Jones and find out if he would be willing to work alongside InTrust when we are implementing some of the work and perhaps lower our bill from InTrust. He is happy that he is volunteering but what we are putting in place is very sensitive and secure and we have to be careful how we implement it. Mayor Policastro said he would get a hold of Mr. Jones and have him contact Mr. Andrews.

Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Black to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Finance Chairman and Clerk. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation by the Finance Committee which met Tuesday October 18, 2011 to review Chief Hines' request for a new 2011 Dodge Charger police cruiser. Denise McCarthy, Jeff Andrews, Mayor Policastro, Clerk Borgerding and Chief Hines were in attendance. The purchase price of the Charger is \$29,839.00 which is \$2161.00 under the approved \$32,000.00 for a new cruiser. Price breakdown is:

• 2011 Dodge Charger police cruiser	-	\$23,461.00
• Equipment and installation cost	-	\$ 4,438.00
• New Graphics design and installation	-	<u>\$ 1,940.00</u>
Total		<u>\$29,839.00</u>

After discussion the committee recommends that we proceed with the purchase of the 2011 Dodge Charger, purchase price not to exceed \$29,839.00 and with emergency. Mr. Scheeser said he had a conversation with Chief Hines and believes the Charger is a solid choice. However, he would like Council to challenge ourselves to drive efficiency in the police vehicles that we have. We are rich in the Permanent Improvement Fund but poor in the General Fund. The equipment is paid for out of the Permanent Improvement Fund while the gas is paid for out of the General Fund. He would like to look in the future at a Tahoe Hybrid. He would like Council to really talk first about efficiency or at least move it up on the list of importance. Mr. Black said the Finance Committee is going to meet in the upcoming weeks to review all of the General Fund expenses. Mayor Policastro said from his experience the Permanent Improvement Fund needs to stay high. A few years ago a wall started to fall in at the swim pool which cost a huge amount of money to fix. Also, we have to plan to replace our ladder truck in the near future which will also be a huge expense. Efficiency is important but we also need to keep the Permanent Improvement Fund ready to go when an unexpected major repair will need to be made. Treasurer Kulesza asked when repairs may be paid for out of the Permanent Improvement Fund. Clerk Borgerding said if

the repair extends the life over the original life of the product or more than five years then it may be paid for out of the Permanent Improvement Fund. Regular repairs and expenses would be paid for out of the General Fund. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee which met Tuesday October 18, 2011 to discuss extending the Waste Service Contract with Rumpke. Committee members Denise McCarthy, Jeff Andrews and Cortney Scheeser were present. Mayor Dan Policastro, Clerk Tony Borgerding, and Administrative Assistants Joanee Van Pelt and Sue Singleton were in attendance. Dean Ferrier from Rumpke Waste & Recycling Services also attended. The Village has the option of extending our existing contract with Rumpke another year, with a 3% increase cap. Rumpke presented a 2% increase for a total of \$263,169.00, based on the lower number of units being collected. The monthly invoice will continue to include the State of Ohio surcharge of \$203.80. Rumpke has agreed to give us clarification on the yard waste guidelines and will address our other concerns we presented. They have also agreed to work with us to develop an education campaign for our residents. Rumpke will also provide samples of bid specs from other communities; this will help when we must put the contract out to bid in the future. After discussion, the committee recommends we accept the addendum to extend our Waste Service Contract with Rumpke Waste & Recycling Services for 2012. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Leaf Season will begin Monday October 17, 2011 and will end Friday December 16, 2011. Mayor Policastro said he was able to get a hold of Sean Donovan of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. We were able to get three individuals who have to report in to the Sheriff's Department every morning to work for a couple of hours a day. If we can continue without having to use Minute Men we could save a lot of money. He moved the start date of pick-up due to the calls and e-mails he was receiving. Mr. Andrews asked if we did any kind of background check on these individuals or checked their driver's licenses. Superintendent Scherpenberg said no because they do not drive any of the Village equipment. The Sheriff's department would have background information if needed.

Beggar's Night will be Monday October 31, 2011 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Council will meet Tuesday December 27, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. due to the holiday.

Ordinances:

"Granting Director of Transportation Authority to Maintain State Highways, Apply Standard Longitudinal Pavement Markings and Erect Regulatory and Warning Signs on State Highways Inside Village Corporation; Giving Consent of the Village to the Plowing of Snow and Use of Abrasives for Ice Control Under the Supervision of the Director of Transportation, State of Ohio" had a third reading. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-19-11 was adopted.

"To Purchase a 2011 Dodge Charger Police Cruiser Using the State of Ohio Purchasing Program and to Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. McCarthy to suspend rules to allow for the second and third reading. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Black to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ms. McCarthy moved, seconded by Mr. Black to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-20-11 was adopted.

Chief Hines said the first annual Chili Cook off was a success with the Police Department winning. He anticipates the event to get better with every year. The event made a little bit of money after covering all of the expenses.

Mayor Policastro said Joe Stelzer who is a big bike enthusiast has gotten together with Curt Smitts of Smitty's Cyclery and Pete Wimburg of Wimburg Landscaping to work on putting together in the Lower 80 a mountain bike trail. Mr. Wimburg has the equipment to build the trail and he is also willing to donate it. There are other bike enthusiasts in the Village who are also willing to help out. The trail can also be used as a walking trail. He is hopeful to have more information to give to Council for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk