

**VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
NOVEMBER 28, 2016**

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Brown, Mr. Hlad, Mr. Marsland, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Schwartz and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes as written for Council November 14, 2016. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. (Mr. Hlad abstained due to absence)

Mayor Policastro read the following communications:

From Police Clerk Maupin: Mayor's Court Statement October 2016

From City of Venice, Florida: Letter Dated November 8, 2016 re: Sister City Resolution. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Committee of the Whole. He would like to put together a Resolution for our Sister City.

Mr. Jerry Vianello, 6570 Wooster Pike, was granted permission to address Council. He and a group of volunteers worked removing the honeysuckle at the Boathouse. They have done as much as they can do from the slope coming down from Wooster Pike to the flat area. There are a lot of large downed trees with a substantial amount of wood that needs to be moved. He suggested having the Maintenance Department take the front end loader to move the trees to the area where the logs have already been split. It would be very helpful and then the volunteers will cut and split it. Also, Nancy Duran donated some Black Eyed Susan flowers which were planted on the slope above the Boathouse. While working in the area, he was concerned about the number of leaves that had fallen and had yet to be picked up. Mark Glassmeyer and his son used a leaf blower to clean the area and the drain which was clogged. He is concerned and said the area needs to be maintained better. He asked Council to ask the Maintenance Superintendent if there is a regular schedule to go to the Boathouse to blow the leaves and to also pick up the limbs/branches which are laying on the steps to the Boathouse. Mr. Vianello also said the group of volunteers cleaned out Whiskey Creek including pulling out several 55 gallon drums that had rusted, coolers etc. Along with Mr. Wolter they want to seed the area but had some confusion on where to seed. Mayor Policastro said he will have the Maintenance Department do the seeding along with moving the trees and cleaning up the limbs.

Mr. Wolter said he talked with the Service Department and was told as soon as they could they would remove the honeysuckle. He is worried about dragging the logs with all the rain we are going to get. Perhaps the gator would be better than the front end loader since the ground is so porous. Mr. Vianello said the front loader would work better than the physical job of lifting the logs. Mr. Wolter suggested having a meeting with all the stakeholders in the daylight and put a plan together going forward. Mr. Vianello said that would be good to do once the Boy Scouts are done with the tree sale. Ms. Schwartz suggested mentioning it in the Mayor's Bulletin if anyone is interested in helping in the volunteer efforts.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Hlad to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and Chairman of the Finance Committee. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met Monday November 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss holiday bonus pay for full-time employees. Present at the meeting were Committee Chairman, Eric Marsland, Vice-Chairman, Bill Brown, and Member Mary Ann Schwartz, Dennis Wolter, Maggie Palazzolo, Mayor Dan Policastro, Fiscal Officer Tony Borgerding Police/Fire Chief Rick Hines, Service Superintendent John Scherpenberg, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kiefer, Administrative Assistant Joanee Van Pelt and resident Rob Bartlett. After discussion and input from Fiscal Officer Borgerding, the Finance Committee unanimously recommends that each full-time employee shall receive a \$250.00 holiday bonus payable with the pay ending date of December 3, 2016. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said it is the same amount as last year but less than it has been in previous years. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met Tuesday, November 22, 2016 in Council Chambers to discuss placing a 1.98 mil levy on the spring ballot to support Mariemont's Safety Services. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chariman Eric Marsland, Members Mary Ann Schwartz and Bill Brown, Mayor Dan Policastro, Fiscal Officer Tony Borgerding, Council Member Dennis Wolter, Police Chief Hines, and Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer. Discussion initially focused on the need for a levy as the existing Paramedic Levy falls short of supporting the Paramedics by \$180,000 per year and the need to increase Police Department salaries, and the salary of our Assistant Fire Chief. We have been losing officers to regional municipalities due to lower wages. The proposed levy would generate the funds necessary to offset the deficit in the paramedic fund, raise \$75,000 to bring police and fire salaries in line with comparable municipalities, and leave approximately \$20,000.00 extra for future cost of living increases. Mr. Brown raised concerns over whether or not the proposed levy was enough to offset increases in cost of living over time. Tony Borgerding felt confident that if the levy passes, we will be on a solid footing for 8-10 years as during this time the tax abatements on some of the new condominiums will be expiring thus bringing in additional funds. Mr. Marsland wanted to know the impact of the levy on the taxpayers. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said that the proposed levy would increase the taxes of homeowners by approximately \$35.00 per \$100,000 in home value. Ms. Schwartz raised concern over proposing this legislation under emergency. After discussion, it was decided that the two parts of the necessary legislation be passed under different timelines. The first part in which the village approves and initiates the process of placing a levy on the ballot will need to be passed on emergency. The second part in which council approves placing the proposed levy on the spring ballot will be passed under the normal rules. After a final discussion of the millage, it was unanimously decided that the Village pursue a 1.98 mil levy on the spring 2017 ballot to support Mariemont's Safety Services. The Finance Committee recommends that the Solicitor prepare the necessary legislation to include an Emergency Clause due to the certification deadline needed by Hamilton County. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm. Mayor Policastro said this will help with the cost of the School Resource Officer at the High School. With all that is going on it he feels it is a good thing that the Village contribute. Fiscal Officer said we

will have money left over to fill the hole in the General Fund budget of \$100,000. That figure would continue to grow as time goes by in the next several years. We will be able to increase salaries in the Police Department. We will have money left over for future years for increase in pay. Mayor Policastro said the Steam Plant is in the process of being torn apart. There will be approximately 14-16 houses which will be another income source. There was some uncertainty if the area was currently in the CRA. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Hlad moved seconded by Mr. Marsland to accept the recommendation of the Public Works and Service Committee which met at 6:00pm on Thursday, November 17, 2016 in Council Chambers, to discuss building department permit fees and utility opening fees, and a street name/number for the South 80 driveway for dispatching purposes. Present at the meeting were Public Works & Services Committee Chairman Dennis Wolter, Vice-Chairman Mary Ann Schwartz, Committee Member Bill Brown and Mayor Dan Policastro. The Committee discussed choosing a name for the lane that goes from the swim club down to the lower 80 park and gardens. After some discussion and referencing Ken Tankersley, the Committee decided to name the road Algonquin Way in honor of the Algonquin Indian Nation who were the first native Americans of many tribes to inhabit this area, which also include the Miami and Shoshone. The Committee unanimously agreed to name this road Algonquin Way. Mr. Wolter said the main motivation for the Native American name was the importance of the area to the Native Americans and the history of the Village of Mariemont. Mr. Brown said the Algonquin Indian Nation is not singling out one particular tribe. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Public Works and Service Department which met at 6:00pm on Thursday, November 17, 2016 in Council Chambers, to discuss building department permit fees and utility opening fees, and a street name/number for the South 80 driveway for dispatching purposes. Present at the meeting were Public Works & Services Committee Chairman Dennis Wolter, Vice-Chairman Mary Ann Schwartz, Committee Member Bill Brown and Mayor Dan Policastro. The meeting open with Chairman Wolter presenting background information on the permit fees for utility companies digging through our streets, sidewalks and lawns. Per the ordinance passed years ago, we charge \$35 for a 3ft x 4ft hole and a \$70 permit fee for any horizontal drilling. Mr. Brown asked about how this is affected when the utility has an easement to run their various utilities underground through the village, and does it still require them to obtain a permit and, if so, should they do it prior to beginning their work. Mayor Policastro responded that even if an easement is in place they need a permit to do the work. Mayor Policastro wondered if \$35 is a fair charge for this type of permit. After some discussion, the committee determined that we should charge \$75 for a permit for a 3ft x 4ft cut-through in streets, sidewalks or yards, and \$150 for a horizontal bore. Chairman Wolter asked about the current inspection process. Mayor Policastro responded by saying that once the job is complete it is to be inspected by our village inspector Dave Tensi and if he identifies any problems he would turn the issue to John Scherpenberg, our village Maintenance Superintendent, who would oversee the utility in correcting the issue. All three Committee members agreed that this is a good system. Chairman Wolter asked if we should have an outline of specifics as to how the holes are to be backfilled and patched that would be given to the utility company as part of the application process. Mayor Policastro responded that the system we have now works very well and when there have been problems it has been most often with Warner Cable. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend that counsel implement setting fees at \$75 for 3ft x 4ft hole and \$150 for a horizontal bore, and to keep the current inspection process in place. Mr. Brown asked how the utility companies will be informed of the change. Mayor Policastro said the Building Administrator will notify the utility companies of the change. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Miscellaneous:

Leaf Season will run to December 20, 2016

December Council meeting will be held on Monday December 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Fiscal Officer Borgerding reminded members of Council that we will have an Amended Appropriation Ordinance to pass.

Village Offices will be closed on Monday December 26, 2016 in Observation of Christmas

Village Offices will be closed on Monday January 1, 2016 in Observation of New Year's Day

Resolutions:

"To Reappoint Mark Glassmeyer as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2017" had a second reading.

"To Reappoint Jason Brownknight as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2017" had a second reading.

"Resolution Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.03(B) Requesting the Hamilton County Auditor to Certify to the Council of the Village of Mariemont the Total Current Tax Valuation of the Village of Mariemont for New Safety Services Levy; And To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Marsland to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Resolution had a second reading. Fiscal Officer said to put a levy on the ballot is a two-step process. First the amount must be certified by the County Auditor and then we pass another Resolution to put it on the ballot with the Board of Elections. Mayor Policastro said we have not put on a new money levy since 1997. The Resolution had a third reading. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Hlad to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to invoke the emergency basis. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-25-16 was adopted.

Mr. Hlad asked what communication and how we will share this information with the residents of the Village. He thinks it will be an important component to educate people so they understand. Mayor Policastro said we will have to put a PAC together. It cannot be something that the Village does. The PAC will explain everything in a flyer. It's a fine line and we should not discuss the levy in a Council meeting.

Police Chief Hines said a problem that both the Fire and Police Departments are experiencing is a lack of numbers on a lot of house and apartments, especially in the Old Town Center. It is important that our safety responders be able to identify the house by number. Most of the townhomes do not have numbers on the back of their residences which are visible from the lanes. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Safety Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Fiscal Officer