

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday, October 2, 2024
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Police Chief Ryan Ronghi, Fire Chief Fred Marcum, Attorney John Cheney, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Visitors: Ron Pratt, Dan Jamison, Larry Manaro, Ken Jones, Anthony Moore, Robert Golden, Bill Victor.

1. The October 2, 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 – present
Mr. Metzinger – present

Mr. Joynes – present
Mr. Jones – 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 September 18, 2024 Council minutes.

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

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

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

Roll call:

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

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

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated that Matthew from KO Consulting made the Village aware of about \$40,000 in grants that they are pursuing for the month of September. There is also potential additional revenue for the end of the year.

Mayor Lewis wanted to inform residents that contractors need to be registered in the Village. Please call the Municipal Building to ensure your contractor is registered. This is for the residents' protection. Any contractor that is registered has to be bonded and insured.

Halloween will be on Thursday, October 31 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Any additional plans will be announced at the next Council meeting.

There will be a Community Room Mayor's Breakfast on October 18 at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Lewis invites any of the senior residents to attend. He will update residents on things in the Village including the garbage contract and potential to look into the income tax forgiveness.

Mayor Lewis read Officer John O'Neill's resignation into the record.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to accept Officer O'Neill's resignation.

Discussion: Mayor Lewis stated that Officer O'Neill has been an excellent asset to the Village. You cannot see John and have him not put a smile on your face. Mayor Lewis wished Officer O'Neill all the best.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that Chief Ronghi is recommending the Village bring back Austin Bucan as a part-time Special Police Officer. He believes that Austin will be an asset to the Village.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to approve the Mayor's appointment of Austin Bucan as a part-time Special Police Officer.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that Officer Ron Pratt has been here 18 years. In Mayor Lewis's time at the Village, they have become great friends. Officer Pratt used to work in the prison system and has since retired. He has made the decision that he would like to come on full-time. Mayor Lewis would like to appoint Officer Pratt as a full-time police officer.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to accept the Mayor's appointment of Officer Pratt as a full-time Police Officer.

Discussion: Mayor Lewis believes Officer Pratt's dedication for 18 years speaks for itself.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Officer Pratt was sworn in by Attorney Cheney.

Mayor Lewis stated that there are two promotions for the Fire Department at the recommendation of Chief Marcum. He would like to promote Richie Rider, a Firefighter/Paramedic and Trevor Willoughby, a Firefighter/EMT both to Lieutenant. Mayor Lewis believes both individuals have been real leaders since day one. It shows in their actions daily when they are here. They are always at the volunteer events. They have been part of the catalyst to build this department back to what it has become. Mayor

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Lewis respects that these men have stepped up and want to be leaders. He would like to promote Trevor Willoughby and Richie Rider both to Lieutenant.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to approve the Mayor's appointment of Trevor Willoughby and Richie Rider to Lieutenant.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

Chief Marcum stated that the pinning ceremony is a huge thing in the fire service as firefighters get to come up through the ranks. When they come up through the ranks and get these pins, it brings a new level of authority and responsibility to them. Chief Marcum knows these gentlemen are going to take this to heart and do a great job for the Village.

Chief Marcum led the pinning ceremony for Lieutenants Willoughby and Rider. He stated that this whole process started because he felt that we needed to continue to build the leadership in McDonald. He wanted to make this as fair and impartial as he could. They did testing and interviews and Chief Marcum has watched their performance throughout their years on the Department. Both men far exceeded Chief Marcum's expectations. Chief Marcum stated that a Department is nothing without the leadership and the leadership is nothing without the Department. He congratulated both gentlemen.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the fire appointments are well deserved. He's enjoyed working with Mr. Rider and Mr. Willoughby and looks forward to continuing to work with them. Mr. Domitrovich congratulated Mr. Pratt for his appointment as well. He is also happy that Officer Bucan is back. Godspeed to John O'Neill. There was a meeting for the 2025 road paving project which includes Nebraska and Utah. It has been scored and the Village is tied for 18th place with six other projects. There are 52 projects submitted to Eastgate. Mr. Domitrovich is asking for \$75,000. He will keep Council updated.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Police Lieutenant Ryan Ronghi thanked Council for appointing Officers Pratt and Bucan. Austin is one of those guys you like to have around. Officer Pratt retired after 30+ years in the TCI prison as a Lieutenant. He brings a ton of experience to the Village now daily. Chief Ronghi has worked with Officer Pratt during his whole tenure on the Department. Also, Chief Ronghi knew that John O'Neill had aspirations to leave the standard policing position. We were lucky to have him as long as we did. Chief Ronghi wishes him luck going forward.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum congratulated John O'Neill and wished him the best in his endeavors. He also welcomed Officer Pratt and Austin back to the Department. As of October 1, the year-to-date billing is \$129,300 and the year-to-date revenue is \$57,495. The transports to date are 155 compared to 84 last year. There have been 416 calls for service to date. Mutual aid numbers are finally balancing out. Chief Marcum has been in close contact with Matthew from KO Consulting with regard to submitting for grants.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham congratulated Officer Pratt. She is glad to hear that Austin is coming back part-time. Mrs. Cunningham also congratulated Trevor and Rich on their promotions.

Attorney John Chaney 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, Police Department hires and resignation, Fire Department promotions, Halloween and the Mayor's breakfast. Mr. Schmidt welcomed everyone that was promoted and hired on board. He looks forward to having great individuals.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that the Oktoberfest will be on October 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. He encouraged everyone to go onto the Village of McDonald 2024 Oktoberfest Facebook page. The committee will also be putting out flyers at local businesses within the coming days. Mr. Jones thanked the Village for donating the tents, tables and chairs for the Oktoberfest. He also stated that the elementary school Billy Goat race was held today. In addition, fall baseball is now winding down at the baseball fields.

Safety Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that the Committee discussed the several appointments that were made to the Fire and Police Departments this evening. Also

7. Committee reports cont'd.

discussed was a golf cart ordinance. Mr. Metzinger congratulated Lieutenants Rider and Willoughby on their promotion. He is glad to see Officer Bucan back and stated that Officer Pratt will do a fine job as a full-time officer. Mr. Metzinger wished Officer O'Neill the best of luck.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that there is an emergency ordinance to amend the appropriations in order to allow the Village to spend money that was received through grants. The bulk of Finance Committee was spent discussing the 2025 temporary budget. A draft was presented and discussed at great length. Council made some recommendations that Mr. Smith and the Fiscal Officer will be working on. Finance Committee entered executive session at 7:45 p.m. and came out at 8:16 p.m. During that time, they discussed compensation of public officials. If adjustments are made in the budget to wages, there will also be some ordinance adjustments that Mr. Smith and Solicitor Ross will be working on.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard congratulated everyone that was promoted or hired this evening. She thanked John O'Neill and wished him good luck. The water tower project was discussed in Service Committees. Solicitor Ross sent over the first contract from USC, formerly Suez. There were some discrepancies with the contract that Solicitor Ross and Mr. Domitrovich are working on together. Mr. Domitrovich had the pre-construction meeting for the 2024 paving project and is awaiting a start date. He is also expecting a quote to pave Massachusetts Avenue. This has already been budgeted. Service Committee had discussed the gas aggregation. The Mcf should be about \$3.7 for a year or a two-year rate would be about \$3.85/Mcf. More information will follow. Solicitor Ross and Mr. Domitrovich collected from a claim that occurred about two years ago. This will replace a fire hydrant that was hit. Mr. Domitrovich discussed the commercial real estate in regards to the mill. Mrs. Reckard thanked Matthew from KO for attending our meeting last night.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated that there will be a public hearing on October 28 at 5:00 p.m. for a zone change request. Immediately following will be the Planning Commission meeting. Both will be held in Council Chambers.

Community Chest Mrs. Reckard gave the report from the September 26 meeting. Dan Martins is the treasurer. The Community Chest provided a voucher from Macali's for a family and donated \$100 to the Oktoberfest. Mr. Martins had discussed treasury reports and how to keep the needs of families confidential. The Community Chest also has case workers and will serve as the go-between for the Village and the school. They are working on families in need and how we can help them as a group. Community Chest is

7. Committee reports cont'd.

preparing for their biggest months in November and December. They discussed having a fundraiser. The next meeting is October 24 in the Community Room.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Metzinger stated no report.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes congratulated all the appointments and wished Mr. O'Neill good luck. There is still a verbal commitment with Lisko for the rides. Mr. Lisko is still out of town but they are hoping to sign soon. Mr. Joynes said that a few bands have been contacted. Finances were on the positive after last year. They are looking into how this can be expanded. The Committee received some quotes for fireworks which are pretty high. This looks unrealistic right now. They will be reaching out to corporate sponsors. Mr. Joynes stated that the exclusivity idea with the vendors was also discussed. They will be reaching out to the vendors with questions so everyone is satisfied. Mr. Joynes stated that the dates are locked with the beer truck. He encouraged everyone with any old or new ideas to bring them up in the meetings or reach out to Larry Manaro, Jake Olson or himself. Mr. Manaro and Mr. Olson are always available and willing to help. They are doing a nice job keeping the ball rolling.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance To Amend Appropriations 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 to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

11. Legislation cont'd.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3299-24 pass emergency reading as read.

Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that the appropriations the Village is making allows us to spend funds that have been received from various grants. The NOPEC grant to allow us to purchase the LED sign, the insurance from State Farm on the claim to allow us to replace the fire hydrant. The Chief has been working to get some EMS grants to purchase equipment. The OPWC grant that will go directly to the paving company but we have to run it through our books.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

B. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And/Or Village Administrator To Engage The Services Of PFM Financial Advisors LLC, 1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 40006, Cleveland, Ohio 44115, To Provide Financial Advisory Services To Village of McDonald.

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

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that Resolution No. 1910-24 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

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

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

11. Legislation cont'd.

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$86,772.50.

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 6:53 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer