

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
JULY 25, 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 and Mr. Scheeser.

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

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Ms. McCarthy to accept the minutes as written for July 11, 2011. On roll call; three ayes, no nays. (Mr. Andrews and Mr. Scheeser abstained)

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Administration Office: Combined MTD/YTD Report 2nd Quarter

From Treasurer Kulesza: Treasurer's Monthly Report June 2011

From MariElders: Monthly Recap Ending June 30, 2011. Mr. Andrews asked what Council's role and responsibility is in regards to the MariElders report. Mayor Policastro said in the 1980's there was a request to have a place for senior citizens. The Village put together a levy which is considered a Recreational Levy. It is the Village's levy. Therefore they have to report to us how they are doing. It is a one mil levy which generates approximately \$60,000 per year. Mr. Andrews said the way they report their actual against their budget amount does not make it easy to understand if they are on track. Mayor Policastro said a few years ago we kind of got into it but we let them run their own show. Clerk Borgerding said it is considered a pass through account.

From Mayor Policastro: Response to Councilman's Internet Posting

From Ohio Municipal League: Legislative Bulletin Dated July 20, 2011

Clerk Borgerding said he ran the January through June report and left a copy for each Council member. The report shows actual verses budget. He said right now we look pretty good and are currently under budget.

Police/Fire Chief Hines was granted permission to address Council. He said he wanted to address Mr. Scheeser's comments on his internet blog. There are some serious concerns with the employees. He met with Tax Administrator Judd who provided him with a copy of her response to Mr. Scheeser. He agrees with Mrs. Judd's response that the Village Department Heads are known as leaders in their fields of service and to please let us tell you how it will effect provided services. He spent the last couple of days trying to make his employees understand what the blog was all about. Our employees are very dedicated and have made concessions in pay, benefits and healthcare. He said this is the kind of thanks we receive with comments in Mr. Scheeser's blog for their loyalty and hard work. Our employees know and care about the residents. A radio call is not just another theft report or squad run - it is personal to our employees because of the relationship we have the residents. We take it very seriously and personally when something bad happens to any resident. You do not get that kind of service everywhere. It is a tradition here and it is what the residents expect and deserve. One of the issues brought up in the blog was cell phones. In the Police Department the Chief and Assistant Chief have a phone. There is also one phone that is passed from car to car at shift change. He said that taking the cell phone from car to car would cost the Village a lot of money. He explained that calls often come into the station requiring an officer be dispatched. If the officer is out of the cruiser they cannot be reached by the city band radio. Therefore they have to be dispatched through Hamilton County Communications Center. In 2012 the dispatch rate will increase to \$18.30 per dispatch. The cell phone costs \$16.00 per month. He feels there would be numerous calls fitting that description in the course of a month. At the Committee of the Whole meeting in February Council was discussing the top priority of the Village is safety. At that meeting Mr. Scheeser made the comment that his top priority in the Village was trees and maintaining the canopy of the Village and we need to increase spending on the tree budget. He found that comment troubling. He believes residents know that trees are important but he feels sure that the safety of their families and the safety of our employees are a higher priority than the tree canopy. With all due respect the employees are not feeling much appreciation from Councilmember Scheeser's council seat.

Mr. Miller asked what the blog said. Chief Hines said he would get a copy to him. In short the blog refers to looking toward consolidating and sharing services which leaves the employees worrying if their jobs are going to be eliminated. It has caused a lot of unrest.

Mr. Schesser apologized and said his intention of his last 240 postings over the last year and half is to communicate open and honestly. The idea of collecting, generating and posting ideas is a good thing. He said he has always been guilty of saying things that could have been said better. Half of the ideas posted were not even his. He was simply collecting and sharing. With our budget being in a severe and dire situation he believes no

idea is off the table. Shared services are something the Governor strongly recommends. He is not a lay off guy. He said point taken and he will position things differently. He would rather side on over communicating than to be quiet and not share. These are ideas we need to talk about. Our dire budget situation warrants any and every idea to be brought forward and discussed. While reading it again he does not fully understand it from the employee point of view but then he is not an employee but he again apologized for not getting it right.

Mayor Policastro said the blog infers that the Village is in trouble. We are not in trouble but are in darn good shape for the next three years. In his 18 years on Council and 10 years as Mayor we have always had a three year window. Last year we made bold moves with the Police/Fire Chief position and lay offs and had a five year window. The Governor took those two years away from us. We are not in any trouble and the sky is not falling. We are in good shape and we will figure out what to do in three years just like we have always figured out what to do. He is working on several things such as renting out the shelters in the parks when we are asked by someone who wants to use it, he has asked the Solicitor to only attend the first meeting of the month which will save about \$2,500 per year. Next year he is going to drop the tree budget to \$25,000 because of the maturing trees in the Mayor's Tree Farm, which will make up for the cut. Since we will not need the budget to buy new trees, we will use the budget to prune and take out dying trees for our Village will be much safer. He is going to work with the Clerk and Treasurer along with the Finance Chairman in the next year. We could get lucky with our remaining Inheritance Tax monies.

Mr. Andrews suggested if there are more concerns to talk outside of the room. He does not believe the intent on either end is bad. We have a great staff and a great Village but this is going to be a significant hit to the budget and it will be a significant challenge that Council has to solve. He does not think we should wait to see if we are lucky. It is a significant amount and we cannot get there by piece meal things here and there. We have to be willing to ask any and every question and also be willing to discuss ideas. The Finance Committee needs to take leadership on this matter.

Mr. Black said it continues to come back to a communication gap. Rather than reading something or hearing something and assuming the intent he encouraged everyone to talk with one another.

Mayor Policastro said the residents of the Village are very smart people and if they see that we need the money to continue to give them great services, they will give the money but only when needed and he feels that day will come in the next couple of years. For 18 years, he has worked on problems like this and when the time did come for a levy, it passed by 70%. Yes, we want to do all we can right now to show the citizens that we are cutting things that are not needed. When the time comes he believes a small levy will pass to put us back in a five-year window.

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Black to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Finance Chairman and Clerk. Mr. Black asked about the payment to CDS & Associates. Mr. Miller said it is a first draw for the parking study which we should receive in the coming weeks. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee which met on Tuesday June 21, 2011, at 6:00pm, to discuss Trash Service. Present at the meeting were Denise McCarthy, Jeff Andrews and Cortney Scheeser. The Committee discussed Condominium Associations contracting their Trash Services directly and being billed for Village contracted services and recommends the following: Amend village ordinance to allow legally recognized Condo Associations who contract trash services directly to apply for a waiver of the village trash services.

1. Waiver must be a written request.
2. Request must be accompanied by written proof of Condo Association.
3. Request must be accompanied by written proof of trash service contract.
4. Request must be for both trash and recycling services.
5. Request will be reviewed and approved or disapproved by council.
6. Waiver may be revoked at any time if council determines Condo Association's trash service is not equal to or greater than the village contracted services.

The Committee also recommends refunding any 2011 Trash Service payments received from Condo Association members once the above ordinance goes into effect. Additionally, the Committee will include a clause in subsequent Village Trash Contracts to require a billing adjustment if there is a reduction in the number of households serviced. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Black to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service which met Tuesday June 21, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss Trash Non-Compliance Stickers. Present at the meeting were Denise McCarthy, Jeff Andrews and Cortney Scheeser. The Non-Compliance Stickers have been given to the Rumpke drivers who have had the opportunity to use them. These are put on a resident's trash for the following non-compliance reasons: (1) No sticker on can (2) Not enough stickers on can (cans larger than 45 gallons require 2 stickers) (3) Can overflowing - tight lid required. The Committee recommends the continued use of these stickers. Mr. Black said he received a letter on his trash can one day from a Rumpke driver. Mrs. Van Pelt said the letter was instructions on how to properly dispose of yard waste. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Ms. McCarthy moved seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Public Works and Service Committee which met Tuesday June 21, 2011, at 6:00pm, to discuss an Approach to Trash Services Contract Renewal. Present at the meeting were Denise McCarthy, Jeff Andrews and Cortney Scheeser. The Committee will take a four (4) pronged approach to the Trash Services Contract Renewal:

1. Cost – We must find ways to lower the cost of this service.
2. Service – While eliminating cost, we must continue to insist on excellence in service.
3. Environmental Stewardship – We need to continue to be the leader in this; to continue to be a leader in recycling.
4. Education – Ongoing education and communication are needed.

The Committee recommends the creation of a standards document to be referred to when creating communications for Trash Services. The Committee also recommends exploring the feasibility of surveying residents regarding options for Trash Services. Ms. McCarthy said the intent of the standards document is to have consistent information made available to all residents. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Safety Services Night Out will be Tuesday July 26, 2011

Mayor Policastro referred the Liability Insurance Renewal to the Finance Committee.

Mayor Policastro referred the Trash Contract Renewal to the Public Works and Service Committee.

Resolutions:

“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 third reading. Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-12-11 was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk