

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
JUNE 27, 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, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to excuse the absence of Mr. Black. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to accept the minutes as written for June 13, 2011. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Treasurer Kulesza: May 2011 Monthly Report.

From Hamilton County Auditor: Letter dated June 2, 2011: Affects of Ohio Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 153.

From Mary Ann Schwartz: Resume for Architectural Review Board.

From Fran Peterson: e-mail dated June 14, 2011 re: Health Care Renewal and Center for Local Government.

From Mariemont Preservation Foundation: Meeting Minutes May 26, 2011.

From Rick Greiwe: Letter re: Nolen Park/Emery Park Updates

From MariElders: Monthly Recap Ending May 31, 2011.

From Tracy Winkler, Green Township: Letter dated June 17, 2011 re: Opting out of Participation in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Funding Program. Mayor Policastro said it looks like Council made the right decision. He thinks Green Township wrote to everyone. Mr. Scheeser asked what is the amount of the block grant money that we are foregoing by not doing this. Mayor Policastro said there is no grant until you apply for it and he does not believe the Village would have applied for a grant. Mr. Scheeser said in light of the conversation we just had regarding the 2012 budget he wondered about the financial stewardship to saying no to this. He does not know exactly what it means in terms of low income. He would hate to turn his back on real money available to the Village. He does not know enough about it to have an opinion. Mr. Andrews said it is one of those things when you lose too much control. The Village can still go after so many grants to receive more funding. Mr. Miller said Council discussed this at the last meeting that the trouble with this is that you do lose control and they will end up telling the Village what they are going to do. Mr. Scheeser said it was decided at the last meeting but Council did not decide. He said he did not remember Council voting or a Committee taking it up for discussion. Solicitor McTigue said the Mayor asked him to take a look at it. He contacted Hamilton County, HUD and other municipalities. At the last Council meeting we discussed the level of control the Village would maintain if we did apply for grant money. The answer to that question was zero. He remembers taking a straw vote among Council and he does not remember it being referred to a Committee. Look at the other communities that are doing the exact same thing. To him it makes sense that it is not right for Mariemont. Mayor Policastro said he is not going to have the federal government telling us how to run our Village. He believes that we do a very good job running the Village and the residents will back us on something like this. Mr. Wolter said the Village would get unfunded mandates from the government under this program. We are already stressed for money. They may tell us we have to do something that we do not have the resources for. Other communities that are in worse financial shape than we are have opted out of this program. Solicitor McTigue said they have very strict rules and are very stringent. We are not prepared to give up the level of control.

From ODNR: Pest Alert- Asian Longhorned Beetle Flyer. Mayor Policastro said this could be a big problem. He encouraged Council to tell residents in their districts if they see the beetle to let us know right away. Mr. Andrews said if one is found they will come in and quarantine the tree by cutting it down and those around it.

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Finance Chairman and Clerk. Mr. Scheeser asked if we should expect to offset some of the cost of the fireworks. Mayor Policastro said as of today we still need approximately \$1000. Mr. Miller said the Mariemont Civic Association donated \$500.00 and Solicitor McTigue donated \$100. Mr. Andrews said he noticed another \$435.00 payment to Don Pennington for an emergency service call for virus issues. The IT plan is out there and we have made good progress in the past two weeks but implementation is still a month or two away. He asked if we are actively doing anything to try to prevent viruses. Mrs. Van Pelt said she knew the Building Commissioner was totally shut

down. They called the Mayor for emergency authorization. Mr. Pennington was called and had the Building Commissioner up and running the same day. Ms. McCarthy said this is a clear example of why we need an IT plan. Mr. Andrews said this kind of expense could have been avoided. They have had follow-up calls with Tax Administrator Judd, Cincinnati Bell and InTrust. They still need to follow-up with Cincinnati Bell to work out some details. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Ms. McCarthy moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met Tuesday, June 21st, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to review the healthcare and dental insurance renewal plan options for August 1st, 2011 through July 31st, 2012 from USI Insurance through the Center for Local Government Benefits Plan. Committee members Andy Black and Denise McCarthy were present with Committee member Jeff Andrews's absence excused. Also present were Mayor Dan Policastro, Clerk Tony Borgerding, Maintenance Superintendent John Scherpenberg, Maintenance Foreman Elisha Davis, Police-Fire Chief Rick Hines, Tax Administrator Darlene Judd, Administrative Assistant Joanne Van Pelt and Staff Assistant Sue Singleton. Fran Patterson (USI) presented four healthcare and one dental renewal plan options at a public meeting on Monday, June 13th to Committee members, Village employees and members of Council. After discussing the 28.47% rate increase for renewing the current healthcare plan and 3.0% rate increase for renewing the current dental plan, Village employees and Committee members agreed to recommend the following to Council: Renew United Healthcare Plan Platinum A and Dental Care Plus Plan #32 in exchange for eliminating the opportunity for salary increases through December 31st, 2012. Committee members also recommend passing the measure under the Emergency Clause to avoid a lapse in benefits. Mr. Andrews asked if the plan to not increase salaries included both not increasing the salary band and no actual salary increase. Mayor Policastro said it applies only to the salary window band. He said there are employees who are still on the salary step increase and he feels we need to take care of those employees. Ms. McCarthy said it was the best option for the employees. On roll call; four ayes, one nay (Mr. Andrews dissenting).

Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met Thursday June 24, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss adding "No Parking" lines at the intersection of Pleasant Street and Mariemont Avenue and the intersection of Pocahontas Avenue and Hiawatha Avenue. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee Chairman Dennis Wolter, Co-Chairman Andy Black, Mayor Dan Policastro and Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Travers. After some discussion, the Committee recommends painting the curbs yellow at the intersection on the east side of Pleasant Street and Mariemont Avenue per state standards to eliminate parking at the intersection. The Committee also recommends painting the curbs yellow, per state standards at the intersection of Pocahontas and Hiawatha Avenues to improve visibility for traffic turning off Pocahontas Avenue onto Hiawatha Avenue. Additionally, the Committee recommends the trimming of the tree near the intersection of Hiawatha and Petoskey Avenues due to the fact that the tree obstructs the clear view of the newly installed westbound stop sign at that intersection. Mr. Wolter said the problems we are having is that people park too close to the intersection at Mariemont and Pleasant. There are a lot of kids running around and it is a safety concern. The issue at Hiawatha and Pocahontas is people park close to the intersection and people drive up quickly. Residents in the area have complained that it is difficult to pull out safely. This should reduce the safety hazard. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met Thursday June 24, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss repainting of weathered "No Parking" lines on Oak Street at Chestnut Street. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee Chairman Dennis Wolter, Co-Chairman Andy Black, Mayor Dan Policastro and Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Travers. After some discussion, the Committee recommends painting the existing faded curbs at the intersection of Oak Street and Chestnut Street per state specifications. Mr. Wolter said Ms. McCarthy had some additional concerns for the area that the Committee is going to look at. Her concern is the area south of Chestnut Street because people are parking right up to the intersection. Mr. Scheeser asked if we need to go to Committee to repaint yellow stripes. Mayor Policastro said no and considered this more of a verbal report. Mr. Wolter said he has discussed with the Police Chief and the Mayor the need for a standard protocol for intersections with stop signs and yellow lines. They are going to go around the Village to identify them so we do not have to have Committee meetings for every intersection or wait for someone to bring it to our attention. Chief Hines said he has worked with Fire Marshal Feichtner to work up a list to identify the streets that need opposite side no parking. It was determined that no vote of Council was needed.

Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met Thursday June 24, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the need for handicap parking by the Tot Lot and ball fields. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee Chairman Dennis Wolter, Co-Chairman Andy Black, Mayor Dan Policastro and Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Travers. After some discussion the Committee recommends one handicap parking space at the south end of the Tot Lot parking area and one at the north end of the ballpark lot. Mr. Wolter said we will lose two parking spots for each handicap parking space due to the egress zone that needs to be painted. We are going to look next year at revamping the parking lot to take advantage of the space that is there without eating up too much green space. The expense would come from the Permanent Improvement Fund. Mayor Policastro said he will ask the Engineer to determine a price and add it to the list of 2012 Street Rehabilitation. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met Thursday June 24, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the need for additional new turn-out gear for the Fire Department. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee Chairman Dennis Wolter, Co-Chairman Andy Black, Mayor Dan Policastro and Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Travers. After some discussion, the Committee recommends purchasing seven sets of turn-out gear from Vogelpohl Fire Equipment for a total cost of \$10,834.25 to be paid for

from the Permanent Improvement Fund. Due to the fact that new orders take approximately three months to be processed and shipped, we recommend passing the Ordinance for this purchase on an emergency basis. Mr. Wolter said initially it was \$10,000 for five sets and Assistant Fire Chief Travers was able to negotiate tow more sets for an additional \$834. We now have gear for everyone. Ms. McCarthy asked if it was known that we needed these. Mr. Wolter said we knew a year and a half ago that we needed these due to them being worn and out of compliance. Ms. McCarthy said we waited to the point where we now need to do an emergency. She believes Council does too many emergencies. Mr. Wolter said he does not believe anyone was aware that there was a three month delay. Mr. Miller said once it is identified as a safety issue it should be done on an emergency basis. Ms. McCarthy said she would like to plan better. Mr. Wolter said we are still reacting to a backward situation that we inherited. Mr. Scheeser said we should stagger the purchasing to avoid replacing them all at the same time in the future. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Ms. McCarthy said the Public Works and Service met and discussed the trash fees at the condos. The Condo Association charges residents directly and the Village is charging them as well. The Committee is going to recommend waiving the Village fee with verbal application for any legally recognized Condo Association that charges their residents directly. It will be written in that Council can revoke the waiver if the trash removal is not up to Village standards. They will forward the information to the Solicitor for his review and preparation of the legislation. As far as the trash contract renewal the Committee is going to do a 4 point approach: cost, service, environmental stewardship and education. The budget shows we need to cut costs but in doing so we want to keep good service.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

4th of July Fireworks will be Monday July 4, 2011

Village Offices will be closed in Observation of Independence Day Monday July 4, 2011

Resolutions:

“Renewal 3.0 Tax Mill Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for Capital Improvements for the Tax Years of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015” had a second reading. Clerk Borgerding said this is a formal step to get the levy on the November ballot.

“To Appoint Mary Ann Schwartz to the Architectural Review Board to Fulfill the Unexpired term of Louise Schomburg for the Calendar Years 2011 and 2012” had a first reading.

“Adopting the Budget for 2012” had a first reading. Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Miller 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. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-10-11 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Add New Section 150.53 to the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a second reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to amend the report to eliminate the reference to holidays in Section I. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The amended Ordinance will have the third reading at the next Council meeting.

Ms. McCarthy asked if there was a master calendar of upcoming contracts, bids etc. that are coming up. It was brought to her attention with the need for emergency clause for the pool party. If something could show when things are due and when discussion etc needs to take place she thinks it would be a great help to Council. She is new and would find it helpful and potentially we could have two new Council members and a new Mayor next year who would find the information useful as well. Mr. Andrews said it could be things that happen every year so we can stay ahead of it. Mayor Policastro said he is not putting anyone down but many times matters are referred to Committee but they wait until the last minute to make recommendations to Council. He said Mrs. Van Pelt has a tickler system which we can distribute to Council.

Chief Hines said the Safety Services Night Out will be Tuesday July 26, 2011. It is always a popular event and well attended. They plan on having live music again along with food and beverages.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk