

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday May 8, 2024
Regular Council Meeting

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

Visitors: Ken Miner.

1. The May 8, 2024 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:15 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – present	Mr. Joynes – present
Mrs. Reckard – present	Mr. Jones – present
Mr. Metzinger – present	Mr. Smith – 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 April 17, 2024 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the April 17, 2024 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye	Mr. Joynes – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye	Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye	Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to amend the agenda and remove legislation C:

Discussion: Mr. Schmidt stated that Solicitor Ross discussed the reasoning for this in Caucus.

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated that for the month of April, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$110, court costs \$455, City revenue from fines \$1265, Niles Municipal Court fines \$522.25, drug fund \$40, and parking tickets \$200 for a grand total of \$2,592.25.

Mayor Lewis participated in a focus group with NOPEC which resulted in a \$250 grant to the Village. The Mayor would like this grant to go toward the Park Improvement Fund.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to accept the NOPEC grant of \$250.00.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis received a letter from resident, Katherine Dikun, which he read into the record. She commended our EMS service for their kindness while on a call at her home. Mayor Lewis stated that this just shows the type of people we have in our safety forces and he appreciates their hard work.

Mayor Lewis would like to appoint the following as the 2024 park attendants: Layla Villanueva, Briahna McCombs, Alaina Stitt, Aiden Sierra, Leena Farhan, Isabella O'Brien, and Michaylen Lewis. He would also like to appoint Logan Presco and Zachary Shobel as the summer Street Department helpers.

It was moved by Mr. Jones to accept the Mayor's appointments for seasonal hires to the park and Street Department.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis read Chief Woodley's retirement letter into the record.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to accept Chief Woodley's retirement.

Discussion: Mayor Lewis stated that he has built a great relationship with Chief Woodley. He and Chief Ronghi were instrumental in helping him learn the ropes. They have had several conversations over the years about what the Chief would do when he retired. Mayor Lewis knows that Chief Woodley will enjoy his boat. He wished the Chief and his wife all the best. Some may or may not know that Chief Woodley got to go through a lot of different situations during his time with the police force. The hard work of all the police is greatly appreciated. When someone retires from police work, they need to be commended. Mayor Lewis wished Chief Woodley all the best. As a friend, he would like to say thank you.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

It has been standard procedure in the past that the retiring officer have the opportunity to purchase his off-duty police issued weapon. Mayor Lewis read Chief Woodley's request to do so.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to approve the purchase of Chief Woodley's off-duty weapon for the price of \$1.00.

5. Mayors' report cont'd.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the Memorial Day service will be on Sunday, May 26. He has been successful in scheduling a number of things so this will be a nice, solid event. Mr. Domitrovich will report more at the next meeting. In addition, he has been in communication with Heidi Hoffman, our park supervisor, regarding the summer program.

Police Lieutenant Ryan Ronghi wished Chief Woodley good luck in retirement. He hopes the Chief enjoys himself. Lieutenant Ronghi discussed the parking issue at the baseball fields. He was at the ballfields yesterday and several people came up to him very upset about the parking issue. Lieutenant Ronghi didn't know anything about this. He was never told. He's assuming Chief Woodley knew about it but he had no answer for these people. Nobody was at the ballfields that made these decisions. Lieutenant Ronghi sees that the ropes have since been taken down. The one way in and one way out is a good idea but you can't have the parking the way it was set up. It narrows down the one-way road. It was a mess. Council discussed this and it has been taken care of. Lieutenant Ronghi asked that, moving forward, anything traffic related, traffic patterns, traffic safety be discussed with the Police Department. Hopefully, they can help to make a better decision. The ballfield parking lot has been like that for years. The speed bumps were a great idea. The one-way in and one-way out is about all we can do.

Lieutenant Ronghi stated that Officer Pesa is now on the schedule. He is on the road and it was a smooth transition. Officer Pesa does need to participate in a two-day refresher course since he was retired. This will be done in October. The four new MBTs that were purchased with ARP funds should be here next week. The Department should have the new tasers and be fully trained and ready to use them by mid-summer.

Lieutenant Ronghi stated that the Department is considering a dunking booth at the festival as a fundraiser for the F.O.P. Also, Officer O'Neill, Officer Smith, Sergeant Caraway, and Lieutenant Ronghi are working on Safety Day attractions for the kids.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

They are looking at bounce houses and big slides as well as other activities. This will definitely be an upgrade from what it's been the last couple of years.

Lastly, the Department is in the process of taking Chief Woodley's unmarked cruiser and getting it outfitted and on the road as a marked unit. This takes about six weeks.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum was not in attendance. No report.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated no report. She wanted to say that Chief Woodley was here for 26 years. She had the opportunity to work with him the last five of those years. He cared about the Village and was proud to be the Police Chief. Not only was he the Chief, Mrs. Cunningham said that he was a friend. Mrs. Cunningham wished him all the best in his retirement and she hopes he enjoys his boat.

Solicitor Ross stated that he worked with Chief Woodley since 2008. He always enjoyed his relationship with the Chief. He was a true law enforcement official. Chief Woodley handled a lot of tough situations behind the scenes as Chief. He's a good guy and Solicitor Ross calls him a friend as well. He wishes him nothing but the best in retirement and hopes the Chief enjoys it.

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, Police Chief retirement, NOPEC grant, summer park attendants, festival discussion and Oktoberfest date approval. Mr. Schmidt agreed with what everyone said about Chief Woodley. He wished Chief Woodley and his wife the best and hopes he enjoys his retirement.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that the work on fixing the splash pad issues will begin soon and it should be ready by the summer. Mr. Jones stated that the Nature Works grants are being looked into for the park. The foyer and stairs leading up to Council Chambers has been renovated. In addition, the flooring in the office bathroom has been replaced. Thanks to Tondo Carpet for a job well done. The June date for the Farmer's Market has been cancelled. The Farmer's Market is still scheduled for July 20, August 17, and September 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Ramsay pavilion. The Oktoberfest is scheduled for Saturday, October 12. Times will be announced at a later date.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

It was moved by Mr. Jones to allow the volunteers to have the Oktoberfest and utilize the Woodland Park facilities for October 12.

Roll call:

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

Safety Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that the garage light in the police bay is fixed thanks to Mr. Domitrovich and his crew. Also discussed were some of the issues at the baseball fields. Hopefully, this is now remedied. The Fire Department has been working with Girard and Weathersfield on some training. The utility company, Team Fishel, has a few areas to repair from underground fiber optics. Safety Committee went into executive session at 7:21 p.m. and exited at 7:44 p.m. Mr. Metzinger wished Chief Woodley the best in his retirement and hopes he enjoys it.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that there are three pieces of legislation: two third readings and one first reading. The RITA annual meeting is coming up in June. We will be working to send a representative to this meeting. Also, the Village is waiting for direction from the State Auditor's group regarding setting up the fund that will allow us to capture the ARP funds that are coming in for the Fire Department. Mr. Smith wished Chief Woodley well. He does not offer his services in consulting how to stay in retirement since he's lousy at it. Mr. Smith only made it 18 months before going back to work.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard stated that Stan Bell, the Director of Governmental Affairs and Special Projects Coordinator for the Trumbull County Engineers, was in attendance at Committee meetings to introduce himself and is here to help the Village in any way. Mr. Domitrovich stated that GPD is working on the sidewalk project. These funds will not be available until 2025. This would be for specific sidewalks in our older areas of the Village. This is a 10% matching grant through Eastgate. Mr. Domitrovich met with suppliers from Western Reserve Mechanical, Inc. to get the right pump for the pump station. A different pump was sent by mistake. This will be a pump to use to change out for backup. Solicitor Ross and Mr. Domitrovich met with Trumbull County Sanitary Department. The Village supplies water and removes wastewater to and from parts of Weathersfield yet we do not have anything in writing. They are working on this. Mayor Lewis has been working on the ACGP grant. He and Mr. Domitrovich have to

7. Committee reports cont'd.

complete a certain amount of hours to receive grant money which is up to \$50,000.00. We truly thank them for giving it their all and taking time out of their busy day for our Village. Tony Ramos will be at the Community Room on Monday, May 13 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. to answer any resident questions regarding NOPEC or the electric bill. Mrs. Reckard wished Chief Woodley and Colleen a happy retirement. He deserves it with all the work that they do in our Village.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated no report. He wanted to thank Chief Woodley for his years of service and wished him the best. Hopefully he has a great retirement.

Community Chest Mrs. Reckard stated that Community Chest met on April 25. Don Smith was their special guest. He gave information on outreach services at the Woodland Park Methodist Church as well as the Girard Methodist Church. Connie Morris passed around thank you notes from the Easter Egg Hunt. Two vouchers were given from Macali's and a donation was made to the Girl Scouts. Community Chest is taking a summer break. If a resident is in need of help, call the Municipal Building and they will get you in touch with a case manager.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that the committee would like to decide by June, at the latest, whether or not to move forward.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Third 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 Ordinance No.3294-24 pass third reading as read.

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

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

11. Legislation cont'd.

Motion carried.

B. Third 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 Ordinance No. 3295-24 pass third reading as read.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

D. First Reading Of A Resolution Adopting The Alternative Tax Budget Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, For The Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2025, And Submitting Same To The Trumbull County Auditor.

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

Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that this is standard procedure but it gives the Fiscal Officer to get this to the right parties by July.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$141,468.91.

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.

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

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 6:45 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer