

**VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Bartlett, Mrs. Graves Ms. Palazzolo, Mrs. Rankin and Ms. Schwartz.

Mayor Policastro said Council will be voting to fill the vacancy of Eric Marsland. We have six candidates and will hear from them in alphabetical order.

Mr. Matt Ayer, 3908 Pocahontas, was not in attendance to speak.

Mr. Bill Brown, 4030 Lytle Woods Drive, said when he spoke at the meeting last week he asked who would want this job. Tonight he would like to talk about all the people who gave their time to come to the meeting last Tuesday and say kind words on his behalf. He is speaking to everyone in the room. Not everyone is here on his behalf but some of you are here for someone and for that residents should be commended for participating in the process. The remarks from Louise Schomburg were particularly heartfelt. His level of service pales in comparison to Ms. Schomburg. She sets the standard for volunteerism that we should all strive to achieve. It was a very humbling experience for him. It was a bit uncomfortable and why the discomfort? He knows he is really not that special of a guy. He is not Louise Schomburg try as he might. He was born in Mariemont and lived here a long time. His dad was in the Air Force and his early years were spent in New York, California, Illinois, Texas and mid-state Ohio. He spent his sophomore year of high school in Germany. So when he says that there is something intrinsically unique about Mariemont he is speaking from experience. To get back to the original question – why would someone want this job? It's not complicated. He would like to be in a position to contribute to the unique set of characteristics that make Mariemont “Mariemont”. He thanked Council for their consideration.

Mr. Michael Cain, 6737 Murray Avenue, thanked Council for inviting and encouraging him to come back tonight. For those who were not here last week, he reintroduced himself as a new member of the community. His beautiful and lovely wife and himself moved here last year and are now proud to call Mariemont home. He grew up north of Dayton, Ohio in a community called Troy. He graduated from Troy High School in 2006. He graduated from Miami University where he studied Anthropology and Geology in 2010. His focus in college and in Anthropology was in linguistics and service encounters. He has been involved in customer service for as long as he can remember. Participating in and dissecting discourse has been ingrained in his life for a very long time. When he graduated from college, his first line of work was managing and running an early childhood education and care facility in Troy, Ohio. When he started the books were in the red and they were struggling to fill rooms. When he left, it was one of the top rated facilities in the state and also had 8-12 month waiting list to enroll new children and were one of the more profitable outfits in the state. From there he went on to be a third party financial consultant for Wilson Memorial Hospital in Sidney, Ohio. When he started, the hospital was having conversations to potentially sell, due to their crippling debt crises. He was able to solve the debt crises in under two years, which allowed the hospital to remain independent. Following this, he moved to Cincinnati with this wife and began working as a National Account Executive for Integrity Express Logistics in Blue ash. His primary duty was to obtain and manage accounts through communicating with clients, customers, other agencies, and directly with shippers and receivers. His job was communicating and being good at it. He is compelled to be here and run because he knows that he can help reflect a wider base of thought and opinions within the community. He speaks with a great deal of people in our community, and the message he takes away from most conversations is a desire for greater community involvement: more events to involve not only our own citizens, but those of our neighboring communities as well. He also wants to try to involve ourselves with our surrounding communities to

promote a greater sense of the world and promote greater levels on inclusion, rather than seclusion. True community does not happen unless we take the steps to make it so. Again, he is here because from the bottom of his hear, he knows that we can make Mariemont not only a great community, but a representation of what all communities should strive to be. The potential again is all here. The question that he will again leave you with is will we seize the opportunity? He thanked Council for their time

Mr. Sean Jordan, 6612 Wooster Pike, was not in attendance to speak.

Mr. Charles Kronke, 3716 Settle Road, was not in attendance to speak.

Mr. Craig Waltz, 6805 Hammerstone Way, said he has lived in the Village for 7 years which is the longest he has lived anywhere in his entire life. He thanked Council for the opportunity to speak about his qualifications. He has spoken candidly with members of Council of what he is not. He is not experienced and has never been in office or run for office. He is not legacy Mariemont. He fell in love with the community. He is happily married with two daughters in the school system. He is gainfully employed and responsible for delivering 80 million dollars in sales for healthcare and clinical research. He brings a fresh set of eyes. He is not looking backwards. He is going to look at what we can do today and what we can do going forward. He is an electrical engineer and brings an objective and open minded approach to problem solving. He is going to work at the problem, determine possible solutions and share those and determine if it is the best path forward. He believes he can bring good problem solving skills to Council. He has been in sales for 20 years. He values building relationships. He is also very approachable, patient and is a good listener. He distributed to Council what he calls his "Owner's Manual". He takes a methodical approach to identifying the problem so that the right solution can be formulated. He is more comfortable relating to others on an intellectual level instead of an emotional level. If it is a multi-layered issue, he would like to schedule a time to discuss so that he is prepared. If he is put on the spot, it may take him time to process the information before drawing a conclusion. He may come across as too direct. It is unintended however others will know where he stands. He is respectful of people's privacy and need for space. He will not hound people if they say they need a week to make a decision. He does not make decisions based on gut instincts. He makes decisions based on fact and evidence and does not change his mind easily without new information. He enjoys working in a team environment where challenges can be discussed and vetted in a collaborative manner. It is okay to agree to disagree. He does not hold grudges. He loves the tree lined streets in the Village, he loves the walkability and enjoys running in the Village. He wants to keep in mind Mary Emery's vision.

Mr. Jerry Vianello, 6570 Wooster Pike, was granted permission to address Council. He read the following on behalf of Louise Schomburg, 3885 Oak Street. "I sincerely believe that Bill Brown is the most qualified person to gain a seat on Council. He is a good and kind man who loves the Village of Mariemont and all its citizens without discrimination. The Village has gained greatly and will continue to benefit from his knowledge and endless efforts with Mr. Brown on Council. We, the Village of Mariemont, are fortunate to have Bill Brown living in our community. I strongly hope Council will consider all Mr. Brown means and has done for Mariemont when you vote".

Mr. Bob Blum, 6601 Mariemont Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. He asked members of Council if they have already decided the candidate that they are voting for. Ms. Palazzolo said she has interviewed all of the candidates and yes she knows who she is voting. Mr. Blum said that is not what he asked. He said he wanted to know if she had already decided which candidate she was voting for. Ms. Palazzolo said yes. Ms. Rankin said she is going to wait until everyone has spoken to make her decision. Ms. Schwartz said she has a favorite candidate and he had the most people talk for him at the last meeting. She was hoping he would be elected at the last meeting so yes she knows who she is voting for. She would have to really be convinced by someone else and she is going to listen to the audience. Mr. Bartlett said he met with all the candidates and hasn't yet made up his mind. He was struggling with it last night and went to the basement to think about it. He talked with more people today and he is still wrestling with what is the best for the Village as a whole. Mrs. Graves said she met with all the candidates as well and has struggled back and forth for a couple of weeks. She is keeping an open mind but she does think she knows how she will vote.

Mr. Blum asked what would make Council decide one candidate over another. Ms. Palazzolo said she already interviewed each candidate. She chose based on the questions she asked them and the conversation they

had. Mr. Blum said that was not his question. His question was what would make her decide one candidate over another now. Ms. Palazzolo said nothing – she has already made her decision. Ms. Rankin said she wants to hear what everyone has to say before she commits a decision. Ms. Schwartz said one of the things that she considers is that Council represents the people of Mariemont. We have to listen to what they want not always what we want. That is a huge part of her decision. Mr. Bartlett said to be very honest and transparent he is struggling with someone who has the best qualifications and someone who could heal the apparent rift that is occurring in the community right now. He is really struggling with overall who is better for the Village. When he went in the basement he also prayed for guidance. Mrs. Graves said she does not know what that something could be to change her mind.

Mr. Blum said he hopes everyone knows what Council is struggling with.

Mr. Brad Lockhart, 3875 Oak Street, was granted permission to address Council. He asked what the qualities Council is looking for in the candidate to fill the seat beside their very good character. Ms. Palazzolo said there are a number of qualities with character being obvious and working well with others. It would have been terrific if an attorney had put their name in the hat to help dissect and understand the code so we did not have to keep calling the Solicitor. An architect would have been a good quality. We are only six people we cannot cover all of the personalities of the skill sets that would make up a perfect team.

Mr. Lockhart asked what qualities is Council looking for to fill the seat. What is the expectation that they want that person to do to be part of the team? You have to work together and not against each other. Ms. Palazzolo said someone who is comfortable working in an ambiguous atmosphere. Mr. Lockhart said to be specific and dive right into it. Ms. Palazzolo said she does not know how to be more specific and asked him to tell her what he wanted because she does not know what he wants to hear. Ms. Palazzolo said working well with ambiguity because there are a lot of moving parts. Also someone who is comfortable with their decision and listening to what the team is saying. Mrs. Rankin said she wants to see a display of commitment to the Village and the ability to display that commitment to the entire Village. She wants someone who is committed to the Village and knows the Village and can display their willingness to work for the Village. Ms. Schwartz said this is a complicated job. It is important to listen to someone and look at an idea that is not the same. To be able to work with differences of opinion is really good. How you work through the difference of opinion is the most important. Mr. Bartlett said it is important that the candidate be an independent thinker and not just fall in line. It is good to have healthy conversations to come to better solutions. He also thinks someone who brings new thinking brings outside perspective to push on the envelope where opportunities are to make this Village better than what it is. It is also important to be a team player and to listen well to understand where people are coming from. It can sometimes bring a win-win solution to problems. Sometimes people shut down and stop listening to other people. When that happens people do not think broadly. It is important to find common ground. Mrs. Graves said teamwork and collaboration is important. To have one on one conversations and have respect for one another is important. She thinks someone who is open minded and also someone who can think for themselves. It is also important to look at our group and then look at the skill set others can bring to the table.

Mr. Lockhart asked how important is trust? Mrs. Graves said you need to build the relationship with that person. Mr. Bartlett said trust is very important. There is a lot of passion in the audience. It is important and on his scale it is not on the side of healing the Village. Ms. Schwartz said she feels she has experienced trust over the five years she has been on Council with a lot of people she has worked with. She has heard some negative things about this Council, excluding Mr. Bartlett since he is new. She has heard that residents want all of us replaced. Mr. Lockhart said Council has lost a lot of credibility in the Village. Ms. Schwartz said it has to be done as a group. We have to work with our Mayor and he has to work with us. Council has to show the Village that they can be proud of us and they can trust us. She gets emotional when thinking about some of the things that have been said. She works her tail off and she hopes that Council gets someone who will work together as a group to earn the trust again. Ms. Rankin said it is not something she said because she certainly would not give consideration of someone she did not trust. She agrees with Ms. Schwartz that Council needs to focus energy on regaining the trust of the Village no matter who is selected. Ms. Palazzolo said one of the main focus of a team is trust. That said if it is violated it can be healed and rebuilt. We need to work as a strong team you need to trust the team members to have your back and not undercut if they do disagree. People are people and will change sides when they change their opinion. Mr. Lockhart said when Council goes to vote he asked that they take into consideration all that has been said before and after him. Mr. Bartlett said perhaps Mr. Lockhart was his

messenger and asked him what he thought and then said perhaps he should not ask that question. Mr. Lockhart said he prayed for Council to make the right decision and he believes that Council will make the right decision.

Ms. Carolyn Tuttle, 6806 Mt. Vernon Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. She said she saw in the classified ad section of the Cincinnati Enquirer an article regarding three qualities that make an effective team player – or in our case a Council member. She read the article in part. Although some folks seem to be able to work well with others no matter what the situation or mix of personalities they find themselves in, for others it is not quite that simple. Not everyone is a natural team, player, but everyone can become one with little effort. Consider building skills to maximize your chances of achieving success: Patience, flexibility and reliability. These are the traits of Bill Brown along with the comments she made last week: Commitment, communication, consideration and she added celebration. Let's celebrate the knowledge, passion and integrity of Bill Brown. When you work together and have unity and open to celebrate the passion that everyone has for the job and the integrity that we want to bring to the Village. She is reflecting on the comments that people have come and asked Council. There is a sense that they are concerned about where Council's thought process is. Think of the people that Council is representing and continue to represent. Let's celebrate unity and represent the citizen's voices for the candidate Bill Brown.

Mr. Biff Black, 5 Spring Knoll Drive, was granted permission to address Council. He said he was intrigued with Mr. Cain's experience solving the hospital debt crises and asked for further explanation. He was curious that he was no longer working in accounting or finance any longer. Mr. Cain said he recently switched career paths because he wanted to be more involved with his community and accepted a position in operations with Hamilton County Park Services. He is working on getting his national certification to become a Parks Director. He was no longer enjoying a career in sales. As far as the debt crises, he was able to determine the underlying problem with self-paid patients as they were crippling the hospital. As a result, he went on a grass roots campaign and talked to every single self-paid patient to see if they would qualify for financial assistance. He was able to solve 33.1 million dollars of bad debt.

Ms. Delta Crabtree, 3802 Miami Road, was granted permission to address Council. She said as a Mariemont resident of over 10 years, she would like to express her support for Bill Brown's bid to re-join the Village Council. She is impressed by the work he did as a Council member and continues to do on behalf of the Village. His qualifications and genuine desire to be of service, in her opinion, makes him worthy of being selected by Council to fill the vacant seat.

Mr. Bob Van Stone, 4050 Lytle Woods, was granted permission to address Council. He read an email from John and Denise Scholtz, 3731 West Street, who support Bill Brown for town Council. They thanked Council for the consideration.

Mr. Mike Smythe, 3607 Flintpoint Way, was granted permission to address Council. Last week he talked about killer bees. Half of the bees are on Council. When we talk about grants, we are sitting in a Council Chamber that was helped funded by grants. He asked how many of Council collaborated with Mr. Brown to get that \$400,000 grant. Mrs. Graves and Mr. Bartlett said they were not on Council. Ms. Schwartz said most of the work was done by Mayor Policastro who was responsible for working with State Representative Tom Brinkman. Mayor Policastro said Mr. Brown was somewhat involved. Mr. Smythe said he likes the free money. The Village runs on a shoe string budget. We need people like Mr. Brown who can grab money from the State. Things are changing. He said if Nelson Peltz, Board Member of Proctor & Gamble, gets his way he is going to change a lot of things with the company. There are a lot of people in the Village that are affiliated with P&G, including himself. At this stage we need to find people who have passion who want to grab and execute those resources.

Ms. Diane Sabo, 3857 Indianview Avenue, was granted permission to address Council. She would like to see Bill Brown back on Council. He worked hard when he was on Council and he continued to work hard afterwards to complete the project he was working on. She believes he can think out of the box and bring some new ideas and work with everyone being local talent. We need the Village to be what Mary Emery sought it to be not what individuals want it to be.

Ms. Becky Jones, 6628 Elm Street, was granted permission to address Council. She supports Bill Brown. She would like this to be a fair selection this time. She thinks that Council realizes again that most of the

audience is for Mr. Brown and that seemed to be the case at the last meeting. Yet three of the Council members saw fit to sit and vote right away. Council did not even have the savvy to ask for Executive Session to pretend to discuss it. It was contrived and there was a lot of work done behind the scenes beforehand. She would hate to think it was done through texts, emails, getting together because the City of Cincinnati is facing something pretty serious with a certain group and they are in violation of the Sunshine Law and are being sued. It appears that is what some of Council was doing last time. She believes it is obvious who the best candidate is and who the most people want and that is who Council represents. She hopes this time that Council makes the right decision and much as some may not want to do it. She said quite frankly Mr. Bartlett she was surprised he had the nerve to take the seat when most people supported Mr. Brown.

Mr. Bartlett said he thinks it is fantastic that there are so many people here. He said members of Council are contacted outside of this group too. Just the people that are here tonight are not the constituents who have an opinion. Ms. Jones asked where those people are who are in favor of someone else. Mayor Policastro asked to tone it down a bit.

Solicitor McTigue said Council can go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues but it was his recommendation that the discussion be in open session of Council for complete transparency.

Mr. Jerry Vianello, 6570 Wooster Pike, was granted permission to address Council. On a going forward basis there was talk about trust and what it means. In his opinion, to establish trust again in this community Council has to realize the role each of you play. We no longer have caucus where residents can get together and talk about politics. That is done with at this point of time. Right or wrong. But that was a voice and a way for the citizens to formulate opinions and have major discussions. Right now Council are the only people residents can come to. And sometimes residents do not feel Council is listening. His encouragement to Council is to listen to the citizens who took their time to show up and support a candidate. He spent a career in Human Resources and one question he always asked in an interview was when you get up in the morning and are looking at yourself in the mirror who is staring back at you. Is it an organizer, a planner or a doer? He was concerned when he first listened to tonight's discussion. It does not seem that Council knew who they were interviewing or what job they were interviewing for because not one of those answers is totally right all by itself. But Council needs to know what they are looking for. Mr. Brown has demonstrated that he is an organizer, he is a planner and he is a doer. If Council wants to knock down the wall that residents have labeled lack of trust Council needs to start to listen to the citizens.

Mr. Eric Marsland, 3600 Center Street, was granted permission to address Council. He said Council is tasked this evening with selecting his replacement. Everyone in the field is qualified for the appointment but he believes Bill Brown stands out as the leading candidate for a myriad of reasons. Mr. Brown is a true gentleman and a good friend and neighbor. He is a life-long resident of the Village and chooses to live here for the exceptional way of life not just for the excellent schools and low taxes. Having worked with Mr. Brown on Council for nearly two years, he found his dedication to the Village unquestionable. While on Council, Mr. Brown spent many hours researching ways of preserving our aesthetic and architectural heritage, and recently he worked tirelessly for the Village on both the Administration building addition and the Steam Plant. His hard work ethic and perseverance would serve the Village well going forward and Mr. Brown has expressed having free time to dedicate for this appointment. Therefore without any hesitation or reservation, he believes Mr. Brown is worthy and well qualified to serve on Council. We no longer have the structure of "Town Meeting" whereby replacements for vacancies on Council are selected by caucus. Here, this evening we are having what is, in effect, a loosely defined caucus. Support comes in the form of warm bodies filling the gallery reading letters of support rather than votes. If his math is correct, Mr. Brown is the front-running using this measure with a support margin of 9-1. Going forward, it may be useful to look at how similar municipalities handle filling vacant Council seats. He wished Council well in their deliberations.

Mrs. Graves asked for clarification that Town Meeting still exists. Mr. Bartlett and Solicitor McTigue said Town Meeting can still caucus and suggest and make a recommendation to Council. Solicitor McTigue said we as a Village just cannot be involved with the caucus. Mr. Bartlett said Town Meeting can still happen. Solicitor McTigue said in the past the Village was somehow affiliated with Town Meeting. We have now divorced ourselves from it but Town Meeting is still a Political Action Committee that they have always been and

they can caucus anytime they want to make a recommendation to Council. At the end of the day it is still up to Council to decide whether or not they are going to accept that recommendation.

Ms. Marcy Lewis, 6824 Miami Bluff, was granted permission to address Council. She read an email from Ms. Karen Sullivan, 3608 Center Street, which read "Hello Marcy, I am unable to attend the meeting tonight. If possible, could you please read the following? I endorse Bill Brown to fill the Mariemont Council seat vacated by Eric Marsland. Having worked with Bill on Mariemont Preservation Foundation projects and the Municipal Building addition, I can say first hand that he is a collaborator and has the best interests of the Village in mind. He also dedicates countless hours to these efforts". Ms. Lewis said Ms. Sullivan was instrumental working with the Mayor to stop ODOT. Had it not been for those efforts we would most likely have a highway. She urged Council to give Ms. Sullivan's comments credence.

Ms. Lewis read an email from Steve Spooner, 3704 Pocahontas Avenue: "Marcy, I am not going to be able to be at the Council Meeting tonight, but I am very much in support of Bill Brown for the open Council seat. Bill has been very involved in the construction project at the Municipal Building, the Community Planning Team and other projects around the Village without being on Council. I am confident that because of the effort Bill puts into helping out the Village without being on Council, he will work tirelessly as a member of Council".

Ms. Lewis read an email from Steve and Jill Baumgartner, 6937 Cambridge Avenue: "Dear Marcy, Steve Baumgartner, my husband, and myself, Jill Baumgartner, support Bill Brown for Mariemont Village Council. We think he is an excellent representative of what our community needs as a Village leader".

Ms. Lewis said she was really disappointed in Council's performance last week. She was disappointed because it was clear that support for Bill Brown was 2-1 over Mr. Bartlett. She likes Mr. Bartlett and has talked with him. She would have supported him tonight. Mrs. Graves and Ms. Palazzolo both ran on transparency and listening to people. She does not believe that Council got 20 phone calls for other candidates who she said were all good candidates. She is a little sad that the people who ran last time did not show up again. She does have a favorite with no disrespect for anyone. She is disappointed that she did not hear from Ms. Palazzolo when asked the question from Mr. Blum that one of the things she considers is her constituents. She said Ms. Palazzolo said she interviewed the candidates and made her decision from that. It is not what she was tasked with and she does not believe she heard that from Mrs. Graves either. It is something both signed up for and it is your job. It is a hard job. She believes there is one choice and the one choice is a healing choice for the Village. All of these people's trust has been broken. She said to be honest she had knee surgery, her dad had been sick and died and she just moved her son. She is not here for fun. She would rather be anywhere than right here calling out people and saying you should have done the right thing. She is doing it because she loves Mariemont. She feels the Mayor and Mr. Brown have done a good job and he deserves a fair election.

Ms. Debbie Brown, 4030 Lytle Woods Drive, was granted permission to address Council. She said she wanted to say a few words about her husband, Bill Brown. She knows him better than anyone. They met and married while pursuing Bachelor's degrees at the University of Cincinnati. They have been married for 45 years. He is without a doubt the most unbiased, fair-minded, force of stability that she knows. He is inherently positive and good natured and would be considered a half-full kind of guy. He has done the work of a Councilman for the past 8 months. She can attest to this because his to-do list at home grows longer everyday while he works non-stop on the to-do list for the completion of the Municipal Building addition, meeting with contractors, fielding calls, dealing with leaks and phone system glitches and air-conditioning break-downs. He is also at the front line handling the Old Steam Plant development. Bill has no other agenda than to work for the residents of Mariemont. Because there are some relatively new voices on Council with Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Rankin and now Mr. Bartlett taking Mr. Hawkins position, it makes the most sense to her to have someone on Council with broad experience and first-hand knowledge of the Village and the inner-workings and issues.

Ms. Lewis asked if there was anyone in the audience that was a little nervous who did not speak but would like to see Mr. Brown represented tonight. There were three shows of hands.

Solicitor McTigue said everyone appreciates that so many have come tonight and that so many had interest as a candidate. Last week Mrs. Graves said how fortunate we are to have so many here supporting whomever they were there to support. As Mr. Brown said it is a thankless job.

Mrs. Graves said the last couple of weeks have been pretty contentious and tough. There has been a lot of debate and discussions back and forth. When she thought she knew which direction she wanted to go then she would get another call and it would make her think about it in another way. She appreciates everyone being here tonight and the opinions that were expressed tonight do mean a lot. There have been a lot of people who contacted her directly to express opinions. It has been polarizing to see the spectrum of negativity and the love and she has struggled with that.

Mr. Bartlett said he thinks it is fantastic that so many are here. Participation in the Village is important. We also need to recognize that there are other people who did contact them in other ways such as phone calls and emails. Those voices are also important. He wishes this was open for a public vote but Ohio Revised Code says it has to be done this way. He is willing to have an open conversation about how he feels because he wants to be transparent. He has talked with Mr. Brown so nothing he says is something he has not said to Mr. Brown. Mr. Waltz is very talented and his skills at this time would be a very good fit. Mr. Brown has a lot of excellent skills as well. It is clear that there are a large number of people in the audience, and in the Village that think he has done a great job. He believes Mr. Brown has done a great job. It is weighing on him because he is hearing what people are saying and it is important to listen to all – not just the people who are here. He saw eye to eye on a lot of matters with Mr. Brown and sometimes Mr. Brown would come into Council and he would not act the way he thought we had talked about acting. Follow through comes with the action. Mr. Brown also said that he had changed some. People do change and become more comfortable in the role at times. One of the important qualities he is looking for is an independent thinker. He is still struggling and feels it is important for Council to discuss it. There is a candidate that is a good fit in terms of skills and there is another candidate that has good skills but maybe not quite the fit but because of all the people in the Village who made their feelings known deserves equal consideration.

Ms. Palazzolo said she has not slept in week and that her stomach has been in knots which may be hard for some people in the Village to believe. She has spent many hours with Mr. Brown over the years and they are friends. There are multiple skill sets that can fill the open seat very well. She had the same thing come up where she and Mr. Brown chatted and chatted about how we feel about things when he was on Council. After the meeting they would have a conversation where she would express to him that that was not what she saw coming. She said she thought he was okay with what they had discussed and then to go another way is hard on the team. During the election there were a lot of people who felt very strongly about the way the campaigns were run in Mariemont. Although she does not appreciate or like being on one side or another of something polarizing. It was the first time in her life she has ever been in position and it is a terrible place to be. She has to represent the people who feel very strongly and she has been fielding calls for the weeks leading up to these votes from those who supported her during the election. She wants people to keep in mind what the real popular vote is. There is a loud group of people but there is also the results of what was decided. There were people who gave her time and money and their confidence in her she has to be true to them too. It is hard to make a decision knowing that either way you go honestly there is no wrong answer. Sometimes this seat is not a nice place to be and we have to come down on one side or the other.

Mrs. Rankin said she is not struggling at all. She has worked with Mr. Brown over the last month and she finds him knowledgeable, thorough, dedicated, professional and very communitive. She feels strongly about all of those qualities.

Ms. Schwartz said she is not struggling either. She has worked a lot with Mr. Brown and he has the perfect skill set. The three women on Council do not know and maybe Mr. Bartlett is aware of what Mr. Brown did everyday coming down to the Municipal Building to talk with contractors. It was in her committee and she was here but not like Mr. Brown. He actually went up on the roof checking where the water was leaking. He does have a skill set that Council needs to make this Council whole. When she looks at the audience she sees frowns. It seems to her that other members of Council are trying to make excuses for what they might do next. She asked where all the people who have emailed other Council members are. Why are they not here? Since Ms. Palazzolo brought up the election she is just going to put it right out there. People have said that it was held against Mr. Brown because he campaigned with Mayor Policastro who has worked for this Village for 25 years. Probably more than all the other Mayors put together. She said to Ms. Palazzolo that there is a lot of negativity in the Village. Mayor Policastro called for order and said let's cool it. Ms. Schwartz said if Ms. Palazzolo can bring

it up she can bring it up. Why did she bring up the election – it has nothing to do with this. Solicitor McTigue said he believes Ms. Schwartz made her point.

Mr. Bartlett said he hopes people in the audience know that Council has to go through a process of vetting the candidates. Council has met with each of the candidates and we are trying to weigh all those things together. He knew Mr. Brown and it was important to stay open. For him Mr. Waltz was very strong and has a lot of great qualities as does Mr. Cain and the rest of the candidates. People keep saying that Council is not listening and yet no one knows how many people contacted us. It is almost like people do not want us to interview other candidates and people are not giving us the benefit of the doubt and it is important to factor into this as well that we did take the time to try to meet all the candidates and talk with them one on one. We need to be as fair as possible in this process. Ms. Schwartz said she had a lot of people contact her as well. Mr. Bartlett said that is a great thing and it is great to have this level of participation from the Village. We should continue this process going forward and Town Meeting can do their thing too.

Mayor Policastro thanked the three candidates that were here and said they were all outstanding. It will give him people to go to if he has openings on boards.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to nominate Bill Brown to fill the vacancy of Mr. Marsland.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves to nominate Craig Waltz to fill the vacancy of Mr. Marsland.

On roll call for Mr. Brown; three ayes, two nays (Mrs. Graves and Ms. Palazzolo dissenting).

Mr. Brown was sworn in as the Council member to fill the vacancy of Mr. Marsland.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer