

**Village of Mariemont
Regular Council Meeting
December 16, 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, Mrs. Rankin and Ms. Schwartz.

Mayor Policastro asked for a moment of silence in memory of several people lost recently – Gloria Morelli, Marty Bartlett, Jim Bell, and Mildred Weaver (mother-in-law of John Scherpenberg).

Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the minutes as written for the Council Meeting November 25, 2019. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Police Chief Hines: November 2019 Monthly Report. Police Chief Hines said we have a note from AAA, congratulating us on our Platinum Safety Award, which we have received for 10 straight years. Chief Hines said this is the highest award you can get for safety and he appreciates all the officers do to keep the Village safe. There are many factors they are judged on and the Village of Mariemont was one of only 10 agencies in the Tri-State area to receive the award this year. Mayor Policastro said receiving the award 10 years in a row is unheard of and he thanked Chief Hines.

From Acting Fire Chief Feichtner: November 2019 Monthly

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: November 2019 Monthly Report

From Building Administrator Keyes: November 2019 Monthly Report. Mr. Keyes said that when he took this job a couple of years ago, he did not realize exactly what he was getting into. He said he has been a little overwhelmed by parts of the job, but has found it very interesting. He said it has been quite the challenge and he appreciates the confidence he has been shown and thanks everyone. Mayor Policastro asked if Ms. Beatty has been helping him and Mr. Keyes said she has.

From Tax Administrator Busam: November 2019 Monthly Report. Tax Staff Assistant DeAnna Darrah said this is Mrs. Busam's last meeting.

From Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler: November 2019 Monthly Report

Mr. Joe Stelzer, 6609 Pleasant Street, was granted permission to address Council. Mr. Stelzer said he wanted to give a quick update on the Murray Path fundraising. It is going extremely well and there is already \$20,000 in the bank from people who have written checks so far. He is cautiously optimistic that they will raise their goal of \$150,000 by the end of 2020. They have recruited a group of twenty "Pioneer Contributors" who have either already paid or pledged a minimum of \$1,000 each toward the project. We call them Pioneer Contributors only because they were the first. People are really supporting the project. When he started this process, he was told the hardest part is getting the first contributors on board, but we have been pretty successful in getting people to see the vision and support it by contributing \$1,000 checks. Some people have asked how we know if people are going to follow through on their pledges. He believes the people of Mariemont are honorable and will follow through. Their next goal is to recruit forty Pioneer Contributors by the end of January. During January, they plan on making numerous Murray Path Project presentations to various groups around Village. He said he was happy to announce there will be a 'Paws on the Path' event on New Year's Day from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. They will be posting fliers around the Village. Everyone is invited to come walk the location of the future Murray Path. He joked that you do not need a dog to participate. The starting point will be the old Madison Place Firehouse and there will be refreshments including Starbucks coffee and hot chocolate. He asked that people check the website or Facebook page for updates as some details are still being worked out. Finally, Mr. Stelzer said this event could also be considered a teaser event for the 'Better Life Initiative' which is being studied by several residents and a roll-out is anticipated in 2020. He thanked everyone for their support.

Mr. Jerry Vianello, 6570 Wooster Pike, was granted permission to address Council. He wanted to personally thank Mayor Policastro for everything he has done for the Village during the more than 20 years he

has donated his time and efforts to improve the community in which we live. There have been significant improvements. He said Mayor Policastro can claim a number of things that he has brought to fruition. Mr. Vianello said he is proud to call Mayor Policastro his friend; he is proud to call him his neighbor. He wishes him well and the people in Mariemont feel blessed to have had him as Mayor.

Eric Wellingshoff, 6990 Murray Avenue, said he wanted those folks who had not been able to attend the Public Works meeting to understand what will be voted on later in the meeting regarding the CRA. He applied for a CRA for his home at 6990 Murray 226 days ago. He started construction a month after that under the pretense that he would be approved for the CRA, only to find out later there would need to be a clarification in the CRA about whether both north and south Murray Avenue would be approved. It has been seven months and twelve days since that. He has had 23 documented interactions with members of Council and the Building and Works Committee. Based on the conversation he had with the Public Works Committee, he thanked them for their support to include the north side of Murray Avenue in the CRA and to remove the ambiguity of the map. This is something we moved forward with based on our understanding of this being approved. We have done our due diligence. He hopes this is now a non-issue, but did want to speak up for his neighbor who has been on the agenda for over a year. He again thanked Council for their support and all they do. Solicitor McTigue said an Resolution has been prepared for this issue.

“A Supplemental Ordinance to Make Appropriations for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the Village of Mariemont, State of Ohio, during the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019” had a first reading. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said that we appropriate money at the first of the year for each separate account that we have based on the budget that we did back in the middle of 2018 for 2019. Things do not always go as planned, causing us to spend more money in certain areas and less in others. We do this supplemental appropriation according to the rules and regulations regarding spending. It is a compliance procedure that we need to get done before the end of the year. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third reading. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to adopt the ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance O-25-19 was adopted.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and Finance Chairman. Ms. Palazzolo asked why we had to spend so much on t-shirts for the Fire Department. Chief Hines explained that it has been over a year since we purchased t-shirts for the firefighters and there are 35 firefighters in the department. This is pretty much a yearly expense. On roll call: six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Rankin asked if it would be possible for her to see the invoice for the \$825 payment made to Bill Fiedler for November inspections. Mrs. Van Pelt said the office would get her a copy.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Health & Recreation Committee which met at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2019 to discuss the naming of the Hiawatha/Rembold median. Present at the meeting were Health & Recreation Committee Chairperson Bill Brown, Vice Chair Rob Bartlett, and member Mary Ann Schwartz. Also present were Marcy Lewis, Lynn Long, Matt Ayer, Dennis Wolter, Louise Schomburg, Joe Stelzer, Kelly Rankin, and others. Lynn Long presented a petition with signatures of residents requesting the naming of the median. She gave a review outlining the historic significance of the site and the reasons for wanting it named. The site is currently listed in MCO 151.075 (F) (24) (d) as a landmark park. Joe Stelzer and others voiced concerns as to whether naming the park would present an impediment to any future developments or the funding for said projects. Village Solicitor Ed McTigue provided a written opinion that naming the park would not have any practical effect on that. Committee recommends the naming of the median between Hiawatha Avenue and Rembold Street “Interurban Trolley Line Park” with the understanding that such naming has no adverse impact on future potential improvements or funding to the space. Furthermore, the Committee requests that the Solicitor include such understanding in the Resolution that will be voted on by Council. The Committee also recommends that a topic be added for the Health & Recreation Committee to review and potentially improve upon the current process for both naming and the use of Village property, with the goal of creating a more inclusive, transparent process that involves all the citizens of Mariemont, since Village property is for the benefit of all residents. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Graves moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on December 2, 2019 at 6pm. Present at the meeting were Committee Chairman Avia Graves, Committee Members Maggie Palazzolo and Kelly Rankin, Council Members Rob Bartlett and Bill Brown, Village Engineer Chris Ertel, Chief Rick Hines, and Village residents. The meeting began at 6:10pm to discuss

approving additional guard rail on Miami road onto Indian Hill property. It is the Committee's recommendation to approve the \$2230 for the guard rail. It is the recommendation of the Committee that we have additional discussion with Ed regarding liability of putting additional guard rail onto private property. Dependent on that answer we could then recommend that Chris Ertel conduct a study to see if adding additional guard rail onto private property would make a difference. It is also the recommendation of the Committee to have Chris Ertel contact ODOT to see if this area would qualify for an ODOT study. Engineer Ertel said he can put in for a purchase order to have the guard rail fixed all at the same time. He is holding the current bill so Mills Fence can complete the work as ordered. Mrs. Graves said what is there will be taken out and replaced with one continuous piece like it was supposed to be. Solicitor McTigue asked if the rail was on private property or in the right-of-way. Engineer Ertel said it is in the right-of-way. Mrs. Graves said they would like the Solicitor to research potential liability issues the Village would have if the Village put a guard rail on private property (which is agreeable to the property owner and neighbor). Engineer Ertel believes wrapping the rail round the driveway and beyond would be the better plan for additional protection. Solicitor McTigue said he will do the research and get in touch with Engineer Ertel. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Graves moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Public Works & Service Committee which met on December 4th, 2019 at 6:00 PM to discuss the process for creating the CRA Councils and the CRA tax abatement on Murray Ave. In attendance were the Committee Chairperson Kelly Rankin, Committee Members Bill Brown and Avia Graves, Council Member Rob Bartlett, Village Solicitor Ed McTigue, residents Eric Wellinghoff, Dave Weingarten, Joe Stelzer and Marcy Lewis. The first topic of discussion was the creation and purpose of the CRA Housing Council and the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) as required by Res. R-19-07 Section 7 and 8. Mr. Stelzer and Mr. Bartlett inquired as to the duties of these 2 Councils. The Committee agreed that the responsibilities were not clearly defined. Mr. McTigue stated he would contact the Hamilton County Auditor to better answer this. Once we have this information, the Committee will meet again to create the Councils. The second topic was regarding the abatement status for 6990 and 6998 Murray Ave. It is difficult to ascertain this from the map of the CRA zone; as such, clarification is required for the northern boundary of Murray Ave. The Committee recommends a full review by the Public Works Committee of the entire CRA process and requirements. The Committee also recommends that Resolution to clarify prior resolutions NOS. R-17-15 and R-7-17 be passed. Ms. Palazzolo asked for clarification that the north side of Murray was included. Solicitor McTigue said yes it is defined in the Resolution. Solicitor McTigue has been put into contact with a representative from Hamilton County so he can talk with them relative to the CRA Council. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

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.

Open House Retirement Party for Patty Busam and Sue Singleton will be Friday December 27, 2019 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Village Council Chambers.

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

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to nominate Ms. Palazzolo and Mrs. Graves as Representatives to the 2020 Volunteer Firefighters' Dependents Fund. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Resolutions:

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

"Resolution to Clarify Prior Resolutions No. R-17-15 and R-7-15 Relative to the Boundaries of the Community Reinvestment Area ("CRA") in the Village of Mariemont" had a first reading.

Mr. Bartlett said Council should lay out the process for replacing Mr. Brown's Council seat. Per the Ordinance the vacancy needs to be filled within 30 days or the Mayor gets to appoint a replacement. After discussion, it was agreed to have a flyer made with the outline of the procedure and distributed Village wide

by members of Council and volunteers. Candidates must submit their letter of interest by January 15, 2020 via email or they may be dropped off at the Village Office. Letters will be forwarded to Council immediately. Following that Council will have time to individually contact those who have expressed an interest for a brief interview. A Special Meeting of Council will be held on Thursday January 23, 2020 at 6:30 to vote on the nomination of the new member of Council. It will also be publicly announced on Next Door Mariemont and on the Village website.

Mr. Brown said this is Mayor Policastro's last Council meeting and he wanted to take a minute to reflect on his tenure and his transformative accomplishments during that time. He believes the Village owes Mayor Policastro a great deal. If it was not for Mayor Policastro he probably would never have been on Council and he would not be standing here before everyone as the incoming Mayor. He thanked Mayor Policastro personally. Mayor Policastro thanked everyone and said it has been a great run and the Village is doing well.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer