

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
OCTOBER 28, 2013**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Andrews, Mr. Miller Mr. Scheeser, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Stelzer and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Scheeser said the minutes should be changed to correct the spelling of Allegiant Airlines. Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes as amended for October 14, 2013. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Administration Office: 3rd Quarter MTD/YTD Report

From Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner: Memo Dated October 14, 2013 re: Participation in the Hamilton County Mitigation Plan. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Safety Committee.

From Police Clerk Maupin: Mayor's Court Statement September 2013

From Chief Hines: Memo Dated October 9, 2013 re: Letter of Commendation for Chris Warner

From Joe Stelzer: Memo Dated October 25, 2013 re: South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board. Mr. Stelzer said the Ad Hoc Committee was formed a couple of years ago as an offshoot of the group that helped put the trails in two years ago. In the past year many things have come up including more participation of people using the trails. A lot of great ideas are coming up to expand the trails to adjacent properties, moving the Mayor's tree farm etc. Karen Sullivan is exploring the possibility of obtaining Clean Ohio grant money. The idea is to transform the Ad Hoc Committee into an advisory board (similar to the Pool Board and Tennis Board) which will make recommendations to the Mayor who will then determine if it needs to go before the whole Council. It will be similar to the Parks Advisory Board where members will be rolling up their sleeves doing much of the work. Mr. Mark Erhardt will serve as the Chairman. The idea is to have the board members appointed for a one year term initially and then figure out multi-year staggered terms. Jason Brownknight takes care of the Cincinnati Nature Center and has agreed to serve on the board. Most served on the informal board. However other members of the Ad Hoc Committee due to personal time limitations are not interested in serving on the Board but have asked to remain in the loop. Mr. Stelzer moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to establish the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board. Mr. Scheeser asked if it needed to be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Mayor Policastro said no we will vote on the motion made and then have three readings for the appointment of board members. Solicitor McTigue said the manner in which it was presented is fine to vote on. Mr. Stelzer asked if we needed to amend the Code of Ordinances. Mrs. Van Pelt said an Ordinance needs to be prepared establishing the Board. Solicitor McTigue said he will prepare one for the next meeting. Mrs. Van Pelt will prepare the Resolutions to appoint the board members. Mr. Andrews said the vote would be to approve the creation of the board and the authority of the group will be defined in the days ahead. Mr. Stelzer said he believes there is enough in the memo to create the ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Clerk and Finance Chairman. Mr. Scheeser asked if the installation of the replacement lights at Wooster Pike and Indianview is the finalized repair. Mayor Policastro said one light was put in but it blew out so they put in another. Mr. Scheeser said the light is blinking on an odd pattern not two on two off. Mayor Policastro and Mr. Wolter said that the lights are not bright enough. Mr. Scheeser asked that Superintendent Scherpenberg look into the light pattern and brightness. Mr. Scheeser asked if the prepaid postage envelopes cost is neutral versus the cost savings eliminating the postage meter. Mrs. Van Pelt said we do not pay an extra premium. Mr. Scheeser said it avoids licking the stamps. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Thursday October 25, 2013 in Council Chambers to discuss the possibility of holiday pay in December 2013. The meeting began at 5:10 p.m. and Committee members Joe Stelzer and Joe Miller were present. Also in attendance were Mayor Dan Policastro, Joanee Van Pelt, Chief Hines, Maintenance Department Supervisor Scherpenberg and Patty Busam. The Committee discussed the prior year end bonus plan that was suspended in 2010. The Committee on a majority vote decided to recommend to full Council the one-time payment of \$250 in holiday pay to each of the 20 full-time employees of the Village of Mariemont. The Committee also recommends this item be handled as an emergency measure to give Village Administrators time to make arrangements for this payment the first payroll in December. Mr. Stelzer said as we look at the financials right now the earnings taxes have been increasing the past couple of years. We are still highly cautious because it is very dependent upon the economy. It is also very difficult to predict or project earnings tax. The new economic development in the Village such as the theatre expansion and condo development in addition to home remodeling construction is helping. Younger residents are moving into the Village and will be paying more earnings tax than older residents who are moving out. On the downside we will be losing some state funds

completely in 2014. However the General Fund looks pretty good right now. We gave the employees a 2% raise this year which was fairly competitive. The medical insurance is still a wildcard. We are still stuck in a very unprofitable pool and we are not sure what the effect is going to be as we go into 2014 with the Affordable Health Care Act. There was a bonus program that was suspended in 2010 which paid an average of \$750. The Committee said earlier in the year when looking at salary increase we said that there was a possibility of revisiting the bonus program later in the year. We are not calling it a bonus program because it is really not fair to tell employees a month before you are going to pay a bonus that we are going to measure your performance the past twelve months. We are proposing a one-time \$250 holiday pay to the full-time employees. He feels the Village right now is in a position to give this to the employees for all the sacrifices that they have given over the past several years. Mr. Scheeser asked for Mr. Stelzer's recommendation going forward. Mr. Stelzer said he would recommend that the Committee look at this as they review the Salary Ordinance and in conjunction with the medical insurance renewal to decide if we should continue with holiday pay or reinstate the performance bonus program. Mayor Policastro said part of the reason we are doing so well is because of the employees. They have put in a lot of extra time and gave up raises for three years. Many communities that were not doing well gave raises while we did not. They never gave us a hard time and he feels it is time we show them appreciation. As long as he has been on Council or Mayor the Village has never done so well. When he started on Council there was \$900 in the General Fund. It is well deserved. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Wolter said he went to the "Meet the Candidates" meeting for City of Cincinnati Council and Mayor. He said both mayoral candidates are opposed to the proposed Allegiant Airlines at Lunken Airlines. Mr. Cranley was the author of the Resolution to stop it in 2000. He believes this is a dead issue but there is always the chance they could still operate charter flights.

The Mayor read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Beggar's Night will be Thursday October 31, 2013 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Village Offices will be closed Thursday November 28, 2013 and Friday November 29, 2013 in Observation of Thanksgiving

Tree Lighting/Luminaria will be held Saturday December 7, 2013

Village Offices will be closed Tuesday December 24, 2013 and Wednesday December 25, 2013

Mr. Stelzer said ODOT has called a meeting in Columbus Tuesday November 5, 2013 (Election Day) with elected leaders. This is a follow-up meeting to the one held in August. It may actually be a lecture about what they plan to do in the future. Right now the Eastern Corridor segment going through the valley is officially on hold but that may change next Tuesday. He finds it interesting that they would schedule a meeting with elected leaders on Election Day. Representatives from Newtown, Terrace Park, Hamilton County Commissioners, and OKI have been invited. He tried to find out what the agenda is but they would not share it with him. They are required to have public involvement as they go through the process of studying the proposed routes. We have challenged that they have had meaningful public involvement. The meeting minutes are usually flawed because they do not reflect the conversation or information that was exchanged. Unfortunately a bit of politics get in the way. 44 million dollars has been spent on the design and engineering for the Eastern Corridor Project and they still do not know where it is going to go. As a taxpayer he finds it a waste of money.

Mayor Policastro said the second meeting in December falls on the 23rd. Mr. Miller and Mr. Andrews indicated that they would not be available. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to hold one combined meeting on December 16, 2013. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Van Pelt will post notices of the change.

Resolutions:

"To Reappoint Jenny Baker as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2014 and 2015" had a third reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-25-13 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Susan Eberlein as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2014 and 2015" had a third reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-26-13 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Merilee Turner as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2014 and 2015" had a third reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-27-13 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Don Slavik as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2014 and 2015" had a third reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-28-13 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Richard Savage as a Member of the Planning Commission for the Calendar Years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019" had a third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-29-13 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Laura Stith as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2014 and 2015” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Mark Bruggeman as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2014 and 2015” had a second reading.

Ordinances:

“Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of a Hawk Light at the Intersection of Belmont Avenue and Wooster Pike” had a third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-21-13 was adopted.

“An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Ohio Public Works Commission” had a third reading. Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-22-13 was adopted.

“An Ordinance to Adopt New Mutual Aid Agreement Regarding Hamilton County Local Government Mutual Aid for Law Enforcement” had a first reading.

“To Amend Mariemont Code Section 78, Schedule III, of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances; and To Declare emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-23-13 was adopted.

“To Amend Ordinance 0-8-13 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Miller 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. Scheeser confirmed that the only change was the line item to add holiday pay. The Ordinance had a third reading. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-24-13 was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk