

**VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
AUGUST 24, 2015**

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 and Ms. Schwartz.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to excuse the absence of Mr. Hlad and Mr. Wolter. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes as written for the Budget Hearing of July 20, 2015, the regular Council meeting of July 20, 2015, and the Special Council meeting of July 22, 2015. On roll call; four ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Police Chief Hines: July 2015 Monthly Report

From Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer: July 2015 Monthly Report

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: July 2015 Monthly Report. Mr. Marsland said he had received six white pine trees from Penn State for Miami Bluff to be planted in front of the pool. Mayor Policastro asked about the size of the trees. Mr. Marsland said they were about three inches in diameter at breast height and about six feet tall. He said it was a little too early to plant them now. It would be best to wait until later in September. He said he would continue to take care of them by watering the burlap wrapping around them and would notify the Service Department when the time is right to plant them.

From Building Commissioner Hodulik: July 2015 Monthly Report. Mr. Hodulik said he receive an email from Hamilton County regarding the Village's agreement establishing a Board of Appeals. The email indicated some minor changes that needed to be made to the agreement before it could be put into effect. Mr. Hodulik then informed Council that he would be resigning as Building Commissioner to take a full-time job elsewhere. However, it is his intent to stay on until his replacement could be appointed and until he had time to train that person for the job. Mr. Hodulik said he has enjoyed working for the Village and thanked Police Chief Hines, Asst. Fire Chief Kiefer, Service Department Superintendent John Scherpenberg, all the people of the Village and members of Council, Mayor Policastro who hired him, Mrs. Van Pelt, Mrs. Singleton, and all those who had helped him throughout the time he has served as Building Commissioner. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Hodulik for being willing to stay long enough to get his replacement trained. He said Mr. Hodulik has done a great job and will be missed.

From Tax Administrator Busam: July 2015 Monthly Report. Mayor Policastro asked how collection of the annual waste collection fees was going. Mrs. Busam said they were coming in pretty well. Out of the 1500 notices that had been sent out, less than about 100 still remain unpaid. She said that the extension for acceptance of late payments would expire the next day. Anyone who has not paid by then will receive a summons to appear in Mayor's Court.

From Swim Pool Manager Schad: July 2015 Monthly Report

From Warren Walker, Duke Energy: E-mailed Dated July 30, 2015 re: Upcoming Work to Rebuild Facilities in the Mariemont/Fairfax Area

From Mark Erhardt: Letter Dated July 31, 2015 re: Resignation from South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board. Mayor Policastro explained that Mr. Erhardt has moved out of the Village and can no longer be a member of the Board. It is his understanding that Joe Stelzer will take over as Chairman of the South 80 Board.

From Time Warner Cable: Letter Dated July 30, 2015 re: Quarterly Franchise Fee

From Police Clerk Maupin: Mayor's Court Statement July 2015

From Assistant Fiscal Officer Eldridge: July 2015 Monthly Report/Trend Reports

From Karen Herkamp: e-mail Dated August 19, 2015 re: MPF "Millard F. Rogers, Jr. Speakers Series"

From Rumpke: Letter Dated August 7, 2015 re: Waste Removal Contract Extension. Mayor Policastro said the extension would increase the cost by about 3%. He said Rumpke has been pretty good working with the Village and no other companies have offered to provide this service to us. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Finance Committee.

From Shamrock Enterprises: Letter Dated July 14, 2015 re: Work at Swim Pool. Mayor Policastro said the equipment was old, rusted, and falling apart. We received a quote from Shamrock Enterprises. Ed Beck provided us with a list of other companies we could contact for competitive quotes. Mayor Policastro said he would have Mrs. Singleton send those companies a request for quotes. He then referred the matter to the Public Works and Services Committee.

From Residents Mt. Vernon & Emery Lane: Petition Regarding Stop Sign. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Public Works and Services Committee.

From Staff Assistant Sue Singleton – Memo Regarding Electric & Gas Supplier Discounts. Mayor Policastro said that we currently have a contract with Duke Retail that will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. Since Duke Retail was bought out by Dynegy, we decided to look at other providers to see if we could do better on the costs. Mrs. Singleton said we have met with a few companies that will do the shopping for us for electric and gas suppliers. Regarding electric, the best quote we got was from Muirfield Energy, who had 'shopped' for electric suppliers for us and recommended that we go with Champion Energy Services. If we sign a three-year agreement with Champion, the discount would save us \$3,398.08 per year on our electric costs, for a savings over the three-year contract term of \$10,194.24. One of the things that Champion can offer to us that Duke Energy Retail could not was to offer a discount on our street light accounts. One street light account normally runs around \$2,000.00 per month, so any discount we can get will help. Muirfield Energy, however, was not able to offer us much of a discount for our natural gas supply. Energy Alliances, who shopped for gas

suppliers for us, was able to offer us a better discount on gas. They would put us in a group plan. They buy the gas during the off months, during the summer when demand is down and, therefore, costs are down. They then 'warehouse' it for when we need it in the winter when the demand is higher. This means we would still be paying the lower cost even when demand and costs are up, because we would have bought ahead of time. Energy Alliance could not give us a quote for the gas costs, because it changes every day, just like the stock market. The actual cost will depend on when we sign the agreement. Right now, we have no discount on any of our four natural gas accounts, so any discount we get would be a savings. Mrs. Singleton said that after all the companies she spoke with, it is her suggestion that we go through Muirfield Energy to go with Champion for our electric supplier and that we go through Energy Alliance for our gas supplier. Mayor Policastro called for a vote on Mrs. Singleton's proposal. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to accept the agreement with Champion Energy for our electric supplier and with Energy Alliance for our natural gas supplier. On roll call, four ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro stated that we have some major expenses coming up. The work at the pool will cost about \$50,000, but it is important to keep the pool in good shape. If we are going to do this, we have to do it this year. We need to replace it during the off-season to have it ready for next summer. This is not something we can do during the pool season. Hopefully the committee will get with Mrs. Singleton, get some requests for quotes out, and get started on repairing the pool. According to Pool Facilities Manager, Ed Beck, we were very lucky to have made it through this year with the equipment being in the condition it's in.

Mayor Policastro also said the air conditioning in the Municipal Building also needs to be replaced. They are over 50 years old. He showed Council a rusted piece from the condensation pans that sit under the two current units in the Municipal Building attic and said we had fixed those temporarily with a rubber mat. The company that did that work said we really need to get new air handlers. We contacted about eight heating and air conditioning companies. They came out, got up in the attic, took a look at what we had and we never heard from them again. Not one of them was even willing to give us a bid. The current units were put in when the building was constructed and they were built into the attic. It is going to be a big job to get the old units out and put new ones in. Mr. Miller asked if the units would have to be removed through the roof. Mayor Policastro said they will have to be disassembled in the attic and taken out that way. He said Village resident Bob Steinkamp had provided us with the name of a company to contact and we are waiting for his quote. Mr. Miller asked if the contractors were aware that other companies had been contacted for quotes. He said he felt we would get more competitive bids if each of them knew other quotes were going to be submitted. Mayor Policastro said we had let all of them know that we are requesting quotes from other contractors. He said that, in addition to the units in the attic, Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer had pointed out that there is also a large air handler in the basement that needs to be replaced. It will also be very difficult to remove and replace. That means that there are actually three units that need to be replaced. We want to do this work in the fall when the temperature in the attic would be cool enough for people to work up there and when outside temperatures would not require us to run the air conditioners to keep the building comfortable. He believes the new air conditioning will cost about \$40,000.

Mayor Policastro said that the balance in the Permanent Improvement Fund is now \$225,000, but we have made the final payment on the new fire truck and next year the fund should start to replenish itself. We should receive approximately \$350,000 from the capital tax levy and another \$100,000 for the Street Fund. Even though it will be tough, we need to do these projects this fall.

Mayor Policastro said that in the spring, we need to replace the driveway for the fire trucks and estimated it would cost about \$20,000. He said he wanted to let Council know what was ahead of us and that we will need to make some decisions on these projects over the next month or so.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll all; four ayes, no nays.

The Health and Recreation Committee met on Wednesday August 12, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers to discuss the Murray Avenue Bike Trail. Present were Mary Ann Schwartz, Dennis Wolter, Maggie Palazzolo, Mayor Policastro and Village Engineer Chris Ertel. Each Committee member listed their rankings of the seven Letters of Interest submitted to Village Engineer, Chris Ertel, for the Murray Avenue bike path. Choice One Engineering was the unanimous choice of the Committee Members including Mayor Policastro. It is recommended by the Committee that Village Engineer enter into contract negotiations with Choice One Engineering. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to accept the recommendation of the committee. Mayor Policastro asked if a resolution or ordinance was required at this time. Engineer Chris Ertel said that all we need at this point is the report and approval of Council. On roll call, four ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro made the following announcements:

Taste of Mariemont will be held on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Porsche Rallye will be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Warrior Run will be held on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Resolutions:

"To Appoint Grant Karnes as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2015 (To Fill the Unexpired Term of Mark Erhardt) had a first reading.

Ordinances:

"To Amend Section 78, Section I of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Include No Parking on Certain Streets within the Village (Flintpoint and Center) had a third reading. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to adopt the ordinance. On roll call; four ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-19-15 was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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Dan Policastro, Mayor

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Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer