

McDonald Village Council
Thursday, December 21, 2023
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Fire Chief Fred Marcum, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Visitors: Jill Puckett, Cliff DeZee, Stephanie Lewis, Ron Jones, Kim Jones-Schmidt, and Donald Smith.

Press: Bob Coupland, *Tribune Chronicle*

1. The December 21, 2023 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Glen M. Puckett at 6:06 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – present
Mr. Joynes – absent
Mr. Jones – present

Mr. Schmidt – present
Mrs. Reckard – absent
Mr. Metzinger – 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 December 6, 2023 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to accept the agenda as presented:

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- This is Mayor Puckett's last meeting and he would like to thank everybody. It's been great working with everyone, and moving on...

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich wished Mayor Puckett well in his future endeavors. Mr. Domitrovich stated that Mayor Puckett is a great public servant and he should continue doing that wherever he goes. It has been a pleasure working with the mayor for all these years. Mr. Domitrovich stated that they have been through a lot of good times and a lot of controversial times but all to the benefit of the Village and its residents. In the immortal words of our late, great Councilman Mike O'Brien, "carry on".

Police Chief Bill Woodley is on vacation this week. No report.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum thanked Mayor Puckett for the opportunity to serve with him the past year and wishes him the best. To date, the Fire Department has had 492 calls for service, most of which they have been able to answer themselves. The total billing for the year is \$98,437.20 for ambulance runs. This is the total bill that the Fire Department submits but does not receive between agreements of insurance companies, etc. Realistically, it would be about half of that. Revenues for 2023 so far are \$39,816.96. There is a lot that is open and aging right now. Currently, the revenue per transport is \$228.25. Chief Marcum believes that in March, when most of the collections are completed, the number will be right around \$300. The Fire Department is waiting on \$22,636.37 to come in.

Chief Marcum received notification from the County on the ARPA grant. McDonald is eighth in line for their legal review and final approval. This was submitted for additional PPE to help increase the radios as well as other items. There was a failure with the Lucas machine that was gifted to the Village. This machine was 11 years old. Chief Marcum stated that, after trade-in, the cost of a new machine would be \$15,058.01. He is going to file through the BWC for a grant. If this grant is not approved, Chief Marcum is looking at other options.

The Fire Department has been updating the Chief's office, dayroom and kitchen for the past few months. Chief Marcum described the changes that are taking place. Chief Marcum stated that tomorrow is his one-year anniversary with the Village. Serving in this community is a privilege and an honor.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Solicitor Ross stated that it has been a pleasure working with Mayor Puckett.

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, and legislation. There are five pieces of legislation for emergency readings. Due to not having the majority necessary to suspend the Rules of Council, Mr. Lewis would like to remove the legislation for this evening.

It was moved by Mr. Lewis to remove legislation A through E.

Roll call:

Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

January Council meetings will be held on January 3 and 18. Committee meetings will be held on January 17. All meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Lewis stated that it has been a pleasure serving with Mayor Puckett. Mayor Puckett has been an elected official since 2012, five years as a member of Council and six years as Mayor. He has got the Village through a lot. He, along with Solicitor Ross, has navigated the Village through many lawsuits, the COVID pandemic, and the retirements of some extremely tenured employees. We have a new ambulance and an entire police fleet. Mayor Puckett righted the income tax collections. At one time, we had nearly 1000 non-filers in the Village. Mayor Puckett was the guy that righted the ship. We have maintained fiscal responsibility and had clean audits from the State. Mayor Puckett had some firsts in the Village. He brought in the 100-year celebration, Oktoberfest after COVID, and the beer tent which has been a great fundraiser. One person in the room that deserves a little more credit than Mayor Puckett is probably his wife, Jill. "Mama Jill" puts up with just as much, if not more than he does. On behalf of everyone in the room, Mr. Lewis thanked Jill and she was presented with a gift. Mr. Lewis stated that, one thing about Mayor Puckett is that he will never back down when faced with adversity and he always puts the Village first. Mayor Puckett was also presented with a gift from Council and the Administration.

Park & Buildings Mr. Joynes was not in attendance. No report.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Safety Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that the Village is better off with having had Mayor Puckett serve for the last six years. He is glad to continue working with Mr. Schmidt and is looking forward to working with Mr. Smith. Mr. Metzinger wished his son a Happy 9th Birthday.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Schmidt stated that his report is much shorter in light of not having legislation this evening. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mr. Schmidt discussed how he met Mayor Puckett and how the mayor encouraged him to run for Council. Mr. Schmidt stated that, more important than anything, he gained a friend.

Service Committee Mr. Lewis stated no report.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated that there will be an upcoming meeting in January with a confirmed date to follow. He stated that it has been a pleasure working with Mayor Puckett for the last few years. Mr. Jones stated that Mayor Puckett made decisions that were the best for the Village and did not listen to the outside noise.

Community Chest Mrs. Reckard was not in attendance. Mr. Metzinger stated that the next meeting is Thursday, January 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

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. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$70,124.51.

I, Stephanie Smith, 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. Schmidt to accept the Fiscal Officer's report and pay all bills.

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd:

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Lewis – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Jones at 6:25 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer