

McDONALD VILLAGE COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Visitors: Ken Miner, Joe Dugan, and Jeff Hughes

Staff: Fiscal Officer Robin DeBow, Fire Chief Nick Kish, Acting Police Chief Bill Woodley, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, and Office Manager Char McCracken

1. The October 4, 2017 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Glen M. Puckett at 6:05 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. O'Brien – absent
Mr. Seitz – present
Mr. Lewis – present

Mr. Harvey – present
Mr. Klase – present
Mr. Fisher – present

2. Pledge of allegiance

One minute of silence in remembrance of American troops serving throughout the world and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

3. Approval of the September 20, 2017 council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Klase to approve the September 20, 2017 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Klase – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Fisher – abstain

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to accept the agenda as presented:

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher - aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Mr. Harvey– aye
Mr. Klase – aye

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report - Mayor Puckett stated for the month of September, Mayor's Court had computer fund I \$80, costs \$184, fines \$440, Niles Municipal Court fines \$336.40, parking tickets \$240 for a grand total of \$1280.40.

Mayor stated he would like confirmation on the appointment Austin Bucan as a full-time officer. He is currently part time and he will replace the full-time officer we recently lost. He will be a good fit to fill the void.

It was moved by Mr. Klase to confirm the appointment of Austin Bucan from a part-time officer to a full-time officer per Acting Chief Woodley's recommendation.

Roll call:

Mr. Klase – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Motion carried.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated the Street Department has been working tirelessly on removing trees that have been damaged by the wind storms we had this past summer. We have leased a piece of equipment to reach the height of the trees that we have to work on. They are catching up on some of the tree trimming that they were behind on because of the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. They have addressed that two years in a row. They have trimmed some concerns and dangers on Pennsylvania Ave. and they have moved south and east in the neighborhoods where the large Sycamores are. The hazard of the smaller limbs has been addressed.

The leaf machine will be brought out next week. The chipper – curbside stick pickup will end November 30. We won't be picking up branches at the curb until Spring. The date will be announced later. The chipper truck will be dismantled and readied for a backup plow truck. We will, however, pick up the Christmas trees with our pickup trucks. In order to conserve our budget, branch pick up is slow during the winter months hence we will cease operations for the year on

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

November 30.

Acting Police Chief Bill Woodley – no report but he thanked Mayor and Council for the appointment of Austin Bucan to full time.

Fire Chief Nick Kish stated for the month of September his department answered 20 EMS calls and 4 fire calls (1 natural gas leak, 1 natural gas odor investigation, 2 service calls). The department also did 3 fire inspections.

Chief Kish spoke on the ISO rating received for the Village. We have dropped from a 6 to a 4 with 1 being the best. He thanked Thomas and the Water Department for their collaborative effort.

Mr. Harvey asked if the squads carry Narcan and is the department trained to use it and Chief Kish answered yes. Mr. Harvey then asked if we have had to use it yet and Chief Kish stated we have used it approximately five times in the last month and a half. The Police Department has had to use theirs also.

Mr. Harvey stated, gentlemen, that is scary, it is at our doorstep. He then asked Acting Chief Woodley where we had the fatality, is that rental property? He answered yes. Mr. Harvey asked if the owner is from town and Mr. Woodley stated he didn't know. Mr. Domitrovich stated they are not from town. Mr. Harvey continued the property in question do they have someone in town manage it? Mr. Domitrovich stated not that property. Mr. Harvey then stated so as far as knowing who is in and out of that property and do they notify us when that change comes. Mr. Domitrovich answered the landlord goes into a contract with the renter which we are not privileged to but we will have the renter sign a registration form with us. Whoever that renter decided to bring in on a weekend etc., we are not privileged to that. Mr. Harvey stated but someone did come in about the rental. He continued it is a disturbing fact. He then asked Mr. Woodley if we have access to the drug dog at Liberty and Acting Chief Woodley answered they don't have one. He further stated that you just can't randomly call them out and walk them through an area. You have to have probable cause to bring them out. Mr. Harvey asked about the Trumbull County Task Force if you need their help. Mr. Woodley answered yes we could use them. Mr. Harvey stated we can be proactive and ask our citizens to be way more alert to what is going on in their neighborhood. Mr. Harvey further stated that when we have to limit our freedoms because of other issues I'm not happy with that.

Solicitor Douglas W. Ross - no report

7. Committee reports:

President Pro Tem Mr. O'Brien – In his absence, there was no report.

Park & Buildings Mr. Harvey stated Park and Buildings met Monday evening at 7:01 p.m. and discussed the roof project, the smoking ban legislation which will be ready for a first read at the next Council meeting. There will be no smoking at all in our parks or any buildings. We discussed the second floor of the Rec Center, and we closed at 7:13 p.m.

Safety Committee Mr. Klase stated Safety met Monday. The committee attempted to analyze the current trend in police work force attrition. We are seeing an influx of police numbers due to several variables: baby boomer retirement, increase in active military and other things like changes in generational career expectation. This has increased the current demand and is having an effect on small workforce retention. Our acting chief is doing an outstanding job hiring good candidates, keeping his standards high, training them thoroughly and getting them acclimated with community involvement and producing good policemen. He is doing a fantastic job making things work and I applaud him for that. As a Council we need to continue to explore ways to support his efforts. Chief Kish is also no stranger to this phenomenon either. He gave us updates on equipment purchases through grant monies. He does a great job managing our volunteers and keeping things exemplary. He congratulated him and Mr. Domitrovich on improving our ISO rating.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Lewis stated Finance met Monday at 7:14 p.m. and discussed the 2018 temporary budget. He sent a thank you out to the department heads for their hard work with the budget and look for ways to cut costs. In doing so we were able to come up with a budget that remains fairly neutral to where it was last year despite decreased revenue and increased fixed costs. We are going to do a capital project in the Parkside area. By getting this done early this will allow us to have our three reads in prior to the end of 2017.

Service Committee Mr. Seitz stated that Service met Monday and discussed a troublesome water line on Trumbull Ave. We are going to go ahead and replace it.

Planning Commission Mr. Fisher stated Planning Commission was cancelled for the month of September due to a lack of business. There was a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting that evening regarding a ruling by the Building Inspector. The Board upheld the ruling. For October the Board of Zoning Appeals is meeting again at 7:00 p.m.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Community Chest Mr. O'Brien – Mrs. DeBow stated there was no report.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Jeff Hughes, 320 Dakota Ave. addressed Council regarding what is taking place in his back yard. It concerns him regarding the events of the past week on Second St. I have lived on Dakota for the past 14 years and the properties in question concern me and who is living behind me. I know we may or may not have controls in place. I know we have certificates of occupancy for residents that move into rentals. Are they managed? I know the property owner or whoever is managing it for the owner is responsible for presenting that to the Village as I understand. You can correct me if I'm wrong. My other question is what do we do with that information once we have it. Granted this is an odd experience that we had up here.

Solicitor Ross asked what is the problem?

Mr. Hughes stated the condition of the property and the people that do rent. The upkeep of the property is not good and it shouldn't take a resident to write a letter or stop in at a meeting to complain about the property. I ask on behalf of my neighbors is that in any of the other properties in the Village that are rented, it seems like we are getting more and more. I think we need to raise that awareness to a better level and a better understanding of holding these folks accountable that own these properties. I have attempted on a couple of occasions to contact the physician that owns the property behind me and he is not so gracious to return letters or anything like that just to beg him to take a look at what he's got back there.

Solicitor Ross asked for the address and Mr. Hughes state 602 and it was determined that the addresses are 600 and 610. Mr. Harvey gave a quick update that we have over 100 rental properties in our Village. We have been proactive with rental inspection and put a lot of things in place but we are limited. When we get homeowners that are buying up properties that are in foreclosure and you get companies in Florida and California buying them. Just trying to find someone to cut the grass becomes a real issue because no one wants to take responsibility. We spend a lot of time trying to find the people. We have some great landlords in the Village but as with anything else there are people out there that you have to constantly keep researching and get on to. We make sure we go to what we can do to try to protect you and everybody else in the community. We want families to live in these houses. Every time someone turns over another into a rental we worry. We get basic information; they are supposed to provide that. Our rental agreements that we have are inspections that we have to go do. I see that you

8. Remarks from persons or groups present cont'd.

that you are worried.

Mayor Puckett stated I will say this lot of times if it is something unseen or something like that, if you report it that is the biggest thing. If you report it and file a complaint it moves everything a lot quicker. I know it is not easy because they are your neighbors.

Mr. Hughes stated it is not easy dealing with the fall out. I don't want to be on that side of the coin where I do something myself that I will regret. My other question is the accountability of folks that do rent these properties that the folks that are occupying them are the folks that sign the lease agreement. That's what happened to the property next to this one. There were other people living there before the people (lessee) vacated the property.

Mayor Puckett said other than a water bill that is usually how we would catch something like that.

Mr. Hughes said so when the agreement changes they are supposed to notify?

Solicitor Ross stated unless someone tells us there is an issue we'll never know.

Acting Chief Woodley stated if you suspect suspicious activity you can call down here and report it and remain anonymous.

Mr. Domitrovich stated when he became Village Administrator the Village in 2004 we had 6 percent rental property and today we go between 9 and 10 percent. As that number grew I did make some appeals to Council to make stiffer legislation on rental property because it may overtake us like Girard or Niles. I applaud Council to get legislation on the books. We didn't do rental inspections 4-5 years ago but we are doing them now. They are a lot of steps they are trying to take to limit that number from growing over 10 percent. We don't want it.

9. Old Business: none

10. New Business: none

11. Legislation:

A Third reading of Resolution No. 1784-17 Accepting The Amount And Rates As Determined By The Budget Commission And Authorizing The Necessary Tax Levies And Certifying Them To The County Auditor.

It was moved by Mr. Seitz that Resolution No. 1784-17 be passed as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Klase – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye

Motion carried.

B First reading of an Ordinance To Make Temporary Appropriations For 2018 For 2018 To Various Divisions Of The Village Government For Each Of The Several Objects For Which The Village Of McDonald, Ohio Has To Provide Out Of The Monies Known To Be In The Treasurer Of Said Village During The Year From the Collection Of All The Taxes And From All Other Sources Or Revenue For 2018.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis that the ordinance pass first reading as read.

Discussion: Mr. Lewis stated this will allow us to operate at the beginning of 2018.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Klase – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. DeBow reported that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$29,193.06.

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

I, Robin DeBow, Fiscal Officer of the Village of McDonald, Ohio do declare that the bills are true and correct and the money is in the bank to pay them.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis to accept the Fiscal Officer's report and pay all bills.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Klase – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Harvey at 6:37p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer