

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday, March 6, 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: Kenneth Miner, Dan and Jess Jamison, Hermilee Gomez-Torres, Anthony Moore, and Trevor Willoughby.

1. The March 6, 2024 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:05 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – present
Mr. Jones – present
Mr. Smith – absent*

*Mayor Lewis stated that Mr. Smith is out of town on business and is excused this evening.

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 February 21, 2024 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the February 21, 2024 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

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

Roll call:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated that for the month of February, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$50, court costs \$264, overpayment/adjustment \$1.00, City revenue from fines \$627, Niles Municipal Court fines \$1,393 and parking tickets \$235 for a grand total of \$2,570.00.

Mayor Lewis would like to promote Dan Jamison to the rank of Lieutenant at the recommendation of Fire Chief Fred Marcum.

It was moved by Mr. Joynes to approve the promotion of Dan Jamison to the rank of Lieutenant.

Discussion: Mayor Lewis thanked Dan Jamison for his years of service. It is great to have more like him around. Dan has given us 18+ years and we hope he gives us 18+ more.

Roll call:

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

Fire Chief Marcum stated that every promotion to him is very special. He knows that the Department will be in the very best hands. One tradition that they have in the fire service is the Pinning of the Badge. Chief Marcum then presented Lieutenant Dan Jamison with the badge which his wife put on his uniform.

Mayor Lewis stated that we will be accepting applications for the park program shortly. He would like to appoint Heidi Hoffman as the Park Supervisor for the 2024 Park Program season.

It was moved by Mr. Jones to accept the Mayor's appointment of Heidi Hoffman as Summer Park Program Supervisor.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that we are searching for a permanent R.E.S.T. Program Director. Applications are being accepted at the Village offices. Any interested parties can contact the Village office. In the interim, Office Manager Amy Cunningham has offered to step up and assume part of that role. In addition, Chris Ellks, who is currently an instructor with the R.E.S.T. program is also going to assume part of that role on a temporary basis until we find someone. Mayor Lewis thanked both ladies for stepping up when we need someone to fill the role.

Mayor Lewis had a phone call with a private equity who represents a multi-million dollar business. This business may have interest in the U.S. Steel property. It was a fruitful conversation. Mayor Lewis can not disclose any information at this time. As he gains more information, he will make it known to the public.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the curbside branch program will resume on April 4. He commended Chief Marcum for the pin ceremony to promote Lieutenant Dan Jamison. Mr. Domitrovich thinks the world of him.

Police Lieutenant Ryan Ronghi stated that the Police Department had three applicants to fill Officer Lampkin's position. All three fell through. The officers will be working a lot of overtime. The parttime officers are also helping by filling in open shifts. Lieutenant Ronghi congratulated Lieutenant Jamison as well.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum stated that there have been 61 calls to date. The year-to-date total billing is \$22,732.00 and year-to-date revenue is \$12,587.00. The Department is substantially ahead of where they were this time last year. There is \$9,224.27 left in aging from 2023. Transports for 2024 are at 32. Chief Marcum has been working on three FEMA grants. He is hoping to get at least one of the three grants. Chief Marcum is exploring eligibility into the Safer grant. If the Village qualifies, he intends to apply to get compensation for 24-hour service. The Fire Department instilled an annual evaluation of the mutual aid system. Chief Marcum and the Assistant Chief have been

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

working on job descriptions and rules and regulations as well as the SOPs. They are still reviewing and editing. Chief Marcum was contacted by someone regarding a recent call that the Fire Department was on and commended the staff.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that she will be scheduling a Records Retention meeting in April to determine what needs to be shred. Chris Ellks and Mrs. Cunningham will be working together to keep the Community Room going. They will be meeting next Friday to discuss ideas. Mrs. Cunningham would welcome anyone willing to volunteer. She also spoke with the Mayor regarding a need to develop an application for park attendants. In the past, the students have submitted letters of interest. Mrs. Cunningham is suggesting that an application accompany the letters. She will be working with the Mayor and Mr. Domitrovich to create the application. This will enable the Mayor to make the best decisions for our park. Mrs. Cunningham congratulated Dan Jamison as well. She is happy to have him back on the Department and that he was promoted to Lieutenant.

Solicitor Ross stated that he and Marijo have collected some of the old income tax files. There have been 20 cases filed this year. Solicitor Ross commended Marijo in doing a nice job.

7. Committee reports:

President Pro Tem Mr. Schmidt stated that Caucus met this evening and the following items were discussed: agenda, Fiscal Officer's report, Council minutes, legislation, fire promotion of Mr. Jamison, Summer Park Program supervisor Heidi Hoffman, interim R.E.S.T. Program Director, and U. S. Steel property. Mr. Schmidt congratulated Lieutenant Jamison for his continued service.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that the Easter Egg Hunt is March 23 at 11:00 a.m. This event is hosted by Jaclyn Kuntz and her Girl Scout troop. The rain date is March 24 at 11:00 a.m. This event is for ages pre-K up to sixth grade. The pickle ball courts are now open. Mr. Jones stated that the Beautification Committee may be painting the white lines on the basketball courts. The Firemen's Festival is scheduled for June 26-29.

It was moved by Mr. Jones to grant permission to the McDonald Firefighter Association, Inc. to utilize the Woodland Park facilities for the annual Homecoming Festival from June 26-29.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

Mr. Jones stated that we are looking into new LED lights, dividers, and possibly stalls for the park restrooms. There were options discussed regarding a safety issue around field B at the baseball fields. Mr. Jones stated that they are looking into signage and redirecting parking to another area where it is safer. Also discussed was installing some speed bumps at the entrances and exits to slow down traffic. Mr. Jones stated that there is a Farmer's Market being planned as a fundraiser for the park this summer. Dates for this event are still to be determined. The Niles boys' tennis team gave a \$200 donation for the use of our tennis courts. Also, Dan Martins and his wife Colby, donated games and toys to the park which the Village appreciates.

Safety Committee Mr. Joynes stated that there is a second reading for the Fire Department Tuition Assistance Program. The backup ambulance has been repaired and is back in service. The cost to repair was much less than the original estimate. Mr. Joynes congratulated Dan Jamison.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Schmidt gave the report in Mr. Smith's absence. Mr. Domitrovich informed the committee that he will be purchasing a new lawnmower to replace the old one that is more than 15 years old. Another mower that is approximately 12 years old will remain in service. Mr. Domitrovich received three quotes-all coming in at approximately \$10,000 which is within his budget. Mr. Smith is currently attending a Remote Work Symposium this afternoon. The topics to be discussed are how remote work is impacting municipalities and what, if any, legislation may be in store regarding municipal income tax. The committee entered executive session at 7:23 p.m. to discuss the compensation of public employees with no business to follow. The session concluded at 7:51 p.m.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard stated that details regarding Safe Ohio, which is a Trumbull County grant were discussed. This would help our residents in removing lead-based paint, siding, windows and doors. They have to meet certain qualifications to be eligible for this. Dan Martins, an alumnus of McDonald who works for Trumbull County could come with a colleague to explain this further. The next TAC meeting at Eastgate is April 4 at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Reckard and the Mayor will attend the meeting. Curbside

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Spring cleanup is set for April 16 and 17 during the regular garbage pickup. Mr. Domitrovich stated that there is a change in the capital project for the water tanks. The Village is not getting the funding that was anticipated. He will be working with Suez, who will be out March 11 with a new quote and reinspection of the tanks. Mrs. Reckard stated that there was a sewage plant claim with Quality Metals. Also, she thanked Mr. Domitrovich for all his guidance and everything he does for the Village. Mrs. Reckard congratulated Dan Jamison on his promotion.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated no report.

Community Chest Mrs. Reckard stated that the Community Chest meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Community Room at 5:30 p.m. At the last meeting, they discussed funds for the Easter egg hunt, new officials were elected, and a volunteer sheet was distributed. If anyone is in need, please let the Community Chest know.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Metzinger stated no report.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Second Reading Of An Ordinance Amending The McDonald Fire Department Tuition Assistance Program To Promote The Betterment Of The Village Fire Department.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$113,276.17.

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.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Joynes at 6:38 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer