

McDonald Village Council  
Thursday November 7, 2019  
Regular Council Meeting

Visitors: Sean Schmidt, Ron Jones, Ken Miner, Joe Ryan, and Odell Houston.

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.

Press: Bob Coupland, *Tribune Chronicle*

1. The November 7, 2019 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Glen M. Puckett at 6:14 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Harvey – present

Mr. Seitz – present

Mr. Lewis – present

Mr. Fisher – present

Mr. Bradley – present

Mr. DeZee – 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 October 16, 2019 council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to approve the October 16, 2019 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye

Mr. Seitz – aye

Mr. Lewis – aye

Mr. Bradley – aye

Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to amend the agenda and add legislation E the "Salary Ordinance.

Roll call:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

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 Puckett stated that for the month of October, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$219, court costs \$580, additional costs \$232, city revenue from fines \$982, Niles Municipal court fines \$1,673.50, parking tickets \$230, and police reports \$5 for a total of \$3,921.50.

Mayor Puckett wanted to thank the Girl Scouts for coming in. They were here between Caucus and Council. Mayor Puckett presented them with a proclamation. The girls received the Presidential Gold Award for Service for 5000 hours of Community Service. This is an admirable accomplishment. He stated that we have never had to ask the Girl Scouts to volunteer their time or take up a project. When the Lion's Club disbanded in the Village, the Girl Scouts took over. The Girl Scouts take care of the Easter Egg Hunt and Pumpkin Walk to name just a few things. They also take care of the garden behind the Woodland Park Retirement Apartments.

6. Report of Village Officials:

**Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich** stated that it is leaf season. Residents are allowed to bring their leaves to the curb and the Street Department will pick them up. This will probably be done for the better part of the month. The announcement date for when the leaf vac will be put away will be put on the marquee and the website. The town has already been cleaned up twice. Branches will be picked up one more time on Thursday of next week. Mr. Domitrovich stated that driving around town using fuel and employee time does not make sense financially, unless there is an incident where there is a storm or wind damage. The regular curbside program will resume in March 2020.

**Police Chief Bill Woodley** no report.

**Fire Chief Todd Stitt** stated that his report has been submitted.

**Solicitor Ross** no report.

7. Committee reports:

7. Committee reports cont'd:

**President Pro Tem Mr. Lewis** reported on tonight's Caucus where the following items were discussed: agenda, Fiscal Officer's report, council minutes, legislation, recognized the Girl Scouts, and additional legislation for the Salary Ordinance. Mr. Lewis congratulated the Mayor and Mr. Schmidt on winning the election. He also congratulated the Boys and Girls' Cross Country teams, who both made it to State. Mr. Lewis also asked the public to please wish our football team the best of luck with a sendoff this Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in front of the high school gym. They are heading to Lucas for their playoff game. Mr. Fisher commended the student athletes of all our sports. It is an amazing feat that this tiny school continues to put out, not only playoff, but state caliber teams, in almost every sport. The boys and girls' Cross Country teams have made it to the State finals 20 of the last 21 years.

**Park & Buildings Mr. Harvey** stated that the Girl Scouts did a great job with the Pumpkin Walk. The weather was not very cooperative at Halloween but those that went trick-or-treating had a great time. The demolition for the Scarbrough house is moving forward. Mr. Harvey invited everyone to come out to Christmas In the Village. He stated that it takes 200 dozen cookies to put this event on. He will give more details as we get closer to that date. There is another meeting scheduled for this event. Mr. Harvey stated that we are looking into naming the scholarships that council gives to the school after Cindy Green Robinson and Michael O'Brien. He also stated that there will be meetings planned with the school and the baseball organization to discuss replacing the bleachers.

**Safety Committee Mr. DeZee** stated that there is an application from Bryan Iceman for a volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic. He has been a firefighter for 17 years and a paramedic for 21 years. Mr. Iceman has been with the Girard Fire Department for 15 years.

It was moved by Mr. DeZee to accept the application of Bryan Iceman for a volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic.

Roll call:

Mr. DeZee – aye  
Mr. Seitz – aye  
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye  
Mr. Lewis – aye  
Mr. Bradley – aye

Motion carried.

Mr. DeZee stated that the Fire Department responded to 28 EMS calls and 12 fire calls for a total of 40 calls.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

**Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Lewis** stated that there are some changes to the 2020 budget. The total changes will add about \$76,000, about a 1.8% increase on the temporary budget. The big items that were increased were the BWC fund in order to be back up to paying in advance for 2021. This will add a little savings to the Village. Also, there was more budgeted for the Ambulance Fund for the fuel. The potential for adding a part-time Street Department employee was also added to the budget. There is no decision as to whether or not this will be added, but, in order to be fiscally responsible, we need to budget for it. Mr. Lewis stated that the Fire Department is in need of a heart monitor. The current monitor is broken. The Fire Department is borrowing one from Vienna and we have 30 days to move on getting a refurbished unit at a discounted rate. The Village Administrator, Fire Chief, and Fiscal Officer are looking to find the appropriate funds in order to do this. This will fall under the 2019 budget. Mr. Lewis stated the Salary Ordinance will be a first read this evening. It has been amended to add a 5% pay increase to the Street, Water, and Sewer Departments. Mr. Lewis stated that these departments do more with less than anyone can imagine. This is well-deserved.

**Service Committee Mr. Bradley** stated that Medi-Count vs. Quest was discussed. We have worked out an agreement with Medi-Count and the Solicitor has put that together. Mr. Bradley believes this is beneficial for the Village. The administrative work that was done by Chief Stitt through Quest will now be done by the system that Medi-Count is putting in place.

Mr. Bradley moved that the Solicitor move forward with the contract with Medi-Count and end the contract with Quest.

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

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Bradley stated that the paint striping work was done upon completion of the road paving project. He commended the Village Administrator on getting this done, especially at the bottom of Ohio Avenue, where there are multi-lanes and multi-turns. Mr. Bradley also stated that the plans in replacing the sidewalks between Fifth Street and north and east of Ohio Avenue have fallen by the wayside. This is due to some of the information that we were given and the facts of the cost turned out to be incomplete. This became too expensive for us to maintain the idea of looking forward to going after that money. The cost was almost 60% higher than what we believed it may have been. This is tabled at this time but we are hoping to revisit at a later date.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

The demolition contract for the Scarbrough house is in the process of being completed. We are hoping that it is completed in the next 45 days. The Weathersfield Sewer District 3 project on hilltop is almost coming to fruition where everything is back in place the way it should have been in the distant past.

**Planning Commission Mr. Bradley** stated that the Planning Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room. As of today, there is no pertinent information. However, it was decided that there would be a Planning Commission meeting the second Wednesday of the second month of each quarter. This enables members of the Planning Commission to get together and prepare for what is coming down the road.

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

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Emergency Reading Of Ordinance No. 3239-19 To Amend Appropriations For 2019 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 The Taxes And From All Other Sources Of Revenue For 2019.

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

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 that Ordinance No. 3239-19 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

11. Legislation cont'd.

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

Motion carried.

B. Emergency Reading Of Ordinance No. 3240-19 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 to suspend the Rules of Council.

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

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis that Ordinance No. 3240-19 pass emergency 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. Second Reading Of An Ordinance To Make Temporary 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 The Taxes And From All Other Sources Of Revenue For 2020.

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

Discussion: Mr. Lewis thanked the finance committee, department heads, and everyone on council for their hard work the past few years in making sure the temporary budget is much more in-line with our permanent budget. Whereas in the past, this was

11. Legislation cont'd.

just a formality. He believes that we have gotten to where things are pretty tight and locked down. This goes to show that working together is starting to pay off.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

D. Second Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And Village Administrator To Enter Into An Agreement With The Trumbull County Public Defender's Office For The Benefit Of The Village Providing For Services To Be Rendered By Trumbull County, Acting Through The Trumbull County Board Of Commissioners, At A Pro-Rata Share Of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) For One (1) Year Commencing January 1, 2020 And Ending December 31, 2020.

It was moved by Mr. Bradley that the resolution pass second reading as read.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

E. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Ordinance No. 3230-A-19 (The "Salary Ordinance") To Address The Salaries And Wages Of The Office Employees; To Provide That All Others Salaries And Wages Of Certain Officers And Employees Will Remain The Same, Reaffirmed And Ratified; And For The Final Purpose Of Repealing Any And All Other Ordinances Or Resolutions In Conflict Therewith.

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

Discussion: Mr. Seitz stated that over the past couple years, we have had a couple salary increases to try to ensure we keep our employees. Now, we are getting a Firefighter/Paramedic that has several years of experience. Mr. Seitz does not believe

11. Legislation cont'd.

that we would be getting this quality of individual without the raises. He feels this is a good idea.

Mr. Bradley stated that he is glad that we are recognizing the water, street, and sewer people. What they do and what we get done, they truly merit this recognition.

Roll call:

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

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

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Canada stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$147,781.18.

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. 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. DeZee wanted to remind everyone that Monday, November 11 is Veteran's Day. If you see a veteran, thank him.

Mr. Bradley stated that he has a comment that he has to make and it pains him to say this. He prefaced this by stating the fact that there is nobody in this building that believes in the First Amendment and freedom of speech more than he does. Mr. Bradley believes that the community has a perception of this board that is not real positive. He thinks that this board, in fact, does not emit the honorable situations in who we are. So with that, Mr. Bradley would like to make a two paragraph statement.

13. Miscellaneous cont'd.

“On 11/5/2019, election day, a post on social media in the morning hours before the polls were opened was made by a member of this council, Mr. Fisher”.

Mayor Puckett: “Mr. Bradley”.

Mr. Bradley: “Yes”.

Mayor Puckett: “This is what I’ll say. Obviously, you were very well prepared with whatever you’re about to say. If you’re gonna bring up something like this, and you want to discuss social media, ok, you know my feelings on it. I think it’s absurd. And you had every opportunity, again, to put it on the agenda. I don’t understand the purpose of coming and”-

Mr. Bradley: “This was an embarrassment to this community! Let’s do this”-

Mayor Puckett: “Stop!” Ok. Your opinion of whatever- once again, we’re here to do business. We’re not gonna sit and talk about social media. It’s absurd!”

Mr. Bradley: “Ok fine. Let me strike that. And let me make a one sentence statement. Mr. Fisher does not”-

Mr. Fisher: “Mayor, as a point of order, this has to come first parliamentary procedure. I’m gonna say the Rules of Council state you can not address another councilman unless it goes through the Mayor first. So, as a point of order, the Mayor’s already said (inaudible) with what you’re about to say. So you should have asked permission to address another councilman if you thought you needed to make remarks”.

Solicitor Ross: “If I may, Mr. Bradley, you are a councilman and you have the right to put on the agenda any order of business that you want to. So, if you want to discuss something like this and you want to put it on the agenda Friday in writing to the Office Manager, you’re entitled to do that. But you have to do that. You’re allowed to bring things to the floor, but not like this.”

Mr. Bradley: “Let me reply to you one thing. I walked in here tonight, and I asked the President Pro Tem”-

Mr. Lewis: “You didn’t tell me what you were gonna say.”

Mr. Bradley: “I understand that. He said under Miscellaneous, I can”-

Solicitor Ross: “You have the full right to do this. You are a councilman. You can

13. Miscellaneous cont'd.

talk about whatever you want. But just do it the proper way.”

Mayor Puckett: “Mr. Bradley, I’m not saying that you can’t bring things up, I’m saying we have rules and you have to do things in a proper way. I preface this to the last time when you brought up a contract and wanted to bring it to the floor when nobody had seen that. I thought that was kind of the wrong way to go about things. When you brought up the contracts with the Village Administrator when he had zero clue, he didn’t have the contract, no one had it, but yet you’re on the floor and he wasn’t here even to defend himself. That’s why you’re put on the agenda. So, whether it be Thomas or whoever it is, they have a chance to rebut what you’re about to say. Or have some facts or whatever. Whether it be a contract or whatever it is, but you know my feelings on soc-it’s a waste of time. But in the same sense, if we’re gonna do things, just put it on the agenda. I don’t have a problem with you speaking your mind. Put it on the agenda and we’ll move forward with it.”

Solicitor Ross: “You have the right to do that as a councilman.”

Mr. Bradley: “Alright.”

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Harvey at 6:48 p.m. All voted aye.

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Mayor

Attest to:

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Fiscal Officer