

McDonald Village Council  
Wednesday, December 4, 2024  
Regular Council Meeting

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

Visitors: Ken Miner.

1. The December 4, 2024 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:09 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 November 20, 2024 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the November 20, 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 for the month of November, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$50, court costs \$182, additional costs \$58, Village revenue from fines \$300, Niles Municipal Court fines \$1023, and parking tickets \$75 for a grand total of \$1,688.

Mayor Lewis would like to appoint Troy Hostetler and Robert Golden, who are both EMT/Firefighters. Also, he would like to appoint Todd Stitt as a Firefighter.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to approve the Mayor's appointments to the Fire Department.

Discussion: Mayor Lewis would like to welcome back the two individuals that have been with the Department previously. Also, he would like to welcome Mr. Hostetler.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis discussed KO Consulting's report given by Matthew Ellis. Matthew is working hard to find grants for the Village. Mayor Lewis believes this will really pay off.

Also, there was a significant house fire recently. Mayor Lewis thanked everyone for their quick response. It was a great effort by all involved to make sure that everyone was safe and the fire got put out. The residents found somewhere to stay and they are being taken care of.

Mayor Lewis stated that, effective January 2025, Mayor's Court will be changing the time from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Mayor Lewis spoke with Mr. O'Connell regarding the State of the Village. He will be meeting with Student Council next week to determine a date sometime in mid-January.

6. Report of Village Officials:

**Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich** stated that he is working on a number of things with the Solicitor and Fiscal Officer that he will report on at a later date. He thanked the residents for attending Christmas In the Village on a very cold evening. Mr. Domitrovich thanked Kim Jones-Schmidt for her hard work in helping with the event. She has done a great deal of work and he is hopeful that she will take over the program someday. He also thanked everyone that stepped up and helped out as well.

**Police Chief Ryan Ronghi** stated that there was a discussion to change the verbiage in the salary ordinance where “Lieutenant” would be changed to “Captain”. He and Lieutenant Caraway will be attending a potential new hire’s physical agility test at YSU on December 10. Assuming he passes, they will give him a conditional hire with the hopes that he will be hired full-time in January. The individual is Preston Hake, age 25, who is from Mineral Ridge. Chief Ronghi thanked Stephanie Smith for helping the Police Department find some money within their budget to get some items that they needed. Chief Ronghi discussed the items that were purchased. Chief Ronghi also thanked Mr. Domitrovich for all the work he’s doing with the camera systems.

**Fire Lieutenant Rich Rider** stated that, as of December 4, the year-to-date billing is \$151,538 which is up 166% from last year. Year-to-date revenues are \$74,987 which is up 200% from last year. Transports to date are 180 which is 71 more than last year. The Fire Department has given mutual aid five times, received it six times and Lane has been in the Village twice.

**Office Manager Amy Cunningham** stated that residents have been calling regarding the gas aggregation. Tom Bellish confirmed that mailers will be sent out next week. A proof of the mailer will be sent to the Village for review. Also, the Community Room has a “Santa for a Senior” tree. There are still names on the tree if anyone would like to go over and pick one. Items need to be returned by December 9.

**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, and legislation. Matthew Ellis discussed the grants that KO is working toward on behalf of the Village. Also discussed were the Fire Department appointments. Mr. Schmidt stated that Christmas In the Village is a great event that is well attended. Mr. Muckridge, our tree lighter, was very humbled to be a part of the event. Mr. Schmidt thanked his wife for all the effort she puts into the event. Countless hours are put into the event by her and many

7. Committee reports cont'd.

others. Mr. Schmidt stated that the event may be moved from the day of the Big Game and other family events to the following week. That way, our Village workers will be working a full week so they will be able to help with the event. Also, it would help with better attendance.

**Parks & Buildings Mr. Jones** thanked everyone involved in organizing, decorating and setting up for Christmas In the Village. Kim Jones Schmidt and Mr. Domitrovich do a ton of work and it is appreciated. Mr. Jones thanked the Street Department for setting up all the lights, NHS and Student Council members who decorate the floats and help out with kids' activities in the fire bays. Mr. Jones also thanked Leah Greene and MHS Art program, and the float drivers. He also thanked everyone who spent time making cookies, the set up and tear down crew that consisted of Justin Krumpak, Jonathan Noel and his son, Mr. Harvey, Mayor Lewis and Councilman Schmidt. Everyone played a big role in this event. Mr. Jones stated that there was a discussion of moving Christmas In the Village back one week. It makes sense so that everyone involved can spend that weekend with their families. This would give Mr. Domitrovich and his employees more time to set up instead of rushing around on a short holiday week. If this happens, Council will get word out so everyone can adjust their schedules.

Mayor Lewis and Mr. Domitrovich are working with KO Consulting on possible grant money for the parks, specifically for new playground equipment. They applied for a \$40,000 grant that would be used for this purpose. We should find out more in the first quarter of 2025. KO also applied for a \$200,000 grant that will be used for a sidewalk project. These grants have not yet been awarded.

**Safety Committee Mr. Metzinger** stated that there are a few new Fire Department hires that were appointed. Chief Ronghi purchased a 64-gun safe, two duty weapons, and fire extinguishers for the cruisers. The police uniform allowance was also discussed, which Mr. Smith will bring up later as a first reading.

**Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith** stated that there is a third reading for employee overtime and compensatory time. There is a second reading of three ordinances that affect wage and salary increases for Water, Sewer, Street, Offices, Administrator, VFO, Building Inspector, Senior Services Director and Parks and Recreation Supervisor. There is also a first reading of an ordinance to modify the police uniform allowance.

**Service Committee Mr. Smith** stated that the package insurance and health insurance renewals were discussed in Committees. Package insurance is increased by about \$3,600 mostly due to a claim that was filed in 2022 for damage to the sewage plant pump.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Health insurance premiums will increase about 30% for a total of \$53,500. The policy remains the same as it was in 2024. Employees and their families will experience no change in coverage. However, since the employees do contribute 10% toward the premium, their contribution will increase by 30% over what it is currently. Council had discussed ways of controlling healthcare costs in the future, looking toward 2026. These ways include investigating different types of claims that are driving our costs up and maybe educating the employees regarding alternative ways of receiving care that is adequate for their needs. There will be a first reading of the resolution for healthcare insurance. The resolution for package insurance will be read as an emergency due to the dates of its effectiveness.

Mr. Domitrovich reported on the grant work. Mr. Smith thanked Mayor Lewis for contacting Superintendent O'Connell regarding the letter the Village may need to obtain grant funds for the sidewalk. Mr. Domitrovich has been working with Tom Leskovac from Western Reserve Mechanical to complete a physical separation of the concrete water tower from the steel tower to, hopefully, satisfy the EPA's needs.

**Planning Commission Mr. Jones** stated that there is a second reading of an Ordinance amending the Schedule of Fees.

**Community Chest Mrs. Reckard** stated that Community Chest delivered 42 gift cards from the Dollar Store to the residents at the apartments today. They also help fund Santa's Workshop for children that are a little less fortunate. Community Chest also helps to support Christmas In the Village. They are also looking to help the family that had the fire. The next meeting is in January where new officers will be elected.

**Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Metzinger** no report.

**Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes** stated that everything has been steady and communication has been good, as always. He feels that everyone has done a nice job. There is now some downtime as the event, overall, has been locked down. The Committee has been looking at their costs and doing some comparative pricing in a lot of different areas to make sure they're getting the best deal.

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. 2948-03 Concerning Employee Overtime, The Provisions Of Which Are Currently Set Forth In Section 161.05 Of The McDonald Village Codified Ordinances.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3303-24 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.

B. Second Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Previous Village Ordinance No. 3275-22 For The Purpose Of Adopting The Previously Established Schedule Of Fees For Building Permits, Zoning Permits, And Other Fees; And For The Purpose Of Increasing Certain Fees In The Schedule Of Fees.

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

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

C. Second Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Ordinance Number 3281-23 (The “Salary Ordinance”) To Increase The Salaries And Wages Of Certain Employees Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio; And For The Purpose Of Repealing Any And All Other Ordinances Or Resolutions In Conflict Therewith.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye  
Mrs. Reckard – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger –aye

Motion carried.

D. Second Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Previous Ordinance No. 3268-22 Concerning The Appointed Position Of Village Fiscal Officer Created In Accordance With Section 733.262 Of The Ohio Revised Code.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger –aye

Motion carried.

E. Second Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Previous Village Ordinance No. 3233-19 To Provide A Raise For The Building And Zoning Inspector.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger –aye

Motion carried.

F. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Section 161.10 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, Entitled “Police Uniforms”.

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

11. Legislation cont'd.

Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that this will increase the police uniform allowance to \$900. This has a cost-of-living increase built into it in order to keep pace with what is going on in the economy.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

G. Emergency Resolution For The Purpose Of Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And/Or Village Administrator To Enter Into An Agreement With Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc., Through Love Insurance Agency, 373 Center Street, Suite A, Chardon, OH 44024, For The Village's 2024-2025 Package Insurance In The Amount Of Thirty-Four Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Eight And 00/100 Dollars (\$34,128.00) Commencing December 1, 2024 And Ending November 30, 2025.

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.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution No. 1914-24 pass emergency 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.



11. Legislation cont'd.

H. First Reading Of A Resolution For The Purpose Of Accepting The Health Insurance Proposal From COSE Health And Wellness Trust And Medical Mutual Of Ohio Through National United Brokers, Inc., 4151 Executive Parkway, Suite 210, Westerville, Ohio 43081, For The Village Of McDonald, Ohio's Employee Health Insurance Coverage For A One-Year (1) Term Commencing January 1, 2025 And Ending December 31, 2025; And Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer And/Or Village Administrator To Enter Into A Contract With COSE Health And Wellness Trust And Medical Mutual Of Ohio Through National United Brokers, Inc. For Health Insurance.

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

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$106,378.91.

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.

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 6:39 p.m. All voted aye.

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Mayor

Attest to:

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Fiscal Officer