

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
JANUARY 23, 2012.**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Andrews, Mr. Black, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Miller, Mr. Scheeser and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the minutes as written for January 9, 2012. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

The following communications were read by Mayor Policastro:

From Administration Office: MTD/YTD 4th Quarter 2011 Report

From Wendi Van Buren: Letter Dated January 5, 2012 re: Tree City USA Designation

From Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District: Thanks to Mariemont for Supporting Recycling \$17,079.29

From Chief Hines: Savings to the Village (work performed by Fire Department) \$13,470.00

From Police Clerk Maupin: Mayor's Court Statement December 2011

From Mayor Policastro: e-mail dated Monday January 16, 2012 re: 100 Mile Run. Mayor Policastro said it will start at 6:00 a.m. so it will not interfere with the Memorial Day Parade.

From Chief Hines: Memo Dated January 17, 2012 re: O.V.I. Task Force Reimbursement. Chief Hines said it is the program the department runs on a monthly basis. We get reimbursed for extra patrol that is funded by a grant for O.V.I. enforcement. The City of Blue Ash administers the program by giving the department the day and the amount of hours we are eligible for. The overtime reimbursement includes pension, worker's comp etc. It is a good program that helps to keep our streets safe.

From Merrett Collister: Bids for New Playground Equipment at Tot Lot. Ms. Collister said the PreSchool Parents Group is requesting \$25,000 from the Permanent Improvement Fund be allocated toward the new equipment. She has been working on the project for three years. Currently the equipment is substandard and has become a liability for the Village. Estimates to repair the wood alone are approximately \$15,000. In addition to the \$4,000 the PreSchool Parents donated to put up the safety fence they are willing to donate \$12,000 to put towards the new play equipment and she respectively asked that the matter be referred to Committee. Mr. Scheeser asked if we under spent the budget last year and asked if there was a surplus available. Mr. Andrews said he recalled related to pool and tennis there were some funds Council decided not to spend due to the nature of the budget. This may have been one of the expenses along with the resurfacing of the practice tennis courts and play equipment at the pool. Ms. Collister said the paperwork Council has does not reflect the numbers she is proposing but more it is a la carte. Mr. Miller said it is important to determine what the PreSchool Parents want and then get bids. Ms. Collister said that is something she would like to discuss within Committee. She has been working on this for a long time and she has spent most of the time getting different bids. Recreations represents 8-10 companies and the desire is to work with a local company. She has done the research. Mr. Wolter said the new equipment would not be wood. Ms. Collister said it would be made from recycled plastic and would come with a lifetime warranty. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Health and Recreation Committee.

From Joe Stelzer: South 80 Trails Proposal/Article Regarding New Trails Proposed for Mariemont. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Economic Development and Zoning. Mayor Policastro said Mr. Stelzer has 30 volunteers ready to clear the area. Mariemont Civic Association would like to sponsor a dirt bike race in early spring. Coach Timmers has indicated his desire to have the Cross Country Team to practice there and possibly have a meet. The Committee will need to discuss the need for parking. Ms McCarthy said we should add posting signs that the park is closed during deer hunting. Mayor Policastro said that has been done and Joe Stelzer has done a great job putting this project together.

From David Goldenberg: Request for Equipment for Skate Board Ramp in Ann Buntin Becker Park. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Health and Recreation Committee.

From Building Commissioner Malone: Replacement Windows Front Wall of Administration Building. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Finance Committee. The windows are drafty and need to be replaced with energy efficient windows.

Mayor Policastro said he met with Mike Burns, Administrator for Indian Hill, regarding the Center for Local Government. He encouraged a Committee of the Whole meeting for next week to talk about the Permanent Improvement Budget and at that time he would like to invite Mr. Burns to attend to bring Council up to date on

the proposed changes from the Center for Local Government. We thought we could leave after three years but we cannot without being a part of the liability pool which right now is \$183,000.

Mr. Mark Erhardt, 6614 Pleasant Street, was granted permission to address Council. He wanted Council to know that he supports Mr. Stelzer's proposal for the bike/hike trail. He believes it is a great idea with a lot of potential for the Village. Other municipalities such as Terrace Park and Milford have trails which are definite amenities to their communities. It can be used by individuals aged 10 and up. Ms. McCarthy said she has heard a lot of a lot of people who are excited for this to happen in the Village.

Mr. Black moved, seconded by Mr. Andrews to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Clerk and Finance Chairman. Mr. Andrews asked if the payment to CDS & Associates was for ongoing work. Mayor Policastro said Building Commissioner Malone would need to answer that - he thought it might be for extra work that was needed. Ms. McCarthy asked when the final draft would be available. Mayor Policastro said hopefully by the end of the month. Mr. Miller said he needs to get a sign off from the school because without their support it is a dead issue. Mr. Andrews asked if the overall parking need/parking study in the Village, not just West Street, is already in the Economic Development and Zoning Committee. Mayor Policastro said yes. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Black to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Tuesday October 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Safety Committee Chairman Dennis Wolter, Committee Member Denise McCarthy, Mayor Dan Policastro, Police/Fire Chief Rick Hines and Fire Marshal Tim Feichtner. On the agenda was the subject of stop signs at the intersection of Bramble Hill and Joan Place. After thorough discussion, the Committee recommends that stop signs be installed in all directions at the three-way intersection of Bramble Hill Drive and Joan Place. Mr. Wolter said the Committee talked with several residents living in the area of the intersection who gave positive support. While they were there they witnessed the need for the stop sign. There were cars flying up the hill and young drivers not even stopping. He apologized for it falling through the cracks. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Black to accept the recommendation of the Public Works and Service Committee which met January 16, 2012 to discuss mowing bids. The Committee made the following recommendation: Accept 4 Seasons bid of \$43,338 for 2012 which is a savings of approximately \$5000 versus 2011. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements:

Village Offices will be closed on Monday February 20, 2012 in Observation of Presidents' Day.

Nominations for Outstanding Citizen Award are due to Mrs. Van Pelt by Thursday March 22, 2012.

Lima Company/Marines of Always Brothers 100 Mile Run will be held Monday May 28, 2012 starting at 6:00 a.m.

Memorial Day Parade will be Monday May 28, 2012 (Lineup begins at 8:00 a.m.)

Resolutions:

"To Appoint Maggie Palazzolo as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Years 2012 and 2013" had a second reading.

"To Appoint Jenny Baker as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Year 2012" had a second reading.

Mr. Andrews said he wanted to reiterate his comments from a month ago that the Pool Board has not asked for additional membership. He believes there is a difference between those who serve on a Committee for steering reasons and those who serve for volunteer reasons. Ms. Palazzolo and Ms. Baker would both serve well but he believes Scott McIntosh should continue to serve on the Swim Pool Board. Mayor Policastro said Mr. McIntosh will continue to serve once the membership Ordinance is passed. He is also going to appoint someone from the Historic area so we have diversity on the Board. He will have a quote sheet for the next meeting from Maria Borgerding, Don Slavik and Gretchen Thomas. They feel if we can get hard working people on the Board they are for increasing the membership. He said the Mariemont Civic Association has 12 people on the Board and MPF has 24 people on their Board. These are advisory Boards - not Boards where people make decisions. He is hopeful that Council will see that this will help the Village get important work done and save tax dollars.

"To Reappoint Gretchen Thomas as a Member of the Pool Commission for the Calendar Year 2012" had a first reading.

Ordinances:

"To Amend Ordinance No. O-4-10 To Create the Swim Pool Commission and To Increase Members from Seven to Nine" had a second reading. Ms. Scheeser said he would like to hear the opinions of the Pool Board Members because he has heard from Wes Iredale that they do not need nor do they want more people. He would like to see some really strong evidence that would refute what Council has heard.

“To Amend Ordinance No. O-25-10 To Create the Parks Advisory Board and To Increase Membership from Eight to Nine” had a second reading. Mr. Scheeser said he is a member of the Civic Garden Center and he reached out to their Executive Director, Vickie Ciotti who runs the organization with this very question from the Parks Board who want more people to rollup their sleeves and help. He asked Ms. Ciotti about the balance of steering committees that handle recommendations, minutes etc. versus the volunteer type work. Her response was a small steering group is preferred. They do the meetings, minutes, set priorities etc. There is a different separate group of folks who do the majority of the work. The steering group’s responsibility is to recruit and maintain the volunteer group. He is not going to go against the Parks Board saying they want more members. We need to respect our volunteers and thank them for what they do for the Village. He believes there is a lot of volunteer energy but they do not know there is a need versus a large load for nine people to take care of our parks. He plans to vote for the Parks Board He thinks it might be a bit short sided and it might make making decisions and running as a steering committee a bit more difficult but he is going to vote against the Pool Board because he does not have enough evidence that it is needed.

Mr. Black said he hears what Mr. Scheeser is saying but when people are on a board he feels they take more ownership and tend to be more involved. He understands the threat of too many cooks in the kitchen but if we have people coming to us saying they want to be a part of something it may create the opposite effect meaning you cannot sit on the board but you can volunteer. His fear is by segregating the group volunteers may become disinterested. Volunteers are great and we need to capitalize on them. Mr. Andrews said we should not be in the mode of shrinking/enlarging boards. If the Parks Board says we need more members to steer, lead and make decisions then we should listen to the Board. What is different between the Parks Board and the Swim Pool Commission is none of the Pool Board members asked to increase membership.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk