

# The Regular, Scheduled Meeting of the Council of The Village of Marble Cliff

At 1600 Fernwood Ave.

April 20, 2020

The Council of the Village of Marble Cliff held its regular, scheduled meeting on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 7:00 pm. via Zoom conferencing software. The “remote” meeting was made permissible through Sub HB 197 due to the social distancing required by the COVID 19 pandemic. Those in attendance were Council Members: Marnie Hoag, Matthew R. Jolson, Jeffery Smith, Joanne Taylor, Kendy A. Troiano, and Dow T. Voelker; Mayor, Matthew P. Cincione; Yazan S. Ashrawi, Village Solicitor; Joshua Ford, Village Engineer; Administrative Assistant, Judith Ciccone, and Fiscal Officer, Cynthia A. McKay. Visitors were present.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Receive - Mayor’s Court Report, March, 2020
- 2) Receive – Police Report, March, 2020
- 3) Receive – Building Permits Issued, March 2020
- 4) Approval - Minutes of the regular, scheduled meeting of March 16, 2020 and Historical Commission meeting of March 16, 2020
- 5) Approval - Financial Statements for March, 2020
- 6) Receive – Income Tax Reports for February and March 2020

**Mr. Voelker moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Taylor seconded. Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.**

## MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Cincione reported he has spoken with Council members and staff and noted the larger Marble Cliff community is being cooperative with the stay at home and social distancing requirements from the state. There is a consensus that Grandview Heights is doing a good job of maintaining services.

Mayor Cincione reported he attended a Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission virtual meeting regarding COVID 19 activities and responses.

Jeff Smith asked if Mr. Cincione had any insight regarding the impact of the COVID 19 shutdown on the finances of the Village. Ms. McKay suggested that several of the large businesses seem to have some workers in the buildings based on cars in the parking lot. She also reported that during the pandemic employees who work from home would have taxes withheld as if they were working from their offices. Ms. McKay stated she would have a better sense when the April municipal taxes are received. Although, because the deadline for filing state and local income tax returns has been pushed to July, she said she does not expect the standard bump that usually occurs in May collections of municipal tax.

## ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Ford reported the 2020 sewer project is moving forward on schedule.

Mr. Ford reported Franklin County will be providing signs to indicate the planned removal of the traffic light at Cambridge Blvd. and Third Ave. Two bids have been received for the work with M.P. Dory as the lowest quote. The total schedule for study and removal will take several months.

Ms. Taylor asked the purpose of the light. Mr. Voelker and Ms. Troiano reported that over the years there were several lights installed as standard practice. Many of those have been removed already. Mr. Ford reported the lights are not warranted based on the traffic volume.

Mr. Ford reported he is working on a plan for major repair of the storm inlet at the corner of Roxbury Rd. and Cardigan Ave. He is also gathering a quote. Mr. Ford stated that he is planning an inspection project that will allow for repair or replacement of several inlets throughout the Village next year.

Mr. Ford left the meeting at this point.

### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ashrawi reported that the owners of 1600 Dublin Rd. are working toward the completion of the PACE Financing for the property. When final numbers are given to the Village along with answers to various administrative questions, Council can take the existing legislation off the table for consideration. The applicants plan to ask Council to consider the legislation at the June regular meeting.

Mr. Voelker asked if questions regarding the Village's responsibility for receiving the payment and forwarding it to the lender have been resolved. Mr. Ashrawi stated that discussion is ongoing.

Mr. Ashrawi reported the oral arguments for the municipal tax case will be held via video on May, 13, 2020.

Mr. Ashrawi reported Ms. McKay was contacted by AEP regarding a phone conference to discuss issues regarding the proposed development at the corner of Dublin Rd. and W. Fifth Ave. Mr. Ashrawi stated that an executive session may be needed at some point to discuss the phone call.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT

Ms. Ciccone presented a proposal for electrical repair and maintenance on the Cambridge Island. The only proposal received, despite several requests for proposals, was from Elite Electrical that has done work in the Village in the past. The proposal was for just under \$12,000. The Village has been experiencing electrical problems on the island for several years and the planned repairs and improvements have been part of the Village's five-year plan for some time.

Mayor Cincione recommended the work be done while the contractor is available. Ms. Troiano asked if any additions would be made at this time. Ms. Ciccone said nothing additional is planned at this time. Ms. McKay stated that landscape lighting might be considered in the future. Ms. McKay stated the electrical box is most likely adequate for additional service. Ms. McKay concurred with Ms. Troiano's observation that landscape lighting might be an eligible expense for the Park and Green Spaces Fund.

Ms. McKay stated the expense is covered by the current appropriations.

Ms. Ciccone presented options and pricing information for new climbing equipment for the Falco Park playground. Council members expressed an interest in reviewing the various options. Ms. Ciccone stated the companies under consideration would not be ready to move forward with installation until after June 1, 2020.

Ms. Taylor suggested the equipment have the widest appeal for various age groups. Ms. Ciccone also commented that many colors are available. Mr. Jolson and Mr. Smith concurred with Ms. Taylor's suggestion. Mr. Smith commented that he wanted to be careful with expenditures. He also commented that he was not in favor of replacing equipment simply because it is old. Ms. McKay pointed out that the equipment has some damage and safety concerns. She stated staff has not been successful finding vendors to do repairs.

Staff will receive comments and make a recommendation for the May Council meeting.

Ms. Ciccone presented a preliminary plan for the Studebaker Grove in Tarpy Woods. Chris Ahlum has visited the park to identify maintenance that needs to be completed along with designs for the new tree grove. Ms. Ciccone stated Mr. Ahlum would like particular input from Council regarding additional parking for the park and the grove.

Ms. Taylor stated that most people park on Cambridge Blvd and walk into the park. Ms. Taylor reported she has received comments from neighbors about recent activities in the park including construction of small structures, hammocks being hung across paths, and large groups of children congregating. She expressed her concern whether additional parking will help address various problems and issues or exacerbate the concerns of neighbors regarding recent issues.

Ms. McKay reported that, when the park was purchased and developed, Council at that time determined they would rather not have parking. The turnaround was added because of vehicles going down Cambridge only to find out that it dead ends. Efforts to turn

around resulted in damage to the grass on either side of the road.

Mayor Cincione reported there are some ongoing drainage issues that need to be addressed. He also commented that the grove should be accessible. He commented that the challenge is to balance accessibility with the passive nature of the park. Mr. Jolson suggested that the Village should delineate the property lines. He also suggested the Village determine what can and cannot be built on public property. Ms. McKay stated her opinion that nothing can be built on public property because of a variety of liability issues. She also suggested that if people stay on the paths they will not cross onto private property. Mr. Jolson suggested signs be posted on trees to show the limits of the park.

Mayor Cincione suggested a meeting at the park to discuss the options and finish the design for the May Council meeting. Ms. Ciccone with arrange for a meeting.

#### APPROVAL OF BILLS

**Ms. Troiano moved approval of the April 2020 bills totaling \$81,147.68. Ms. Hoag seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Troiano moved approval of the amended March 2020 bills totaling \$89,980.56. Mr. Jolson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. McKay had no report for Council.

#### COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Jolson reported Falco Scholarships were awarded to nine students. The total amount of scholarships awarded is \$7,000. All received a base \$500 award with some recognized for excellence with an additional \$500. Ms. Taylor will prepare an award video as requested by Grandview Heights High School.

Mayor Cincione reported the Grandview Boosters will be selling mulch as part of their fund raising activities. The mulch will be delivered by the landscaping business not the students.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cincione introduced the first reading of O-2630-20, An Ordinance adopting a Budget for the Year 2021 for the Village of Marble Cliff.

Ms. McKay reported the ordinance is in title only and she will have budget information for the May Council meeting.

No action was taken

Mr. Smith stated he is aware of some "holes" in the pear trees along Cambridge Blvd. He asked if the Village will be replacing trees. Ms. McKay reported the Village has a three-year plan for removing and planting trees. She stated the plan calls for some of the pear trees to be replaced with other species to improve the diversity and health of the Village trees. Ms. Troiano commented that some residents do not want trees replaced. She suggested that staff check with property owners.

Mr. Smith stated he would like to look at the plan. He stated he has a very strong opinion that the pears are an integral part of the look of the Village. Ms. McKay suggested that Mr. Smith review the plan.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Ashrawi if the COVID 19 pandemic is slowing the process with AEP's plans for the property. Mr. Ashrawi stated the Council can have an executive session through a secure phone call. Mr. Smith and Mr. Jolson stated they would like to be kept up to date. Mr. Ashrawi stated he is available to discuss issues directly with any Council member.

#### ADJOURN

**Ms. Troiano moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Cincione adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.M.**

Approved by:

Submitted by:

Dow T. Voelker  
Council President Pro Tem

Cynthia A. McKay  
Fiscal Officer