

McDonald Village Council  
Wednesday, October 7, 2020  
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Fire Chief Todd Stitt, Police Chief Bill Woodley, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Lori Canada, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

1. The October 7, 2020 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Glen M. Puckett at 6:04 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Harvey – present  
Mr. Fisher – present  
Mr. Schmidt – present

Mr. Lewis – present  
Mr. DeZee – present  
Mr. Joynes – 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 16, 2020 council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to approve the September 16, 2020 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye  
Mr. Lewis – aye  
Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye  
Mr. DeZee – aye  
Mr. Joynes – 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. Lewis – aye  
Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye  
Mr. DeZee – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Puckett gave the monthly court report as follows: For the month of September, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$10, court costs \$23, city revenue from fines \$60, Niles Municipal court fines \$1251, and parking tickets \$90 for a total to the Village of \$1,434.00.

Mayor Puckett stated that the Village is sponsoring a drive-thru Halloween. We have been working with the Mahoning River Mayors' Association to enable us to do something for all the children in McDonald. We have 500 boxes and we encourage every child from the Village to attend. Although we are not recommending traditional Trick-or-Treat, the Governor's guidelines are on our website if you decide to do so. Please be safe and follow the guidelines set forth by the Governor and Trumbull County Board of Health. Mayor Puckett wishes everyone a safe Halloween.

6. Report of Village Officials:

**Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich** stated that he has been working closely with office staff, the Mayor, and the Fiscal Officer regarding the CARES Act money that we've been receiving from the State. He is working on quotes for various items. We have a long list of things that we need to combat COVID such as adapting our building to the possible reopening in the future and personal protection equipment.

Mr. Domitrovich is also working closely with the Solicitor, Mrs. Cunningham, the Building Inspector, and the Mayor on three properties in the Village. They are working on a possible demolition in the very near future and cleaning up some blighted parts of our neighborhoods. Mr. Domitrovich is working with Council and the Mayor as to whether or not the Community Room should reopen. He will be reaching out to the Director, the instructors, and participants through a letter asking what their thoughts are on returning to the Community Room. We want to create an environment where our seniors can be active and healthy. If we choose to reopen, we need to decide how we can create the safest environment for them. This is a nicety. We don't want to put our seniors at any risk.

Mr. Domitrovich spoke with the Board of Health regarding Christmas In the Village. There will be some considerations as to restrictions. The Board of Health is not clear yet on those restrictions. It is still too soon to say. There are going to be guidelines coming out soon.

**Police Chief Bill Woodley** stated no report.

6. Report of Village officials cont'd.

**Fire Chief Todd Stitt** submitted his report and it is as follows:

For the month of September, the Fire Department had 14 EMS calls and 26 Fire calls for a total of 40 calls. The Fire Department applied for a State Fire Marshal grant for yearly payment of MARCS radios. The total amount is \$1,440.00 with no match from the Village.

**Solicitor Ross** stated that the Village has been working on at least four properties in the Village, two on Grant Avenue, one on Hayes Avenue, and one on Logan Avenue. He thanked Mr. Domitrovich, Mr. Pancoe, and Mrs. Cunningham for all their help in making his job easier. Mrs. Cunningham has been very responsive in providing information. Three of these properties are rentals and one appears to be abandoned. None appear to be folks that own their own residence and are living there. We filed two cases in Niles Municipal Court, one of which the Mayor placarded as unfit for human habitation. The other one appeared to be unfit but the owner is responding. Mr. Ross brings this up because this is probably the most he has seen in his tenure as Solicitor with the Village. We do not want this to get out of hand.

Mr. Ross stated that he and Peggy Palmer have been quite busy collecting some of the older delinquent Village income taxes. He believes that Mrs. Palmer has gotten quite a few dollars in the last few months even during COVID. She has been very proactive in getting this done. She is doing a great job in helping the Village get the money.

Mr. Domitrovich stated that we were in court over a property on Grant Avenue. He thanked Solicitor Ross for his preparation and getting us judgment on four counts on this property. Right now the house is boarded up until further notice. Solicitor Ross stated that the Village may want to consider earmarking some money next year if we can. There may be some houses that we might want to put on a demolition list.

7. Committee reports:

**President Pro Tem Mr. Lewis** stated that Caucus met this evening and the following items were discussed: agenda, Fiscal Officer's report, Council minutes, legislation, and the Auditor's agreement for biannual audit with Charles E. Harris. Mr. Lewis received an email from McDonald High School Principal Gary Carkido regarding the Ram Roast parade that took place a few weeks ago. He read the email thanking the Village for their participation into the record. Mr. Lewis stated that he thought the event was outstanding. Mayor Puckett stated that it is nice to be appreciated every once in a while. Mr. Carkido does a great job at the high school. He does a lot for the kids and we appreciate the kind words.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

**Park & Buildings Mr. Harvey** stated that the baseball camp is going on. There seems to be a lot of interest. The fields look fantastic. They will continue the baseball camp as long as the weather holds out. Mr. Harvey said that other items discussed during Committee meetings were: Christmas In the Village and Halloween.

**Safety Committee Mr. Fisher** stated that both Chief Stitt and Chief Woodley submitted their month-end reports. We received the new police cruiser. It now needs fitted with light bars and a few other things. We ordered the MARCS radios that we need. Hopefully, some of this cost will be covered in the COVID funds. Chief Stitt submitted for a grant for the State Fire Marshal's Association to cover the cost of the MARCS radio service fee. The grant is for \$1,440.00. This is a no match to the Village.

**Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Lewis** stated that there are two pieces of legislation which are emergency readings. One is to amend appropriations to accept the second wave of CARES Act funds. The other is to be able to utilize these funds for the drive-thru Halloween. We also discussed finding additional opportunities to spend the rest of those funds. We are looking at potentially having another Department Head meeting so we can find more opportunities to be reimbursed for the CARES Act funding. Mr. Lewis stated that the 2021 budget will be bare bones with very little capital improvements and no paving project. Mr. Lewis wished all of our fall sports teams the best of luck and especially our high school football team as they take on Jackson Milton next Friday at home for what may be the very last game at A.A. Burkey Stadium.

**Service Committee Mr. Schmidt** stated that the youth baseball camp is going well and they will continue, weather permitting. Our Village employees have done a wonderful job getting everything ready for them and keeping it maintained. The Village has done some patching of holes. Mr. Domitrovich had said that they will move forward to some larger areas.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to continue the agreement with Charles E. Harris to continue to be our Auditors.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye  
Mr. Lewis – aye  
Mr. DeZee – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye  
Mr. Fisher – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Motion carried.

**Planning Commission Mr. Fisher** stated that Planning Commission previously met to consider the property at 452 Pennsylvania Avenue. It was the recommendation of the Planning Commission to move it to Council to approve a zoning change from "RA" to "CA". Just prior to our Council meeting this evening, we had a public hearing regarding the matter. All parties adjacent to that property were notified and given an opportunity to appear. We did not have any correspondence.

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to allow the Solicitor to prepare an Ordinance amending the zoning for 452 Pennsylvania Avenue from "RA" to "CA".

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye  
Mr. Lewis – aye  
Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye  
Mr. DeZee – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

Motion carried.

**Community Chest Mr. DeZee** stated no report.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Emergency Reading Of Resolution No. 1837-20 Authorizing The Use Of CARES Act Funds For Expenditures To Provide Drive Thru Halloween Treat Distribution To Children Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, Who Do Not Participate In Traditional Halloween Trick-Or-Treating Due To COVID-19.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Mr. Fisher – aye  
Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. DeZee – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis that Resolution No. 1837-20 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye  
Mr. Fisher – aye  
Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye  
Mr. DeZee – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

Motion carried.

B. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance To Amend Appropriations For 2020 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 Treasury Of Said Village During The Year From The Collection Of All Taxes And From All Other Sources Of Revenue For 2020.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye  
Mr. Fisher – aye  
Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye  
Mr. DeZee – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis that Ordinance No. 3253-20 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye  
Mr. Fisher – aye  
Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye  
Mr. DeZee – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Canada stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$162,270.55.

I, Lori Canada, Fiscal Officer of the Village of McDonald, Ohio do hereby 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. Fisher – aye  
Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye  
Mr. DeZee – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous:

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Harvey at 6:29 p.m. All voted aye.

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Mayor

Attest to:

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Fiscal Officer