

**Village of Mariemont
Regular Council Meeting
August 12, 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.

Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to approve the Council minutes of July 22, 2019, Budget Hearing July 22, 2019 and Special Meeting of Council August 1, 2019 as written. On roll call, five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Police Chief Hines: July 2019 Monthly Report. Chief Hines reminded Council of Safety Services Night Out at the Bell Tower from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. They will have many door prizes including a flat screen TV, a K-9 presentation and a helicopter visit at 6:30 p.m.

From Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer: July 2019 Monthly Report. The new ambulance has arrived and is presently being decaled. He is hoping that it will be ready to display for Safety Services Night Out. Mr. Brown said since the other truck has been moved to the Maintenance Facility should something come up do they have access to it? Assistant Fire Chief said yes they have keys and can access the truck at any time.

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: July 2019 Monthly Report and Permanent Improvement Request for a Shed. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Finance Committee.

From Building Administrator Keyes: July 2019 Monthly Report

From Tax Administrator Busam: July 2019 Monthly Report

From Swim Pool Manager Schad: July 2019 Monthly Report

From Shannon Thomas: Email Dated June 26, 2019 re: Thank You Matt Kurtz

From Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler: July 2019 Monthly Fiscal Officer's Report

Mr. Tony Mershon was granted permission to address Council. He said is with Mariemont Troop 149 and is currently working on his Eagle Scout Project and would like to build six bird houses for Eastern Blue Birds and post them in the South 80 Acres. He is seeking approval from Council for his project. Mayor Policastro suggested he contact the Parks Board President, Louise Schomburg, and work with them on the location of the bird houses. They will be independently posted in the open and between trees. Council gave unanimous approval for the project to proceed.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to pay the bills as approved by the Fiscal Officer, Mayor and Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mrs. Rankin asked if the payment of \$52,365 for tree work was final payment of work to be done in the Village. Superintendent Scherpenberg said that payment was for the first three phases. We have one more phase to do with trees damaged in recent storms. There is some trimming still to be done but unless it is an emergency any other work would be done in 2020. Mayor Policastro and Mrs. Graves had concern about a dead tree near the Tot Lot. Superintendent Scherpenberg said it is leaning more in the other direction but he will take a second look at it. On roll call: five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 1:30 pm in Council Chambers to discuss some proposals that PNC had previously brought to the Village on its checking accounts. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, Finance Committee Members Bill Brown and Kelly Rankin, Assistant Fiscal Officer Eli Wendler, Tax Officer Patty Busam, Administrative Assistant Joane Van Pelt, Staff Assistant Sue Singleton, and Chris Moorman and Martha Chomyszak from PNC.

The Finance Committee reviewed two proposals from PNC:

1. Direct Deposit: the Village already has direct deposit capability in the operating fund checking account at PNC as part of the ACH system but is not yet utilizing it. Each ACH transfer costs \$0.35. Previously, PNC had shared that 150 business checks typically cost \$100 or \$0.67/check. However, Mrs. Singleton obtained our actual costs and they are \$0.14/check. Also, all of the payroll checks are hand distributed and not mailed, so for payroll, moving to direct deposit using ACH would be a cost increase. For payments to vendors that require an additional \$0.50 for postage, the savings is not that big. Given the costs and the fact that entering the information into the ACH system would require duplicate work, the Finance Committee recommends not pursuing this at this time. That said, PNC shared that Fairfax is using ACH for some of their payments. The committee would be interested in understanding what areas Fairfax is using ACH for direct deposit and the benefit they are seeing. Mr. Moorman said he would talk to Fairfax and ask them to reach out to us.
2. Scanning Checks for Deposit. The cost of a scanner is \$50/month. We are charged \$3 for every night drop bag deposit, and in June, we had 9 night drops costing \$27. However, Mrs. Van Pelt and Mrs. Singleton shared the swimming pool is the only group using night deposits, so these charges only occur in June, July and August. All of the other departments that deposit checks do so at a branch office on their way home from work. Since there is no financial benefit of using a check scanner, and this wouldn't save any time for our employees, the Finance Committee is recommending not to proceed with using a check scanner at this time.

The Finance Committee also discussed the use of the new PNC credit card, which offers 1.5% cash back on all purchases. Mrs. Van Pelt and Mrs. Singleton shared that using the credit card creates some additional work for them. However, it was agreed that for large purchases, the cash back to the Village would make it worth the additional effort. So in addition to using the credit card for online subscriptions like Microsoft Office, the Village will also use the credit card for large purchases, e.g. those purchases exceeding \$5,000, which will generate at least \$75 cash back to the Village. Mrs. Singleton is developing a policy for how the credit card will be used by the Village. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro said the agenda reads to refer the Rumpke Contract Renewal (1st Option Year) to the Public Works & Service Committee but according to the Code Book it should be referred to the Health and Recreation Committee. Mrs. Van Pelt said she will make the change on the agenda.

Ordinances:

“To Renew Contract for the Following Kinds of Insurance: Real and Personal Property, Comprehensive General Liability, Business Automobile, and Other Coverages; To Pay Premiums and To Declare Emergency” had a first reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had the second reading. Mr. Bartlett reminded Council that the previous Finance Report outlined the need for the emergency due to the lead time from when we receive the quote and when the premium is due. The Ordinance had the third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-18-19 was adopted.

Mr. Brown said he wanted to acknowledge all the work Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler has done on pulling together the information and reconciling the account for upcoming waste collection to be collected by Cincinnati Water Works.

Mr. Bartlett asked that the listed item on the agenda for the Finance Committee ‘Software and Systems for the Tax Department’ be changed to ‘Billing of Annual Waste Collection Fee’ as it was causing confusion that the Tax Department was going to be shut down. Council voted unanimously for the change. Mrs. Van Pelt said she would make the change on the agenda.

Mr. Bartlett said he has had discussion with Solicitor McTigue regarding several sections of the code that need to be changed. One is our code is breed specific for vicious dogs. Solicitor McTigue said several years ago when the Village changed the ordinance he believes the Village did name Pit Bulls as one of the dogs that you cannot have around here. He is reviewing the code now and Council may very well have to change it. He thought we did change it but if it has not been done we certainly will have to change it due to a Supreme Court decision.

Solicitor McTigue said he also had discussions with Mr. Bartlett regarding political signs and signage in general which he is also going to review to see what is prohibited and what is not prohibited. If we need to tweak our code we will due to conform to case laws that have come out in the past couple of years. If it is something Council needs to change

it can be referred to a Committee of Council. Mr. Bartlett said the section is 151.126(A)(9). Solicitor McTigue said we have in the past had issues with American Legal Publishing not codifying our updated legislation and we were sued even though the Village was not enforcing the code.

Mr. Bartlett said he has brought to the attention of Solicitor McTigue a list of several inconsistencies in the code language for Planning Commission and ARB and moved that the matter be referred to the Rules and Law Committee. Motion was seconded by Ms. Palazzolo but no vote was taken. Mayor Policastro referred review of Planning Commission and ARB Code Section language to the Rules and Law Committee.

Mayor Policastro said the Solicitor should attend the Committee meetings when those are held. Solicitor McTigue agreed to attend the Committee meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer