

McDonald Village Council  
Wednesday, April 2, 2025  
Regular Council Meeting

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

Visitors: Ken Miner.

1. The April 2, 2025 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:10 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, as well as the family of Campbell Mayor Brian Tedesco who passed in his sleep last night, and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

3. Approval of the March 20, 2025 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the March 20, 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 amend the agenda to omit Community Chest moving forward:

Roll call:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

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

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

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated for the month of March, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$130, court costs \$489, additional costs \$213, Village revenue from fines \$695, Niles Municipal Court fines \$455, and parking tickets \$75 for a grand total of \$2,057.00.

Mayor Lewis stated that Chief Marcum would like to move Caden Candel from probationary firefighter to full status firefighter.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to move Caden Candel from probationary status to full status with the Fire Department.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis would like to appoint Alex Rich, firefighter/EMT to the Fire Department.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to accept the Mayor's appointment of Alex Rich, firefighter/EMT.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis wanted to remind residents, especially those with children, that they are not to be across the bridge at the industrial property. He received a call that there are

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

individuals exploring down there. If they are caught, they will be charged with trespassing.

6. Report of Village Officials:

**Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich** stated that branch pickup resumes on April 10. He wanted to remind residents that the Village does not pickup grass at the curb and leaves can only be picked up in the fall. The street sweeper was successfully purchased. This piece of equipment is used three seasons out of the year.

**Police Chief Ryan Ronghi** stated that Officer Pratt will return on April 22. The Police Department took possession of two service weapons that were ordered last year. Between last year and this year, they have four new service weapons. Hopefully, they will receive two more next year so everyone can be updated with new firearms.

**Fire Chief Fred Marcum** stated that there have been 153 calls for service to date compared to 97 last year. Mutual aid from March 20 through April 1 was three calls given, 3 calls received and Lane has been in the Village three times. Ken Jones is in Firefighter II class which he is paying for himself. Nick Waldo has interest in the chaplain training. Chief Marcum received a denial letter from the State Fire Marshal for the equipment grant. Medic 37-1 should be back in working order soon. Chief Marcum explained an issue the Department is having with the Trumbull County 911 CAD system. He further explained the importance of the CAD system. Caden Candel is now off probation. Chief Marcum has received the drawings for the new ambulance and revisions have been made. Through March 31, there have been 42 transports, charged \$35,282 and received \$14,856. Chief Marcum has a call out to Michelle from Medi-count to discuss some issues with numbers. Mr. Smith asked how much grant money the Village received for the ambulance. Chief Marcum stated that the Village received \$175,000. An EMS hardship grant was also awarded in the amount of \$25,700. The total purchase price of the ambulance is approximately \$205,600. The firefighter's organization will pay the difference.

**Office Manager Amy Cunningham** stated that applications for summer park attendants have been emailed to Tracy Bosheff. The deadline is April 30 so that Mayor Lewis will have a chance to review them before the first meeting in May. Mrs. Cunningham reminded Council that the scholarship money is due. She stated that the grant submitted by KO for office technology was denied. There is a meeting scheduled on April 15 with the Youngstown Foundation to possibly obtain some funding for this. If the Village does not obtain this funding, we will need to absorb the cost of approximately eight to nine computers this summer.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

**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, Fire Department appointment and status change, Niles audit, and Ohio Valley contract. The Community Chest report will be permanently eliminated from Council agenda.

**Park & Buildings Mr. Jones** stated that the Village Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 13 in Woodland Park.

It was moved by Mr. Jones to grant permission for the McDonald Firefighter's Association to utilize the Woodland Park grounds from June 25-28 for the Annual Firefighter's Homecoming Festival.

Discussion: Solicitor Ross asked if Council would like to start applying for the liquor permit. Mr. Joynes confirmed this and will get Solicitor Ross the needed information.

Roll call:

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

**Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt** stated that revisions to Chapter 141 for the Fire Department were discussed. Matthew Ellis from KO Consulting had explained the BWC grant and that there is a 25% match. A request for an extension was requested and granted. Matthew Ellis will pursue other options to obtain the 25% match which is approximately \$10,000. Also discussed during committees were the Alex Rich appointment, the chaplain program and Caden Candel. Solicitor Ross is reviewing the solicitation permit process and looking at changes. This will ensure that individuals walking around are vetted. Chief Ronghi and Lieutenant Caraway put together a packet for Council to review regarding the challenges they face in hiring candidates. Further discussions will follow.

**Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith** stated that the committee discussed Niles and the water billing and what the rate increase would need to be to accommodate the

7. Committee reports cont'd.

increases that the Village is seeing from Niles. There will be a sewer line repair on Nebraska that will cost approximately \$35,000. This will need to be repaired in preparation for paving. This could take up to a couple weeks.

**Service Committee Mrs. Reckard** stated that the PFM audit of Niles will cost approximately \$10,000. Council advised Mr. Domitrovich to move forward. Also discussed was the water tower project which will be handled by USC. The grant for the new generator was received. Tactical Protection will have security cameras up and running in the park and around the buildings as soon as the weather permits. The training date for the new sweeper is April 9. The old sweeper will be bid out as soon as legislation is approved. Solicitor Ross drafted a letter to Ohio Valley Waste regarding resident billing. The billing for residents will be quarterly.

**Planning Commission Mr. Jones** stated that there was a meeting this evening. There was discussion on adding specifics regarding data centers to the zoning at the industrial park. This would make the industrial park more marketable for possible future development.

**Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith** stated that Chief Marcum provided an update on opportunities for the Fire/EMS. He has been working toward the possibility of regionalizing with Weathersfield. There have been a few obstacles. Chief Marcum also discussed the consideration of a levy in the Village for supporting either the Fire Department alone or the first responders including police and fire. The recommendation was that there would be a 4.5 mil levy which would represent approximately \$308,000. Council discussed the fact that this would need to be done carefully and consider the implications as well as when that would be appropriate to place before the voters.

**Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes** stated that the liquor permit is needed for Thursday, June 26 through Saturday, June 28. The hours for the permit would be 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Third Reading Of A Resolution Declaring The Amount Of Taxes That May Be Raised By Levy At The Maximum Rate Authorized By Law Without A Vote Of The Electors To Be Insufficient For Current Operating Expenses, And Declaring The Necessity Of A Levy In Excess Of Such Rate.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution No. 1926-25 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.

B. Second Reading Of A Resolution Accepting The Bid Of R.T. Vernal Paving & Excavating, Inc., 11299 South Avenue, North Lima, Ohio 44452, For The 2025 Street Resurfacing Program With A Base Bid Of One Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy And 50/100 Dollars (\$168,570.50) And For The Further Purpose Of Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And/Or Village Administrator To Enter Into A Contract With R.T. Vernal Paving & Excavating, Inc. And Execute Any Other Documents Necessary To Further The Project.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that the resolution pass second 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.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$126,278.54.

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.

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

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 6:40 p.m. All voted aye.

---

Mayor

Attest to:

---

Fiscal Officer