

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL  
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO  
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER  
SEPTEMBER 9, 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. Scheeser, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Stelzer and Mr. Wolter.

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

Mayor Policastro said Police Officer Brian Hoffman has completed his 180 day probationary period and it is recommended by Chief Hines that he be made a regular full-time employee. He is doing an excellent job in his duties as a Mariemont Police Officer. PO Hoffman served in the US Marine Corps from March 2004 to March 2014 and served two tours in Iraq as a Combat Engineer and a Staff Sgt. He graduated from the U.C. Clermont Police Academy and worked for the Felicity Police Department from October 2011 to February 2012. He thanked Brain for his service to our country and are pleased to have him as a member of our Police Department. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to make Police Officer Hoffman a regular full-time employee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. PO Hoffman was congratulated by Mayor Policastro and members of Council.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to approve the minutes as written for August 12, 2013. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Police Chief Hines: August 2013 Monthly Report. Mr. Wolter asked if there was any insight into the 18% increase of traffic accidents. Chief Hines said not really because they fluctuate – there really is no rhyme or reason. A lot of the accidents have occurred on private property. Mr. Wolter asked if the 25 mph single lane through Fairfax has calmed the traffic at all. Chief Hines said we don't really have a speed issue on Wooster Pike. Most of the problem is congestion.

Chief Hines distributed to members of Council a set of safety services cards. This is a program where children can collect each card and then become eligible for a monthly prize drawing. This is the third time the departments have done this. The children and the police officers are excited about the program. It gives a great opportunity for both kids and the officers to get to know one another. There is a grand prize at the end of the program. Mayor Policastro said the program was fully funded by the Mariemont Civic Association and the Mariemont Inn. In addition local business are donating the monthly prizes. It does not cost the taxpayer anything.

From Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner: August 2013 Monthly Report.

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: August 2013 Monthly Report.

From Building Commissioner Hodulik: August 2013 Monthly Report.

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

From Mr. & Mrs. Meckstroth: Letter dated August 20, 2013 re: Thank you Police Department

From Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding: July 2013 Monthly Report/Trend Reports. Mr. Stelzer said the numbers look good with a 3% increase in receipts year to date and a 3% increase in disbursements. Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding said the Inheritance Tax should be coming in the next month and does not reflect in the numbers. Mr. Scheeser asked if he had looked at CD's and alternatives. Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding said he is meeting this week with representatives from PNC Bank about sweep accounts. It has a higher interest rate but typically cost more. He will see if the benefits outweigh the cost.

From Mayor Policastro: Letter to Arlene Brill dated September 5, 2013 re: Response to her concerns regarding Rumpke. Mayor Policastro said once he is up and about from surgery he will see that it is taken care of.

Me. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Clerk and Finance Chairman. Mr. Stelzer asked if the money to resurface the ball fields was anticipated. Mayor Policastro said it is something we need to do every 5-8 years. The cost is split with the Recreation Association and they should send us a check. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Sunday August 25, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss the installation of a HAWK light at the intersection of Belmont Avenue and Wooster Pike. Present at the meeting were Safety Chairman Dennis Wolter, Committee Co-Chair Cortney Scheeser, Committee Member Joe Stelzer, Village Engineer Chris

Ertel, Police/Fire Chief Rick Hines, Junior High Principal Lance Hollander, Councilmember Mary Ann Schwartz, Carolyn Duffy from Barr & Prevost Engineering and Columbia Township Administrator Mike Lemon. The meeting began with a presentation by Caroline Duffy, followed by discussion and questions. The cost of the installation of the HAWK light is \$179,000 all of which is covered by a grant from Transportation Alternatives/OKI. The Village of Mariemont would be responsible for design and engineering costs and inspection fees which could possibly total up to \$40,000. After additional discussion, the Safety Committee unanimously recommends for full Council approval that Mariemont proceed with the installation of a HAWK light at Belmont and Wooster Pike. Mr. Wolter said Engineer Ertel works for the person that decides who does the engineering study. There is a good chance Engineer Ertel could be assigned to do the study which would help cut down the cost. Ms. Duffey is supportive also. Engineer Ertel said he is hopeful to find out more by the end of the week. Mayor Policastro asked about the HAWK light for Plainville Road. Engineer Ertel said it was a previous application and is presently under design. It is slated for construction in 2015. Mayor Policastro asked if the sidewalks along Wooster Pike will go with the project. Engineer Ertel said it will include the repair and replacement of the sidewalk on the south side of Wooster Pike from Harvard Acres to the Fairfax Corps line. The work will be included with the Belmont HAWK signal. Mr. Wolter asked what the rough estimated savings would be in engineering costs. Engineer Ertel said conservatively we could cut the cost in half. Mr. Andrews said he does not recall that there was a fee tied to the project and asked if that was due to how we applied for the grant. Mr. Wolter said we were all sort of surprised by the fee for the engineering and design. He is not sure why it was left out of previous discussions. Mayor Policastro said a couple of years ago Ms. Duffey said that we might be able to have the fee incorporated into the grant. Engineer Ertel said since we applied for this project through the Safe Routes to School grant which was over competitive and we were not going to get it – we tried other avenues. The OKI grant is not as lucrative. Mr. Scheeser said what we get in addition to the HAWK light is brand new sidewalks for multiple blocks and a new island for pedestrians. Mr. Andrews said we are going to spend \$20,000-\$30,000 and asked what data we looked at to look at the traffic of children that cross there versus other areas. Mr. Wolter said Barr & Prevost Engineering did a warrant study which is required before any government entity will invest in a change of this magnitude. There has to be a need for it. The initial warrant was to see if we could get an actual traffic light. We were under the traffic and pedestrian requirements but we were well over the pedestrian number for a HAWK light. There are approximately 60 plus children on the south side of the Village that cross Wooster Pike somewhere to get to the junior high school in Fairfax. Of those that were interviewed 78% said they would walk even in inclement weather conditions. Another study indicates a 69% reduction in car/pedestrian issues with this type of device and 29% reduction in rear end collisions. Mr. Stelzer said the study looks to see how many children would be effected. The Safe Routes to School program is designated to do two things: (1) get the children to school in a safe manner and (2) encourage children to walk. We have lighted crossings at the east side of the Village (Pocahontas) and Village center but there is not any at the west end of the Village. This will not only benefit children going to school in the morning but children crossing Wooster Pike to use the pool in the summer. There will be a fair amount of adults utilizing it as well. It is close to a bus stop. The \$40,000 spend gets us \$200,000 worth of value. If the light really becomes a problem we can always turn off the light. Mr. Andrews asked if this light and the one to be built in 2015 covers all the major crossing zones for children. Engineer Ertel said yes according to the Safe Routes to School study survey. Mayor Policastro said there are also two blind residents who dearly need this. Mr. Scheeser reminded Council that we came under budget \$9900 for the 2013 Street Rehabilitation Project and he feels good to use the money saved on this project to help offset the cost. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

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

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. Scheeser asked for an update on the status of the Farmer's Market. Mayor Policastro said there are a lot of people e-mailing his wife apologizing because all the information was false. The person running the Farmer's Market is Leah Geldbaugh. She and she alone makes the rules. He did tell her that the last two Fridays of this month belong to the school. The kids need the area to make their floats for Homecoming. Ms. Geldbaugh has indicated that she cannot keep it up without help. She has indicated that some of the merchants are not showing up and the citizen attendance is small. Mr. Andrews suggested that Economic Development and Planning discuss the matter. Mayor Policastro said Council is not running it – Ms. Geldbaugh is running the program. Mayor Policastro said he has heard that Mr. Wendel is putting out incorrect information and telling people to complain on his website. This is wrong to pick on a Village volunteer. Mr. Scheeser suggested putting information in the Mayor's Bulletin to see if anyone is willing to help with the Farmer's Market. He asked for her contact information as he would be willing to help if needed. Mayor Policastro said he is going to explain to everyone that this was a learning year. We did not charge any vendor to participate. If some of the vendors are upset that we cannot do this during Homecoming or October then he is sorry. Mr. Scheeser said he had some of the vendors express concern that the market was closing early. Mayor Policastro said Ms. Geldbaugh cannot be there all the time so if there is a problem there is no one to take care of it. He is planning on putting together a

new Committee so next year will be better. Mr. Scheeser said he is glad to hear that the plan is for it to continue next year.

Mr. Andrews said now that we have gone through the summer with one meeting per month he asked Council for their thoughts and feedback if we should do it again next summer or go back to the regular schedule. Mayor Policastro said he thought it worked out fine and said he would like to see it continued through the end of the year – especially at Christmas. Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding said we would need to make sure that Council met in order to approve the Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance. Mr. Stelzer suggested looking at the idea at the next Council meeting to see if we want to do once a month meetings year round. Plenty of municipalities only meet once per month. If needed, a Special Meeting can always be called. He was the advocate for it and still believes it is the way to go. Mayor Policastro suggested Mr. Stelzer prepare a written motion for the next meeting.

Mr. Stelzer updated Council on the Eastern Corridor Project. There was a meeting at ODOT's office on August 25, 2013. Representatives from Mariemont, Newtown, Terrace Park and Madisonville were present. The meeting had a limited time for presentations but he felt we were able to get our point across. We issued a Reservation of Rights because of the length of the meeting. There was not enough time to cover all that needed to be discussed. It was an effective meeting but they are still in limbo. The 106 process (study of historical and/or archeological factors involving any project involving federal money) has not even started yet. ODOT is to meet with the Madisonville Community Council regarding Red Bank. Mr. Wolter asked if the 106 process was delayed because they did not realize the historical significance of the ground in the Lower 80 Acres. Mr. Stelzer said it is clear when ODOT made the decision fourteen months ago that they had no idea that the area was covered by the National Historic Landmark Designation. They missed it during their studies. Since then we have had the archeological finds by Dr. Tankersley and his staff. We are looking at doing a couple of things about designating some of the archeological areas to give us more defense in this process. We are in the process of talking with Newtown. There is a lot of cooperation between communities right now which is a good thing. We are enjoying a great relationship with Newtown and Madisonville. The three communities are pretty much adamant about not accepting what ODOT is proposing but at some point we may have to go a complete no build because it may be the only position ODOT will listen to. Mayor Policastro asked what would happen if Dr. Tankersley could get the whole valley to be put on the National Historic Landmark Register. Mr. Stelzer said he has given up trying to handicap what works. Finding the artifacts should have been a good block, the National Historic Landmark status should have been a good block in addition to all the political leaders at all levels coming out in opposition. It seems like it is a process that just continues in spite of everything. There is a lot of money on the other side of the table chasing this project.

Mr. Stelzer said there is supposed to be a proposal coming from the Boy Scouts regarding a camp ground on the Lower South 80. It is part of an Eagle Scout project. It still has to go through multiple levels of review but it is designed to be a primitive camping area overlooking the Little Miami River. A kayak launch is also being considered. Once complete it can actually be used by the Village residents using a sign out type system.

#### Resolutions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“To Reappoint Wes Iredale as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2014 and 2015” 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. Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to suspend the rules to allow for the third reading. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Scheeser to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Scheeser

moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to invoke the Emergency Clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-18-13 was adopted.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Dan Policastro, Mayor

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Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk