

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
MAY 13, 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, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser, Mr. Stelzer and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to accept the minutes as written for April 22, 2013. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. (Mr. Stelzer abstained due to absence)

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Police Chief Hines: April 2013 Monthly Report

From Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner: April 2013 Monthly Report. Mr. Stelzer said he was concerned about the voucher showing \$10,000 in fire hydrant repairs and contacted Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner for further explanation. Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner said the majority of the hydrants in the Village are newer. Those that were repaired were older. This year the department conducted flow testing which determines how many gallons per minute the hydrants put out. It should be eight years before we need to do this testing again. Hopefully in the next years it will not be as significant of a cost.

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: April 2013 Monthly Report. Mr. Stelzer said we are trying to get some signs put together for the South 80 Acres. We received a grant from the Mariemont Preservation Foundation. Superintendent Scherpenberg said he is obtaining bids from three places. One bid was for approximately \$2000, another declined to submit a bid and he is still waiting on the third.

From Building Commissioner Malone: April 2013 Monthly Report. He formally introduced Kirk Hodulik who will be his successor as Building Commissioner upon his retirement the end of June. He has been very instrumental in helping with the inspections in the Historic District. He has also been shadowing the activities of the Building Commissioner to get him up to speed. He is a 25 year veteran of the architecture field. He is automatically qualified as a preliminary Building Commissioner with the Ohio Board of Building Standards. He has 18 months to get his full certification. Mr. Hodulik thanked Council for the opportunity and said he was looking forward to serving the Village in this capacity. Mr. Wolter said his wife worked with Mr. Hodulik at an architectural firm and said he is very reliable and capable.

From Tax Administrator Busam: April 2013 Monthly Report/Waste Fee Collection Report

From Val Garber: Letter Dated April 26, 2013 re: Recommendation from Planning Commission. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Economic Development and Zoning Committee.

From Bob Keyes, Chairman of Town Meeting: District 5 Caucus Results

From Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding: Summary of Tax Levies/Department Quarterly Expenses

From Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding: April 2013 Monthly Report/Trend Reports. He said we are doing well and are on line with past years. Mr. Stelzer said he has been looking at the numbers and the financial results and he is pleasantly surprised by the strong financial results. In conversation with other communities we are probably one of the few governmental entities that are not facing pretty dire financial results in 2014 from the cut in estate inheritance and state reimbursements. One of the reasons he thinks the Village is doing so well is because of the sacrifices the employees have made over the years including raises which have been non existent or very nil. There has been some restructuring within departments which has put us in a much better financial position. He appreciates all that the employees and the departments do for the Village. He believes the employees have a 'can do' attitude. An example of doing more with less is the Fire Department's repurposing the Maintenance Department Gator. It is now being used for special events such as the Flying Pig and it is being utilized in the South 80 Acres. He thanked the Maintenance Department for all they do and the Administration Office for helping him understand how the Village operates. The Tax Department is professional and very knowledgeable. The Building Department is very helpful and has done a great job over the years. He also believes some of the good financial results are from the efforts of the many resident volunteers in the Village who serve on such boards as Recreation Association, ARB, Pool and Tennis Boards, Parks Advisory Board, South 80 Trails Committee, Eastern Corridor Committee, Mariemont Civic Association etc. He appreciates all the work and help from all the volunteers. He would also recommend that residents thank our Village employees for all that they do. Mayor Policastro said he could not agree more.

Mr. Scheeser asked if the Village is done taking their lumps in 2014. Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding said the first half of 2014 we will have a small decrease in state funds. It was a two year phase which began in 2012. We should get one more installment of estate tax and then it will go away.

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

Mayor Policastro said he went to the last Tennis Association meeting and they definitely want the courts repaired and painted. It is presently in the Health and Recreation Committee. With Ms. McCarthy leaving he is going to refer the matter to the Finance Committee so they can meet right away and prepare a report as soon as possible.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday May 27, 2013

Village Offices will be closed Monday May 27, 2013 in Observation of Memorial Day

Council Meeting will be held Tuesday May 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Resolutions:

“Adopting the Budget for 2014” had a third reading. Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-10-13 was adopted.

“To Appoint Jane Stalzer as a Member of the Architectural Review Board to Fill the unexpired term of Mary Ann Schwartz for the Calendar years of 2013 and 2014” had a first reading.

“Renewal of Present 3.08 Mills Tax Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for Current Expenses for Tax Years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

“Renewal of Present 3.08 Mills Tax Levy in Excess of 10 Mill Limitation for Recreational Purposes of the MariElders for Tax Years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

Mr. Stelzer updated Council on the eastern Corridor. It has been fairly quiet as they have been sitting back watching what ODOT has been doing with the project. In February we were informed that the Federal Highway Administration was going to do a review of the ODOT process of the selection route through the South 80 and now the alternative route on the other side of the river. It is indicated that the review may happen in June and the 106 process (review of historic and archeology impacts in a specific area) may begin in July. Recently Cultural Landscape Foundation named Mariemont a ‘at risk’ landscape. They have taken on our cause and support the Village in opposition. At the April 10th Hamilton County Commissioner’s Meeting Todd Portune mentioned that he had been to a meeting with ODOT and they indicated that a possible change in thinking may be coming. Primarily from the standpoint that they believe if the route is removed from the South 80 acres that a lot of the objections to the current Eastern Corridor plan might be eliminated. It is a favorable sign. In April there was a Hamilton County TID meeting where Engineer Ted Hubbard made a statement that he believed that in reading all the support that was put together by ODOT leading up to its decision - that information supports only keeping bridge piers outside the existing river channels and not outside the possible river channel. One of the reasons it appears that the route through the South 80 was the route selected by ODOT is because of the length of the piers going through the South 80 acres were going to be much shorter than the other proposed routes. Lengths of piers translates into reduced costs. This is all good news but we are still at the mercy of ODOT and the Federal Highway Commission. The members of the Mariemont Community Partners is working to lobby legislators on all levels. Mayor Policastro said we are turning every corner and continue to work hard.

Mayor Policastro said a caucus was held in District 5 for a Council representative to replace Ms. McCarthy who is moving outside the Village. He thanked her for all her work and time while she served on Council. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to nominate Ms. Mary Ann Schwartz to Council to fill the unexpired term of Ms. McCarthy. Mr. Wolter said he has responded with Ms. Schwartz regarding several issues. She is very active and she has been a regular member of the audience at Council meetings. He believes she has the commitment and interest to do a good job. Mr. Stelzer said he had a cup of coffee with Ms. Schwartz to get to know her better and has seen her at many Village events. He is very impressed and believes she is very smart and has a good understanding on how Council works. He gathers that she has a passion to make District 5 better by addressing issues in a thoughtful and productive manner. She is willing to engage in conversations to identify solutions and work in a cooperative manner to achieve those solutions. He believes she is the best candidate for District 5 at this point in time. He is confident she will bring a positive thoughtful energetic influence to Council and said she should be our Council representative for District 5. On roll call; five ayes, one nay (Ms. McCarthy dissenting).

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk

