

**VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 14, 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. Hlad, Mr. Marsland, Mr. Miller, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Schwartz and Mr. Wolter.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to approve the minutes as written for August 24, 2015. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Police Chief Hines: August 2015 Monthly Report. Mr. Hlad thanked both the Police and Fire Departments for the Safety Services Night Out. It was an enjoyable evening for families and residents.

From Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer: August 2015 Monthly Report.

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: August 2015 Monthly Report.

From Building Commissioner Hodulik: August 2015 Monthly Report. Mayor Policastro introduced Mr. Keyes as the Building Department Administrator to replace Kirk Hodulik who will be leaving the Village to take a full-time job.

From Tax Administrator Busam: August 2015 Monthly Report. Mrs. Busam said she anticipates we will end the year the same as we did last year. Mr. Wolter asked if Mrs. Busam had any information on House Bill 5. Mrs. Busam said it is a mess. A meeting is scheduled with Ohio Municipal League October 23, 2015 to go over changes so far. It continues to be tweaked. It will be a challenge and it will cost the Village and all other cities in Ohio money. Mr. Wolter asked if we will lose any control collecting our taxes. Mrs. Busam said not at this time but she thinks that is something that could be on the horizon. Mayor Policastro asked about the concept of only taxing citizens who live in a jurisdiction (versus those who are employed in the area) and was that getting defeated. Mrs. Busam said that has been reintroduced into the legislature but nothing has happened on it yet. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said he believes the current bill increased the number of days you need to work in a municipality from 10 days to 21 days.

From Metropolitan Sewer District: Print Record – Service Call Settle Road

Mrs. Molly Perez, 3863 Settle Road, was granted permission to address Council. She approached Council asking for help. Many were affected by the rain storm on Friday September 4, 2015. She knows firsthand how devastating that can be. What happened at her address was truly unbelievable. Approximately 6:00 p.m. the storm sewers in front of her home ceased to work. In a matter of seconds there was four feet of water that rushed from the street down the driveway and filled her garage and basement. She could list the personal property that was lost and the financial hardship, but she is very thankful because she believes it was a situation where there could have been a loss of life. She has three small children under the age of five and not a single one of them is over four feet tall. At the time they were all in the finished basement. She personally thanked the Fire Department who performed beyond the call of duty. They shut off the gas, waded through waist high water to turn off electric to those items submerged. She also thanked the Service Department for all the follow up work removing the concrete washout from the storm. The concrete was impeding the drainage of water. There are only four storm sewers on Settle from Hawthorne to Murray. It is essential that they work above and beyond. She needs to move forward and in doing that she needs help from Council. She cannot have this happen again. Her young children are frightened every time it rains. She needs the Village's expertise and resources to assist her in making changes that will make Settle Road safer. There is a drainage issue, there is a sewage with roots and trees and there is an ongoing discussion in general about the safety of Settle Road regarding one way, the bike trail and the Flying Pig Marathon. Right now she does not have solutions but she is willing to work with the Village to make those happen. She believes that sometimes bad things have to happen in order to make changes that need to be made. She is hopeful that we can all make those changes together.

Mr. Matt Tripepi, 3865 Settle Road, was granted permission to address Council. He has a four year old and his basement was trashed after the rainstorm. He believes we are talking about an infrastructure issue. He does not know when the sewers/streets were put in but he said the four storm sewers were probably fine back in the day when they were first installed. He assumes the sewers were installed in 1939 around the time most of the homes were built along Settle Road. He does not know if there are records indicating what work, if any, has been done over the years. The Perez family had the drains looked at coming from the house to the storm drain which showed tree root blockage. It has been documented and that information was shared with the Village. The cement was a known issue but not removed. We want to prevent something like this from happening again. It's great that we got the cement out of there but there seems like there is still a root issue. Down the road we (homeowners) are going to have to disclose this information to anyone should we sell our homes. Unless we improve the drainage on the street we (homeowners) would not have a good answer should someone ask what has been done to correct the issue. In his opinion there are probably several areas in the Village that should be looked at. We do not want to bankrupt the Village but simply make sure the infrastructure is in place to avoid something like this from happening again. We are happy to assist the Village in any way because you never know when something like this could occur again. Lastly, if we would have had our cars parked in the garage they too would be a total loss.

Ms. Merret Collister, 3886 Settle Road, was granted permission to address Council. She has been a resident for 14 years. Her reason for being here was is to say we have a problem, and have always had a problem with traffic. There have been many attempts at solutions with the traffic flow. In addition, she feels Settle Road needs to be respected and looked at. She feels Settle Road issues are sometimes last on the list. With this present situation and seeing these families so deeply affected she has worked with the Village before and is pleased with the effort from the Mayor and members of Council, but she really feels that these issues that have come to fruition based on this freakish storm have maybe highlighted and put into

light some of the other things that need to be addressed on Settle Road. There are 40+ elementary kids on the street. We are an active block and an active community. We are neighbors and we are friends. We are bound in making sure that the issues that have come to light are addressed and respected. We hope to work with the Village and want to see an overall plan including the proposed bike path. As a street Settle Road wants to work with the Village and Council, not against it, to make the changes that are necessary.

Mr. Jeff Wallace, 3852 Settle Road, was granted permission to address Council. He also had a flood in his basement from the recent rainstorm. He suggested Council also look at Homewood Road and surrounding streets. He believes some of the water flow may come from other streets down to Settle Road adding to the problem.

Ms. Anastasia Nurre, 3867 Settle Road, was granted permission to address Council. She wanted to voice her concern about the safety on Settle Road. She has submitted a proposal for ideas for traffic calming issues. Anything she can do to help move it forward she would be happy to do.

Mr. Charles Kroncke, 3716 Settle Road, was granted permission to address Council. While his basement remained dry he respectfully asked that when Council addresses the issue to not ignore the 3700 block of Settle Road.

Mr. Tom Feie, 3857 Settle Road, was granted permission to address Council. He has lived on Settle Road for 26 years and has seen a lot of improvements on the street. He is here to show support for his neighbors.

Mayor Policastro said he has been helping with several houses on Settle Road and going through insurance policies showing where they have coverage. He explained that Village Engineer, Chris Ertel, is in the process of applying for a \$100,000 storm water grant (which is due in 5 days). Settle Road should hopefully be re-paved next year. We would like to put a retention pipe on Settle Road including catch basins. It would hold the water and slowly let the water drain. The same concept was successful done in the area by Mercy St. Theresa which had a lot of water flowing from Indian Hill. It was a bad flood area but it no longer is. With the new condominium units that Mr. Griewe has put in he has put in retention pipes. We will need to partner with the City of Cincinnati because they own the end of the street.

Superintendent Scherpenberg said they checked and there were very few roots in the storm sewers in that area. There are some but nothing to be concerned with at this time.

Mayor Policastro said in the next Mayor's Bulletin he is going to tell residents if they have window wells to install glass block. If your basement is finished do not put carpet but instead ceramic tile. His basement had flooded and that is what he did – it makes for much easier cleaning should you have water in the basement. He also suggested if you do not have a sump pump to have one installed with a battery back-up for loss of power. The Village joined FEMA approximately five years ago so residents can now buy flood insurance in the Village of Mariemont. His understanding is that at least two properties have to be affected by the body of water that overflows. He would encourage everyone to buy flood insurance as it is not that expensive – especially in an area that is not a flood plain. As far as traffic calming, approximately a year and a half ago residents of Settle Road came into Council to discuss traffic issues. No one wanted speed bumps. He suggested what he thought would have been a solution to Mr. Perez. Mayor Policastro said he would want residents to get together to come to an agreement.

Mrs. Perez said they shared the Mayor's proposal which was to put a stop sign in the middle of the street at a crosswalk so children could cross safely. The issue is because there is on-street parking when children try to cross the street they are not seen. People drive fast up and down the street – a lot of them being non-residents. When they started to share the idea the fear was maybe that was not enough. They are still in the stage of sharing the idea. Mayor Policastro said it would make the area safer. Fifteen years ago when he became Mayor he put the island in which did help slow some of the traffic along the street. Mrs. Perez said part of the problem is vehicles are going fast around the parked cars in order to get into spots so other cars can pass them or vice versa. More times she is outside with her young children hearing grown men using inappropriate language with each other because they are at a standstill.

Ms. Collister said being that she has had such support from both the Mayor and Council in the past making the road one-way by her house (Settle and Murray). She has proposed, met with and spoken in private many times trying to come up with an idea because she knows everyone knows there is a problem. Respectfully the Mayor has always been helpful. What she would like to see with the grant money is see if in addition to the sewer situation if there are alternative ways to come up with other possible traffic calming patterns. She understands that changing the traffic pattern in one area may change the traffic pattern on another street. She would like to see if we can address the possibility of other ideas. She would like to see the sewer work, traffic calming and the bike path all be part of a bigger plan that will benefit the residents of Settle and Homewood. She wants their street to be just as viable as any other street in the Village. Mayor Policastro said he is still trying to work with ODOT to get a traffic light.

Mr. Wolter said the most effective planning we can do right now is the sequencing of projects. For him the most immediate would be to calm traffic because that is an immediate danger. There needs to be an overall plan with all projects in mind.

Mayor Policastro said when we get all the information needed to go forward he will assign the matter probably to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Tripepi asked to help him understand the process. He has heard the argument that no one wants to live on a street with speed humps because it shows that there is an issue – his retaliation to that is there are several very nice streets in Hyde Park with speed humps and it does not affect people purchasing homes along those streets. He sees that as flawed logic. Mayor Policastro said we have been down that road many times with speed humps. Mr. Tripepi said he does not have any of that history. He does not understand the meaning of the Committee of the Whole. Mayor said it would be all the members of Council in one Committee with that one subject to work on. If we get the grant, the Committee of the Whole will come together and figure out how to put the retention tank in. Mr. Tripepi said he was referring to the speed humps. Mayor Policastro said he does not believe there will be many people who want speed humps in front of their house. It would be discussed in a committee. Mr. Tripepi asked how to get on the Committee of the Whole. Mayor Policastro said you have to be a member of Council.

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. Mr. Wolter questioned the payment for July and August to GrassCor in one month Mrs. Van Pelt said it was probably a timing issue due to Council only meeting one time per month during the summer. On roll all; six ayes, no nays.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on July 27, 2015 to discuss safety concerns around narrow streets in the Village in case of a fire emergency. In attendance were Lorne Hlad, Maggie Palazzolo, Mayor Dan Policastro, Chief Rick Hines, Dennis Wolter and Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kiefer. When cars park on both sides of the street throughout many of our streets it prohibits a fire truck from passing. Streets in discussion were Mt. Vernon, Mariemont Avenue, Pleasant Street, Hammerstone, Cachepit, Midden Way, Mound Way and Emery Lane. It was decided to propose legislation to make parking available on only one side of these streets. The no parking side would be on the same side as the fire hydrants. Flyers were distributed prior to the Council meeting of September 14, 2015 to each household on the proposed streets. Mr. Hlad said he handed out flyers to residents on affected streets and fielded 10-12 e-mails. Many were supportive and thankful for addressing the issue. Others were concerned if it would be a painted curb, sign (which residents do not want in front of their house). He told them that the implementation of work will be talked about with each street and what they desire. Typically, yellow paint is reserved for a short section of curb not a whole street. We have a map with streets that have been measured. 26 feet in width is the rule of thumb to allow parking on both sides of the street in order to get a fire truck through. Many of the streets have been addressed but they are taking a phased approach. Mayor Policastro said if a resident has a problem where a sign might go that the Committee make an effort to tuck it somewhere where it will not bother them. The report states that the no parking will be on the opposite of where the fire plugs are but sometimes that is not always the only option. Mr. Wolter said this is bringing the Village into code with the State of Ohio. Mr. Hlad said a lot of the problem is that many have more than two vehicles and the on street parking is abundant. Over the years it was not done and we are slowly getting the Village back into compliance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Porsche Rallye will be held on Saturday October 3, 2015

Warrior Run will be held on Saturday October 10, 2015

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.

“To Appoint Don Keyes to the New Position of Building Department Administrator for Calendar Years 2015 and 2016 to Fill the Unexpired Term of Building Commissioner Kirk Hodulik; To Set Compensation and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. Mayor Policastro said Mr. Hodulik did a good job for us and he knows Mr. Keyes will do so as well. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Hlad to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. T-23-15 was adopted.

To Authorize Ohio Department of Transportation to Proceed with Project PID No. 99814 HAM-US50-30.23 RRFB; and To Enter Into Contract; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to suspend the rules to allow for a second and third reading. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second and third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Hlad moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-24-15 was adopted.

“To Reappoint Maria Borgerding as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2016 and 2017” had a first reading

“To Reappoint Wes Iredale as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Susan Eberlein as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Anita Hunt as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Laura Stith as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years of 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Paul Haffner as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

To Reappoint Paul Allen as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Mark Bruggeman as a Member of the Architectural Review Board for the Calendar Years of 2016 & 2017” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Louise Schomberg as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years of 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Ruth Varner as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years of 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Dave Wuertemberger as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Year 2016” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Nancy Stelzer as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Andrew Seeger as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2016” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Joe Stelzer as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2016” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Tim Duever as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2016” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Karen Sullivan as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2016” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Rob Winget as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2016” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Judy Foreman as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2016” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Doug Welsh as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2016” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Jason Brownknight as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2016” had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Chris White as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2016” had a first reading.

Ordinances:

“To Amend Section 78, Schedule I of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Include No Parking on Certain Streets Within the Village” (Mt. Vernon, Mariemont, Pleasant, Hammerstone, Cachepit, Midden, Mound, Emery) had a first reading.

“To Reappoint Anthony Borgerding as Village Fiscal Officer for the Calendar Years 2016 and 2017” had a first reading.

Mayor Policastro said we received bids for the work needed on the HVAC system for the Municipal Building. He referred that matter to the Committee of the Whole to discuss and make a recommendation. He said we need to do this work within the next couple of months.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer