

**VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
APRIL 9, 2018**

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: Mrs. Graves, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Marsland, Ms. Palazzolo, Mrs. Rankin and Ms. Schwartz.

Mr. Brad Lamoreaux introduced himself to Council. He lives in Lebanon, Ohio with his family and is a candidate for State Senate District 7 which includes Warren County, a portion of Middletown and the eastern part of Hamilton. He is running to give the residents of District 7 a choice between a moderate and conservative. His opponent was appointed by Governor Kasich, who failed in the presidential election. He served on the board in Warren County for the Republican Party. He is running to give the voters a choice between John Kasich/John McCain moderate or Ronald Regan/Jim Jordan conservative. He is proud to announce that he has been endorsed by Congressman Jim Jordan.

Service Superintendent Scherpenberg said Michael Evanchyk has completed his probationary period and recommends that he be made a regular full-time employee. Mr. Evanchyk brings the department back to five. He has been instrumental repairing trip hazards and working with Louise Schomburg. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to move Mr. Evanchyk to regular full-time status. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Evanchyk was congratulated by the Mayor and members of Council.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to approve the minutes as written for the Council meeting on March 26, 2018 and February 12, 2018. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following Communications:

From Police Chief Hines: March 2018 Monthly Report

From Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer: March 2018 Monthly Report

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: March 2018 Monthly Report

From Building Administrator Keyes: March 2018 Monthly Report

From Tax Administrator Busam: March 2018 Monthly Report

From Mariemont Parks Advisory Board: Meeting Minutes March 2, 2018

From Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendler: Fiscal Officer's Report March 2018

From Village Administration Office: Combined MTD/YTD Expense Report for First Quarter 2018

From Council Member Troy Hawkins: Memo Dated April 6, 2018 Re: Request to Refer Consideration of an OKI Transportation Alternatives Grant for Multi-Use Path from Plainville Road to Mariemont Library to the Health and Recreation Committee. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Health and Recreation Committee but said it will involve the Planning Commission, possibly the ARB due to the impact on three parks. He will have the Solicitor look at it. He said Mr. Hawkins and Engineer Ertel can put some plans together but cautioned he does not want to pay a lot of money. Next year we have to set aside money to fix the drainage problem in that area. He is going to work with Columbia Township, Engineer Ertel and the integrating committee to try to secure some sort of grant. Mayor Policastro said it is a State Committee. He is on the board. They meet and discuss state grants. Most are million dollar grants which the Village does not fall under. The Village falls under the Small Government Grants. They meet to go over the point system to make sure the points are right and then it is submitted to Columbus. Superintendent Scherpenberg explained some of the drainage work that has been done in the area in the past. Mayor Policastro is hopeful we get the grant this year for Madisonville Road. If not we will re-up for the grant again in addition for applying for a grant for Petoskey.

Mr. Mike Smythe, 3607 Flintpoint Way, was granted permission to address Council. He thanked the various departments on doing a good job and congratulated Mrs. Rankin on her role as a Council member. There is a school levy coming up in November. He asked if anyone from Council attended the school board meetings within the last six meetings. He thinks it would be important due to the high property taxes (which are paid to the school) that drain the Village's budget. He suggested Mr. Hawkins volunteer due to his great critical thinking skills. He encouraged Council to keep doing the job they are doing and asking questions. He did note that George Peck's house is on the market. He wonders why a thirty-year realtor has his house for sale.

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

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on March 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss a proposed change to Mariemont Code Section 93.055 to restrict the growth of large expanses of tall grasses. In attendance were Mariemont residents Mandy Pouder, Robert Van Stone, and Dan Brown; Mayor Dan Policastro; Committee Vice-Chairperson Eric Marsland; Committee Member Mary Ann Schwartz; and Committee Chairperson Troy Hawkins. Detailed minutes provided as an attachment to this report. The Committee recommends Council not act in response to the proposed ordinance change. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Hawkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met March 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss a proposal from the Mariemont Preschool Parent's Group for a new Pocket Park in the greenspace between East Street and Murray Ave (on the east side of East Street). In attendance were Mariemont residents Mandy Pouder, Robert Van Stone, and Dan Brown; Mayor Dan Policastro; Committee Vice-Chairperson Eric Marsland; Committee Member Mary Ann Schwartz; and Committee Chairperson Troy Hawkins. Detailed minutes provided as an attachment to this report. The Committee recommends Council designate the area between East Street and Murray Avenue east of East Street as a pocket park and approve the Village cost match for the pocket park of up to \$8,000 as part of a 50/50 cost sharing for the playground equipment and installation with the Mariemont Preschool Parents' Group. The Committee also recommends Council direct the Village Service Department to lay landscape ties and non-splintering mulch around the playground equipment after it is installed and provide a stone clad garbage receptacle (currently in Village storage). Mr. Hawkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves to amend the report to accept the \$500 donation made by the Mariemont Civic Association. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. To accept the amended report; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Hawkins said the swing for disabled children at the Tot Lot has been ordered and asked that it be removed from the agenda.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met April 5, 2018 in Council Chambers to discuss the purchase of 5 sets of new turnout gear and a new vehicle for Assistant Fire Chief Kiefer. Present at the meeting were Finance Committee Chairman Eric Marsland, Finance Committee members Kelly Rankin and Troy Hawkins. Also in attendance were Mayor Dan Policastro, Police Chief Rick Hines and Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kiefer. Discussion focused on the need to keep our inventory of turnout gear up to date and within NFPA guidelines. The Committee recommends purchasing 5 new sets of turnout gear at \$3,246.95 per set with a total investment of \$16,234.75. Additional discussion focused on the Assistant Fire Chief's current vehicle as it is in great disrepair. The Committee recommends the purchase of a new cruiser at the price of \$42,280.53. The Committee recommends that these acquisitions be passed under emergency. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Resolutions:

"To Authorize Adoption of a Premium Only Insurance Plan" (For Section 125 Cafeteria Plans) had a third reading. Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-13-18 was adopted.

"To Reappoint Jason Brownknight as a Member of the South 80 Trails, Gardens, and Park Advisory Board for the Calendar Year of 2018" had a third reading. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Resolution. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Resolution No. R-14-18 was adopted.

Ordinances:

"To Create the Position of Part-Time IT Administrator; To Confirm the Appointment of Eli Wendler for Calendar Years 2018 and 2019; to Set Compensation; and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mrs. Rankin to invoke the emergency clause. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-14-18 was adopted.

"To Purchase a 2018 Ford Explorer Fire Staff Vehicle Using the State of Ohio Purchasing Program and To Declare Emergency" had a first reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to suspend the rules to allow for the second and third readings. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. The Ordinance had a second and third reading. Mrs. Rankin moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to adopt the Ordinance. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Ms. Schwartz moved, seconded by Mrs. Graves to invoke the emergency. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Ordinance O-15-18 was adopted.

Ms. Wendler asked when we passed the legislation to purchase police car was the purchase noted that the vehicle would come from the Alcohol Education and Enforcement Fund. Mrs. Van Pelt said she would check the Ordinance and make the change if necessary.

Solicitor McTigue said Section I of the Ordinance for the fire vehicle should break down the cost for the vehicle itself and for the modifications and what vendor the payment will be made to. Mr. Hawkins moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to amend the Section I and Section II of the Ordinance to include the cost for the vehicle itself and for said modifications. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mrs. Van Pelt will make the necessary amendments.

Mrs. Graves said the new electric poles are an eyesore in the neighborhood and asked if it could be referred to a committee to look into painting the poles. Mayor Policastro said he has already been down that road and Duke Energy said no they do not want anyone on the poles due to the high electricity. We cannot fight them because they own the right of way. The wood poles will be coming down.

Mr. Hawkins asked about re-opening Whiskey Creek. It was something Council had discussed about re-visiting the erosion issues and the archeological sites in the spring. He asked that the matter be referred to a Committee of Council. He would like to look to see what the Village can do to prevent further erosion. He has walked the area with Jason Brownknight who has some ideas on how we can restore things so it would not continue to erode. The trail has a fence with a sign that sometimes is up saying the trail is closed. Superintendent Scherpenberg said there is a camera installed. Mayor Policastro said as soon as the weather breaks Mr. Marsland will be working with the boy scouts to build a bridge over the remnants of the historic kiln site. Mr. Marsland said it would also be good to talk about what species of vegetation we can plant to stem the erosion issue. Mayor Policastro referred the erosion issue and trail path to the Committee of the Whole. We need to find where people can cross over and keep them from the kiln area.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony Borgerding, Fiscal Officer