

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday, June 19, 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.

Press: Bob Coupland, *Tribune Chronicle*.

1. The June 19, 2024 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:12 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 out of town on a personal matter and is excused.

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 May 22, 2024 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the May 22, 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 amend the agenda to remove miscellaneous and add executive session with no business to follow:

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 May, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$80, court costs \$304, additional costs \$78, Village revenue from fines \$452, Niles Municipal Court fines \$1059.05, parking tickets \$75, drug fund \$6.60, and police reports \$5 for a grand total of \$2,059.65.

Mayor Lewis thanked Dave Clawson for serving on Planning Commission for the last five years. He would like to appoint Tom Senich to replace Mr. Clawson.

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

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that Mr. Smith will attend the RITA meeting tomorrow. He would like to appoint Mr. Smith as the alternate delegate to RITA.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the Mayor's appointment of Mr. Smith as the RITA delegate.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Mayor Lewis stated that he would like to appoint Curtis Flaviani to the Police Department as a full-time officer effective July 1. He comes to the Department with a great deal of experience.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to accept the Mayor's appointment of Curtis Flaviani to the Police Department effective July 1.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis would like to appoint firefighter/paramedic Kenneth Jones and firefighter/EMT Nicholas Waldo to the Fire Department.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to accept the Mayor's appointments of Kenneth Jones and Nicholas Waldo to the Fire Department.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that the ARC Ready Grant is nearing completion of Phase 1, which is the training phase. Phase 2 is the grant application phase. Only communities who completed Phase 1 can apply for up to \$50,000 in federal funding for very specific uses, the largest of which is IT infrastructure improvements. This includes wi-fi hot spots, computer systems, cameras, and more. Mayor Lewis attended the Mahoning River Corridor Mayor's Association meeting where ideas on economic development were discussed. This will be a quarterly meeting in which the Mayor plans to attend. This will be a great networking opportunity for the Village as a whole. He hopes to potentially obtain some funding to either bring in some business at the old U.S. Steel property or utilize the green space.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Mayor Lewis stated that the Village is aware that Team Fishel did some damage on both private and public property installing some lines. Our Solicitor and Administrator have been in contact with the company and will continue to pursue this until the problem is remedied.

Mayor Lewis stated that the Homecoming Festival is next week. The Run of the Mill begins at 5:45 p.m. with the parade to follow. Mayor Lewis stated that the park program is going very well and the park attendants are doing a great job. He commended Logan Presco and Zach Shobel on painting the fire hydrants. To date, they have 25 hydrants completed.

Mayor Lewis was approached by the park supervisor and park attendants regarding a potential advertising activity for the park program. Initially, he was extremely reluctant but he has given Heidi Hoffman permission to start a Woodland Park TikTok page. There will be no commenting allowed on this page. It will only be done to advertise the park activities. All videos must be approved by the supervisor prior to being posted. If anything goes awry, it will be shut down.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the summer Street Department helpers are painting fire hydrants. There are 160 fire hydrants in the Village. Our Water Department employees check all hydrants within a two-year time frame. With the help of a Fire Department employee, the hydrants have been checked and there are about six that are inoperable. The fire hydrant program will continue throughout the summer. Also, the 2025 street repair application is out for Eastgate and the Village will be applying for funding. There will be a traffic study located on Nebraska, Utah, Dakota, Sixth Street and Seventh Street.

The Village is under a mandate by the EPA to produce a map of the water distribution system supply lines to homes. The supply line to homes is a homeowner's responsibility. There is a small part from the curb shutoff to the main line that is the Village's responsibility. The EPA and Federal Administration is pushing for municipalities to discover what the lines are made of. A long time ago they did use lead. There will be an additional page included with the water bill asking residents for additional information on the service coming into their homes. This will be a huge help to the Village if they can complete and return the forms to the Village office. Additionally, Mr. Domitrovich commended the Fire and Street Departments on their effort with the storm damage yesterday.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Police Lieutenant Ryan Ronghi gave a background on Curtis Flaviani. He is currently employed at Summit County as a road deputy. Also, Lieutenant Ronghi suggested that the Village may want to start looking into an ordinance in regard to marijuana dispensaries. Lastly, he described a personal incident over the weekend where a family member was in need of medical attention and commended our Fire Department.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum thanked the Village for painting the fire hydrants. He feels overall that our hydrants are in very good shape. Congratulations to Mr. Domitrovich and the Water Department for how well they maintain them. Chief Marcum gave his EMS report. The YTD total billing is a little over \$77,000 and revenue is \$32,000. The revenue will jump up. He is working with Medicount on an issue that has been resolved. There have been 112 transports to date. The mutual aid numbers are substantially higher. Chief Marcum reported on these numbers. Each community helps each other.

Chief Marcum is hopeful that the SOPs that he turned in last month can be discussed at the next Committee meetings. He also met with Tom Lambert from Lane to discuss the contract that is expiring at the end of the month. Some of the out-of-date charges will be updated but most everything else will remain the same. Chief Marcum will submit a copy of the contract to the Solicitor for his input as soon as he receives it. Medic 37-1, the white ambulance, is having some maintenance issues which Chief Marcum described. The radios that were obtained through the MARCs grant that was awarded several months ago are due to ship on June 21. Chief Marcum discussed the AFG grant which is the FEMA grant. We are still waiting on the 2023 money from this grant. Chief Marcum stated that we need to start planning if we're going to ask for 2024 funds. This is usually a 10% match. The size of our Village qualifies us for a 5% match. Chief Marcum would like to discuss either a new engine or another power lift system for the other ambulance. Both things will qualify under the same grant. Lastly, plans for the Billy Goat are underway. Chief Marcum intends to mimic last year's plans which were successful.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that Chief Marcum requested that the Community be utilized as a cooling station due to the extreme heat we are experiencing. Residents have been made aware through Facebook posts. If a resident is in need of getting out of the heat, the room is open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Chief Marcum after hours.

Attorney John Cheney 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, and summer recess.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to enter into summer recess.

Discussion: Mr. Schmidt stated that the dates have already been set but Council just needs to make this motion.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

Also discussed were: Planning Commission appointment, RITA delegate, Police hire and Fire Department appointments, ARC Ready Grant, Mahoning River Corridor Mayor's Association, underground utility repairs, spray painting in the park, police vest grant, and executive session. Mr. Schmidt thanked the Village employees for their cleanup after yesterday's storm.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that there will not be a Farmer's Market in July or August. He is hoping to bring in Mahoning Valley Mobile Market to replace the Farmer's Market. They offer local produce and will give each homeowner a voucher. The date would be July 20. Details will follow. Mr. Jones thanked Banner Supply for the discount on materials for the high school boys' baseball home and away dugouts. Mr. Metzinger thanked Mr. Domitrovich for taking care of the beehives down at the ballfields. Mr. Jones reminded everyone of the festival from June 26-29 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. He thanked Mr. Joynes, Mayor Lewis and all the volunteers for working with the fire association to help make this happen.

Safety Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that there were appointments made to the Police and Fire Departments. There was a discussion in regards to waiving the probation only for sick time and vacation time for both police officers.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to waive the probationary sick time and vacation time for Officers Pesa and Flaviani.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to grant permission to the Police Department to apply for their vest grant.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

Mr. Metzinger thanked the Fire Department and the Village employees for quickly cleaning up the road after yesterday's storm. He also thanked the Village for opening the Community Room and the Fire Department for helping our residents get out of the heat.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that there is a third reading of the Alternative Tax Budget. Also, he will be attending the RITA meeting and will report back to Council. Mr. Smith stated that our Fiscal Officer will be getting ready for the budget process in August or September.

Service Committee Mr. Jones stated that there is a possibility of working with KO Consulting. Mayor Lewis stated that he and Mr. Domitrovich have a Zoom meeting with KO Consulting, which is a grant writing service. The meeting is to discuss potential opportunities to obtain federal funds. Mayor Lewis will keep everyone informed.

Mr. Jones stated that the NOPEC grant for electrical upgrades was completed in the Municipal Building. This grant was in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Jones stated that the Village was made aware of a grant from Eastgate for the potential replacement of damaged sidewalks. The Village sidewalks have been surveyed and will cost approximately \$2 million with a 10% investment from the Village. We are hoping to decrease this number by half or more. This is a work in progress. Also, Ohio Edison will be trimming trees around the electrical lines throughout the Village. They come out

7. Committee reports cont'd.

every five years to do this. They may be working in some of the residents' backyards where some of the lines are. Also, there is no update on the 2024 paving project. We are hoping to hear more in August.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones thanked Dave Clawson for his years serving the Planning Commission. He also welcomed Tom Senich and is looking forward to working with him.

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

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. Third Reading Of Resolution No. 1903-24 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 Resolution No. 1903-24 pass third reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$231,870.82.

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. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

13. Executive Session.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to enter into executive session at 6:56 p.m. with Council, Mayor, Solicitor and Chief Marcum to consider the appointment, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee with no action to follow.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to exit executive session at 7:24 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Joynes at 7:24 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer