

**Village of Mariemont
Regular Council Meeting
November 25, 2019**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM. Present were Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Graves, Ms. Palazzolo and Mrs. Rankin.

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

Mayor Policastro asked for a moment of silence in memory of three wonderful residents, Amy Weiss, Jean Fuller and Dr. Ann Grooms, which were recently lost in the Village.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the minutes as written for the Council Meeting November 11, 2019 and the Committee of the Whole November 18, 2019. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler: Treasurer's Report for October 2019 and Expense/Revenue Reports for October 2019

Mr. Brown announced on December 18, 2019 in the Tudor Room at the National Exemplar there will be a send-off party for Mayor Policastro for his upcoming retirement. It is open to the Village with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The party is 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He encouraged all to attend to stop and wish the Mayor the best.

Mayor Policastro said there were more problems found with the fire hydrant by Mio's and therefore it was an additional \$1,552.96 to remove. Mrs. Graves said the arrangement with Mr. Spinnenweber was to split the cost of removal 50/50 with the Village to pay in full for the pipe removal. She will contact Engineer Ertel before calling Mr. Spinnenweber. If it is due to the hydrant removal the cost should be split. Mayor Policastro said to let him or the office know so they can get the bill paid.

Dr. Marcy Lewis, 6824 Miami Bluff Drive, was granted permission to address Council. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and Finance Chairman. Mrs. Rankin asked when the final payment to Ford Development would be paid for the street rehab work. Mayor Policastro said to contact Engineer Ertel. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers to discuss projected spending in 2019 and how it compares versus appropriations. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, Finance Committee Members Bill Brown and Kelly Rankin, and Fiscal Officer Tony Borgerding. The committee reviewed some concerning trends in the Village's spending:

1. Spending exceeded appropriations by \$243k in 2018. In 2019, based on actuals through September, we are on track to again overspend our General Fund appropriation, this time by \$150k - \$175k.
2. Five of the last six years, expenses have exceeded revenues in the General Fund and we have run a deficit (see table below). The main reason a deficit will likely not occur in 2019 is because Council increased the annual waste fee by \$25 per resident, generating an additional \$30k in revenue.

	<u>2019 (est)</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Revenue	\$3,924k	\$3,729k	\$3,462k	\$3,301k	\$3,139k	\$3,160k

Expense	<u>\$3.908k</u>	<u>\$3.823k</u>	<u>\$3.552k</u>	<u>\$3.303k</u>	<u>\$3.243k</u>	<u>\$3.189k</u>
Net	+\$16k	(\$94k)	(\$90k)	(\$2k)	(\$104k)	(\$29k)

3. In 2017, residents passed the Safety Services levy. It was supposed to cover salary increases for the next 10 years by generating surpluses in the General Fund for the first 5-6 years, and then drawing down those surpluses over the next 4-5 years. In 2018, the levy generated \$305k in revenue and the General Fund was supposed to have a surplus of \$259k. However, instead there was a deficit of \$94k. And in 2019, instead of a surplus of \$203k, we will only have a surplus of ~\$16k.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
<u>Projection</u>	<u>+\$259k</u>	<u>+\$203k</u>	<u>+\$462k</u>
Actual	(\$94k)	+\$16k	(\$78k)

4. The Permanent Improvement Fund receives ~\$400k a year in funding. For the next five years, we will need to pay \$151k/year from the Permanent Improvement Fund for the Municipal Building addition and the new ambulance, plus \$4k/year for loans associated with paving projects. That leaves \$245k/year for all of the other projects normally paid for out of the Permanent Improvement Fund.

While we are not in dire straits, these trends are not sustainable and we need to be proactive in addressing them. As such, the Finance Committee is asking all Department Heads to review spending in their areas for savings opportunities. Council as well will need to review spending and revenue in a variety of areas. We all need to work together to improve the Village's financial situation if we want to keep our employees' pay competitive going forward. Mr. Bartlett said it is important to be more proactive about this stuff especially with the safety services levy. It was supposed to last 10 years and we were to have \$42,000 surplus and right now we have roughly \$78,000 deficit. It is important to work together and next year will be another challenging year. We are going to have to look under every rock we can to make sure we are keeping the spending in line with revenue. We need to build surplus to be able to pay the salaries that were part of the safety services levy. Just breaking even is not going to be enough. We need to do more to have those future salary increases be at the level we want them to be when the levy was first passed. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole which met on November 18, 2019 at 5:30 PM to discuss the parking ordinance for Homewood Rd. The ordinance as written states there is no parking on the street between the hours of 1:00 AM and 6:00 AM. In attendance were Vice Mayor Kelly Rankin, Council Members Bill Brown, Avia Graves, Rob Bartlett and Maggie Palazzolo, Administrative Assistant Joanne Van Pelt, Sgt. Nick Pittsley and Officer Dan Lyons. The topic for discussion was whether or not to keep the ordinance in place. It was noted by Mrs. Rankin and Mr. Bartlett that the feedback provided at the 6/25 meeting with the residents on Homewood that the majority wished to keep the ordinance in place. It was suggested to look into marking the parking spots which would provide the potential for more spots and provide safety for those needing to back out of their driveway. Village Engineer Chris Ertel will evaluate this and provide Council with findings. The Committee of the Whole will meet again to review. Mrs. Graves suggested perhaps providing tax incentives for people to add additional parking on their property. This matter was referred to the Finance Committee. Mrs. Graves raised the concern that the ordinance was not being enforced across the village and felt the ordinance no longer serves its intended purpose. Mrs. Rankin agreed that the parking in the village does need to be addressed but the topic for this meeting was Homewood Rd. only. Sgt. Pittsley and Officer Lyons commented that warnings and citations are issued village wide but that the majority of the parking issues do indeed occur on Homewood. The assessment of village wide parking issues was referred to the Public Works Committee. The Committee recommends that the ordinance remain in effect. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Brown gave a verbal update on the recent Health and Recreation meeting which met to discuss options for the Murray Pathway landscaping. Present were Bill Brown, Joe Stelzer, Martin Koepke, Chris Ertel, John Scherpenberg, Marcy Lewis and many Village residents. At the meeting the plans were reviewed for anyone who had not seen them the first time. Mr. Koepke presented a broad outline of landscaping ideas for the pathway. The Duke Energy requirements were also discussed and the limitations they presented. A meeting is being planned to meet with the new Duke Energy representative. The land may have to lay fallow

for a year to reconstitute. After the construction work with all the clay it may not be the best idea to get plants in there right away. The meeting was well attended with good resident response with many ideas and suggestions such as: Barb Whitaker suggested planting all native plants and Carolyn Tuttle wanted to see more color. Mr. Stelzer gave a quick review of the fundraising efforts and said the website is up and running. People can contribute online by visiting www.murraypath.org. There are other fundraisers planned. To date \$12,000 has been raised for the overall grand target of \$100,000-\$150,000 which would include all the landscaping. To just build the pathway we need just a shade under \$100,000. Mr. Bartlett said the amount is actually closer to \$80,000.

Miscellaneous:

Village Offices will be closed Thursday November 28, 2019 and Friday November 29, 2019 in Observation of Thanksgiving.

The Council Meeting in December will be held Monday December 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said we will need at least four members of Council present to pass the Amended Appropriations Ordinance.

Leaf Collection will end December 20, 2019. Leaves must be raked to the curb by December 16, 2019.

Village Offices will be closed Tuesday December 24, 2019 and Wednesday December 25, 2019 in Observation of Christmas.

Village Offices will be closed Wednesday January 1, 2020 in Observation of New Year's Day

Ms. Palazzolo asked who will swear in Mr. Brown on January 1, 2020. Mr. Brown said he is working on having his son swear him in. His son is an attorney and also a Notary Public. Once he is sworn in he would then swear in Dr. Lewis and Mrs. Rankin. It usually happens on New Year's Day.

Resolutions:

"To Reappoint Joan Vago as a Member of the Parks Advisory Board for the Calendar Years 2020 and 2021" had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-31-19 was adopted.

"To Appoint Ted Beach as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Year 2020" had a first reading.

Ordinances:

"To Authorize the Mayor of the Village of Mariemont to Enter Into a Waste Collection Billing Agreement with the City of Cincinnati to Provide Billing Services for Waste Collection Charges to the Village of Mariemont for a Five-Year Term with an Additional One Year Renewal Term" had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-24-19 was adopted. Mr. Bartlett said this will become effective July 2020.

Mr. Bartlett asked since the Permanent Improvement Fund is negative and funds will not be coming in will Council dip into the Street Improvement Fund. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said he got the reports from Mrs. Wendler and is working with the office to look for some invoices that we can move over that were paid out of Permanent Improvement but should have been paid for out of the other fund. Right now we have moved \$60,000. We should still receive \$10,000 for November and December for the Street Improvement Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer