

McDONALD VILLAGE COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016
RE-ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Visitors: Ken Miner, John Williamson, Cliff DeZee, Jim and Cody Williamson, Adam, Jackie and Gabriel Srock.

Staff: Fiscal Officer Robin DeBow, Fire Chief Nick Kish, Police Chief Lou Ronghi, Solicitor Doug Ross, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, and Office Manager Char McCracken

Press: Brandon Merriman, *Tribune Chronicle*

1. The January 6, 2016 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Glenn W. Holmes at 6:05 p.m.

2. Roll call:

Mr. O'Brien – present
Mr. Seitz – present
Mr. Klase – present

Mr. Harvey – present
Mr. Puckett -- present
Mr. Lewis – present

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

4. Approval of the December 16, 2015 council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Puckett, seconded by Mr. Klase to approve the minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. O'Brien – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye

Mr. Klase – aye
Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Motion carried.

5. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Puckett, seconded by Mr. O'Brien to accept the agenda as presented:

5. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Klase – aye

Mr. O'Brien – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Motion carried.

6. Election to the following offices:

- President Pro Tem
- Planning Commission
- Community Chest

It was moved by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Seitz to nominate Mr. O'Brien as President Pro Tem.

Discussion: Mayor Holmes stated that Mr. O'Brien has been the longest standing Councilman. I work very well with Mr. O'Brien. He has kept the six headed monster to one head.

Roll call:

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. O'Brien – abstain
Mr. Puckett – aye

Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Motion carried.

- Planning Commission

It was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Seitz to nominate Mr. Klase to the Planning Commission.

Roll call:

Mr. O'Brien – aye
Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Klase – abstain

Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

6. Election to the following offices cont'd.

Motion carried.

- Community Chest

It was moved by Mr. Seitz, seconded by Mr. Harvey to nominate Mr. O'Brien to the Community Chest.

Discussion: Mr. Seitz stated Mr. O'Brien does a fantastic job and has an inside track on that. Mayor Holmes stated his wife is the Community Chest president and has been for years. They do a fantastic job along with Peggy Palmer and Robin DeBow and all the officers there. He thanked Home Savings because they have been very kind with their philanthropy towards Community Chest. They gave \$2000 this year and has given up to \$8000 over the past years.

Roll call:

Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. O'Brien – abstain
Mr. Klase – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Motion carried.

7. Mayor's Yearly Appointments:

Mayor Holmes read his appointments into the record. See attachment A.

He read them all into the record with the exception of William Woodley as a Mayor's Court Bailiff.

It was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Seitz to approve the appointments as read.

Discussion: Mayor Holmes stated that Millie Ritz will work as a part-time secretary in the office as well as director at the Community Room.

Roll call:

Mr. O'Brien – aye
Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Klase – aye

Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

7. Mayor's Yearly Appointments cont'd.

Motion carried.

Mayor also appointed William Woodley as a Mayor's Court Bailiff.

It was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Seitz to approve the appointment of William Woodley as a Mayor's Court Bailiff.

Roll call:

Mr. O'Brien – aye
Mr. Harvey – abstain
Mr. Klase – aye

Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor asked for confirmation of the committee appointments as follows:

Safety – Mr. Lewis, Mr. Puckett, Mr. O'Brien

Park/Buildings – Mr. Puckett, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Klase

Finance & Cap. Improvements – Mr. Seitz, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Harvey

Service – Mr. Harvey, Mr. Klase, Mr. Seitz

It was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Seitz to approve the committee appointments.

Roll call:

Mr. O'Brien – aye
Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Klase – aye

Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Motion carried.

8. Mayor Monthly and Yearly Financial report.

Mayor Holmes stated for the month of December Mayor's Court had computer fund I \$120, costs \$274, fines \$895, Niles Municipal Court fines \$391, parking tickets \$220, reports \$15, law enforcement fund \$18.80, for a grand total of \$1933.80.

8. Mayor's monthly and yearly financial report cont'd.

For the year 2015 Mayor's Court brought in \$20,299.12. Mayor stated that on a \$4,000,000 budget, \$20,000 is a drop in the bucket.

For the year 2015, 47 building permits were issued at a value of \$638,303.81 and fees of \$1635.

He stated that he would like Planning Commission and Council to look at contractor registration. We have discussed it briefly in the past. Our building inspectors past and present have brought it up. Sometimes we look for the residents to govern themselves. The contractors are doing a lot of work in the Village. We want to make sure that they are honorable contractors. We are one of the few communities that don't have contractor registration. I think the VA would be likely to be inclined to move in that direction.

Mayor stated the Fire Department has done a great job. Who can say that they are the Number 1 Fire Department in the State of Ohio. We can say that. They handled over 300 ems calls last year. Chief Kish said it was 322. Mayor expressed his appreciation for all the work they had done in 2015 as a soft to our residents. In the future Chief Kish is receptive to look at ways that we can operate efficiently. Sometimes if we cooperate and collaborate with surrounding communities we can get more grant and aid. They have been opened to look at different avenues to fund things. I'm going to ask them to continue to do that.

The Police Department has turned in a lengthy year-end report. In 2015 the Police Department made 142 traffic arrests and 100 criminal arrests for a total of 242 for the year. This is a 13% decrease from the previous year. It is hard to be a fine community if you are not a safe community. Contrary to the popular belief that we give people a ticket for two miles over the speed limit or the people are harassed. You will see from this report that is not so.

9. Mayor's yearly address – Mayor said finances are probably the key to everything. We have balanced to the bank to the penny. I want to give credit to Mrs. DeBow and the department heads for making sure we have a reasonable balance moving forward. We finished the year at \$2,000,044.00. That is almost budget neutral to where we finished last year. If you look at the amount of work that we've done, we've done almost \$3,000,000 worth of work this year. How do you do that unless Council is proactive in leveraging their funds? Everyone working together keeping costs down. One of the things she has impressed upon us is how fixed costs have gone up. There is a minor bleed in our general fund. We have some done things to reduce some of our fixed costs and to be more aggressive in our

9. Mayor's yearly address cont'd.

grant aid procurement. We finished these projects: we bored the sanitary line under the river. That was a \$1,100,000 project. Two years ago we did the water tower. We paved Marshall Road and Ohio Avenue. We did a full depth repair on Illinois Avenue south of Marshall Road. That was completely necessary. It was a big ticket but now we can continue to mill and fill some of the rest of the roads south of Marshall Rd. One of the things we would like to look for in the future is the Village is almost 100 years old. Some of the water and sewer infrastructure has been here 100 years. I don't know what the life expectancy is but we have to look at not only repairing those lines but infiltration of those lines. We met with the Ohio EPA and Real Community Solutions and will meet with them again on January 12. He would like Council to be proactive with our infrastructure replacement. We have paid off every loan that we had. We are going to have to get one once Niles finishes their sanitary plant. We prepared ourselves for that. There won't be an increase for our sewer improvement fund to our residents. In the same token when we replace our water/sewer lines we are going to have to dig up the road. We can use that money that we replace our water/sewer lines with to, even if it is in the form of a loan, to leverage federal and state grant and aid. I am going to ask Council anytime we tear up a road we look at replacing that water/sewer line so that weight won't be carried on to future generations. We can do that now while we have the ear of the EPA and Real Community Solutions. That is going to be a 5, 10, 15 year endeavor but we can methodically and systematically tackle that by starting in our older parts of town. We just had a waterline break again as soon as the temperature dropped. The guys were out there at 2:30 in the morning. That's puts us behind on other things. Council has always been receptive to forward thinking and looking at what we need to do and how to do it. We have a decent balance in our finances. When you look at the two enterprise funds, when you look at the water, sewer, and general you will not see a complete imbalance. We have to be prepared for a catastrophe and at the same token we want to make sure that we keep our rates low. We have the second lowest water rates in the area. There will be other nominal adjustments we have to make in the future to stay solvent. We want to do carefully.

Service – we did negotiate a 20 year service agreement for our sanitary to Niles. We need to change the dates on that because we are up against 10% of that. I'm going to ask Service to look into that dynamic and hold them accountable in their record keeping. Our Solicitor will add language to the agreement to make sure we have the ability to track their account. That is a \$35,000,000 - \$38,000,000 dollar project. There is a \$3,000,000 contingency. We want to make sure those cost overruns or change orders are necessary.

9. Mayor's yearly address cont'd.

We also would like to improve and enhance our community services. We have an employee now that will run the services in the community room. I would to expand those services if Council sees fit not only senior programs but family programs year long. We are going to look at enhancing the second floor. As soon as we do that we will truly be able to expand community based programs. There is talk about a café and a number of things.

Moving forward to this year, the splash pad will be installed this year. We want to keep enhancing our infrastructure, we want to keep paving our roads and look at ways to repair and replace water/sewer line. There are things that I would like to see done in 2016. Mayor continued that you guys give me an opportunity to do that. I sit on the Ohio Public Works Commission representing small governments statewide. These are all things from this seat we are able to do. The District 6 Public Integrating Committee, we scored the Issue I & II grants. We want to make sure that we keep a seat there. Moving forward I'm asking people to shadow me if you want to be involved in that. Mayors in Trumbull County voted for me to be there but in the event other things happen I would like us to always network. It is important that we stay at the table. Eastgate Council of Government distributes seven different funding sources from that organization. I sit on the Finance and Executive Committee. I think it is critical that we continue to do things of that nature. The Mahoning River Mayor's Association, he is, again, the president in 2016. We did create a sustainable funding model for the Port Authority. They also was able to secure 2.7 million dollars in brownfield remediation grants for the region. That not only helps our region but helps us because we have brownfields. The U. S. Steel property, we get inquiries from time to time maybe three or four a year and they just don't pan out. The Governor thought it was necessary to change Jobs Ohio so although we assessed it we don't automatically get the cleanup money. If we have a designated end user then they will give us the cleanup money.

Trumbull County 911 Planning Committee – no one can expand 911 services without the approval of that planning committee. The Mayor of Warren, Niles, I, and a township trustee sits on that committee. We were one of the first to go there. They have given us good service and they have cut our costs in half. We are one of the few that have our own frequency. I think it is important to keep a seat at that table. I'm asking Council to be proactive.

9. Mayor's yearly address cont'd.

Community Foundation of Eastern Ohio Western Pennsylvania – that foundation started out with a \$38,000 tragedy. They raised \$38,000 and it is worth \$87,000,000 now. I sit on the foundation as president. A lot of the non-profits here in McDonald send their money through that foundation, Community Chest, Lions Club, Historical Society. For less than one percent of your balance at the end of the year they take care of all you legalese. If you have your 501C3, your non-profit status you can do what you do without having to worry about all that. It is hard to get a seat there but I would love to transition someone to that footprint.

The Youngstown Air Reserve Base Community Council, they advocate for our Air Base. We went down from thirteen C130's to nine. We have eight there now. They are one of our top four employers in this region. They employ 6000 people. It is a huge footprint and we have to protect it. The Trumbull County Community Foundation, Trumbull 100, Port Authority, and the Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber have pitched in money to hire a person with a military background to network in Columbus and Washington to save that air base. We compete with Wright Patterson. We're here and we are necessary. If we lose that air base we are in a world of hurt.

Trumbull Mobile Meals – we have quite a few residents here in McDonald and surrounding communities. I sit on that board and the mission there is to make sure that no resident goes hungry. But doing that and through the Community Chest you can learn where your indigent and necessary residents are for attention. You can share that and look into it. That kind of community networking is extremely important.

I also sit on the Nature Resource and Advisory Council. That council scores clean Ohio fund grants for green space. It protects the watershed, protects green space, and protects wetlands. All the money distributed there through the State of Ohio and the property has to stay green. You can use it for parks, recreation but you can't put any impervious material there. We have a few areas in town that utilize those funds. This year we had a non-competitive round. We gave out 2.7 million dollars no competition. Everyone that requested is going to get it done.

Mayor expressed his appreciation to Council for working with him this year.

10. Report of Village Officials

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich – no report. Mayor Holmes stated Tom did a great job in 2015. There were a lot of hurdles but the pace at which we procure and administer projects is pretty staggering on a 4 million dollar budget. We do that with a handful of guys. Sometimes there is a sense of frustration moving forward as to timeliness of things but you can't be timely and be budget conscious too. There is a balance. We have done probably \$300,000 worth of work in that Community Room for about \$85,000 or less, a lot of that I'm going to attribute to Mr. Domitrovich. We are checking the budget all the time to make sure we don't go over. Twenty years ago they looked at the project and it was not done. I'm not casting shade on anybody for any reason but you guys have done it. Next year that building is going to look totally different.

Police Chief Lou Ronghi stated for the month of December the Police Department made 24 traffic arrests, 15 criminal arrests, investigated 38 formal complaints, issued 19 parking citations and 8 warning citations, performed 3 residential security checks, found 3 business doors unsecured and investigated 3 alarm drops. He also distributed his year-end report to council.

Mayor Holmes stated he gets around a little bit and he just talked with Jeff Orr with our TAG unit. Trumbull County has the most heroin deaths in the whole state. Some of the things that we do are phenomenal. No matter who I talk to whether it is Dr. Germaniuk, Jeff Orr, the county prosecutors, they have praise for our Police Chief. Everyone can't say that. In their private time you will hear what they really think and they genuinely respect our Police Chief. It is extremely tough living in town. He has an open door policy to the extent that people will go to his house and they'll complain about cars parking when he is looking at domestic violence or looking an assault. Someone is going to come to his house with a picture of a car parked illegally or they are going to complain about a traffic ticket. He gets more complaints about parking tickets than anything. He does a tremendous job. I thank him. It's incredible what he does. His guys are out there. They are visible and active every day. You go through McDonald you are going to see a police officer.

Fire Chief Nick Kish thanked the Mayor for his kind words and the recognition of being the 2015 Volunteer Fire Department for the state. He stated he could not do it without the good core group of people around to handle the tasks that come up. They work together as a team. He took a moment to hand out badges and helmets to Adam Srock and John "Scooter" Williamson both of whom have been promoted to Lieutenants in the department. Adam came on the department in

10. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

2010 and has done an outstanding job since that time. He is also an Air Force Reserve and has been deployed once in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is on the list for September to be deployed again. He serves his community well. John Williamson started in the late 1980's as a junior firefighter. He worked his way up. He is always top notch and is well educated and a very valuable asset to the department.

Chief Kish stated he is in the running again for grants for air packs and a new fire truck. They came close to the being awarded the grant for air packs until the government ran out of money. They hope to be at the top of the list this year. Chief stated that the rescue squad department was formally started in 1966 with the purchase of their first ambulance. Next month will be the 50th anniversary of the Fire Department providing ems service to the Village.

Mayor Holmes stated the Volunteer Fire Department of the year for the State of Ohio is tremendous. I'm sure if you were nominated again this year you would get it again.

Mr. Harvey congratulated the Fire Department. He was in the first emt class for the Village so it goes way back. A lot of good people have come through those doors and a lot of good people have started their careers through those doors. They started out in the junior program and when it gets in your blood it is in there for life. It is not an easy task. It is more competitive today than ever. We are lucky to have two ambulances and two fire trucks in our bays. The dedication is always there and I thank you.

Solicitor Douglas W. Ross – no report but he did state he is looking forward to working with everybody in 2016 and welcomed Mr. Lewis.

Mayor stated we have the finest attorney in the area. Again you get out and about and talk to people and the guy that does our drug free work compliance before he knew that Doug was our attorney named five of the best attorneys in the area and Doug was one of them. We're fortunate enough to have him. The time and effort he does for us he is truly doing it out of love because he could make ten times the money other places. We are fortunate to have him. I really respect, admire and appreciate what he has done for the Village. He has kept us safe.

Mr. O'Brien welcomed Solicitor Ross for another year.

Mr. Harvey stated the Solicitor always has the Village covered legally. Any questions you have, he'll get the answer for you. He does a great job for us.

11. Committee reports:

President Pro Tem Mr. O'Brien stated he is glad to be here and thank you for your support. He is looking forward to another great year.

Park & Buildings Mr. Puckett thanked Thomas Domitrovich for all the work he and his guys have done. We have a lot of projects coming up this year like the splash pad, continuation of the Rec Center improvements, along with the upkeep of the current facilities. He is looking forward to working with Mr. Lewis and Mr. Klase.

Safety Committee Mr. Lewis stated it is an honor to serve the Village. He is looking forward to working on Safety with Chief Kish and Chief Ronghi and Councilman Puckett and Councilman O'Brien as well as the rest of Council.

Mayor commented on the body cameras that the Police Department has been looking at. They are looking for grants to purchase them. He would like Safety to work on a policy for them.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Seitz stated he is looking forward to another great year and please watch your spending.

Mayor said the Finance does do a good job watching the spending.

Service Committee Mr. Harvey stated they will be working on the garbage contract. He welcomed the members of his committee and said they will meet January 19.

Mayor Holmes stated that we are going have to look at the garbage collection in future years. We discussed it in committees and openly but we pay for garbage collection out of our general fund. It is extremely rare that a community can continue to pay for garbage so as the year moves on I'm going to ask Finance to work with Service and the rest of Council to see the practicality to continue to provide that service.

Planning Commission Mr. Klase stated he looks forward to working with everyone on Planning and as a Councilman. Planning Commission will meet next Wednesday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Holmes stated that it has been very fruitful to bring issues back to Council from Planning Commission.

11. Committee reports cont'd.

Community Chest Mr. O'Brien stated he looks forward to giving his sterling report to Council.

12. Remarks from persons or groups present: John Williamson, 331 Ohio Ave., thanked the Mayor for his appointment. He also stated that he is the president of the Social Organization, Adam Srock is treasurer, Renee Waldo is secretary and Joe Danko is vice president. They are looking forward to a good year and a successful festival that brings hundreds and hundreds of people back to the Village.

Mayor Holmes stated he looks at the Social Organization as one and the same with the Fire Department. I can talk to the Chief or you but what you guys do to support the Village and the Fire Department is extremely critical so we want to encourage you guys as much as we can. One of the things we should look at is we want to make sure there is a sense of transparency with all three of us. What one does is a direct reflection of another. You guys have done great work. We've had concerns about the organization in the past. No concerns right now and haven't had any and don't anticipate any. One of the things that we can probably improve on, the Chief's wife used to come when she was part of the social organization and I would like to see you guys regularly and then make sure we maintain our transparency with one another. I'm not going to look at you as a standalone entity. I'll probably look at you as one and the same. Whether that is correct or not I don't know but I see you guys as one and the same.

13. Old Business: none

14. New Business: none

15. Legislation: none

16. Miscellaneous: Mr. Seitz thanked the Mayor for all you do. You are a fantastic Mayor for this Village. I would probably say the best one we have ever had. You put yourself on all these different committees and positions and it would super hard to replace you. Thank you for who you are not only in this aspect but as a person.

Mayor Holmes replied God bless you. I love what I'm doing.

A round of applause was given the Mayor.

16. Miscellaneous cont'd.

Mayor Holmes stated it is really truly the culture that the Village has established years ago. If you follow that design you can't go wrong. Selfless service, you can't go wrong. The Fire Department epitomize that being volunteers. The Police Department, they can go someplace else and make a lot more money, they epitomize that. Our administrator, our professionals can go other places and make more money. You guys encourage me 110%.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Puckett at 7:03 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer