

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Regular Council Meeting

Visitors: Kenneth Miner, Joe Dugan, Robin Debow, Joe Ryan, Scott Merola, Robert Altaffer, and Odell Houston.

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

1. The September 18, 2019 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Glen M. Puckett at 6:03 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Seitz – absent
Mr. Fisher – 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 September 4, 2019 council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to approve the September 4, 2019 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Fisher to amend the agenda under legislation to change Legislation B from a third reading to a second reading.

Discussion: Mr. Fisher stated that the reason for this is by law once something moves past the first reading, it cannot move on to the third reading with a change. One of the line items needs to be changed. This needs to remain a second reading in order to make this proper.

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- no report.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that he has been meeting regularly with the engineers at GPD and our Solicitor on a number of subjects ranging from the Niles Sewer Agreement to litigations and so forth. Mr. Domitrovich will give an update on everything next month in committees.

Police Lieutenant Ryan Ronghi stated that the Chief distributed his monthly report for August and the report is as follows:

For the month of August, the Police Department received 202 calls from the 911 Center. They investigated 49 formal complaints and conducted 23 traffic stops resulting in 16 citations. They issued 4 parking tickets and 4 parking warnings. The Police Department responded to 7 alarm drops, 2 animal complaints, 4 welfare checks, served 13 Mayor's Court Summons, and 2 lockout calls. They also responded to 5 parking complaints, 2 calls for suspicious activity, 2 calls for suspicious person, conducted traffic control 5 times in a school zone, and responded to 21 medical calls. The Department completed the DTB for the month of August.

Fire Captain John Williamson stated that the report was submitted. The only addition was the final synopsis of the Billy Goat Invitational. This event was covered with a robust response. In previous years, they would send an ambulance and a couple firefighters. Last year, Captain Williamson worked the Billy Goat and had 25 patients drop at one time in 15 minutes. This year, there were four ambulances from area fire departments, Lane ambulance, and command posts. Trumbull Regional Medical Center provided a critical care nurse and a paramedic. This went incredibly well. Mr. Bradley stated that all this preparation worked out very well.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Solicitor Ross no report.

7. Committee reports:

President Pro Tem Mr. Lewis reported on tonight's Caucus where the following items were discussed: agenda, fiscal officer's report, council minutes, legislation, an amendment to the agenda, and October meetings.

Park & Buildings Mr. Harvey stated that the Fall Festival will be hosted by the Girl Scouts. They are in the process of organizing this event. We received a \$500 grant from NOPEC to assist the Girl Scouts with this and other events that they host. Fire Prevention Week will be coming up next month. The bleachers have been removed from the tennis courts and baseball fields. We are still planning to tear down the Scarbrough house. Christmas in the Village plans will begin next month.

Safety Committee Mr. DeZee stated that Captain Williamson gave his report for him.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Lewis stated no report.

Service Committee Mr. Bradley stated that there is progress being made with the Village paying their share to the City of Niles for the wastewater. There were a few issues that needed to be worked through, but, we now need to begin paying the City of Niles. Mr. Bradley stated that he read over the agreement from Medi-Count. We will gain more by the administrative costs that we do not have to incur for our chief and fire department to follow up.

It was moved by Mr. Bradley to allow the Solicitor to look into ending our contract with Quest and enter into a contract with Medi-Count.

Discussion: Mr. Bradley would like to end the contract with Quest on 12/31/19 and enter into a contract with Medi-Count on 1/1/20. This would be a nice transition and easy to follow through the whole fiscal year.

Captain Williamson stated he uses Medi-Count a lot at his other job in Vienna Township and they are incredibly successful. Their return rate is in the high 90%. He believes that we are the only fire department that still uses Quest for billing.

Mr. Fisher believes that this is a good idea. He requests that we get some written information. To make a decision for a contract, he would like some written information

7. Committee reports cont'd.

for review.

Roll call:

Mr. Bradley – aye
Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Motion carried.

Mr. Bradley stated that Third Street and Grant Avenue have been paved. We are still waiting for the striping because they have to let the roads cure. Also, we are still looking into taking care of the striping that is needed on Ohio Avenue. Mr. Domitrovich stated that Trafftech will be our supplier of signs and striping. They have to order the signs. The proofs were submitted to Mr. Domitrovich for approval, which was done this week. Hopefully everything will be in and done next week.

Mayor Puckett wanted to remind all department heads as we go into budget meetings that we owe 9% of the total cost of the Niles Sewer Treatment Plant project. This bill is coming up soon and will be approximately \$189,000 a year. We have budgeted for this. The money will be coming out of our capital fund. He feels this is a very crucial year to see what we are going to do budgetary wise. Mr. Bradley stated that we have known this bill was coming up. We just did not know when we were going to have to pay. We have earmarked some funds to cover this. Mr. Domitrovich stated that we have been blessed with a capital account that has been taking care of the payment prior to this announcement of the rebuilt Niles Sewage plant for 20 years. Our capital account has been covering an expense previous to this one for 20 years, which was the install of a force main line from McDonald to the City of Niles to treat our wastewater. We have earmarked revenue approximately \$197,000 on capital. We have enough to cover the \$186,000 annually and still do maintenance on our own department if we need to. Solicitor Ross stated that Mr. Domitrovich has done tremendous work on this specific issue. He has been adamant in ensuring that the City of Niles is providing everything that he needs to make sure the Village is paying its rightful share. The City of Niles has been cooperative. Not everyone sees this but he wants everyone to know that Mr. Domitrovich does a great job looking at these things.

Mr. Harvey asked about the Sidewalk Project. Mr. Domitrovich stated that he and Mr. Lewis met in a pre-finance meeting to review numbers. He is looking at having this project in the schedule for next year. This will be further discussed in committees.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Planning Commission Mr. Bradley stated that the next Planning Commission meeting will be held on November 13 at 6:00 p.m. If there is something that needs addressed sooner, they will meet before this.

Community Chest Mr. DeZee stated no report.

Let it be noted that Mr. Lewis left the meeting at 6:21 p.m. to coach the McDonald Blue Devils Junior High football game against Mineral Ridge.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Joseph A. Ryan, 715 Connecticut Avenue. Mr. Ryan shared several pictures of various things that he felt needed addressed by council. The first picture was of a piece of metal sticking out of the ground. This is located at the end of E. Seventh Street by the ballfields. There was another picture that stated "Danger No Smoking, No Open Flames". This was a pressure station for Dominion. He feels that if there is one place that needs a working fire hydrant, this would be it. He would like to know why this has not been repaired, replaced, or removed. Solicitor Ross stated that this is Mr. Ryan's chance to speak to council rather than to question and expect answers. If somebody on council would like to answer Mr. Ryan's questions, they can. However, do not have this expectation. Solicitor Ross suggested that, if Mr. Domitrovich would like to answer, he can. If we want to answer at a later date, we can. Solicitor Ross stated that we definitely would like to hear all of Mr. Ryan's input.

Mr. Ryan addressed the next set of pictures, which is the island at Washington and Park Avenue. This is the entrance to Woodland Park. This island is weed infested, in disarray, and quite frankly, just ugly. The next set of pictures is the entrance to Woodland Park. The grass is extremely high. Mr. Ryan would like to know why we are putting rocks where we cut the grass. There is also a picture of a stump in the park that hasn't been ground up. Mr. Ryan would like to know when was the last time we rented the machine that removes the stumps. He asked why picnic tables are allowed in the gazebo. He also stated that he removed trash from the gazebo. Mr. Ryan stated that he sat on council for four years. He is aware of what we can do, what we can't do, and what can be done with the Solicitor's approval.

There is a monument to Mr. Miller from 1923. This monument is falling apart, weed infested, and there is rebar showing. Mr. Ryan would like to know why we don't bulldoze it and plant a tree to honor Mr. Miller. The next picture is a picnic table outside the gazebo. The weeds at the memorial for our service veterans are 39" high. This memorial needs to be cleaned up on a daily basis. Mr. Ryan asked about the Scarborough house on 452 Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Harvey stated that it is being torn

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

down. Mr. Ryan stated that he was glad to hear this because he had a lot of questions about getting our property taxes reduced. He then had a picture of a storm sewer that is completely weed infested on Sixth Street. He said that Third Street is the same way. He believes these are the old-style sewers. The new ones don't seem to have this problem. The next picture is the tree that was over by the drinking fountain. This tree has since been taken down. Mr. Ryan addressed the Mayor with the next picture regarding the trees on Connecticut Avenue. These trees need to be trimmed. The next picture is a storm sewer at the end of New York Avenue and Seventh Street. He said that this was a problem when he was on council. The previous Village Administrator had looked at ways to correct this. This has not been done. A month ago, with all the rain, Mr. Ryan stated that he was pulling weeds out of the storm sewer.

Mr. Ryan then addressed the baseball fields. He showed a picture of a dugout, where there has been a lot of trash left behind. There was another picture of the varsity baseball field. He stated that this doesn't look like a Field of Dreams. He is embarrassed because these ballfields are in his backyard. Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Harvey when was the last time he looked at the roofs of the dugouts and concession stand. Mr. Ryan stated that the pictures show the shingles coming off. He stated that we can either repair them now or replace them later. He stated that he picked up a bunch of trash in a half hour. He asked how many park attendants we had this year. He stated that he knows for a fact they were sitting on their phones and suggested that, next year, the park attendants pick up the trash and pull weeds at the war memorial. Mr. Ryan stated that he wouldn't be at the meeting had the Mayor got back to him. He complained in person about the intersection at East Ninth Street and New Jersey Avenue. Mayor Puckett asked when he complained to which Mr. Ryan replied about two months ago. He talked with Mr. Domitrovich about this. Mr. Domitrovich said that he was trying to work on it and that he had a plan. This is the end of September. He stated that every time he leaves his house and goes toward Marshall Road, he gets mad. If he wants to live in Girard and drive on their streets, he'll move there. This can easily be fixed but it hasn't. As a resident and taxpayer, he stated that he isn't happy.

Mayor Puckett stated that he would be happy to talk with Mr. Ryan right after the meeting. Mr. Ryan said that he does not have a ball game to go to like some other councilman has. Mayor Puckett stated that he let Mr. Ryan go over his allotted time. He stated that he will say a thousand times that your family comes first. Mr. Lewis has other things to do. Everyone on council is extremely part-time with the exception of Village employees. Everyone puts a ton of time in with very little or no pay. When someone has something, whether it be work to provide for their family, this is something they should do. This is Mayor Puckett's opinion. He stated that Mr. Ryan

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

may disagree. He then said that we are going to move on.

Mr. Bradley stated that he is a relative of Mr. Ryan. He doesn't care who did this. There was a lot of thought and emotion that went into doing this to bring it to the attention that it needed to come to. This was not a spontaneous decision. He actually brought things that meant something to him. He commends Mr. Ryan for that. Mayor Puckett stated that he does appreciate the work that Mr. Ryan put into his concerns. However, he feels that his comments about leaving the meeting for a football game were an attack on somebody who didn't deserve it. Mayor Puckett stated that Mr. Lewis is here every week. Mr. Ryan stated that councilmen get paid to be at council meetings, paid to represent him, and paid to do a job. For him to just say, this is great but I'm leaving is not cool. Mr. Ryan stated that nobody on council while he was a councilman ever bailed on a meeting. Mayor Puckett stated that he has been here for at least 10 years now and there have been multiple times where a councilman has left for personal reasons. Mr. Ryan stated that personal is one thing. A football game is different. If you need to take care of a sick relative or an emergency at home, he gets that. But if you're leaving to go coach football and you're a member of Village Council, let's get it straight on the record. If you ran and you ask for my vote so that you could represent me, is he representing me tonight? Mr. Ryan stated that this is not a trick question. He then said that he didn't have an issue with anybody at this table. He then stated that Mr. Domitrovich probably feels like he got beat up tonight. He stated that when he was councilman, he wanted a larger pay raise for the street department. He complemented Mr. Domitrovich last week on how quickly the Village got cleaned up immediately after the storm. Quite frankly, we throw more on the Village Administrator than we should. He should be paid much more for what he's doing. Mayor Puckett again told Mr. Ryan that he has already let him go over his time. There are valid issues that need to be discussed. He asked Mr. Ryan if they could talk afterwards to which Mr. Ryan replied absolutely.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Third Reading Of Ordinance No. 3237-19 Approving The Editing And Inclusion Of Certain Ordinances As Parts Of The Various Component Codes Of The Codified Ordinances.

11. Legislation cont'd.

It was moved by Mr. Fisher that Ordinance No. 3237-19 pass third reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Fisher – aye
Mr. Bradley – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

B. Second 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. Bradley that the Ordinance pass second reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Bradley – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

C. Third Reading Of Resolution No. 1812-19 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. Bradley that Resolution No. 1812-19 pass third reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Bradley – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Canada stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$85,260.92.

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. Bradley to accept the Fiscal Officer's report and pay all bills.

Roll call:

Mr. Bradley – aye
Mr. Fisher – aye

Mr. Harvey – aye
Mr. DeZee – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous:

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Harvey at 6:44 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer