

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT, OHIO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
JANUARY 27, 2014**

Vice-Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following Council members were present: Mr. Marsland, Mr. Miller, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Schwartz and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Miller said the first agenda item is discussion of once per month Council meetings.

Mr. Stand Bahler, 6965 Crystal Springs, said he was present to find out why Council would want to discuss this at the beginning of the year with three new Council members who have not had any experience. Mr. Miller said they will have input. Mr. Bahler said with them being so new he is not sure what kind of input they would be able to add.

Mr. Marsland said personally for now he would rather stay with two meetings per month. During the summer he understands that the agenda maybe lighter and once per month would be satisfactory.

Mr. Miller said he would agree to limit the meetings in the summer to once per month and also possibly December as well. Council can always call a special meeting.

Mr. Wolter said from the standpoint of process flow during the busy months we need to have two meetings per month so there is more time for discussion and less emergency votes. There are many times when emergency votes are required and Council does not have much control over the timing. Once per month meetings will compress time that is needed to pass legislation. Late winter and spring typically are busy months for Council. He is agreeable to have the summer months and December be trial months to see how it goes. It is a busy time for family vacations etc. and typically we are slower. Twice a month meetings also gives the residents more time to come and voice concerns to Council.

Ms. Schwartz said she does not like the idea of special meetings. She would rather meet twice a month than have special meetings. But she does think June, July and August are fine to have one meeting per month. It will give the new Council members four more months to get acclimated.

Ms. Palazzolo agreed saying she feels it will give the new Council members time to get their feet wet and learn the process. There is a lot of commentary from the public that it does not look right that we have new Council members and a lot of new legislation. She agrees with Ms. Schwartz that she would not want to fall back on special meetings. She is agreeable with once per month meetings in the summer and December.

Mr. Miller said he will prepare a report recommending that the Council meetings be held twice per month with the exception of June, July, August and December. The meetings will be held the second Monday of the month with the exception of December which will be determined closer to the end of the year.

The second agenda item is the possibility of increasing the number of ARB members from five to seven which will include the Mayor and the Council Chairman of the Economic Development and Zoning Committee.

Mayor Policastro said we need to inspect the rentals on the streets in the Historic District. We did this approximately ten years ago. He goes to the area a lot especially during the summer. It is too much for one person to do. He said Ms. Schwartz suggested that the ARB members pitch in and take assigned streets and inspect them three times a year. (Ms. Schwartz who is the Council Representative in the Historic District will also inspect streets). The ARB has the authority to do this and they should do it. He hates to say it but over the past years no one has really cared about the Historic District. One problem is the units are being rented without proper Kirkwood Legislation inspections. We are putting together a check-off form that each ARB member will have. Once completed they will be turned into the Building Commissioner to send letter citing specific violations. He can monitor the process and make sure those that do not comply are cited to Mayor's Court. It is not something we can ignore.

Mr. Miller said we have the good fortune to have a lot of wonderful people who give their time. We are going to ask this group to go out and help do what the Building Inspector should be doing if he had the time. We need to get it done and we do not want to add the cost of part-time personnel. It became harder for Mr. Malone to keep up and hopefully it will be easier for Building Commissioner Hodulik with the backing of the ARB.

Mr. Wolter said having proactive ARB members will be very helpful and will make it easier for the Building Commissioner to get the letters out. It has gotten better but the need is still great.

Ms. Schwartz asked if the streets would be divided equally. Mayor Policastro said they will try to divide it equally. Mr. Wolter said some streets will be harder than others and may require two people. As the streets get better there will be less to do.

Mr. Marsland asked if the Building Commissioner will verify the code violation. Mayor Policastro said the Building Commissioner will make sure he has the correct code violation.

Ms. Palazzolo asked what the procedure is for homes in other areas of the Village that perhaps need repair. Mayor Policastro said to let his office know and he will go look to see if there are any code violations.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Dan Policastro, Mayor

Anthony J. Borgerding, Clerk