

**Village of Mariemont
Regular Council Meeting
February 10, 2020**

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

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

Mrs. Rankin asked to have the minutes amended to read "Special Meeting of Council" instead of Committee of the Whole when referring to the process used to nominate a new member to Council. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to accept the minutes as amended for the Council Meeting January 27, 2020. On roll call; four ayes, no nays (Mrs. Graves abstained).

Mayor Brown read the following communications:

From Police Chief Hines: January 2020 Monthly Report/2019 Annual Report

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: January 2020 Monthly Report/2019 Annual Report

From Tax Administrator Darrah: January 2020 Monthly Report/2019 Annual Report

From Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler: January 2020 Monthly Report

Engineer Ertel said at the next Council meeting he will have the legislation prepared, with the Solicitor's approval, to go out to bid for the Petoskey Avenue project. It will need to be passed on an emergency basis in order to have the bids by the first of April.

Mr. Bartlett said the Village of Newtown is potentially interested in bidding with us. Mrs. Rankin said she has not discussed it yet with Engineer Ertel. Mr. Bartlett said Newtown is interested because if we bid together we potentially could each get better bids. If the project is more than \$500,000 the bigger players tend to participate. They have multiple projects. He said they need to be contacted. He believes it would be good to explore the possibility.

Police Chief Hines said he wanted to compliment the Fire Department and Acting Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner. He attended a function and talked with someone who said she had friends who had a fire in their apartment on Beech Street. The friends were very complimentary of how the fire personnel responded and how professional they were and how they were treated. They did a phenomenal job – that fire could have really been bad. They were able to keep the damage to a minimum.

Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves to pay the bills as approved by the Fiscal Officer, Mayor and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll call; fives ayes, no nays.

The Fiscal Officer certified that funds were in the treasury or in the process of collection for payment of the following bills:

911 Fleet & Fire Equipment	88.16	Martin Simon	660.00
A&A Safety, Inc.	110.00	Ohio Assoc of Chiefs of Police	650.00
Aileen Beatty	361.25	Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation	9,744.00
Baxla Tractor	243.97	Perfection Print Media	177.34
Ben James	52.00	PNC Bank	304.54
Best-One Tire & Service	127.71	Rick Gibson	1,000.00
Board of County Commissioners	130.00	Rumpke	26,177.25
Bramble Mower	334.00	Sam's Club	514.31
Camp Safety	162.50	Schindler	80.85
Capital Electric	264.00	Spectrum	265.52
CBTS	91.72	Staples	351.61
Cincinnati Bell	98.23	Stigler Supply	474.15
Dental Care Plus	989.25	Suzy Weinland	50.00
Desert Diamond Industries	292.00	The Brewer Company	60.80
Duke Energy	2,786.03	The Center for Local Government	2,000.00
Fleet Services/Wexbank	3,024.70	TireDiscounters	99.48
Galls	905.79	TransUnion	50.00
Hamilton County Police Association	600.00	Verizon	28.09
Ham. Co. Regional Planning Commission	1,340.00	Village Payroll Account	94,226.90

Hylant Administrative Services	79.00	William Fiedler	1,250.00
Jani-King	400.00		
Kenzspen Automotive	25.00	TOTAL:	150,670.

Police Department

Richard D. Hines, Regular	4055.52	Tom Ostendarp, Regular	1356.90
Nick Pittsley, Vacation	473.39	Nick Pittsley, Overtime	828.43
Tom Ostendarp, Sick	2035.34	Steve Watt, Regular	2968.09
Steve Watt, Comp	115.64	Pat Harrison, Overtime	166.59
Pat Harrison, Regular	2517.31	Steve Watt, Overtime	925.12
Steve Watt, Comp	115.64	Nick Pittsley,	
Regular 2682.53			
Dan Lyons, Overtime	751.66	Pat Harrison, Comp	444.23
Paul Rennie, Regular	3083.73	Paul Rennie, Overtime	404.74
Paul Rennie, Vacation	385.47	Derek Bischoff,	
Regular 2680.00			
Margie Maupin, Comp	115.86	Dan Lyons, Regular	3083.73
Tracie Clausing, PT, Regular	299.00	Adam Geraci, Regular	3083.73
Margie Maupin, Regular	1622.07	Penny Anderson, PT, Regular	
300.00			
Fred Romano, SRO	1312.50	Doris Hallums, PT, Regular	
300.00			
Fred Romano, PT, Regular	68.01	Fred Romano, Overtime	
87.45			
Matt Kurtz, Regular	3083.73	Judy Gerros, PT, Regular	299.00
Ron Wallace, PT, Regular	434.50	Blake Wallace, PT, Regular	1098.00
		Department Total	40521.34

Paramedics/Fire

Nick Guilkey, Supervisor Pay	484.34	Jim Henderson, Supervisor Pay	
494.64			
Richard Cathcart, PT, Regular	766.48	Patrick Handley, PT, Regular	145.64
Evan Dunkelman, PT, Regular	1254.24	Joshua Hanauer, PT, Regular	609.70
Robert Mercer, PT, Regular	888.42	Mike Washington, Supervisor Pay	741.96
Tim Feichtner, Supervisor Pay	521.76	Mike Washington, Jr., PT, Regular	679.38
Nick Flick, Supervisor Pay	948.06	Tim Peaker, PT, Regular	1261.44
Keary Henkener, PT, Regular	418.08	Derek Hunt, PT, Regular	420.48
Nick Guilkey, PT, Regular	981.12	Joe Meyer, PT, Regular	402.96
Dan Copeland, Supervisor Pay	1483.92	Mark Giffin, PT,	
Regular 209.04			
Chris Ramsey, Supervisor Pay	1000.04	Joe Lowry, PT Regular	209.04
Chad Webb, PT, Regular	385.44	Acting Assistant Chief Feichtner, Regular	3392.24
Rick Hines, Regular	647.67	Ben Kutcher, PT, Regular	480.20
Mark Hardin, PT, Regular	253.82	Bryan Schmidlapp, PT, Regular	209.04
David Huckleby, PT, Regular	926.10	Ryan Curtis, PT Regular	315.56
Matt Clark, PT, Regular	1411.02	Brian Gross, PT, Regular	418.08
Brandon Manor, Supervisor Pay	1030.50	Ray Scott, PT, Regular	600.99
Josh Watren, Supervisor Pay	958.37	Jason Williams, PT, Regular	840.96
Steve Auffart, PT, Regular	210.24	Craig Coburn, Supervisor Pay	247.32
Mike Carey, PT, Regular	411.72	Craig Coburn, PT, Regular	210.24
		Department Total	25945.53

Maintenance Department

John M. Scherpenberg, Regular	3042.42	Ben James, Sick	215.51
Ben James, Regular	1939.54	Mike Evanchyk,	
Regular 1408.00			
Jeremy Swadder, Regular	1680.00	Kevin Schmid, Regular	2186.90
		Department Total	

10472.35

Swim Pool

Ed Beck, PT, Regular	94.55	Jordan Schad, PT, Regular	750.00
		Department Total	844.55

Administrative

Joanee B. Van Pelt, Regular	2590.67	Joanee Van Pelt,	
Council 125.00			
Allison Uhrig, Regular	1538.47	Department Total	4254.14

Tax Department

DeAnna Darrah, Regular	2115.38	Department Total	2115.38
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Council/Appointed Officials

Bill Brown, Regular	666.67	Rob Bartlett, Regular	83.26
Kelly Rankin, Regular	83.26	Maggie Palazzolo, Regular	83.26
Marcy Lewis, Regular	83.26	Avia Graves, Regular	83.26
Tony Borgerding, Regular	515.00	Eli Wendler, Regular	300.42
Chris Ertel, Regular	665.75	Don Keyes, Regular	3333.34
Eli Wendler, IT	1194.80	GRAND TOTAL	91245.57

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers to discuss the Village's spending trends. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, Finance Committee Member Kelly Rankin, Bill Brown, Marcy Lewis, Joe Stelzer, Joannee Van Pelt, Rick Hines, DeAnna Darrah, and John Scherpenberg. In 2019, expenses again exceeded revenue. For the fifth year in a row, excluding the municipal building addition, the Village ran a deficit. The two tables below show the total Village revenue and expense, both excluding and including the municipal building addition.

Total Village Spending (excluding the municipal building addition)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Revenue	\$4,778k	\$4,644k	\$4,370k	\$4,220k	\$4,250k
Expense	<u>\$4,925k</u>	<u>\$4,790k</u>	<u>\$4,427k</u>	<u>\$4,275k</u>	<u>\$4,670k</u>
Net	(\$147k)	(\$146k)	(\$57k)	(\$55k)	(\$420k)

Total Village Spending (including the municipal building addition)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Revenue	\$4,834k	\$5,049k	\$5,218k	\$4,220k	\$4,250k
Expense	<u>\$5,149k</u>	<u>\$5,779k</u>	<u>\$4,557k</u>	<u>\$4,275k</u>	<u>\$4,670k</u>
Net	(\$315k)	(\$730k)	\$661k	(\$55k)	(\$420k)

Moreover, at the beginning of 2015, the Village had \$2,007k in cash. At the beginning of 2020, we have \$1,146k. Over the past five years, we have drawn down our cash by \$861k, and we have added ~\$650k of debt due to the addition and the new ambulance. In comparing our cash position relative to neighboring communities of similar size, we are clearly in the weakest financial condition (see table below).

	Population	Cash Position	Annual Spend	Spend/Month	# Months Covered
Mariemont	3,500	\$1,146k	\$5,149k	\$429k	2.7 months
Newtown	2,662	\$1,514k	\$2,656k	\$221k	6.8 months
Terrace Park	2,300	\$1,658k	\$2,116k	\$176k	9.6 months
Amberley Village	3,585	\$6,976k	\$6,863k	\$572k	12.2 months
Columbia Township	4,500	\$5,620k	\$4,288k	\$357k	15.7 months
Fairfax	1,700	\$7,850k	\$5,387k	\$449k	17.5 months
Glendale	2,162	\$11,236k	\$3,296	\$275k	40.9 months

As a Village, we need to work together to find ways to improve our finances. The Finance Committee recommends sharing with residents our current financial situation and seeking their input/suggestions on ways to reduce costs and/or increase revenue. Suggestions provided at the meeting included communicating via the Mayor's Bulletin, sharing this at the Town Meeting if one is held this year, a survey to residents asking what services they value most, pursuing grant opportunities (including potentially paying a grant writer), and creating a foundation that residents could voluntarily contribute to. Mr. Bartlett said he does think it is important to share this information broadly and to engage the residents on ways to turn things around and move in a positive direction. He also noted that the Ohio Auditor's website indicates if a municipality would get down to one month's cash on hand there is a special category that they are put into. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers to discuss the annual salary increases for Mariemont employees. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, Finance Committee Member Kelly Rankin, Bill Brown, Marcy Lewis, Joe Stelzer, Joannee Van Pelt, Rick Hines, DeAnna Darrah, and John Scherpenberg. The Finance Committee reviewed two salary ordinances: the ordinance related to all grades of recreation employees, and the ordinance for all full-time and part-time employees. Ohio increased the minimum wage from \$8.55/hour to \$8.70/hour in 2020. Some recreation employee roles were scheduled to earn less than that. Working with Jordan Schad, the Pool Manager, the Finance Committee is proposing the updated recreation employee ordinance which

is included in the council packet. This increases all of the wages by \$0.15/hour, putting the lowest wage at \$8.70/hour to comply with Ohio law, and maintaining the same hourly wage differential between roles and between years of service as the previous ordinance. For full-time and part-time employees, the Finance Committee is recommending a base increase of 2% in the salary range for all of the roles. Last year, the inflation index used for Social Security was 2.8% and we gave a 3% salary increase. This year, the Social Security inflation increase was 1.6%. Also, the increase in the Ohio minimum wage was 1.8%. The Finance Committee is also recommending a slightly larger pay increase for the roles of Lieutenant, Sergeant, Assistant Fire Chief, Administrative Assistant, Firefighter/EMT and Firefighter/Paramedic. These increases are in order for these roles to stay competitive with the pay for other similar size municipalities. To help pay for the extra increase for the Sergeant and Lieutenant, Chief Hines has asked that his pay be kept constant for 2020. All of these pay changes will go into effect April 19, 2020. Mr. Bartlett commended Chief Hines who proactively approached him with the suggestion that his salary be held constant to help with the other two positions in the police department. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Bartlett moved seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers to discuss the ability for council to voluntarily waive their salary. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, Finance Committee Member Kelly Rankin, Bill Brown, Marcy Lewis, Joe Stelzer, Joannee Van Pelt, Rick Hines, DeAnna Darrah, and John Scherpenberg. This proposal was previously shared with the Village Solicitor, who confirmed this is allowed by law. The Village Solicitor has drawn up a change to the Section 32.05 of Mariemont's code book to allow any council members to voluntarily waive his or her salary. A "Waiver of Compensation" form has also been created to properly document any council member who chooses to waive his or her salary. To be clear, this is a voluntary decision on an individual by individual basis, and it is also a private decision. Given the Village's financial trends and some of the tough choices we will need to make going forward, the Finance Committee believes it is appropriate to make this option available for council members if they choose, but they should not feel pressured to do so. If passed, this change in Section 32.05 would go into effect in April, 2020. Mrs. Graves said she gets the symbolism of Council willing to give up their own salary. The amount Council is paid is not the solution to the problem. We have bigger problems that we need to look at holistically and Council's salary is a small drop in the bucket. Mayor Brown said to be clear this is voluntary and a private matter. Mrs. Graves said it would be public record and now is not the time but in the future making some adjustments to the salary to attract those to the role. It takes a lot of time and effort. Mr. Bartlett said we should benchmark the salaries same as we did for police and fire. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

Village Offices will be closed Monday February 17, 2020 in Observation of Presidents' Day

Outstanding Citizen Award Nominations are due to Mrs. Van Pelt by March 12, 2020.

Council Committee Assignments 2020. Mrs. Rankin asked that the matter be delayed until Mr. Stelzer is in attendance.

Resolutions:

"Resolution Authorizing the Naming of the Hiawatha/Rembold Median to the "Interurban Trolley Line Park" had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-3-20 was adopted

"To Adopt Amended Article I, II, III and V Rules and Regulations for the Hamilton County Storm Water District" had a second reading.

"To Assemble a Swim Pool Task Force Charter to Help Increase Revenue and/or Decrease Expenses of the Mariemont Swimming Pool and To Declare Emergency" had a second reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to suspend the rules to allow for the third reading. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-4-20 was adopted.

Ordinances:

"To Amend Certain Sections of Section 151 of the Zoning Code Regarding Sign Regulations of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances" had a third reading. Mrs. Graves moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-2-20 was adopted.

"To Amend Section 37.03 Parks Advisory Board of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances" had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-3-20 was adopted.

“Ordinance Amending Chapter 151.025 Powers and Duties of the Architectural Review Board” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to table the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Mayor Brown said it is unusual to table in the middle of the third reading. Mr. Bartlett said Mr. Stelzer had some input and wanted to discuss with the Solicitor some of the language.

“To Amend Section 54.11 Undedicated Streets; Improvements Forbidden of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a third reading. Mr. Bartlett moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-4-20 was adopted.

“To Amend Section 37.05 Swim Pool Commission of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a third reading. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-5-20 was adopted.

“To Amend Section 151.024 of the Powers and Duties of the Planning Commission, of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Bartlett to table the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

“To Amend Section 151.076 Park District of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” had a second reading. Mr. Bartlett said one section says the recommendations go to the Mayor and another section says the recommendations go to the Vice-Mayor. This is to eliminate inconsistency and the section will refer to the section to make recommendations to the Mayor.

“Ordinance Adopting New Mariemont Municipal Code” had a second reading. Solicitor McTigue said the Tax Department works with the State of Ohio and the Ohio Municipal League to make sure we are up to date on what should be included in our local tax ordinance. He has reviewed them and they all appear to be reasonable.

“To Amend Section 32.05 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances” (Council Compensation) had a first reading.

“To Repeal Ordinance No. O-6-19 Pertaining to Maximum Rates for all Grades of Recreation Employees and to Enact New Legislation Pertaining to Maximum Pay Rates for All Grades of Recreation Employees” had a first reading.

“To Amend Ordinance O-5-19 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees” had a first reading.

Mr. Bartlett asked if anyone has heard if there will be a Town Meeting this year. If not, he believes we should have a State of the Village discussion where the Mayor has a chance to talk along with other local community organizations. Mayor Brown said he is having a conversation with Mr. Lukens regarding Town Meeting. Ms. Palazzolo said MPPG and MPF could participate and do presentations. There were discussions in the past to have more participation for all ages of residents in the Village and not to have it during spring break. She believes Mr. Luken’s term is up next year. If he is not one to want to do social planning there could be someone in the wings who would be willing to take on something like that.

Mr. Bartlett said while in discussion with the Village of Newtown he learned of a vehicle registration permissive fee. It is a way to generate some revenue. He believes legislation needs to be enacted. It would raise the registration revenue from \$20.00 per car up to \$30.00 per car. The funds can only be used for streets. Mayor Brown referred the matter to the Finance Committee for further review and discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

iam A. Brown, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer