

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
Regular Council Meeting

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

Visitors: Ken Miner.

1. The April 3, 2024 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:24 p.m.

Roll call:

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

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

*Mayor Lewis stated that Mrs. Reckard is excused this evening. She is dealing with a personal matter.

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 March 21, 2024 Council minutes.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated that for the month of March, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$70, court costs \$335, overpayment/adjustment \$3.55, City revenue from fines \$713, Niles Municipal Court fines \$887.60, drug fund \$3.40, and parking tickets \$35 for a grand total of \$2,047.55.

Mayor Lewis stated that he would like to appoint Colleen Chance as our R.E.S.T. Program Director effective immediately.

It was moved by Mr. Jones to accept the Mayor's appointment of Colleen Chance as R.E.S.T. Program Director.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis would like to appoint Curt Kuntz to Planning Commission.

It was moved by Mr. Jones to accept the Mayor's appointment of Curt Kuntz to the Planning Commission.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Mayor Lewis received notification from Police Chief Bill Woodley that he is intending to retire. He is awaiting on information from the State for final dates. Mayor Lewis thanked Chief Woodley for his many years of service and wished him all the best.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that Suez Corp. performed a water tower inspection last month. They provided a review to the Village. Mr. Domitrovich is reworking a capital project that started out last year. This is largely cosmetic and has nothing to do with the quality of water. Also, the Village has been approved by Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste District for the scrap tire grant. This will take place later in the year. Curbside spring cleanup will be on April 16 and 17 depending on the day of regular trash pickup. Also, branch pickup will begin April 4 and continue every Thursday, weather permitting. This program will continue until the fall.

Police Lieutenant Ryan Ronghi apologized for not having a monthly activity report for Council. He will try to have this for the next meeting. They interviewed a potential candidate for the Police Department. A meeting has been set for the candidate and Mayor Lewis. If all goes all, this candidate will be on the schedule for May.

Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Bickerstaff stated that YTD EMS billing is \$30,102.00. YTD revenues are \$15,071.00 with an average of approximately \$342.00 per transport. It was decided to not pursue the Safer grant due to the fact that the funds can only be used for full-time personnel. They had meetings with several other departments regarding mutual aid. This is needed but can't be used as a crutch. Asst. Chief Bickerstaff has a meeting scheduled with the new Howland Fire Chief on April 16 to discuss technical rescue. Chief Marcum went through a fire inspector class and takes his State test tomorrow. We will then have four State fire inspectors on the Department. There was an issue with our tornado siren. Chief Marcum and Mr. Domitrovich investigated and discovered the siren was not working. They were able to repair it and it is now operational.

Officer Manager Amy Cunningham stated that the park attendant application was created and approved by the Mayor and Solicitor. Applications will be accepted through April 24. This will give the Mayor ample time to review the applications and make appointments at the first meeting in May. Civics Day is scheduled for Friday. During lunch, there will be a few residents sharing memories of growing up in the Village. These residents include Laurie Smith, Kerry Reckard, Ryan Ronghi, and Thomas Domitrovich. Mrs. Cunningham thanked the Mayor and Council for appointing Colleen Chance as the new R.E.S.T. Program director. In the absence of a director, we were able

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

to maintain our current programs and develop the April and May calendars. Mayor Lewis thanked Mrs. Cunningham and Mr. Domitrovich for their help with the program.

Solicitor Ross stated no report.

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, appointments of Colleen Chance to R.E.S.T. Program Director and Curt Kuntz to Planning Commission, the retirement of Chief Woodley and the Fire Association festival discussion.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to appoint Mr. Smith and Mr. Joynes as Council representatives to meet with the McDonald Village Fire Department Association at a meeting to be scheduled soon.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

Parks & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that the steps leading to Council Chambers will be updated. McDonald Schools recently purchased some dirt for the baseball and softball fields. The Village employees will take care of the dirt once the weather breaks. Mr. Jones thanked Mr. O'Connell and McDonald Schools along with Mr. Domitrovich and the Village employees for getting this done.

Safety Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that the Safer grant for the Fire Department does not seem like it will be feasible for the Village. The Fire Department is looking for other recruitment ideas including the Junior Firefighter Program. Mr. Metzinger thanked the citizen that reached out regarding the tornado siren not working. He encouraged everyone to be weather aware. Mr. Domitrovich met with Tactical Protection in regards to installing cameras around Village properties. The Fire Department was awarded an additional \$55,000.00 to upgrade equipment throughout their department.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that there are four pieces of legislation for a first reading. With the retirement of Chief Woodley, it was necessary to amend the budget to establish sufficient funds in those line items that will be affected. The transfer resolution is to permit the Fiscal Officer to make that transfer. The third and fourth pieces of legislation are due to Council's review of employee compensation and benefits. In the third piece of legislation, Columbus Day will be added as a holiday. Christmas Eve will be redefined as a full holiday rather than 3:00 p.m. to midnight. The second piece of legislation will amend the longevity pay and vacation. Longevity pay will be increased from \$2.00 per month to \$3.00 per month for each continuous year of service. Also, the cap on longevity pay will be removed. It is currently capped at 25 years of service. For vacation time, employees completing one year but less than five years will be allotted two weeks. Employees with five years but less than 12 will be allotted three weeks' vacation. The previous threshold was eight years to attain three weeks of vacation. After completing 12 years but less than 18 years, vacation will be at four weeks. Previously, the threshold was 15 years to attain the fourth week. After completion of 18 years of service, there will be five weeks of vacation. Mr. Smith thanked everyone for the work they did and thanked Mrs. Cunningham for some suggestions that came from the staff. Council appreciates the opportunity to make these corrections.

Service Committee Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Domitrovich and his department for fixing the water line a few weeks back. He appreciates all the hard work they did and they worked together with other local municipalities. The Mayor will reach out to Tony Ramos from NOPEC to schedule hours in the Community Room. Residents will be able to speak directly with Mr. Ramos regarding electric rates. Spring cleanup is scheduled for April 16 and 17, whichever day regular trash pickup is scheduled. There are to be no tires or liquid waste put to the curb. We are waiting to hear back from Ed Davis with Eastgate for our street repair project which includes Ninth Street, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated that Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for April 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Community Chest Mrs. Reckard was not in attendance. No report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that he has no report. If this is something we're going to do, we need to get things done. We will need to have some conversation regarding this at the next Committee meetings.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

- 9. Old Business: none.
- 10. New Business: none.
- 11. Legislation:

A. First Reading Of An Ordinance To Amend Appropriation For 2024 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 2024.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

B. First Reading Of A Resolution Transferring Funds Within Various Funds Within The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, For A Period Beginning January 1, 2024 And Ending December 31, 2024.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that the resolution pass first reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

C. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Ordinance No. 2576-91 Concerning Employee Holidays, Which Provision Is Currently Set Forth In Section 161.04 (A) Of The McDonald Village Codified Ordinances.

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

11. Legislation cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

D. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Ordinance No. 3198-16 Concerning Employee Vacation And Longevity Pay, Which Provisions Are Currently Set Forth In Sections 161.03(A) and 161.08 Of The McDonald Village Codified Ordinances.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$49,686.64.

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. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Joynes at 6:53 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer