

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
Regular Council Meeting

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

Visitors: Ken Miner, Firefighter/EMT David Bontrager, Firefighter/Paramedic Dara Sandy, Officer John O’Neill, and Sergeant Brandon Caraway.

1. The February 7, 2024 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:22 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – absent*
Mrs. Reckard – present
Mr. Metzinger – present

Mr. Joynes – present
Mr. Jones – present
Mr. Smith – present

* Mr. Schmidt was not in attendance due to his son’s MVAC championship basketball game. Mayor Lewis wished the Blue Devils the best of luck.

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 January 18, 2024 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Jones to approve the January 18, 2024 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Jones – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Jones to amend the agenda and add Legislation C:

Roll call:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Mr. Jones – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated that for the month of January, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$159, court costs \$643, additional costs \$39, City revenue from fines \$1,579, Niles Municipal Court fines \$925.65 and parking tickets \$65 for a grand total of \$3,410.65.

Mayor Lewis stated that Officer John O'Neill, Firefighter/EMT David Bontrager, and Firefighter/Paramedic Dara Sandy are in attendance this evening. He received an email from resident, Tom Colarich. He had called 911 in mid-December for his mother-in-law. These three individuals showed up on scene. They were prompt, professional, and conducted themselves exactly as we would expect. Mr. Colarich felt that they definitely needed to be recognized. Mayor Lewis appreciates all of their hard work.

Also, Mayor Lewis, Mrs. Reckard, and Mr. Domitrovich met with Ed Davis from Eastgate. They discussed the grant funding with the Village. Mrs. Reckard attended a meeting this past week. Mayor Lewis invited Council to attend a Meet and Greet event at the R.E.S.T. program.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated no report.

Police Lieutenant Ryan Ronghi stated that he will have the January report for the next meeting. Eight new tasers have been ordered and will be received in June. This is a five-year contract with Axon.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum stated that the January billing was an increase of \$14,500.00 compared to last year. There have been 21 transports and 35 calls this year. Chief Marcum will be filing for some equipment through the FEMA grant. All gear received through the State Fire Marshal is in service. Chief Marcum hopes to have some BWC grant gear in next week. The backup ambulance is in need of repair with an estimate of \$7,821.31. Chief Marcum stated that, at some point, there will need to be a discussion on this as he does not have it in his budget to repair. The MARCs radios from the State Fire Marshal grant were ordered yesterday. Chief Marcum filed for the State Fire Marshal's equipment grant again in the amount of \$15,000.00.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Chief Marcum thanked Dara and David for their hard work and professionalism to the department. He feels that these two reflect everything that he looks for in personnel.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that the NOPEC NEC grant and agreement will be submitted after Council approves the resolution. The total available funds will be \$13,251.00. Of this amount, \$4408.00 will expire on November 30. The NOPEC Community Sponsorship grant is an annual \$500 grant. The profile has been filled out and will be used for a Village sponsored event. The Village of McDonald, Ohio Administration Facebook page is up and we have 384 followers.

Solicitor Ross stated no report.

7. Committee reports:

Mr. Jones gave the Caucus report in Mr. Schmidt's absence and it is as follows: Caucus met this evening and the following items were discussed: agenda, Fiscal Officer's report, Council minutes, legislation. Added to the agenda was legislation C for the safety forces. March meetings will be held on March 5, 6, and 21 with Committees being on the 5th. All meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that a brief discussion was held regarding the splash pad hours. Possible options are later hours or Saturdays periodically throughout the summer. It is imperative that our park attendants are supervising during all hours of the splash pad.

Safety Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that the tuition assistance agreement is almost complete. Also, eight tasers have been ordered. Mr. Metzinger thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their service to the residents.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that there is a second reading of the permanent budget. There are some changes from the first reading. Mr. Smith reviewed these changes with Council. He stated that Council entered into Executive Session to discuss compensation of public employees.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard stated that a few of our elected officials participated in the Sunshine Law webinar. Mrs. Reckard, Mr. Domitrovich and Mayor Lewis met with Ed Davis from Eastgate to discuss the 2024 Street Paving Project. The Village was granted the funds, although the timeframe is contingent. Also discussed were ways in how we can obtain grants. Mr. Davis gave them a roadmap showing that Second Street can be 100% federally funded. Mrs. Reckard attended a TAC meeting at Eastgate and

7. Committee reports cont'd.

obtained a lot of information. Additionally, the Village employees are receiving their drug-free workplace training. Mrs. Reckard reminded Council that the "Meet the Mayor" luncheon is in the Community Room on Friday. Tony Ramos, from NOPEC, will also be there.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated no report. He thanked Officer O'Neill, Dara Sandy, and David Bontrager for their efforts and bravery.

Community Chest Mrs. Reckard added to Mr. Jones' comments and stated that police officers, firefighters, and EMTs put their lives on the line first to think of others. She appreciates their service.

Community Chest had thank-you notes from the Oktoberfest, a donation from Ava Kuntz, who is our Grandma Elf. There were two vouchers given from Giant Eagle. Community Chest also elected new officers. The next meeting will be held in March.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Metzinger thanked Chief Marcum for doing all the initial legwork. We are looking to involve our Police Department. Mr. Domitrovich is getting information on using PFM as a levy structure. If we decide to put a levy on the ballot, we will be completely transparent to our residents and ensure the information is as accurate as possible to operate our safety forces.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Second Reading Of An Ordinance To Make Permanent Appropriations For 2024 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 2024.

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

11. Legislation cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

B. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing All Actions Necessary To Accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Energized Community Grants.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that Resolution No. 1899-24 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

C. First Reading Of A Resolution Commending Police Officer John O'Neill, Firefighter/Paramedic Dara Sandy, And Firefighter/EMT David Bontrager For Their Service To The Village And Its Residents.

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

11. Legislation cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger that the Resolution pass first, second, and third reading as read.

Discussion: Mr. Metzinger thanked Officer John O'Neill, Firefighter/Paramedic Dara Sandy, and Firefighter/EMT David Bontrager for their service. Mayor Lewis stated that what they do day in and day out is exceptional. He told Chief Marcum and Lieutenant Ronghi that they have built safety forces that are second to none in this area.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$120,323.59.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Joynes at 6:52 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer