

McDonald Village Council
July 17, 2025
Regular Council Meeting

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

Visitors: Kathy Miskell

Press: Bob Coupland, *Tribune Chronicle*.

1. The July 17, 2025 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:04 p.m.

Roll call:

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

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

*Mayor Lewis stated that Mrs. Reckard is out of town with family. She has an excused absence this evening.

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 June 19, 2025 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the June 19, 2025 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to amend the agenda and add Kathy Miskell to speak regarding the splash pad under line item 8 “comments from persons or groups present”:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated for the month of June, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$190, court costs \$724, additional costs \$261, Village revenue from fines \$848, continuance fees \$60, Niles Municipal Court fines \$2080.00, police reports \$5.00 and parking tickets \$60 for a grand total of \$4228.00.

Mayor Lewis stated that two individuals are being recommended for appointment to the Fire Department. Jason Miller is a paramedic/firefighter and Matthew Byknish is an EMT/firefighter. Mayor Lewis would like to appoint them to the Fire Department.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to accept the Mayor's appointments of Jason Miller and Matthew Byknish.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis thanked Donny Riccitelli, who opened the Village Creamery. Mr. Riccitelli was adamant that he wanted to make it about the Village. He also invited P & D Painting & Power Washing to get involved with the grand opening celebration. Mayor Lewis wishes both businesses the best. He welcomes anyone that would like to do business in the Village

The painting of the front of the Community Room building is complete. There was one addition to the quote. The side of the post office was added. Mayor Lewis thanked P & D for doing the job.

Mayor Lewis stated that some individuals did an excellent job in stepping up and volunteering for the Firemen's Festival. Obviously, the association is dwindling in

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

numbers. The face of the Department is changing, not for anything bad. We are just leaning more toward a part-time department where folks are spread thin. They don't have the time to put in. There were individuals who stepped up including Kyle Joynes and Mr. Metzinger. Larry Manaro is in his residency now, but did a great deal of work throughout the course of the year in getting things squared away with vendors and such. There were a few families that came forward when they found out we were not having the pancake breakfast. Mayor Lewis thanked the Zajack, Stitt and Ronghi families. He stated that, to say we could not have done this without Lieutenant Dan Jamison and his wife, Jess is an understatement. We had a plane flying over the parade that was not by accident, it was planned out. The amount of work that they put in does not go unrecognized. Mayor Lewis instructed Lieutenant Jamison to buy his wife something nice.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that there was a pre-construction meeting for the 2025 paving project which includes Dakota, Nebraska, and Utah. There is no start date yet. They are waiting for the subcontractor to confirm dates to begin work on manholes, sidewalks and approaches. Once the date is confirmed, they will begin. The sewer project will include improving the sewer flow on Nebraska which should begin within two weeks. Mr. Domitrovich thanked the employees in the Street and Water Departments. There was a water break last Saturday around 11:00 p.m. Mike Schuller, Jonathan Noel, and Tommy Rebraca worked through the night and then had to get up and come to work the next morning.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that there were 108 calls for service in June, 29 traffic stops and 196 residential security checks. Chief Ronghi reminded everyone that Safety Day is Saturday, July 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be several communities participating in the event.

Fire Lieutenant Dan Jamison stated that calls to date have been 310 compared to last year at 306. Mutual aid from June 20 to July 17 have been 15 given and 10 received. Lane has been in the Village seven times during this time period. There were two applicants that were appointed. The Fire Department has received an EMS grant in the amount of \$3,746 which will be used to purchase some items. There was a garage fire on July 8 with minimum damage. The Department was there quickly and the fire was put out. Chief Marcum wanted to thank the crew for their quick response and aggressive tactics. There were five inspections done this week and there were only minor violations. There was a larger violation that they addressed with the individual. The new power cot

6. Reports of Village Officials cont'd.

came in and there will be in-service training on July 23. To date, there have been 86 transports, total charges have been \$81,744 and total revenue has been \$35,411.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that all bids that were turned in for the senior centers are going to be rejected and will need to be rebid. The advisory council was made aware that there is a need for individuals who are homebound and have basic needs. Due to this concern, they are not distributing as much money to the senior centers. We were informed by a member of the advisory council that our bid looked fine and to rebid the same information as before. Mrs. Cunningham stated that our bid was for approximately \$46,500 annually to run the room fully. She is confident that, even if we don't receive the full amount requested, we can still run the program as it is being currently run. We will know more after July 30.

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, Council minutes, Fiscal Officer's report, legislation, the Fire Department appointments, and the Last Call Foundation grant. Mr. Schmidt thanked everyone involved with the festival. It was a great turnout.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that the community building got revamped. It looks great. P & D Power Washing did a great job. The new garage doors were installed at the park shanty. The interior was pressure washed and is now ready for painting, new lights, the new cabinets and the refrigerator which will be completed within the next couple weeks. Mr. Jones thanked Chris Mills for his help with the cabinets and prep work in getting the garage doors ready for installation. He also thanked D & R with the installation of the garage doors and the Oktoberfest committee for the donation of the garage doors and the refrigerator. Mr. Jones thanked P & D for their donation of the paint. Also, he thanked the park employees and the Street Department, who will be painting the inside of the shanty soon. Mr. Jones wanted to thank Mayor Lewis and Mr. Domitrovich for working on these projects. It is nice to see a couple older buildings receive some updating. The weeds in the playground area have been removed and certified playground mulch has been put down. There have been additional donations to the park within the last few weeks from a number of Village residents. Mr. Jones thanked everyone that donated. The park is always taking donations. If anyone would like to donate, please contact Mr. Jones, Kim Schmidt or Heidi Hoffman. The kids definitely appreciate it.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the officers were fitted for new vests. The Police Department is looking at getting some shields with leftover grant money. There were two appointments to the Fire Department. Also, the power cot was delivered. There is still a need for an auto loader. Mr. Schmidt reminded everyone about the F.O.P. golf outing on August 9.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to enter into a contract with Last Call Foundation to accept the grant dollars for the power cot.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt stated that there was a discussion regarding the need for a UTV. He appreciates Council's comments last evening. It was presented with a different quote today that is three times less than what was discussed last evening. Mr. Schmidt will bring this up at the next Committee meetings.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that there are three pieces of emergency legislation. We are in summer session and do not meet as frequently. A decision was made to authorize the Office Manager to send the paperwork to the Trumbull County Board of Elections for the 1.5 mil renewal levy.

Service Committee Mr. Joynes stated that the KO contract deadline is coming up July 31. We are looking at potentially getting grant dollars to cover that again. There are benefits in having KO involved in the Village in the last year. Mr. Joynes reminded all residents that August 1 will be the garbage billing. Mr. Domitrovich will be using a \$50,000 grant that was awarded to fund a generator for the water tower. These funds need to be used by mid-August.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith stated no report.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes stated that we are very blessed to have all the events in the Village throughout the year. Dan Jamison knocked the Firemen's

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Festival out of the park. Mr. Joynes appreciates Lieutenant Jamison and all the volunteers and community members that stepped up to make the pancake breakfast happen. Mr. Joynes stated that he knew what he was doing strategically when he texted Bob Zajack. Mr. Zajack took it and ran with it. Mr. Joynes never had to call him back. It was all organized that night. It is nice when you have people that care about these events.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Kathy Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. Mrs. Miskell and her husband are raising their grandson, who is non-verbal autistic. He is 19 years old and he is a big kid, he is 6'0". Mrs. Miskell cannot understand why they are unable to use the splash pad for him, as long as they never leave him and he is supervised. She and her husband have to go to Niles, Mill Creek or Austintown. Mrs. Miskell gave a copy of each splash pad's rules. Most say that you have to have adult supervision under the age of 13. In McDonald, anyone 13 and older is unable to use the splash pad. When Mrs. Miskell asked Mayor Lewis if there were restrictions on anything else, it is just the splash pad. Niles has a beautiful splash pad and they take him every weekend. There is not a problem. Mr. and Mrs. Miskell take him to Mill Creek and have never had a problem. They live four blocks from the park. Mrs. Miskell would like to know why they have to leave the Village just to take her grandson to a splash pad. He enjoys it. It is calming for him.

Mayor Lewis was nice enough to work with Mrs. Miskell last year regarding sensory times. Now her grandson graduated from Potential Development and is in an adult workshop between 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. does no good for him. For most adults with disabilities that need sensory time, this does not help. They are not here. Mrs. Miskell would like to know why we can't just add that they have to have adult supervision if you are over the age of 13. Mrs. Miskell stated that she was told the splash pad rules were voted on 10 years ago. Things change in 10 years. If you are worried that they are going to break something, an 11 or 12 year-old can break it just as easily as her grandson. Mrs. Miskell stated that it can't be that bad if all the communities around here put splash pads in all the time.

In June, Mrs. Miskell wrote on the McDonald website and she had over 200 likes and comments. Most of the people here did not know there was an age limit. Some of them told her they have children that have autism and they went as a family. Some were older than 13 but nobody ever said anything to them. They said if someone told them they could not be there, they would be angry. Mrs. Miskell thinks we are making a bigger deal out of this than it is. The park attendants are right across the street from the Police and Fire Departments. Everybody has cell phones now. If there is a problem, you pick up your cell phone and call the police. A typical child will act up too. Mrs. Miskell is frustrated. They pay taxes here and they have to leave. Her grandson only stays in a

8. Remarks from persons or groups present cont'd.

splash pad 20 minutes to a half hour. Her husband is not in attendance because he is with their grandson. They do not leave him. He has had a traumatic life. It would be so easy to come to the splash pad for 20 to 30 minutes and let him play. When he is done or when it gets too loud, he just gets his towel and they leave. Mrs. Miskell thinks McDonald needs to step up. This is not 10 years ago or 40 years ago. These are real problems. One in 34 kids have autism now. The age limit is not the same for them. Why should her grandson be treated different than anybody else?

Mayor Lewis appreciates Mrs. Miskell's comments and concerns. The next step for Council would be for them to take her concerns and, should they decide to address it, they will discuss it at the August Committee meetings.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Designating A Depository For Active Deposits Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution No.1934-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

11. Legislation cont'd.

B. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor And Fiscal Officer To Enter A Debt Collection Agreement With Capital Recovery Systems, Inc. For Collection Of Delinquent Fines, Court Costs, And Other Costs Arising From The McDonald, Mayor's Court Operation.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution No. 1935-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that, because of the Ohio Revised Code revisions that have happened in the last five years, any of these collection costs are passed onto the debtor so there would be no cost to the Village.

Mayor Lewis thanked Mrs. Cunningham for all her research. She found a few different options for the Village.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

C. Emergency Ordinance To Amend 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 Others Sources Of Revenue For 2025.

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

11. Legislation cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3319-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$157,874.18.

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. Metzinger –aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: Mr. Schmidt stated that, due to a conflict on August 21, he would like to move Committee meetings to Tuesday, August 19 and Council to August 20.

13. Miscellaneous cont'd.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to set August meetings for Committees to be held on Tuesday, August 19 and Council to be held on Wednesday, August 20 with both meetings being held in Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

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