

McDonald Village Council
Thursday, January 23, 2025
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Police Chief Ryan Ronghi, Fire Chief Fred Marcum, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Press: Bob Coupland, Tribune Chronicle.

1. The January 23, 2025 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:02 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 along with the families dealing with the tragedy in East Liverpool and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

3. Approval of the January 8, 2025 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the January 8, 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 attended the Trumbull County COG meeting last evening. Much of what they are working on is not applicable to the Village. Mayor Lewis thinks that some good can come out of it in working together to save one another some money.

The State of the Village has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Mayor Lewis plans to reach out to the media to increase public awareness. He thanked those that have helped to get everything prepared for the event.

Also, Mayor Lewis thanked Mrs. Reckard for a conversation today. It reminded him of something that he should have been clearer on with the difference in Committee and Council meetings. Committees are open discussions with new ideas and new thoughts. There is dialogue on how everyone feels about each particular issue. During Council, we report on what is discussed during Committees. With that said, if there is something new that requires discussion and it can't wait until the next Committee meetings, it can be discussed during Caucus. Solicitor Ross stated that, at other legislative authority meetings, many use Caucus to have meaningful discussions on topics that we discuss during Committees. There is no harm in putting agenda items on Caucus that are meaningful discussion. This is something that Council can do anytime.

Mayor Lewis has set up bi-weekly meetings with KO Consulting. They will be held every other Wednesday. The exact time will vary depending on schedules. If a Council member would like to participate, this is an open invitation. Please get in touch with the Mayor beforehand. Lastly, Mayor Lewis is proud to announce that the Ohio State Buckeyes are National Champs!

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich is not in attendance this evening. His kids are at their first track meet at the indoor Warren facility. Good luck to the Domitrovich kids and Jack Reckard.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that the Department ended with 5,285 total calls for service.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum discussed the annual 2024 report that he submitted to Council. He thanked the fire association for providing the Department with about \$3,000 of equipment and clothing as well as the \$6,000 needed for the final purchase price of the

6. Reports of Village Officials cont'd.

new ambulance. The Fire Department received a total of \$332,445 in grant money for 2024. Everything the Department has is pretty much compliant. There have been 39 calls to date this year compared to 26 last year. We have given mutual aid five times, received four and Lanes has had six calls in the Village. The new ambulance is ordered. It is time to renew the distributor drug license which is renewed every two years. The cost is \$443.50. The five portable radios that were rewarded from the County are finally activated and in service. Chief Marcum discussed absenteeism in the Department this year. There have been call offs due to illness this month. People have stepped up to fill those gaps. Chief Marcum is hopeful that this is short-lived.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that she is working on the two NOPEC grants. The NOPEC Community Sponsorship grant is received annually in the amount of \$500. It was decided that she will submit for this grant to go toward the Oktoberfest. Also, Mrs. Cunningham is working with Solicitor Ross on the NOPEC NEC grant. Legislation will need to be passed to accept the grant.

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, legislation and February meetings which will be February 4, 5, and 20.

Mr. Schmidt stated that we have a very active Council and we need to continue to be that way. He advised Council to meet with Department Heads, have those discussions, and bring things to the table to move forward in the Village. It is Council's job to discuss things and make the best decision for the Village. Be active and if Council needs any help with anything, Mr. Schmidt is here to help.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that there will be a change in the heating in the fire bays. Two high efficiency gas heaters will be installed as soon as possible. The Oktoberfest Committee would like to use some of the funds acquired from fundraisers to donate to the park and add some equipment. The McDonald NHS mural project is moving along. Mr. Jones thanked everyone involved for their time and effort with this. He is looking forward to seeing the end result.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the purchase of a 2018 Niles police cruiser was discussed. The cruiser is fully equipped with about 72,000 miles. This would help with the fleet at a minimal cost to the Village. The Lateral Transfer Ordinance for new

7. Committee reports cont'd.

police officers should be on the agenda for the next meeting. Also discussed was having a volunteer chaplain to help with the Police and Fire Departments, as well as the residents. Mr. Schmidt stated that Chapter 139 is still being reviewed. The new ambulance was also discussed along with what the Village would like to do with the old ambulance. Mr. Schmidt stated that a proposal for uniform allowance for the Fire Department was brought to Council's attention. This is still in discussions.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that the street sweeper is now available for purchase. Solicitor Ross is working on a resolution to allow the Village to purchase the street sweeper.

Service Committee Mr. Joynes stated that the Trumbull County 911 contract was discussed. The garbage contract was also discussed at length. The 2025 Road Paving Project is ready to be advertised for bids. The streets that will be paved are Nebraska, Utah, and Dakota. The water tower project is ready to move forward, weather pending. The following grants have been applied for: backup generator at the water tower and the installation of sidewalks on Second Street. The replacement equipment for the wastewater pump station is in and waiting for mild weather to install.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated that there is legislation for an Ordinance to rezone property at 305 W. Marshall Road from residential to commercial. He wanted to thank Planning Commission, Council, and Mayor Lewis for doing their homework, going up to the property and taking a walk through. They also talked with the new owners as well as the surrounding neighbors. It sounds like we have a great new business in town and Mr. Jones wished nothing but the best for P & D Power Washing.

Community Chest Mrs. Reckard stated that the first meeting of the new year was this evening. The case workers from last year will remain the same this year. New officers will be selected at the next meeting as Donna Dolsak and Connie Morris are stepping down. If anyone in the Village has a need, please get a hold of someone at the Municipal Building or Community Chest and they will lead you in the right direction.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith stated that there was a healthy discussion of revenue enhancement opportunities. Council is considering all options including the possibility of a levy in November.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes stated that he will be meeting with Larry Manaro the second week of February. They will discuss community and school involvement as well as volunteers for the event. Everything is pretty much booked and contracts are out and signed.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. First 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 first 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. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And/Or Village Administrator To Engage The Services Of The Local Government Services Section Of The State Of Ohio Auditor's Office To Provide Consultation Services To The Fiscal Officer.

It was moved by Mr. Smith to suspend the Rules of Council.

Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that this provides the VFO with the opportunity to use LGS for consultative services. Solicitor Ross stated that this is something that we have done several times over the years.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

11. Legislation cont'd.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution No. 1918-25 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.

C. First Reading Of An Ordinance To Make Permanent Appropriations For 2025 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 2025.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that the ordinance 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 \$285,855.20.

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. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger –aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Joynes at 6:26 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer