

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
RE-ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Staff: Solicitor Doug Ross, Police Chief Ryan Ronghi, Police Lieutenant Brandon Caraway, Officer Ron Pratt, Fire Chief Fred Marcum, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Visitors: Lonnie Worhatch, Mary Hake-Miller, Duane Collins, Christine Crutchley-Hake, Alan Hake, Abbie Matig, Sally Jackson, Ron Jackson, Kim Hake, Brian Jackson, Parker Hake, Jim Matig, Karla Matig and Presley Bowser.

1. The January 8, 2025 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll call:

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

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

3. Pledge of allegiance

4. Approval of the December 19, 2024 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the 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.

5. 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

Motion carried.

6. Police Department appointment

Mayor Lewis stated that Preston Hake has been recommended by Chief Ronghi, Lieutenant Caraway and Sergeant Smith. Mayor Lewis has had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Hake and he will not hold it against him that he is from Weathersfield. It seems that Preston Hake will be a good addition to the Department. Mayor Lewis would like to have Mr. Hake appointed as a full-time police officer.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to accept the Mayor's appointment of Preston Hake as a full-time police officer effective immediately.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Preston Hake was sworn in by Solicitor Ross. The pinning of the badge as well as photos with the family followed.

7. Election to the following offices:

- President Pro Tem

It was moved by Mr. Smith to nominate Mr. Schmidt as President Pro Tem.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

-Community Chest

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to nominate Mrs. Reckard to Community Chest.

Roll call:

7. Election to the following offices cont'd.

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

Motion carried.

8. Mayor's Yearly Appointments:

Mayor Lewis read his appointments into the record. See Attachment A.

It was moved by Mr. Smith to accept the appointments as presented.

Roll call:

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis read his appointments for Committees into the record. See Attachment A.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to accept the appointments as presented.

Roll call:

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

Motion carried.

9. Mayor Monthly and Yearly Financial report.

Mayor Lewis stated for the month of December, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$130, court costs \$591, additional costs \$232, Village revenue from fines \$403, Niles Municipal Court fines \$400, and parking tickets \$15 for a grand total of \$1,771.

9. Mayor Monthly and Yearly Financial report cont'd.

For the year 2024, Mayor's Court brought in costs \$10,950.00, fines \$8,673.55, and miscellaneous receipts \$10,327.70. The total to the Village was \$26,591.25, the total to the State of Ohio \$3,247.50 and the total to others \$112.50 for a grand total for Mayor's Court of \$29,951.25.

Mayor Lewis stated that the yearly building permit report is as follows:
There were 51 building permits issued with a total value of \$669,136.00 and fees of \$1,760.00 for 2024.

10. Mayor's Yearly Address:

Mayor Lewis stated that 2024 was not met without challenges. Our biggest employer, McDonald Steel, closed its doors. This property has since been purchased. We have also had some positives. We pursued our first federal grant for as long as the mayor can remember. The Village is working with KO Consulting for grant writing. In the first quarter, they have already applied for \$1,000,000 in grants and have obtained at least \$40,000 that we are aware of. The Village has obtained an ambulance grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the Trumbull County Commissioners with the help of Chief Marcum. This will allow the Village to purchase a second ambulance.

Colleen Chance took over the R.E.S.T. program in 2024. Mayor Lewis is happy to say there are probably about 100 residents from McDonald and the Tri-County area that are participating in any given time.

Also, Mayor Lewis made a concerted effort to renew some relationships within the area. He and Mrs. Reckard have a presence at Eastgate. Hopefully, this is beneficial in the future. Mayor Lewis has also met with neighboring community mayors to get their thoughts and ideas on how they do business. He also joined the Mahoning River Corridor Mayor's Association which can, hopefully, help to build relationships to get the Village more recognized in the Tri-County.

Mayor Lewis stated that we had the wettest parade in McDonald history. The Firemen's Festival was one of the best we have had in years. Mayor Lewis thanked everyone involved, especially Mr. Joynes who did a ton of work. He also thanked Mr. Schmidt and his wife, who worked hard as well. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Metzinger, who's outfits were always the best. The Oktoberfest was a huge hit. The Christmas tree lighting was a success as well. It was a good year. Mayor Lewis stated that, with having some newer folks and different roles in the room, everyone worked very well together. Mayor Lewis stated that Mr. Smith

10. Mayor's Yearly Address cont'd:

has embraced finance like nobody that he has ever seen. He understands the budget more than anyone except for Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith. Mayor Lewis appreciates that we have an engaged Council. There have been times when there are one or two people doing all the work. Mayor Lewis will ask everyone, including himself, to look in the mirror and say "let's put in a little more next year and make 2025 one of our best".

Mayor Lewis stated that his goal for 2025 is to continue to be present in the community. This will begin with the public forum on January 22. Hopefully, there will be some type of development at the McDonald Steel property. The conversation is ongoing with the owners. They are a private business so we will respect their privacy. Mayor Lewis hopes to see the KO grant agreement pay off.

Mayor Lewis thanked the Police Chief and Fire Chief for their leadership and hard work. He also thanked the Fiscal Officer who gets a lot done that none of us know about. We appreciate her beyond belief. We have the best Solicitor in the area and in the State. Also, Mr. Domitrovich knows the inner workings of everything. He is Mayor Lewis's "go to". If the mayor needs something, it's always "call Thomas". Mayor Lewis appreciates that Mr. Domitrovich is always available. Keep up the hard work. Mrs. Cunningham is the same for Mayor Lewis as she was for Mayor Puckett. He doesn't know what we would do without her. Everyday you call, she answers, if you need something, she's on it. We have a good team. Mayor Lewis appreciates each and every one. He asked that the message gets relayed to the employees.

11. Report of Village Officials

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich thanked Mayor Lewis for his service and for sticking around after the first year. He also thanked all of Council for their time that they give up to serve the Village. Mr. Domitrovich will have a report as the year-end closes.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi thanked the Mayor and Council for their appointment of Preston Hake. He also thanked Council for their patience and trust in himself and Lieutenant Caraway. He looks forward to 2025.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum is still in the process of compiling data from 2024 and should have a comprehensive report for the meeting on January 23. He congratulated Patrolman Hake on his appointment. Chief Marcum thanked everyone for a wonderful 2024 and he looks forward to big things in 2025.

11. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham wished everyone a Happy New Year and echoes everything that has already been said. It's a great group of people that we work with. We appreciate everyone on Council. It's easy to come to the Council meetings and see how things get done. There is a reason Bob Coupland calls the day after meetings. He says that our meetings are so boring because everyone gets along.

Solicitor Doug Ross stated that in June, it will be 17 years that he has been our Solicitor. He enjoys the job and enjoys working with all of Council and the folks here. He enjoys this group as much, if not more than any. Solicitor Ross thanked everyone for the opportunity. It is a pleasure to be the Solicitor for the Village.

12. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

13. New Business: none.

14. Legislation:

A. Third 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 Ordinance No. 3309-25 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.

15. Miscellaneous: none.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Joynes at 6:29 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer