

McDonald Village Council
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Officer Ron Pratt, Fire Lieutenant Dan Jamison, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Visitors: Ken Miner.

1. The February 5, 2025 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:01 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 January 23, 2025 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the January 23, 2025 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 had a Zoom call with the Army Corps of Engineers, Eastgate, Ohio EPA and the owners of the commercial property at U.S. Steel regarding the potential removal of the dam. They are looking for permission to start a sediment study sometime this spring which will take 12-18 months. The State Of the Village has been postponed due to the girls' basketball team hosting a tournament game on the same evening. Mayor Lewis will announce a new date after the boys' basketball game selection on Sunday.

Mayor Lewis would like to appoint McDonald resident Brian Gordon as a Firefighter/EMT.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the Mayor's appointment of Brian Gordon as Firefighter/EMT.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the water break that Village employees have been working on has been repaired. It was on a main line to the Village, a supply line to the water tower. The repair required the efforts of Mr. Domitrovich's entire work force as well as Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer. He wanted to thank Wisdom Domitrovich, Tom Rebraca, Jon Noel, Mark Srock, and Michael Lepor who all worked to get the break repaired. Mr. Domitrovich wanted to especially thank Mike Schuller for helping to monitor the water tower pressure throughout the weekend to ensure the Village had pressure. The water passed two bacteria samples per EPA code. This was not without the efforts of Ron Watson of Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer's Department. He bypassed some water for the Village so the water could be kept at a constant supply. Mr. Domitrovich also thanked the residents for being considerate and patient.

6. Reports of Village Officials:

Mr. Domitrovich stated that the meetings with PFM are going well. He thanked Mr. Smith for participating in these discussions with himself and Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith. They are working together to build a better budget in the future for the Water and Sewer Departments. Mr. Domitrovich will have more to report in the future.

Officer Ron Pratt stated no report in Chief Ronghi's absence. Mayor Lewis thanked the Police Department for putting in the overtime especially with Officer Smith's incident a few nights ago. They are working together to ensure the Village does not lose any coverage.

Fire Lieutenant Dan Jamison stated that since January 24, we have given assistance for five mutual aid calls and received assistance for two. Lane was in the Village once. Ken Jones will be attending Firefighter II class. The Fire Department is looking into a joint RIT team with Weathersfield. Lieutenant Jamison will be attending Fire Officer I class. Chief Marcum is trying to file an annual certification with the Volunteer Dependency Board. The EMS grant from last year was approved and is closed. The Hardship Grant was used to help purchase the new ambulance. The application for the AFG grant has been through the panel review and is currently under technical review. This grant application is for the purchase of a fire truck. The first round of awards is expected in April. The County wide technical rescue team is in the planning phase with Assistant Chief Bickerstaff heading up this planning.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated no report.

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. He also discussed the KO Consulting report that Matthew Ellis presented during Committee meetings. Matthew discussed the three grants that they will be writing this month for a total of \$600,000. Of this amount, \$500,000 is for sidewalk expansion for the athletic complex, \$25,000 for office technology and \$75,000 for the Woodland Park trail revitalization. In January, KO submitted three grants for a total of \$220,000. Mr. Schmidt thanked everyone involved in the latest incident, our police officers and EMTs, and also Girard and Weathersfield PD for this assistance.

Parks & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that there is a possibility of exploring grants for outdoor fitness equipment. Mayor Lewis and Mr. Domitrovich will bring this to KO

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Consulting at their next meeting. The Oktoberfest committee would like to work with Mr. Domitrovich and Heidi Hoffman to see what they need for the park activities. Mr. Jones plans to meet with Mr. Domitrovich and Heidi Hoffman soon regarding this. A few residents asked about a co-ed volleyball league. The Village is in favor of this as long as there are volunteers to run the league.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that there is legislation to update the 1984 BOCA fire prevention code and upgrade to the 2017 fire code. The fire chief received word that there is another update to the 2024 fire code which we will be moving on at some point. Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Smith met with Chief Ronghi and Lieutenant Caraway regarding the state of the police department. They discussed ideas on how to recruit officers. Mr. Smith and Mr. Schmidt also met with Chief Marcum for the same reason. The purchase of the Niles police cruiser is on hold until the permanent budget is finalized and there is a transfer. Once this is done, there will be an emergency resolution for this purchase. Lieutenant Caraway brought up possible reimbursement for Officer Pratt's physical. We just need a few more details and we will move forward. Mr. Schmidt stated that legislation to amend Chapter 139 will be on the agenda for the meeting on February 20.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that there will be a second reading of the permanent budget. The Village is working toward a resolution for the street sweeper. Mr. Smith and Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith will be working with Local Government Services to simplify the presentation of the 2026 budget without causing any transparency issues.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard stated that the NOPEC NEC grant resolution will be a first reading this evening. This grant has been used for the electronic message board and anything energy and electric related. There was a discussion regarding the garbage contract. The cost per household will increase to \$14.45 per month. The Village must give a 120-day notice if there are any changes. Council will wait until after the State Of the Village to make any necessary changes. Mrs. Reckard thanked Mr. Domitrovich, Mike Schuller and the Street Department for their hard work.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to grant approval for the Fiscal Officer to advertise for the 2025 paving project.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated no report.

Community Chest Mrs. Reckard stated that the next meeting is Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m. at Woodland Park Methodist Church.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith stated that the committee is meeting with the first responders and continuing to understand everything that is needed in terms of finances before it is decided what revenue streams we want to use.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes stated no report.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Second Reading Of An Ordinance Rezoning A Certain Parcel Of Property In The Village Of McDonald, Ohio From A Zoning Classification Of Residential “RA” To A Classification Of Commercial “CA” And Amending The Official Zoning Map Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

B. Second Reading Of An Ordinance To Make Permanent Appropriations For 2025 To Various Divisions Of The Village Government For Each Of The Several Objects For

11. Legislation cont'd.

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 2025.

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

C. First Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing All Actions Necessary To Accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Energized Community Grant.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that the resolution pass first reading as read.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

D. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Chapter 1501 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, Entitled “BOCA Fire Prevention Code”.

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

Discussion: Solicitor Ross stated that the fire chief advised the old BOCA fire prevention code was replaced across the State of Ohio by the 2017 Ohio fire code. We are amending the Ordinance to encapsulate that code within our Ordinances. There may be another update to the code coming soon.

11. Legislation cont'd.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$110,502.35.

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 6:25 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer