

McDonald Village Council
Regular Council Meeting
June 19, 2019

Visitors: Joe Dugan, Scott Merola, Ken Miner, and Lou Ronghi

Staff: Fire Chief Todd Stitt, Police Chief Bill Woodley, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, and Office Manager Char McCracken

Press: Bob Coupland, *Tribune Chronicle*

1. The June 19, 2019 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Glen M. Puckett at 6:12 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Harvey – present
Mr. Lewis – present
Mr. Bradley – present

Mr. Seitz – absent
Mr. Fisher – present
Mr. DeZee – present

Mayor Puckett stated that Mr. Seitz is at a union meeting

2. Pledge of allegiance

One minute of silence in remembrance of Cindy Green Robinson and Papa Joe Ferenczy and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Mr. Seitz entered the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

3. Approval of the May 15, 2019 council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to approve the May 15, 2019 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to amend the agenda as with the following addition:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

13. Miscellaneous – add executive session to discuss pending litigation with no action to follow.

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor stated that Char is retiring June 30 and they need a new officer manager as of July 1. Amy Cunningham has been training under Char. Char is one of the biggest assets the Village has had in the last thirty years.

Mayor asked for confirmation of the appointment of Amy Cunningham as Office Manager, Mayor's Secretary, and Clerk of Courts.

It was moved by Mr. Bradley to confirm the appointment of Amy Cunningham as Office Manager, Mayor's Secretary, and Clerk of Courts.

Roll call:

Mr. Bradley – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor stated Char has agreed to stay on as a part-time assistant to the Office Manager. This will really help out. The girls are super busy right now and when one is out a day we have to bring our Village Administrator down to the office to help cover the front desk. He has a lot of other things to do so Char has agreed to stay on. He is asking for Council's confirmation to this appointment.

It was moved by Mr. Bradley to approve the appointment of Char McCracken as the assistant to the office manager as of July 1.

Discussion: Mr. Bradley stated We have a new fiscal officer and a relatively young new office manager and what Mrs. McCracken can bring to the table is priceless.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Mr. Harvey stated she has the love of the Village and always has. If you needed to know something, if she didn't know she knew where to go and get it. We as council members don't have a secretary. We count on Char very graciously. She keeps us in the loop. I commend her for all her years of service. She also stepped up to the plate to help where needed.

Roll call:

Mr. Bradley – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor asked for confirmation on the appointment of Bobby Parker to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

It was moved by Mr. Bradley to confirm the appointment of Bob Parker to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Roll call:

Mr. Bradley – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor asked for confirmation on the appointment of Dave Clawson to the Planning Commission.

It was moved by Mr. Bradley to confirm the appointment of Dave Clawson to the Planning Commission.

Roll call:

Mr. Bradley – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Mayor Puckett gave the monthly court report as follows: For the month of May, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$140, court costs \$372, additional costs \$145, city revenue from fines \$510, Niles Municipal court fines \$625, parking tickets \$75 and police reports for \$5 for a grand total of \$1872.

Mayor commented on the loss of Cindy Green Robinson and Joe Ferenczy.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich – In the absence of Mr. Domitrovich, Mayor Puckett stated an 80ft. lift is in and they will begin working on trees they didn't finish last year. They will also be cleaning the front side of the recreation building. The roadway resurfacing project is in the third reading tonight. With its passage notice will be given to the contractor to start. Because the excavators are behind because of the rain, the project will not begin until after July 4.

Police Chief Bill Woodley wished Char the best in her endeavors and welcome you back again. He thanked her for sticking around to help out. You are a great asset to the Village. Chief stated he distributed his end of month for May and it is as follows:

For the month of May, the Police Department received 223 calls from the 911 center. They investigated 39 formal complaints, conducted 36 traffic stops resulting in 6 citations. They issued 3 parking tickets and 7 parking warnings. They responded to 5 alarm drops, 8 animal complaints, 3 welfare checks, 14 Mayor's court summons, 10 parking complaints, 10 bank transfers, 3 unwanted person calls, 6 calls for suspicious activity, 3 calls for suspicious vehicles, and 20 medical calls. The Department completed the DTB training for the month of May.

Fire Chief Todd Stitt stated Char I remember when you started part-time and moved to full time. I wish you the best and whatever he said. My report has been submitted.

Solicitor Ross – Char, I wish the best in your retirement although it is not good bye I know. I think only those of us who work with you actual know your scope and depth of knowledge about this Village and its government is more than anybody else that have worked with here. As far as my role as solicitor, it has always been my pleasure to deal with you professionally. You are courteous, you respond promptly. It's been my pleasure to work with you as office manager. I mean it sincerely.

7. Committee reports

President Pro Tem Mr. Lewis reminded everyone that Mrs. McCracken is not going anywhere anytime soon, we appreciate you beyond what you will ever realize.

Mr. Lewis commented on the caucus that was held this evening where the following items were discussed: Fiscal Officer's report, council minutes, legislation, alternative tax budget, a transfer ordinance, summer recess (July 16 for committees, and July 17 for council) office manager appointment, appointments to the Board of Zoning and Planning Commission, codification of ordinances, use of Community Room by the Historical Society, and executive session.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis to have the ordinances codified by The Walter Drane Company.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis to allow the Historical Society to use the Community Room during the Firefighter's Festival June 26-June 29.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

Park & Buildings Mr. Harvey commented on the passing of Cindy Green. Cindy started as a park supervisor and created a folder with all the programs she wanted to offer to the village children. She had the love to do public service to community on a volunteer basis. People want to know what is so great about it. Nobody had a park program like this. I keep it in my office and every morning I touch it and Cindy Green is there. We talk about her spirit and it is here in this whole community. You can look at the merry go round, the splash pad, volleyball court, she planned all these things. Everything on this paper is Cindy Green Robinson, it is her legacy. She worked hours upon hours on Christmas in the Village. She made sure everything was in line. It is hard to find those

7. Committee reports cont'd.

kinds of people. The love of this village is her legacy. Her devotion to the park and police department with safety day. To see the fire department honor her with the green. It speaks volumes to what people think of Cindy Green as a person and her attempt to always tell people be the best you can be, love this village, and volunteer to do work in your community. To have her present this folder and watch her grow in her relationship with the village, her husband, the community. Her and her mom became a part of this village. They were at all these special events. I have the memories. Her spirit is all over this village. I'm going to miss her. She brought so many other people to help volunteer at these projects. As the park supervisor she was outstanding. She touched all of us. She set the example and her shoes are hard to fill. Her love transcended out above everything else. Love everybody, take care of things, and do the best we can. She will always be remembered. Put this paper on your fridge and every day touch it and you will feel the love of Cindy Green.

Mr. Harvey stated Park & Buildings met last evening and did not have a quorum. Mr. Harvey relayed information about Memorial Day and a few things that went on, music in the Park and the festival. We have a lot of great things going in this village. Park & Buildings will meet on July 16.

Mayor Puckett stated Cindy always wanted everybody to be happy. He remembered last year at the first Christmas in the Village meeting and she wasn't there. I told Rich and Thomas that she is sick, don't bother her, she needs a rest and focus on herself. When I got home within 15 minutes she was knocking on my door and I thought she was going to fight me. She said don't you ever have a Christmas in the Village meeting without me. That is the type of person she was.

Safety Committee Mr. DeZee reported Safety met last evening and discussed the Fire report for the month of May. They answered 17 EMS calls and 4 fire calls. The washer tournament has been moved to Sunday, June 30 at noon.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Lewis stated Finance met last evening and discussed the transfer ordinance. At the recommendation of the state auditor we need to move some uncashed checks into the unclaimed funds account. We have the alternative tax budget which is done every year. The state auditors are near completion. They came up with a few recommendations that will streamline our operations regarding the way we conduct business. One example is the garbage contract. Every month it is the same amount. Rather than doing it as a PO every month for twelve months, they recommend doing it as one at the beginning of the year to above cumbersome paperwork. They also discussed the tax base. According to R.I.T.A. they project a \$25,000 annual loss in taxes due to the closing of the Lordstown plant. In addition, we are seeing an uptick in

7. Committee reports cont'd.

collections due to the hard work of Peggy Palmer in regards to the delinquencies in taxes which we greatly appreciate.

Mr. Lewis stated in regards to Cindy Green Robinson, she is a great friend to everyone in the village. Everyone that met her loved her. Thoughts and prayers are with her family, Ryan & Collin and Ryan's family and also to the friends and family of Papa Joe.

Solicitor Ross stated his office works a lot with Peggy Palmer with the income tax collections and you guys should know she does a really nice job and does good work for the village.

Service Committee Mr. Bradley stated Service met last evening and discussed that tonight there will be a third reading of a resolution for the R.T. Vernal paving. The other item discussed was the Weathersfield Sewer District #3. It was due for an extension in 2010. Apparently, there is a gentlemen's agreement that they continue on. We are paying our people \$450 a quarter to do the paperwork and send it to Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer. He expressed that this needs to be reviewed

Mr. Harvey asked if the paperwork for the sidewalk grant was moving along and Mr. Bradley stated it is.

Planning Commission Mr. Bradley stated Planning Commission will meet the second Wednesday in August unless there is business before then.

Community Chest Mr. DeZee – no report.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: former Police Chief Lou Ronghi stated Char you are not getting off that easy. I want to say a couple things about Char. I've had the privilege to work with her through four administrations. When I look at Char there are three words that I look at. They are character, morals, and loyalty. Her loyalty to this village is second to none. I used to call her the toe. Nothing functions without Char. In my fifteen years as police chief she made my life so easy going through those fifteen years. When I first got in there were some tough times and Char was always there to listen to me. Our job is 24/7 so we didn't have time to sit around and do all the things. I used to tell Char next thing will come so let's get this fire put out and move on to the next thing. She was there for me and I'm here for her tonight. I'll tell you what you should be very thankful that she is staying part time because we talk about reinventing the wheel. It could very easily happen there are just so many headaches. If Char is sticking on here consider yourself very lucky. I'm here tonight for you Char and I thank you for

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

everything that you have done for me and the police department, Bill can contest to it. He's been around for a long time and you made his transition very easy also. Do you want me to go on? Char said no.

Mr. Ronghi then asked Finance asked if there was anything in the making for raises for the employees.

Mr. Lewis stated there has been preliminary discussion at the beginning of the year but nothing set.

Mr. Bradley stated we took some action because we losing our police officers and firefighters. We looked at the office staff and took care of that. We know that something needs to be addressed and I'm hoping to be part of the spearhead to do that.

Mr. Ronghi asked if the increase was this year and Mr. Bradley stated for the police and fire they were given an increase this year. He also stated that he is a strong believer in taking care of your people because they do so much and nobody understands that unless you are connected. In this little village we have these many employees and what they do is unbelievable. Mr. Ronghi said so you will take care of it this year. Mr. Bradley stated we are working on it.

9. Old Business: none

10. New Business: none

11. Legislation:

A. Third Reading of Resolution No. 1807-19 Accepting The Bid Of R.T. Vernal Paving And Excavating, Inc., 11299 South Avenue, North Lima, Ohio 44452, For The 2019 Street Resurfacing Program With A Base Bid Of One Hundred Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Seven And 30/100 Dollars (\$109,887.30) And The Alternate "A" Bid Of Forty Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Nine And 50/100 Dollars (\$40,449.50) For A Total Of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Six And 80/100 Dollars (\$150,336.80); For The Further Purpose Of Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And/Or Village Administrator To Enter Into A Contract With R.T. Vernal Paving & Excavating, Inc., And Execute Any Other Documents Necessary To Further The Project.

It was moved by Mr. Bradley that Resolution No. 1807-19 be passed as read.

11. Legislation cont'd.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bradley – aye	Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye	Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye	Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

B. First reading of A Resolution Adopting The Alternative Tax Budget Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio For The Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2020, And Submitting Same To The Trumbull County Auditor.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye	Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye	Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye	Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

C. First reading of An Ordinance Transferring Funds Within Various Funds Within The Village Of McDonald, Ohio For A Period Beginning January 1, 2019, And Ending December 31, 2019.

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

Discussion: Mr. Lewis stated this at the recommendation of the auditors moving some funds of unclaimed checks into the unclaimed funds.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye	Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye	Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye	Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report

Miss Hinchcliffe stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$203,315.17. I, Lori Hinchcliffe, 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. Bradley to accept the Fiscal Officer's report and pay all bills.

Roll call:

Mr. Bradley – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: Mr. Fisher congratulated Char on her retirement. Many people mentioned many things but I think it was Doug that said she knows more about the village than anybody else. I can say I have a better firm grasp on the village and Char is definitely the most knowledgeable person in the village on village business. She has run the village for a long time. I know we all get up here and make decisions because we are elected to do so but we wouldn't have near the information to make those decisions if hadn't been for Char. We do appreciate you staying on. It is well deserved.

Mr. Fisher also spoke on Cindy saying she was an absolutely amazing asset to the village. The impact that she had on our children's lives was an absolutely unrivaled. The year she came on as a park supervisor is where I met her. The summer that my son's mom left me she was probably my closest friend. She made sure she spent time every single day to come see me and spend extra time with my son to ease into that transition. I think we are all going to miss her and the amount of work she did for this village to make it a better place.

Executive Session:

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to enter into executive session at 6:59 p.m. to discuss pending litigation with no action to follow.

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. Seitz – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

13. Miscellaneous cont'd.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to exit executive session at 7:09 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. Seitz – no
Mr. Bradley – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Harvey at 7:09 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer