

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

1600 Fernwood Ave.

October 16, 2023

The Council of the Village of Marble Cliff held its regular, scheduled meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm. in Village Hall, 1600 Fernwood Ave., in the Village of Marble Cliff. Those in attendance were Mayor, Matthew Cincione; Council Members: President, Dow T. Voelker; Matthew R. Jolson, Bridget B. Sarna, Kendy A. Troiano, and Marcia A. Thomas; Yaz Ashrawi, Village Solicitor; Joshua Ford, Village Engineer; Stephanie Evans, Fiscal Officer; and Peggy Shanahan, Assistant Fiscal Officer. No representatives of the press were present. Visitors were present.

Mayor Cincione called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked for a motion to excuse Ms. Taylor.

Mr. Voelker moved to excuse Ms. Taylor; Ms. Troiano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VARIANCES, PERMITS AND VISITORS

Mayor Cincione introduced Mr. Carmine Russo of Realm Landscape Design, and reviewed the steps leading up to this point in the Cambridge Blvd. improvement project. Mr. Russo presented updated conceptual drawings based on feedback from the community meeting as well as follow-up meetings with the committee that was established for this project. Council discussed the updates and Mr. Russo answered questions that arose. The next step is for Mr. Ford to review the plans for potential engineering issues. Ahlum and Arbor will be asked for input on the trees as plans move along. A few concerns were shared over parking and tree selection, but Mr. Jolson voiced his support of the concept, stating it will be a beautiful project for generations to come. Ms. Sarna agreed, and Ms. Troiano said she felt it is a good compromise.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1) Approval – Minutes of the regular, scheduled meeting, September 18, 2023
- 2) Received – Fire Report, September 2023
- 3) Received -- Police Report, September 2023
- 4) Received – Permit Report, September 2023
- 5) Received – MORPC Report

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

Ms. Troiano moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Mr. Voelker seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Cincione asked for Council's feedback with regard to maintaining the Certified Local Government status that had been applied for and received for the Packard project. In order to maintain this status, certain requirements need to be met, which have not been maintained. An additional committee member is needed, as well as some other administrative tasks that need addressed. The Mayor asked about the necessity of maintaining this status, and whether it is something to pursue. It was decided to wait a little longer before making a decision.

The Mayor also brought forth the Falco Scholarships for discussion due to the varying amounts distributed among recipients each year. Ms. Troiano shared the process and suggested setting parameters; Mr. Voelker agreed, and suggested that the Village set a specific amount so that it doesn't change every year. Mayor Cincione asked everyone to consider what they feel is an appropriate amount and be prepared to revisit the topic again in the next couple of months.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Ford reported that he has been working with the City of Grandview Heights and the developers of the Packard project to ensure that the plans were completed and ready for approval so that construction can begin at the Packard.

Mr. Ford left at this time.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ashrawi shared that there are potential changes occurring with regard to tax codes that may affect the Village, and that he will research this issue further and likely suggest a new ordinance to address the changes in the coming months.

Mr. Ashrawi also reported that there is a new bill to re-introduce the ability to host virtual meetings and/or virtual attendance. He will follow the progress and keep Council informed.

STAFF REPORT: FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Evans shared the financial report for September 2023, including the monthly bank reconciliation, fund summary, and tax receipt report.

Ms. Troiano moved to approve the September finance report; Mr. Jolson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Evans introduced O-2708-23, 2024 Annual Appropriations Ordinance, An Ordinance to make Appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Marble Cliff, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024; First Reading

Ms. Evans introduced R-2665-23, A Resolution to accept a \$100,000 grant for The Marble Cliff Community Forestry Project as awarded by the USDA Urban Forest Service and its Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant Program; First Reading

Mr. Voelker moved to suspend the rules; Ms. Troiano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Voelker moved to approve R-2665-23; Ms. Troiano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORT: ASSISTANT FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Shanahan shared information regarding Managed Natural Landscapes and asked Council for feedback regarding potential guidelines and code to support the day-to-day activities of the Village. She reported that a number of residents have asked for guidance and/or permission to build sustainable gardens, and that there will likely be more interest as this idea grows in popularity. Council agreed that setting parameters would be good, and would like to see proposed legislation on the topic.

Ms. Shanahan reported that she is still working to compile a resident roster and is awaiting response from the letter she mailed to all residents last week.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Jolson shared information regarding two potential new laws for consideration. The first involves the sale of flavored tobacco. Both Franklin County and Grandview Heights have passed legislation on the subject, and Mr. Jolson and Mayor Cincione have both been approached by members of Grandview's City Council to consider it. There was some discussion about it, and was resolved that Ms. Shanahan will check with the Certified Gas Station to see if they are selling it. They are likely the only business in Marble Cliff that would be impacted.

Mr. Jolson also shared information regarding anti-discrimination laws surrounding housing. The cities of Columbus, Bexley and Worthington have passed similar legislation. There was discussion about the benefits of diversity, but also about the practicality of these laws. It was decided to do a little more research on the subject.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Voelker reported that he and Ms. Sarna plan to meet soon and will report back to Council following their meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURN

Ms. Troiano moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Voelker seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Cincione adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Approved by:



Dow T. Voelker
Council President

Submitted by:



Stephanie A. Evans
Fiscal Officer