

**VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OCTOBER 13, 2014**

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. Marsland, Mr. Miller, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Tinkham and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to approve the minutes as written for September 22, 2014. On roll call; five ayes, no nays (Ms. Schwartz abstained due to her absence).

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Police Chief Hines: September 2014 Monthly Report: Mr. Wolter asked for some insight into the increase in drug abuse. Chief Hines said most of it is from traffic stops. It is way up from this time last year. We are not fighting anything that any other community is not fighting and that is the heroin epidemic which is nationwide. Mr. Wolter asked if the department is adequately staffed with 10 officers. Chief Hines said having the compliment of 10 officers is much better than when they were working shifts with 8 officers. Chief Hines said for the third year in a row the department received the gold level award from the Hamilton County OVI Task Force for our impaired driving enforcement for 2014. He is hopeful that this year the department will also receive the Platinum Award from AAA for traffic safety. Mr. Tinkham asked if the arrests were on their own of the department or with aid from OVI checkpoints. Chief Hines said the department runs OVI task force cars on a monthly basis. The grant pays for so many hours per month. The checkpoints are part of the grant. The purpose of the checkpoints is not to make arrests but to educate people and make sure they get home safe.

From Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer: September 2014 Monthly Report

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: September 2014 Monthly Report. Mr. Wolter asked about the salt shortages. Superintendent Scherpenberg said it should be interesting this year. Morton Salt is not taking bids this year. North American Salt whom the Village deals with has cut our order from 300 tons to 200 tons. There is a new product on the market called Salt Solution which is supposed to stretch the salt supply. He believes the Village should be okay.

From Building Commissioner Hodulik: September 2014 Monthly Report

From Tax Administrator Busam: September 2014 Monthly Report

From Police Clerk Maupin: Mayor's Court Statement August 2014

From Assistant Fiscal Officer Eldridge: August 2014 Monthly Report/Trend Reports

From Mayor Policastro: Letter Dated May 1, 2014 re: Request for Grant Funding

From Interact for Health: Letter Dated September 25, 2014 re: \$1500 Grant. Mayor Policastro said Assistant Fiscal Officer Eldridge told us of this grant, we applied and received \$1500. Fiscal Officer Borgerding instructed that the funds be deposited directly into the Ann Buntin Becker Park Fund.

From Mayor Policastro: Possible Installment of Freddy the Frog Spring Rider and Wally the Whale Spring Rider or other exercise play equipment at Ann Buntin Becker Park. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Health and Recreation Committee.

From Frank Uehlin: Letter Dated October 6, 2014 re: Thank You

From Mayor Policastro: Suggested Route to Elementary School Using New Crosswalks. Mayor Policastro said we have had some problems in the area of the Waldorf School/Cherry Lane with complaints of traffic, speed etc. while parents are walking their children to the Elementary School. He and the Police Chief viewed the area and came up with a map that clearly shows how to get around and it was given to the grade school. A crosswalk has been put in on Chestnut Street. He received one e-mail from a resident that was not happy with it but it should work keeping our children safe.

From Engineer Ertel: Recommendations Pocahontas Avenue and an e-mail Dated October 7, 2014 re: Traffic Signals at the Square. Engineer Ertel said Pocahontas was one of the streets bid for the street repair work for 2014. Part of the project was an item to have the consultant design the street to determine where the catch basins should go. The best solution to fix the drainage issues is to lower the street. It is an additional scope to the work and will cost approximately \$28,000. Half will be picked up by the state grant leaving the Village to pay the \$14,051.46 balance. Mr. Tinkham questioned if this would take care of the issues of the Spooner residence. Mayor Policastro and Engineer Ertel said it would. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to add the work to the scope of the project. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Engineer Ertel said the controllers in the square were old and two new controllers were installed. With the new controllers we have the ability to hold the traffic westbound on Wooster Pike so the white crosswalk light will come on (at Madisonville Road by PNC Bank). Now the vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic will be staggered for safety. If this does not solve the problem they will have a traffic study done to determine new timing of the signals.

Mr. Dan Domis, 3901 West Street #304, was granted permission to address Council. As Council is aware the intersection at Madisonville Road and West Street is heavily used and there is quite a bit of traffic proving to be difficult to get out from West Street. During school days in the mornings and afternoons the only way West Street actually clears is if the crossing guard also acts as a traffic conductor and stops traffic on Madisonville Road so West Street can clear. He finds it

to be a safety issue. There is also the issue of speed. He believes if there was a four way stop sign it would calm traffic on Madisonville Road. Based on his observations, he does not believe it would back up traffic to Wooster Pike.

Ms. Kate Fenner, 3901 West Street, was granted permission to address Council. She too is an advocate of the four-way stop sign at West Street and Madisonville Road. She has grandchildren at the Elementary School who go back and forth at various times and not always when there is a crossing guard. She has observed speeding on Madisonville Road which greatly concerns her. She believes the four-way stop sign may also help eliminate cross-thru traffic on Madisonville Road from those who do not live in the Village. She implored Council to think of the safety of the children and pedestrians.

Mayor Policastro said should the Committee choose we could have an engineering consulting firm conduct a traffic study.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Tinkham to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Monday September 22, 2014 to consider a request for a stop sign at the three-way intersection of Center Street, East Center Street and West Center Street. Present were Committee Chariman Jim Tinkham, Committee Members Maggie Palazzolo and Joe Miller, Police Chief Rick Hines and Mayor Policastro. Brian Vianello of 3726 East Center Street, Mariemont, Ohio spoke to request additional stop signs at East Center and West Center Streets. Bob Alsfelder of 3700 Center Street, Mariemont, Ohio spoke to oppose additional stop signs. After deliberation the Committee agreed to recommend to Council that three stops signs be installed at the intersection as indicated on the attached diagram. The Committee asks that legislation for the stop signs be prepared and the recommendation is for three readings in Council. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Tinkham moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met Monday September 22, 2014 to consider a request for a stop sign at the intersection of West Street and Madisonville Road. Present were Committee Chariman Jim Tinkham, Committee Members Maggie Palazzolo and Joe Miller, Police Chief Rick Hines and Mayor Policastro. Dan Domis of 3901 West Street, Mariemont, Ohio spoke to request a four-way stop sign at the intersection of West Street and Madisonville Road. After deliberation the Committee agreed to deny the request, stating that a stop sign would cause undo traffic delays on Madisonville Road. The Committee decided instead to address the traffic problem by enhancing traffic speed enforcement on Madisonville Road. The Committee further recommends that Police Chief Rick Hines investigate a new speed trailer that can be used throughout the Village, and a permanent speed indicator for the intersection of West Street and Madisonville Road, as well as parking a police squad car, if available, to discourage speeding. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Wolter said he recommends that Council accepts the report but also that we are going to investigate this with the potential to conduct a traffic study to quantify the potential for the backup to Wooster Pike. Ms. Palazzolo is hopeful that what they did will help with the speeding and recommends waiting to see if this helps and if it does not then proceed with a traffic study to help with the traffic calming. Mayor Policastro said four new school zone signs have been erected on Madisonville Road.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Monday September 22, 2014 to consider a request to designate the section of Cherry Lane in front of the Mariemont Community Church as a school zone. Present were Committee Chariman Jim Tinkham, Committee Members Maggie Palazzolo and Joe Miller, Police Chief Rick Hines and Mayor Policastro. After discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to Council to designate that portion of Cherry Lane in front of the Mariemont Community Church as a School Zone and indicate such with signage and a 20-mile-per-hour speed zone. Additionally, the Committee recommends that additional stop signs be placed on the island of Cherry Lane for better awareness by drivers. The Committee further recommends that the pedestrian crossing areas be repainted to be more visible. The Committee asks that legislation for the school zone and signs be for three reading in Council. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

The Mayor read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Beggar's Night will be Friday October 31, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Tinkham asked what measures the Village takes should the date be changed. Mayor Policastro said we would post it on the website, put up a sign at the east and west entrance to the Village and place it on Nextdoor Mariemont.

Resolutions:

"To Reappoint Dave Tensi as Inspector for the Building Commissioner for the Calendar Years 2015 and 2016" had a first reading.

"To Reappoint Christopher M. Ertel as Village Engineer for Calendar Years 2015 and 2016; and To Set Compensation" had a first reading.

"To Reappoint Donald White as Mayor's Court Magistrate for Calendar years 2015 and 2016; To Set Compensation" had a first reading.

"To Confirm the Reappointment of Edward J. McTigue as Solicitor for the Village of Mariemont for the Calendar Years 2015 and 2016" had a first reading.

"To Confirm the Reappointment of Jordan Schad as Swim Pool manager for Calendar Years 2015 and 2016; and To Set Compensation" had a first reading.

"Resolution of Support for Green Umbrella Regional Trails Plan" had a first reading.

"Resolution of Support for Taking Root Regional Reforestation Campaign" had a first reading.

Ordinances:

“An Ordinance Authorizing Application and Contracting with the Ohio Public Works Commission” had a third reading. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-26-14 was adopted.

“Ordinance Amending Chapter 114 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Include Notice of No Solicitation within the Village” had a second reading.

Mr. Miller asked when the tree stumps will be removed. Superintendent Scherpenberg said we are in the process of working with OUPS to determine underground utilities. He estimates the work should be done within two weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer