

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

1600 Fernwood Ave.

April 18, 2022

The Council of the Village of Marble Cliff held its regular, scheduled meeting on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm. in Village Hall, 1600 Fernwood Ave., in the Village of Marble Cliff. Those in attendance were Mayor, Matthew Cincione; Council President, Dow T. Voelker; Council Members: Charlotte Hickcox, Matthew R. Jolson (arrived at 7:10pm), Bridget Sarna, Joanne Taylor and Kendy A. Troiano; Yaz Ashrawi, Village Solicitor; Joshua Ford, Village Engineer; Fiscal Officer, Stephanie A. Evans; and Peggy Shanahan, Assistant Fiscal Officer. No representatives of the press were present. Visitors were present.

Mayor Cincione called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

VARIANCES, PERMITS AND VISITORS

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Receive – Police Report, March, 2022
- 2) Receive – Fire Department Report, March, 2022
- 3) Receive – Columbia Gas Survey
- 4) Approval -- Minutes of the special work session meeting of March 14, 2022
- 5) Approval -- Minutes of the regular, scheduled meeting of March 21, 2022

Mayor Cincione introduced the Consent Agenda and asked if any items need to be pulled out for discussion. No individual items were pulled out.

Mr. Voelker moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Troiano seconded. Five Councilmembers voted to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Jolson was not present.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Cincione recently attended the Tri-Village Chamber Partnership's Economic Development Download. He presented an update regarding the new AEP substation coming to W. Fifth Ave. in Marble Cliff, and representatives from Upper Arlington and Grandview Heights spoke about the activity in their communities. The guest speaker, who was from Thrive Development, provided information regarding their ongoing projects, particularly Grandview Crossing at the corner of Dublin Rd. and Grandview Ave.

Mr. Jolson arrived at this time, 7:10pm.

The Mayor opened a discussion regarding Mayor's Court, and proposed the idea of dissolving Marble Cliff Mayor's Court and sending all cases to the Franklin County Municipal Court. Previous consideration had been given to merging with Grandview's Mayor's Court, but Grandview ultimately was not interested. Council members asked for details about Marble Cliff's court, and Ms. Shanahan shared some data about the Village's number of cases, receipts and costs. More questions about training needs and the time invested in managing court led to conversation about the purpose and value of mayor's court, and the best use of staff time. Mayor Cincione and Mr. Voelker agreed that while having a local court may have once served more of our residents, over time, fewer residents are now seen in court. Ms. Troiano stated that court is actually costing the Village money when staff time is considered. Ms. Taylor agreed and said she's rather not have staff spend time in training if it makes more sense to dissolve the court. Mr. Ashrawi added that Ohio is one of only two states that still have Mayor's Courts, and that oftentimes they tend to draw negative attention. In the end it was agreed the Village's Mayor's Court no longer serves the Village residents as it once did, and that the time and costs involved in maintaining it could be put to better use. Mr. Voelker asked about the process. Mr. Ashrawi suggested that there are required filings with the Ohio Supreme Court that he can research, and that he could provide a draft of written legislation for council to consider. Mr. Voelker asked that he work on these things and bring the legislation forward.

Mayor Cincione has talked to Ted Foster regarding the 1500 W. Fifth Ave. development and Mr. Foster said that windows are being replaced and things are starting to happen.

Mayor Cincione also reported that the Tarp Woods wetlands plantings are in place, completed by Ahlum and Arbor at no cost to the Village. He also shared that the Boy Scouts want to lay mulch on trails in Tarp Woods. AEP is buying the mulch and the Boy Scout

troop will coordinate their efforts with Ahlum and Arbor. Ms. Shanahan added that there is an Eagle Scout who has proposed a project for Tarpy Woods. He will have a presentation for Council at an upcoming meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Ford reported that he has spoken to Decker regarding the potholes on W. Fifth Ave. The problem on Fifth Ave. is the underlying brick base: when the bike lane was added, the traffic pattern shifted and the wheel load moved and is now causing the potholes. We are first on Decker's schedule when the weather stabilizes and they can start working again.

Mr. Ford also reported that he is still waiting to hear about the OPWC small government program and whether we will receive a grant for the work on Cambridge Blvd. Mr. Voelker asked about the ARPA funding and if it applies to street projects. Mr. Ashrawi shared that the original uses for those funds could only be used for sewers, broadband and water. The new guidelines expand the use of those funds, as long as we elect a standard loss of income option in our reporting.

Mr. Ford left the meeting at this time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ashrawi reviewed the Council Decision and Order for AEP's demolition permit at 2300 W. 5th Ave. and its conditions. He also reported that he has drafted a proposed landscape maintenance agreement and shared it with AEP. He outlined this proposal, stating that AEP would ultimately be responsible for the landscaping and maintenance, but they would turn it over to the Village for an annual fee. It would go into effect if/when the Village agrees that the plan aligns with the Decision and Order as one of its conditions.

Mr. Jolson asked about the potential agreement with the schools; Mayor Cincione stated that there is no update and indicated that follow-up with the district is required.

Ms. Troiano moved to approve the Decision and Order for AEP and the demolition permit at 2300 W. Fifth Ave. Mr. Jolson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Evans shared the financial reports for March 2022, including the monthly bank reconciliation, fund summary, and tax receipt report. Ms. Evans also shared status reports for revenue and appropriations for the first quarter 2022.

Mr. Voelker moved to approve the March 2022 financial statements. Ms. Troiano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Following the March Council meeting, Ms. Evans provided Council with historical data regarding the contracts and costs for recent audits so that Council would have a more complete understanding of the proposed current audit contract.

Ms. Evans reviewed O-2684-22, An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and the Fiscal Officer to Enter into an Agreement for Audit Services with Keith Faber, Auditor of State, and Charles E. Harris and Associates, for the fiscal periods January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2025; Second Reading

Mr. Voelker moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Jolson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Troiano moved to approve O-2684-22. Mr. Voelker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Evans introduced O-2685-22, An Ordinance adopting a Budget for the year 2023 for the Village of Marble Cliff; First Reading

Ms. Evans introduced O-2687-22, An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to execute an agreement to renew the policy with Ohio Government Risk Management Plan for property, liability, wrongful acts, automobile, bond, crime, inland marine and electronic data processing insurance; First Reading

Ms. Evans introduced O-2688-22, An Ordinance to adopt the Standard Allowance Revenue Loss pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; First Reading

As Mr. Ashrawi stated earlier, the uses for ARPA funds have been expanded to give recipients more flexibility in how they are spent. A report must be filed by April 30, 2022, which gives us the one-time option to choose the Standard Allowance Revenue Loss for the total amount of our grant so that we can have more options in how we spend it.

Mr. Voelker moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Jolson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Voelker moved to approve O-2688-22 by emergency for the benefit of the Village in order to comply with the request requirements to file by April 30th. Ms. Troiano seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Voelker, yes; Ms. Hickcox, yes; Mr. Jolson, yes; Ms. Sarna, yes; Ms. Taylor, yes; Ms. Troiano, yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Evans also referenced an email exchange she had with Police Chief, Ryan Starns, that described recent police surveillance and their observations regarding the traffic concerns at the intersections on Cambridge and Arlington Boulevards. There was further discussion about drivers running stop signs, and Council members asked that the police stay vigilant. Several members shared that perhaps the problem is less so around school hours and more so around rush hour.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Taylor shared that the City of Grandview Heights is now seeking feedback from interested parties regarding their plan for new municipal and parks buildings. They will continue meeting the first Tuesday of each month.

Ms. Troiano reported the names of Marble Cliff students who were selected for the Falco scholarships: Sophie Andrew, Carter Black, Bella Guorno, Jake Leach, Ben Sterneker, and Krysten Willimont. The total amount given in scholarships is \$7,750 this year.

Mr. Jolson asked about the replacement trees for the flowering pear trees on Cambridge Boulevard and requested blooming white trees. Ms. Shanahan shared that there is no decision yet, but that the arborists would prefer to see a variety of trees to reduce the possibility of disease. She suggested a tree committee, or some way of making it group decision. Mr. Voelker asked about the arborists' opinion, and Ms. Shanahan said she will follow up with the arborists to ask for their specific suggestions.

Rapid 5 books and maps were made available to any members who would like them.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cincione introduced O-2686-22, An Ordinance to Authorize all actions necessary to effectuate an opt-out Electric Service Aggregation Program pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 4928.20; and directing the Franklin County Board of Elections to submit the ballot question to the electors; First Reading

Mr. Ashrawi explained the difference between the opt-in and opt-out options, and that the most common approach is the opt-out option, which goes on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Visitors representing Power Clean Future Ohio were present to share additional information and answer questions. Mr. Matt Jordan agreed that the opt-out option is the better way to go as it puts the Village in a stronger position to negotiate better rates. Opt-in essentially already exists and is available to residents who wish to register. He also shared that they will coordinate a community education event in mid-May, and will assist with voter outreach. Should Council decide to move forward, they also suggested SOPEC as a resource for more information. The Village would also share information on its website to help educate residents.

ADJOURN

Ms. Troiano moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Taylor seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Cincione adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Approved by:



Dow T. Voelker
Council President

Submitted by:



Stephanie Evans
Fiscal Officer