

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Lori Canada, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

1. The September 2, 2020 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by President Pro Tem Ray Lewis at 6:03 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Lewis – present
Mr. DeZee – present
Mr. Joynes – present

*Mayor Puckett was not in attendance due to an injury that his son received at football practice.

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 August 19, 2020 council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to approve the August 19, 2020 minutes as mailed:

Discussion: Mr. Fisher stated that there was a correction in the minutes. He misspoke under the Planning Commission report. He wanted to confirm that 452 Pennsylvania Avenue was going to move from RA to CA, not the other way around.

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:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

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

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

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report: Mr. Lewis gave the monthly court report in the Mayor's absence and it is as follows: For the month of August, Mayor's Court had Niles Municipal court fines \$674.90, parking tickets \$175.00 and police reports \$5 for a total to the Village of \$854.90.

Mr. Lewis reported that Mayor Puckett had a meeting with the other Mayors in the area. In regards to Halloween, the Mayors are scheduled to have another meeting on September 11. The Mayor is hoping to have some news for our residents with regard to what the health department's decision is and what the local Mayors have decided.

Also, Mr. Lewis stated that the Mayor would like to remind Village residents that the parks are open. Certain facilities have been closed. Social distancing needs to be maintained and is required at all times. The reasoning behind some of the closures is due to vandalism that has taken place as recently as within the last 24 hours. The Mayor would like to encourage any resident with any information regarding anyone who was present in the park from sundown last evening to sunrise this morning to please contact the McDonald Police Department or the Village building as soon as possible.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the employees have started removing trees. To date, the employees have removed 18 front lawn trees that were dead. We only remove the trees if they are nuisance or 100% dead. We have 12 more trees to remove. Then we have about 15 trees to trim. After the trimming is concluded, the employees will begin to start grinding. This program will extend into September.

Police Chief Bill Woodley no report.

Fire Chief Todd Stitt no report.

Solicitor Ross no report.

7. Committee reports:

President Pro Tem Mr. Lewis stated that Caucus met and the following items were discussed: agenda, fiscal officer's report, council minutes, legislation, Village parks, and Halloween.

Park & Buildings Mr. Harvey stated that there is some interest in having fall baseball. We are awaiting communication on that. Mr. Schmidt stated that this will not be a team setup. It sounds like it will be a skills type situation, like a mini camp, to get the kids some play time. Mr. Harvey discussed the activities at the park and the park equipment. Mr. Harvey stated that we have worked with the Trumbull County Health Department and went to great lengths to make sure that everything we wanted to do for our summer activities were safe. Mr. Domitrovich spent a lot of time communicating with them. There was a lot of thinking out of the box to ensure the safety of our residents. Mr. Domitrovich had stated that he believes we were one of the very few communities that got approval on all their activities through the Trumbull County Health Department. Mr. Harvey thanked Hannah Jones and the park attendants for a great year. Mr. Harvey reminded everyone that we are still under COVID-19 restrictions as far as upcoming events. We will continue to look to the Governor for guidance. Mr. Domitrovich stated that there will be an announcement and posting of regulations for opening the Community Room.

Safety Committee Mr. Fisher stated that we have nothing new to report since the last meeting. He stated that he was misquoted in the Tribune by Bob Coupland after the last meeting.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Lewis stated that lists to utilize the COVID Cares Act funds have been submitted by the department heads. We have learned that we could be getting an additional lump sum of funds that would need to be spent by October 15. We are looking at potentially having an additional department head meeting sometime next week. Also, we will possibly have another Finance Committee meeting around the same time. This information will be to follow and an announcement will be made if we have a public meeting. Some of the ideas that came up were: the purchase of hand sanitizing stations and MARCs radio repeater which would be needed in the event of an emergency. It was also suggested that we have our foyer remodeled to make it more COVID safe, where it is a separate room. Mr. Lewis stated that we are hoping to have some decisions by the second meeting in September. These funds need to be spent in October or we lose them.

Mr. Lewis stated that the 2021 budget was also discussed. We are looking at a potential revenue loss of about \$250,000.00. This is due to several factors, one of which is the pandemic. COVID-19 has not helped anyone from the employment front. Folks have

7. Committee reports cont'd.

been out of work within our Village, our County, our State. That being said, when our biggest source of revenue is income tax and your largest employer closes its doors, we were preparing for a loss. COVID amplified that. Mr. Lewis is asking all department heads for ways to cut costs in 2021 without cutting any services to our residents. Mr. Lewis also stated that we will not look to any cuts in the form of our employees and their wages. We are hoping to have a temporary budget in place by the end of the month.

Service Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that Mr. Domitrovich is looking into an extension for the road paving project grant. As Mr. Lewis had reported, with the hit that we are going to potentially take on the budget, we are being very selective with our spending. The project itself bid out at \$144,471.63. The grants would be \$49,120.35. The Village cost would be \$95,351.28. In good times and when we're not dealing with COVID and these potential losses, this would be a great opportunity to get some things done. We had appropriated \$126,291.85. We would have a little over \$31,000 left over. Again, we need to be smart with our spending. If we can extend this into next year and hopefully things get better quick, we can move forward with this sometime next year. Mr. Domitrovich sent Mr. Schmidt an email with his contacts with Linda Bailiff, the OPWC Director. He will be emailing why we need this extension rather than cancelling.

Mr. Schmidt is looking forward to hearing from Mr. Cappuzzello and Mr. Flere on their details regarding the baseball camp. We won't move forward with anything until Council sees their plan on how we're going to keep everything safe down there. The Village would be happy to get the fields ready for them so we can move forward with some type of camp for the kids.

Mr. Schmidt stated that Jennifer Jones from Gotta Go Green reached out to Mr. Domitrovich. Originally, they replaced the two recycling dumpsters that we were paying for. They are a little smaller but they hold a lot of volume. They noticed that we are getting filled up quickly due to the amount of recycling that our residents do. Now, they are going to pickup recycling twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please continue to recycle, flatten your cardboard, and be respectful when you go down there.

Planning Commission Mr. Fisher stated that there will be a Public Hearing on Wednesday, October 7 at 5:45 p.m. which precedes the Council meeting. The hearing will pertain to the property at 452 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Community Chest Mr. DeZee no report.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9.. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation: none.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Canada stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$107,967.20.

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

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. Harvey – aye

Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. DeZee – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Harvey at 6:24 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer