

**VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 11, 2016**

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 and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to excuse the absence of Mr. Hlad. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro introduced new Assistant Fiscal Officer, Eli Wendler, and welcomed her aboard.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the minutes as written for December 14, 2015. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Police Chief Hines: December 2015 Monthly Report.

From Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer: December 2015 Monthly Report

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: December 2015 Monthly Report/2015 Annual Report

From Building Administrator Keyes: December 2015 Monthly Report

From Tax Administrator Busam: December 2015 Monthly Report. Mrs. Busam said House Bill 5 made it necessary to set up a new Committee Board of Appeals should someone file an appeal. Council will need to appoint two members and the Mayor will need to appoint one person. These appointments need to be done in the near future, however, the Board would not hear any appeals until the 2016 filing period.

Mayor Policastro said we had in place a similar Board for years with Syd Sabo serving. Mayor Policastro is going to appoint him and referred the matter to the Finance Committee to recommend two appointments from Council. He suggested Joe Stelzer, who is a CPA and attorney Jed O'Connell but asked the Finance Committee to discuss any other candidates they may feel would be interested.

From Police Clerk Maupin: Mayor's Court Statement for November 2015

From Southwest Ohio Tree City USA: Tree City USA 2015

From Fiscal Officer Borgerding: December 2015 Monthly Report. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said he will be able to give a better update after he has the annual report done but we ended the year right where we expected and budgeted for 2015. Mayor Policastro said the report shows we have a surplus of 1.2 million dollars.

From Tax Administrator Busam: Income Tax Rules and Regulations. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to adopt. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Joe Stelzer, 6609 Pleasant Street, was granted permission to address Council. He wanted to update Council on some of the activities with the South 80 Park and Trails Advisory Committee and the progress of the new trail at the Bell Tower. The Advisory Board is made up of nine hard working, talented and very committed citizens. The Committee advises the Mayor of their recommendations. If approved, they will find the resources to accomplish those recommendations. They meet monthly and encourage residents to attend. They continue to make progress transforming the previously underutilized South 80 Park into a wonderful amenity for residents of the Village. It has been accomplished with a lot of volunteer hours. It is much appreciated. He thanked all the departments, Mayor and Council for support. Volunteers are often amazed at how much cooperation they get from local officials. Many are aware that the transformation of the South 80 into an amply used public park was one of the critical factors in the successful opposition to the routing of State Route 32 through Mariemont. You cannot use federal dollars to tear up a park. In 2015 the public gardens were expanded to make room for additional gardeners. The demand continues to increase and has turned into a great social spot in the summer. Also, the railroad improved the track crossing leading to the South 80 with new blacktop making it safer to cross. In 2016 they are seeking a grant from local foundations to hopefully pay for the installation of some blacktop in the area leading from the railroad tracks down to the public gardens. Presently it is loose gravel and blacktop would be a great improvement. They are working on a master plan for future changes with current focus on the following: (1) Try to expand the area of the park. They are talking with adjacent land owners about allowing them to expand the park and trails on their property (2) They are looking at developing additional hiking and biking trails by getting rid of some of the honeysuckle (3) They are working on a re-forestation plan. A lot of the trees are very old and are going to die. We need to try to come up with a plan on trees that will flourish. (4) They are identifying organized

programs that will help the area such as more birdwatching tours and star gazing. They do have a Facebook page which they post updates and will start putting information about the Bell Tower trails. The terrain made the making of the trail a challenge. In the past 60 days a plan has been developed, proposed to the Mayor, approved by the Mayor and is now in the first Phase of implementation. He anticipates formally opening the trails in the next couple of weeks once the language for the signage has been approved.

Mr. Grant Karnes, 6909 Mt. Vernon, was granted permission to address Council. He complimented the Mayor and members of Council for their support on this project. He welcomed the opportunity last year to be part of the South 80 Parks Advisory Board. He has built several single track multipurpose trails and is excited to be a part of this. He distributed a detailed handout to the Mayor and members of Council. The Bell Tower Trail will be a 0.8 mile single track multipurpose trail that will connect Dogwood Park to the South 80 scenic trails. The design objectives include: (1) Recognizing this special, natural area with its unique topography and privacy (2) Recognizing the terrain and erosion issues in this watershed and the topographical limitations on trail design (3) Minimize the ecological impact of the trail (4) Utilize natural contours on stable terrain for sustainability and safety (5) Enable multipurpose use for hiking, running and off-road biking (6) Enable a "Nature Trail" connector from the Village/Dogwood Park to the South 80 Scenic Trails (7) Design requirements and topography constraints dictate a single track trail design. From December 1, 2015 to January 5, 2016 we completed the construction of the trail. The construction and design are consistent with standards for both mountain bike (IMBA) and hiking/running use. They used natural materials such as logs, rocks, gravel to reinforce trail surfaces. The only man-made feature that exists on the trail is a safety railing. Besides having to close the trails for wet conditions we have had hundreds of people using this trail. The response has been positive from the community and other communities as well. The handout detailed the trail design standards. They designed the trail so it has 2-5% off slope so the water will shed off the trail. It is an intermediate trail. The last phase of the project will be the trail signage. They provided recommendations which are within standards. They want to identify it as multipurpose and of course use at your own risk. The Board is happy to take responsibility and going ahead and having the signs produced. The art created is press quality. They are happy to get a quote through a vendor of the Village.

Mayor Policastro asked about crossing the creek adding that Mr. Seeger said we could put in a flat boulder at one point and questioned if a bridge would be put in. Mr. Stelzer said they are going to use the natural environment with limited crossing to the creeks. If there are funds available later it may be something to consider. The creek in that area drains rapidly.

Mr. Andrew Seeger, 6988 Crystal Springs, was granted permission to address Council. He thanked the Mayor and members of Council for their support in addition to the Police, Fire and Service Departments. He has walked the trail several times and witnessed many people using the trails including children. He believes there are other opportunities within the Village to do the same sort of project. He believes it will keep the property values high. The next phase might also include the opportunity to teach classes. We could offer classes to young children/teenagers to teach them how to ride the trails. It would be a positive step to teach the community how to use what they have.

Mr. Miller said he had the opportunity to walk the trail and he was really impressed with what the Parks Advisory Board has done in the past 30 days. He really like the idea of keeping it natural and believes it will help keep the costs down. He encouraged everyone to go take a walk on the trail. It is a huge asset and so different than the South 80 acres.

Mr. Wolter said what makes this Village so special is the hard work of our volunteers and it separates our community from others. Not only does it save the Village money but it also brings people into our Village. With the addition of the trails the amount of unwanted activity in that area has really been cut down.

Mayor Policastro said where else can you live where you can walk for a couple of minutes and then you are in the middle of nature. Blacktopping a portion of the area to the South 80 acres is included in the 2016 Street Rehabilitation Work bid. He encouraged the Board to keep him in the loop so he can keep Council up to date.

Ms. Schwartz nominated Mr. Wolter as Pro-tem of Council, seconded by Mr. Marsland. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

"An Ordinance to make Appropriations for Current Expenses and other Expenditures of Village of Mariemont, State of Ohio, during the Fiscal Year Ending 2016" had a first reading. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third reading. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said this is standard procedure that we have to do at the first meeting of every year. In order to spend money the Ordinance needs to be passed first. The amounts are the same as the ones Council approved at the Budget Hearing in July 2015. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-1-16 was adopted.

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

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Monday December 14, 2015 at 6:15 to discuss restricting parking to one side only on Denny Place and Miami Bluff Drive. In attendance were Committee Chariman Lorne Hlad, Committee Co-Chairman Maggie Palazzolo, Committee Member Joe Miller, Mayor Dan Policastro, Chief Rick Hines, Council Member Dennis Wolter, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kiefer, and Village Engineer Chris Ertel. The Committee recommends that no

changes be made on Denny Place. The Committee further recommends that parking on Miami Bluff be restricted to the residential side of the street and no parking be allowed on the bluff side of the street. Mr. Marsland suggested amending the report to read “north/west side of the street” versus residential due to the two houses (by Mt. Vernon) located on the bluff side of the street. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to amend the report to read “north/west side of the street” versus residential. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the amended recommendation of the Committee. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Monday December 14, 2015 at 6:15 to discuss safety concerns pertaining to the four-way intersection where Settle Road, Hawthorne Avenue and Belmont Avenue meet. In attendance were Committee Chariman Lorne Hlad, Committee Co-Chairman Maggie Palazzolo, Committee Member Joe Miller, Mayor Dan Policastro, Chief Rick Hines, Council Member Dennis Wolter, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kiefer, and Village Engineer Chris Ertel. After discussion and listening to input from concerned residents in attendance, the Committee recommends the no parking zone approaching the intersection on Settle Road be extended 16 feet. The Committee further recommends changes be made to the four way intersection according to the document attached by the Village Engineer, Chris Ertel, which includes; extending the sidewalk, removing the existing curb ramp, the installation of two new curb ramps, the painting of a crosswalk and relocating the stop bar. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Friday, January 8, 2016, at 9:00 am to discuss designating curbs that are painted yellow as ‘No Parking’ zones. In attendance were Committee Chairperson Lorne Hlad, Committee Co-Chairman Maggie Palazzolo, Mayor Dan Policastro, Chief Rick Hines, and Village of Mariemont residents Linda Bartlett and Grant Karnes. After discussion of the need for ‘No Parking’ zones in certain areas of the Village where yellow curbs are preferred over ‘No Parking’ signs, the committee recommends that the Village of Mariemont Code of Ordinances, Section 76.04 (Parking Prohibitions) be amended to include yellow curbs as ‘No Parking’ zones. The committee further recommends that legislation to amend the ordinance be passed as an emergency to allow for immediate enforcement of the parking restriction. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to accept the recommendation of the Public Works and Service Committee which met on Monday December 21, 2015 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers to discuss 2016 road improvements as well as drainage issues on Mariemont Avenue. Present at the meeting were Public Works and Service Committee Chairman Dennis Wolter, Committee Member Eric Marsland, Committee Member Mary Ann Schwartz and Mayor Policastro. After discussion, it was determined that we needed to make all of the repairs and the one crosswalk addition that were included in the attached report from Village Engineer Chris Ertel. The Committee recommends that we pass these repairs on an emergency basis so as to take advantage of early pricing, which in the past has represented a substantial savings to the Village. Should the bids we receive be lower than what is expected, the Committee recommends meeting again to discuss including additional needed repairs in the 2016 Road Rehabilitation Project. Mayor Policastro thanked the Committee for meeting and getting this report done on such a timely basis. It will allow the Village to go out to bid early resulting in more competitive bids with the end result saving the Village money. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Ms. Schwartz nominated Mr. Miller to be appointed to the Planning Commission, seconded by Mr. Marsland. On roll call; five ayes, nays.

Mayor Policastro referred the Salary Ordinance to the Finance Committee for Full-Time, Part-Time and Appointed Officials.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to appoint Ms. Palazzolo and Mr. Wolter as Trustees to the Volunteer Fireman’s dependents Board. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Village Offices will be closed on Monday February 15, 2016 in Observation of President’s Day.

Nominations for Outstanding Citizen are due to Mrs. Van Pelt by March 17, 2016.

Resolutions:

“To Authorize the Solicitation of Bids for Street Repair and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading. Mr. Wolter thanked Engineer Ertel for putting together such a good report. Mayor Policastro said the reason for the emergency is so we can advertise in the paper as soon as possible so we can get bids from contractors who are hungry for work as opposed to waiting until May when they are busy thus getting lower bids. The Resolution had a third reading. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-1-16 was adopted.

Ordinances:

“To Amend Section 150 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Include a New Section 150.53 to Set Forth Hours of Use for Powered Yard Maintenance Equipment” had a third reading. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to adopt. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-2-16 was adopted.

“To Amend Ordinance O-3-99 To Provide for the New Rates for Swimming Pool membership Fees’ had a first reading.

“To Amend Section 78, Schedule I of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Include No Parking on Certain Streets within the Village” had a first reading. Ms. Palazzolo said the Ordinance will need to be rewritten to show the amended language adopted in the Committee report. Mrs. Van Pelt said she would make the change and include it in the next Council packet.

“Ordinance to Grant Authority to the Tax Administrator for the Village of Mariemont to Adopt Rules and Regulations” had a first reading.

“To Amend Section 76 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Include Parking Prohibitions within the Village of Mariemont; and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No O-3-16 was adopted.

Mayor Policastro said he has been working with State Representative Tom Brinkman on a grant for \$400,000 to build onto the Administration Building, add an elevator, handicap bathroom and we would relocate the Tax Office here. We have to do this sooner or later but cannot do it without a grant. Mr. Brinkman brought the Speaker of the House from Columbus last month to look at the area. We will try to do like Newtown did and have a Native American Educational Center located in the Council Chambers. It would bring in State funds for the elevator and bathroom from the American Disabilities Act.

Fiscal Officer Borgerding said we need to schedule the Permanent Improvement Meeting for 2016. It was agreed to have this meeting Monday February 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. He asked all Department Heads to submit their requests to him as quickly as possible.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer