

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
SEPTEMBER 23, 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.

Mayor Policastro asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Vice-Mayor and our Village Town Crier, Hank Kleinfeldt, who recently passed away.

Mayor Policastro introduced Ms. Mary Sanker, Manager Mariemont Branch Library. She said she is making the rounds visiting various organizations in Mariemont this month to speak about the library and the levy renewal that is pending. Each year thousands of children use the library for schoolwork and also take part in the summer reading program. Story hours for younger children help them develop literacy skills needed for lifelong learning. The library provides computers for people to help will job searches, access information and do school work. We offer books, magazines, music, movies, books on CD and playaways as well as downloadable materials for ipads, nooks and kindles. The Cincinnati Library is one of the 10 busiest in the country with over 500,000 card holders. Almost 90% of the households in the county have someone with a library card. Every year seems to get busier with July 2013 being our busiest month ever. Last year the library had over 7.5 million visits, 17.3 million items borrowed and had 1.8 million reference questions. The library is a vital part of the community. The renewal of the 1 mill levy will not increase taxes and will provide for 1/3 of the library funding. Without this funding we would have to cut \$17 million per year which would be a devastating loss of branches, staff and materials. She thanked Mayor Policastro and the members of Council for the chance to speak and asked for their support of the library. She said should the Village wish to endorse the library she will leave a form with Mrs. Van Pelt.

Mr. Scheeser said the Ordinance that was passed was actually for the liability insurance and extending the zoning was a first reading and asked that the minutes be amended. Mr. Stelzer said on page one it should say Mr. Scheeser not me Scheeser. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to approve the minutes as amended for September 9, 2013. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding: August 2013 Monthly Reports/Trend Reports. Mr. Stelzer said he asked Mr. Borgerding about the negative balance in the Street Fund and asked if he could explain to Council. Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding said the fund usually brings in \$10,000 per month or \$120,000 per year. By the end of the year there should be \$40,000 more in the fund so it will not have a negative balance going forward into 2014. Mr. Miller asked about the balance in the Ann Buntin Becker Park Fund. Clerk Borgerding said that money is to be used towards play equipment in the park. Mayor Policastro said he would like to get a new jungle gym next year.

From Swim Pool Manager Schad: August/September 2013 Monthly Report.

From Mr. Stelzer: Memo Dated September 20, 2013 re: Motion to Discuss/Vote on Once Per Month Council Meeting Change. Mr. Stelzer said last year he proposed to go to once per month Council meetings for potential savings of costs associated with the solicitor and staff members. If we have once per month meetings then Council does not have to worry about asking questions when department heads are not present. The Solicitor did an analysis and determined that over half of the governmental municipalities that he looked at only had one meeting per month. He believes Council can get all of the work done and if need be we can schedule a Special Meeting. He moved for Council to go to once a month meeting and feels it would be a good idea. Last year it was voted down but we did make accommodations and go to once per month meetings during the summer months. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Solicitor McTigue said the change could not occur October 1, 2013 as indicated because it would require an Ordinance change with three readings or an emergency. Mr. Stelzer asked if the second meeting in October could be eliminated if it was an emergency. Mr. McTigue said yes.

Mr. Wolter suggested that the change be effective the beginning of the year and Council stay with two meetings until that time. It is going to take some time for residents to realize that we might be doing more emergencies to get things passed. He believes we should get more information out to the residents.

Mr. Andrews said three members will not be on Council in a few weeks and we will have new members coming on. The repetition of the meetings was a big part of understanding the process. He suggested putting our comments in a memo and provide them to the next Council and let them make the decision as they wish. Mr. Stelzer said he did touch base with the three Town Meeting candidates and they were all positive of the once per month meetings. Mr. Andrews said that would not surprise him at this point but his recommendation would be for them to go a couple of months before making that decision.

Mr. Stelzer withdrew his motion. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to table the matter until such time to have the new Council consider the change. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Ms. Carolyn Tuttle, 6806 Mt. Vernon, said there is a lot of confusion about what website is the official Village website – Mariemont.org or Mariemont.com. It is very confusing for new residents coming into the Village. Both sites list various Village information. Her understanding is that Mariemont.org is Dick Wendel's site but he is taking it over as a personal way to get information out. She would imagine that the Village would prefer it to be more professional and not get into complaints and concerns.

Solicitor McTigue said the Mayor did ask him to look into the matter. It appears that the Mariemont.com website portrays itself as the official website for the Village. He believes a letter should be sent to Dr. Wendel stating that he needs put a disclaimer on his website that it is not the official website of the Village of Mariemont. He saw the article in the Cincinnati Enquirer and it could have been interpreted that it was the Village of Mariemont that was supportive of the decriminalization of drug charges editorial.

Mayor Policastro said it will be in the next Mayor's Bulletin stating that the official website of the Village is Mariemont.org. He is working with Premier Internet to put a new website together and is getting an estimate for the cost. His hope is that it is up and running by the first of the year. In his opinion Dr. Wendel should not be putting the Mayor's Bulletin on the Mariemont.com website.

Mr. Scheeser asked if letters will be sent to all the other websites that discuss the Village such as the Recreation Association etc. They are all Mariemont websites that serve the Village and are not under the direct control of the Village. Mr. Miller said no one is going to interpret those websites as the official website of the Village. Mr. Wolter said by the name people can obviously tell it is a sports site. He has had neighbors ask him which is the official site .com or .org. There is enough confusion that we need to clarify it. Mr. Wolter moved to send the letter to Dr. Wendel so we can show support that we are trying to establish clarity. Mr. Stelzer said he would like to wait until the legal research is complete before the letter is sent.

Mr. Andrews said going forward we should make sure that electronic sites such as Facebook for swim, tennis etc. reference the official site. Mr. Stelzer said it would not be a bad idea to draft a policy. It could be done fairly quickly.

Mr. Andrews said the .org site is in need of a re-facing. It was last re-done 3 ½ years ago which dramatically improved the site and made it easier to update. He offered to do the work for free or we can continue to pay Premier Internet. Council can decide what the content, look and feel should be. Mayor Policastro said it is his call and as far as he is concerned he wants to do the update with professionals. The office has had nothing but problems with the computers over the last two years with In Trust and the work they did. Mr. Andrews said the website has nothing to do with the hardware. It is not comparing apples to apples. Mr. Stelzer suggested looking at the proposal as we look at the other options. He talked with Steve Barker who said there are programs that you can buy that are very effective and can be updated very easily by the Village employees. The problem with homemade websites is if the employees do not have the capability to change the content the site will become stale. Mr. Andrews agreed and said we need to make sure that Premier Internet is not coding it in straight HTML that we cannot update.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Clerk and Finance Chairman. Mr. Stelzer asked if we are members of Little Miami Inc. and asked if anyone goes to the meetings. Mayor Policastro yes we are members and Don Hopkins was our representative until he passed away earlier this year. Mr. Stelzer said we should think about someone who can actively attend the meetings because they are an important neighbor to us in the South 80 acres. Mr. Scheeser asked about the Ohio Revised Code Books. He questioned why we are paying for hard copies when it is available online. Solicitor McTigue said it is good to have an updated copy on file but he did not think it was mandated that we do. Mr. Scheeser said the website may be more updated than the paper version. He recommended going forward that the Village use the online availability and save money and space. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Stelzer said he would like to hold a finance meeting to discuss two items. We have the opportunity to get some grants from the Clean Ohio Grant Program. These funds could be used for projects in the South 80. The Finance Committee needs to discuss the restrictions that would need to be put on the South 80 acres in connection with the possibility of accepting these grants. It also may involve matching funds. Mr. Wolter asked if anything can be built there. Mr. Stelzer said they are looking for protection and enhancement of riparian corridors or watersheds, including the protection of streams, rivers, lakes and other bodies of water. Projects may include reforestation of land or planting of vegetation for filtration, and fee simple acquisition or acquisition of easements for providing access or for protection and enhancement. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Stelzer said in addition he would like the Finance Committee to look at the bonus program for the full-time employees. The Finance Committee had recommended looking at the possibility of giving bonuses earlier this year but wanted to wait until fall in order to see how the Village finances were. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Finance Committee.

The Mayor read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Porsche Rallye will be held on Sunday October 6, 2013

The Warrior Run will be held on Saturday October 12, 2013. Mr. Stelzer said volunteers are needed if anyone is interested.

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

Resolutions:

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

“To Reappoint Ruth Varner as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2014 and 2015” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Louise Schomburg as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years of 2014 and 2015” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Dave Wuertemberger as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2014” had a second reading.

“To Reappoint Nancy Stelzer as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2014 and 2015” had a second reading.

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

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

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

“To Reappoint Jenny Baker as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2014 and 2015” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Susan Eberlein as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2014 and 2015” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Merilee Turner as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2014 and 2015” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Don Slavik as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2014 and 2015” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Richard Savage as a Member of the Planning Commission for the Calendar Years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019” had a first reading.

Ordinances:

“Ordinance Extending for an Additional Three Years the Amendment of Chapter 151, Appendix A, of the Mariemont Zoning Code” had a second reading.

“Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of a Hawk Light at the Intersection of Belmont Avenue and Wooster Pike” had a first reading.

“An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Ohio Public Works Commission” had a first reading.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk

