

**Village of Mariemont
Regular Council Meeting
March 9, 2020**

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

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

Mayor Brown said Police Officer Pat Harrison has completed his probationary period. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo that Officer Harrison be moved to Regular Full-Time Employee status. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Graves asked the Council minutes for February 10, 2020 be amended to read “that she received his email the day before and she had a couple questions for the Police Chief when he returned back from vacation and she would respond to him after that – not that she would actually provide the report to him”. Mr. Stelzer said in the section regarding the deed of easement it should read ‘reversionary clause’. Mrs. Graves moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the amended minutes. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Graves moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the minutes as written for the Special Council Meeting February 3, 2020 and the Budget Hearing February 10, 2020. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mayor Brown read the following communications:

From Police Chief Hines: February 2020 Monthly Report

From Acting Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner: February 2020 Monthly Report

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: February 2020 Monthly Report

From Tax Administrator Darrah: February 2020 Monthly Report. Mayor Brown indicated that Mrs. Busam would return to help during tax season for approximately 6 weeks/20 hours per week depending on the workload

From Solicitor McTigue: Legal Memorandum re: Meeting Minutes. Solicitor McTigue said it is not necessary for the minutes to be transcribed word for word. The minutes need to reflect the general idea as to the discussions held and the rationale for decisions made. The Council meetings are videotaped and they capture an accurate and complete record. For committee meeting minutes one needs to use common sense as to document how the committee came to a recommendation. It was discussed to put the meeting link from ICRC on the new website.

Police Chief Hines said the Village of Mariemont is currently following the developments as well as the plans of prevention of the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (2019-nCoV). We are following the recommendations of the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) and the Hamilton County Public Health. Data suggests that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Symptoms can include fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and shortness of breath.
- The virus causing COVID-19 is called SARS-Cov-2. It is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes and can land in the mouths or noses, or possibly be inhaled into the lungs of people who are nearby.

Close contact may include:

- ◆ Being within approximately 6 feet of an individual with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time.
- ◆ Having direct contact with body fluids (such as blood, phlegm, and respiratory droplets) from an individual with COVID-19.

To protect yourself from exposure (taking these steps can help you stay healthy)

- It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and the CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.

- Cover your mouth while coughing and sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when sick.
- Most importantly, WASH YOUR HANDS for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer that is 60% alcohol.
- Additionally, please contact a healthcare professional if you have traveled to an area with widespread COVID-19, have come into contact with anyone who has, or develop flu-like symptoms such as a fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

This information was put on the Village Website, Nextdoor Mariemont and the Police Department/Fire Department Facebook page. Residents may call 1-833-427-5634 for information and the call center is staffed by licensed nurses and infectious disease experts.

A pandemic flu preparedness kit was given to each employee.

The Police Department utilizes the Nixle but has not received great response. Chief Hines said it is a good tool to get alerts. It is used by many universities. We need to educate our residents to sign up. Mr. Stelzer suggested reaching out to other groups such as PreSchool Parents, Pool & Tennis etc. to have them help spread the word to utilize signing up for Nixle. Chief Hines said he has some flyers he will try to distribute.

Mr. Dennis Wolter, 3804 East Street, was granted permission to address Council. Last year ODOT presented the Village with a plan to create better traffic flow in and out of Mariemont at the east end by eliminating the choke point where Wooster Pike goes from two lanes to one lane and back to two lanes in both directions. It was rejected by the Village and was to be part of the repaving plan postponed to this year. He believes the proposal would have fixed many safety issues including: reducing frequent squeeze out driving, reduced congestion by more safely flowing traffic, reduce overall length of rush hour and accidents and increase pedestrian safety by calming traffic flow at affected crosswalks. He believes the Village needs to re-approach ODOT and requested the matter be referred to a committee of Council.

Mayor Brown said he and Village Engineer Ertel met with Tom Arnold of ODOT and among other issues talked about this. As he understands it the Village cannot revisit the issue now with pending repaving because engineering work needs to be performed etc. The repaving will proceed. They did discuss what additional markings that could be put on the approach on the eastern side heading west.

Discussion ensued regarding moving the crosswalk to the backside of the island to provide extra protection for pedestrians. In addition, it was suggested to have raised pavement to nudge drivers over but what it may come down to is the markings in the street between the library and chicane. Engineer Ertel reminded Council that due to the Village Historic designation there are hurdles to making such a change but the opportunity may present itself again in the future. Mr. Stelzer said when battling the Eastern Corridor the Village pushed hard for ODOT to look at how to move traffic through this area. The current structure helps keep out a four lane highway in the Little Miami River Valley. These are the things the Village asked ODOT to do seven years ago. Mayor Brown said there will be radar boxes on poles or a wire in the road to send signals to the traffic signal devices so during peak levels there will be better sequencing of the light producing better traffic flow. Engineer Ertel said the paving work should start in April.

Mr. Bob Van Stone, 4050 Lytle Woods Place, was granted permission to address Council. He said should the Village hold a State of the Village meeting his suggestion would be that it not be longer than one hour.

Mr. Larry Wessel, 7001 Wooster Pike was granted permission to address Council. He attended the Committee meeting regarding the sale of the paper street on Mariemont Avenue. His concerns include that the property has been for sale before and now the owner wants to sell the lot in the back. He would not want to lose the green space or cut down trees. If a new home was built it would bring in revenue and property tax but it would go mainly to the school district.

Mr. Mike Kintner, 6504 Miami Bluff Drive, was granted permission to address Council. He has a lot of background in Planning and Economic Development and presently serves on the Architectural Review Board. It is wrong to look at the proposal of the sale of the paper street on Mariemont Avenue as an economic development project. It is a favor to Mr. Turner to allow him to make more money. The property tax/income tax would be minimal. He opposes this proposal.

Mrs. Graves moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to pay the bills as approved by the Fiscal Officer, Mayor and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mrs. Rankin/Ms. Palazzolo questioned the line item for stamps stating it was very high. Mrs. Van Pelt said it was a typographical error. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on February 26th at 7pm to discuss the 2020 tennis court repairs request and the overall operation of the Tennis facility. In attendance were Committee Members Joe Stelzer, Marcy Lewis & Avia Graves; Mayor Bill Brown; Tennis Board Members Dina Wilder, Linda Bartlett & Kevin Taylor; Council Members Rob Bartlett & Kelly Rankin; Maintenance Supervisor John Scherpenberg. The two bids for tennis court repairs were discussed and the Committee decided to accept the attached bid from Harry Ewers and Sons. There was a discussion regarding the overall past operation of the Tennis Facility and plans for the 2020 season. The Tennis Board should be commended for their hard work in significantly improving the revenue generated from the Tennis facility, improving the Facility and their creative solutions to potentially replacing the existing Tennis Shed with a proposed new Tennis Pavilion and Patio. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Mr. Stelzer to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers to discuss purchase requests by the Fire Department. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chair Rob Bartlett, Finance Committee Members Kelly Rankin and Joe Stelzer, and Assistant Fire Chief Tim Feichtner. The Finance Committee reviewed the purchase requests submitted by the Fire Department as part of the Permanent Improvement Budget process for 2020. The Fire department is requesting five new sets of turn-out gear, an upgrade to the mobile data computers, and a new chest compression system for EMS. The cost of the five new sets of turn-out gear will be \$16,975.00. They will be purchased from Phoenix Safety Outfitters. This price is only good until March, so it is important to act quickly. This equipment is being purchased via the state contract, which ensures we are getting the same low price from all dealers. The cost of the upgrade to the mobile data computers is \$11,950. This includes 5 Surface Pro 7 tablets with Windows 10 professional, 5 Surface Pro docking stations, 5 locking mounts for the Surface Pro, and 5 cradle point devices, antennas and power supply. The Surface Pro equipment will be purchased from the Microsoft Store in Kenwood and will cost \$5,120.30. The locking mounts will be purchased from Jotto Desk for \$1,122.06. The cradle point devices, antennas and power supply will be purchased from DH Wireless Solutions for \$5,707.64. This upgrade is required in order to be able to interact with the new County Computer Aided Dispatch, which is being implemented in February. The current system is supposed to be decommissioned in the next few months. The quote for the chest compression system is \$14,881.40 from Stryker, the manufacturer of the equipment. Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner also obtained quotes from two other companies: MFI Medical whose cost was \$15,950.00, and AED.Us whose cost was also \$15,950.00. Assistant Chief Feichtner estimates that over 65% of the paramedic units in Cincinnati now have this equipment, and it is especially important for EMS units like ours that are not always fully staffed due to using part time firefighters/paramedics. All three of these items were included in the approved Permanent Improvement budget for 2020. The 5 sets of turn-out gear were budgeted for \$17,000. The upgrade to the mobile data computers was budgeted for \$12,000. And the chest compression device was budgeted for \$15,000. As such, the Finance Committee recommends purchasing this equipment soon to lock in the quoted prices, and to use money budgeted in the Permanent Improvement Fund. Mr. Stelzer said in the future if we know of needs such as these there may be people who would want to contribute. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Dr. Lewis to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on February 24, 2020 at 6:15pm. Present at the meeting were committee chairman Avia Graves, committee members Maggie Palazzolo and Kelly Rankin, Lieutenant Tom Ostendarp. The meeting began at 6:15pm to discuss placement of handicap parking at the Municipal Building. It is the committee's recommendation to move the one ADA accessible handicap parking spot next to the handicap accessible entrance (this will relocate the Mayor's designated spot). See attached diagram for revised placements. The spot must be accessible for a van which means the designated spot must be at least 132 inches wide. See attached diagram. It is the recommendation of the committee that the service department restripe as depicted as soon as time and weather allows. In addition it is the committee's recommendation that the handicap accessible entrance no longer be locked during business hours. The door is now to remain unlocked during business hours. In addition it is the

committee's recommendation that we install an intercom buzzer system for after hours that rings to the police department if someone needs access after business hours. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mrs. Graves moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to accept the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Committee which met on March 4, 2020 at 6:30pm to discuss the Village's intention to sell the paper streets adjacent to 6500 Mariemont Avenue. In attendance were Committee Members Marcy Lewis, Joe Stelzer, and Maggie Palazzolo; Mayor Bill Brown; Council Member Kelly Rankin; and residents Mike Kintner and Larry Wessel. The Committee discussed the intention to sell the paper streets adjacent to 6500 Mariemont Avenue. The Committee agreed that such a sale makes sense at this time as this property does not presently have, or in the likely future will have, any legitimate public purpose for the Village of Mariemont. Furthermore, sale of this property would have an immediate cash value and in the future, pending residential development, bring additional revenue to the village. As a portion of this vacated property would most likely be used to access a new home, resident Mike Kintner brought up the subject of evaluating the safety on Mariemont Avenue from a visibility standpoint. The process which must be followed in order to lawfully vacate and sell this property, as supplied by Mariemont Counsel, Ed McTigue, was briefly reviewed and discussed (see attachment 1). The committee then voted to submit to Council their recommendation to proceed with the vacation and then sale of the paper streets adjacent to 6500 Mariemont Ave., barring any significant safety hazards. In the event Village council approves this recommendation, a resolution will be prepared which indicates that the property is no longer necessary for a public purpose, that the Village may advertise it for public purchase, and that any contract that may be entered into will follow the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code. Ms. Palazzolo suggested having a dedicated public hearing on this matter. She believes there are many residents with questions. Mrs. Graves indicated that she too has questions. Mr. Stelzer said time kills deals and said he would like to go forward and vote on the report and hold a public hearing next week where detailed drawings can be viewed and further discussion can ensue. Solicitor McTigue said he will prepare the resolution for the next Council meeting. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

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

Village Offices will be closed Friday April 10, 2020 in Observation of Good Friday.

Council Meeting Scheduled for Monday May 25, 2020 will be held Tuesday May 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Ordinances:

"To Amend Section 32.05 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances" (Council Compensation) had a third reading. Mr. Stelzer moved to adopt the Ordinance. With no second the motion died and the Ordinance was not adopted.

"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 third reading. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-10-20 was adopted

"To Amend Ordinance O-5-19 of the Mariemont Code of Ordinances to Increase Payment for Employees" had a third reading. Ordinance No O-11-20 was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

William A. Brown, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer