

McDonald Village Council  
August 20, 2025  
Regular Council Meeting

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

Visitors: Becky Muckridge, Pete Sudol, and Kathleen Miskell.

1. The August 20, 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 excused due to a work obligation.

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 July 17, 2025 Council minutes and August 4, 2025 Special Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the July 17, 2025 Council minutes and August 4, 2025 Special Council 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. Joynes to amend the agenda and remove Legislation B:

Discussion: Mr. Joynes stated that the Office Manager informed Council that Trumbull County Public Defender was going to be making some changes to their agreement.

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye  
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated for the month of July, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$140, court costs \$535, additional costs \$203, Village revenue from fines \$748, continuance fees \$40, Niles Municipal Court fines \$135 for a grand total of \$1801.

Mayor Lewis read a letter from former Mayor Tom Hannon's wife thanking the Village Council and staff for honoring his memory in the form of a gift. Mayor Lewis stated that the Village appreciates his service. Tom Hannon will always be remembered.

Mayor Lewis spoke with Superintendent Mr. Carkido. The intention, moving forward, is to work together. We finally have two groups that want to be cohesive. Although we will always be separate, you can not have a good school without a good Village and you cannot have a good Village without good schools. Mayor Lewis is looking forward to the next era.

Mayor Lewis met with Matthew Ellis from KO Consulting, where he previewed the comprehensive park plan. This is something we can pass on to our State representatives. Hopefully during the October visit, we can garner some representation in the form of some money in the State budget.

6. Report of Village Officials:

**Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich** thanked the park attendants this past summer. We said goodbye to them at the Spartan Challenge, which was heavily attended. There was a total of more than 40 kids for the event. The park attendants are off to either trade schools, military, or college. Mr. Domitrovich also thanked Heidi Hoffman, our park supervisor for providing a wonderful program.

**Police Chief Ryan Ronghi** stated that they have a quote for upgrading their computers from Windows 10 to Windows 11 through Mr. PC. The price is \$1200. He is not charging for his labor. The order for vests and vest carriers has been placed for a total price of \$8,287.86 which was free to the Village through a matching grant. Chief Ronghi commended the Fire Department. There was a structure fire on Sunday on Sixth Street

6. Reports of Village Officials cont'd.

Sunday afternoon. He arrived first and the structure was fully engulfed. The Fire Department was three or four minutes behind him and they were able to extinguish the fire. The fire did not get inside the house. Mayor Lewis thanked Dominic Carkido, who saw the flames and jumped into action by knocking on the door and getting the residents out of the house.

**Fire Chief Fred Marcum** was not in attendance. No report.

**Office Manager Amy Cunningham** stated that the RFPs that were previously turned in for the senior levy funding will not need to be rebid. They will review the bids and extend our current contract through October to allow for the extra time.

**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 exiting summer recess.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to exit summer recess and enter into the normal Council schedule.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye  
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt stated that September meetings were also discussed. Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 2. Council meetings will be held on September 3 and 17. Also discussed was the need for codification. Mr. Schmidt thanked everyone for their speedy response to the fire as well. It is nice to see how fast our safety forces respond.

**Park & Buildings Mr. Jones** stated that there is grant funding available for a disc golf course and a storybook trail at Woodland Park. The storybook trail would have signage throughout the trail describing the history in McDonald. We are hopeful that we can

7. Committee reports cont'd.

obtain the funding for these things. Beginning Saturday, September 6, there will be fall ball for girls' fast pitch at the baseball fields. Games will be played every Saturday through October 11. This weekend is the Billy Goat invitational. Mr. Jones wishes the kids the best of luck. He reminded everyone that Octoberfest will be held on October 11. This is an all-day event. All proceeds will go to the park. Mr. Jones will have more details at the next Council meeting. He thanked Heidi Hoffman and the park employees on a successful year.

**Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt** stated that they are continuing to look into the chaplain program. The right person for this program has been determined. Chief Marcum submitted a pdf file for Mr. Schmidt to review. Mr. Schmidt stated that the new ambulance will need a loading system for the power cot. The loading system is around \$36,000. This is an immediate need for this ambulance to go into proper function. This will be discussed at great length to get Mr. Smith and our VFO to get things moved around so that can happen as soon as possible. There was a discussion as to what should be done with the white ambulance. Also discussed were the computers and vests for the Police Department. Mr. Schmidt stated that the F.O.P. golf outing is always nicely attended and a good event to raise some money for them. Thank you to the F.O.P. for hosting the event.

**Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith** stated that Matthew Ellis from KO Consulting gave his reports regarding the status of the grants. They are working on approximately three to four grants per month. The most significant grant is the comprehensive park plan. This would encompass the trails as well as beautification areas such as park benches and tables. We are looking at ways to bring the community into the park and return it to where it was 60-70 years ago when it was the gem of this area. Mr. Smith helped KO with some things from the historical society. Mr. Smith stated that most of the legislation tonight has to do with moving the funds around within the budget. We are not exceeding any numbers.

Also discussed was what is going on between the Village and the City of Niles relating to our water treatment costs. They have suggested an increase in billing to the Village of 68%. We have analyzed that information and gone back to them formally with a letter suggesting that it would be closer to 14%. We are waiting for their response. Thanks to our VFO, Administrator and Solicitor and the effort they put into this, we have a pretty good handle on what the increases need to be which is important as we try to calculate what water and sewer rates need to be. Mr. Smith stated that Council clarified how they would allocate the Trumbull Memorial Foundation grant.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

**Service Committee Mr. Joynes** gave the report in Mrs. Reckard's absence. He stated that the donated scoreboard is in and at the street garage. The location for the scoreboard has been marked out. The installer is working on the brackets to weld together and powder coating with paint. We are hoping to get those in this weekend. Once this is done, they will install the scoreboard as soon as next week.

The successful completion of 120 feet of sanitary sewer line on Nebraska was finished August 8. The next project begins in about one and a half weeks where they will install concrete sidewalks, sidewalk ramps, concrete curb repair, and catch basin repair. As this is completed, they will start on the roads. The date is to be determined.

Mayor Lewis discussed a meeting with Eastgate regarding a potential sidewalk grant in the amount of \$350,000. We are looking to try and budget for an 80/20 match. We will potentially look into some areas that might need upgraded for sidewalk repair.

It was moved by Mr. Joynes to allow our Office Manager to contact Walter Drane to codify the ordinances.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye  
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

**Planning Commission Mr. Jones** stated no report.

**Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith** stated no report.

**Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes** stated no report. Mayor Lewis stated that, right after this year's festival, he decided to put together a committee that will be chaired by a member of Council and will include some community members which will be appointed. This will be further discussed in September Committee meetings.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Becky Muckridge, 344 Indiana Avenue. She and Pete Sudol would like to start an adult softball league. They have over 130 people that have shown interest. Ms. Muckridge and Mr. Sudol presented an idea of a double elimination tournament to Council. This would get people interested in participating in a league for next year. Ms. Muckridge presented their proposal to

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

Council. This would be an organized tournament with waivers signed and paid umpires. Once all expenses are covered, all leftover net profit will be donated to McDonald's parks and recreation. There will be zero tolerance for alcohol or drugs. Pete Sudol stated that they will be putting together a safety committee and an extensive rule book. Mayor Lewis told them that this is very well put together. However, tonight is not the forum for Council to make a decision. If Council deems this as something they would be interested in looking at, it would be discussed in September Committee meetings.

Kathleen Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. She would like to talk about the age limit on the splash pad again. She would like this to be proactive and not wait until spring. She has had all kinds of comments on the McDonald website where people agree with her. There is no age limit on the swings or tennis courts or basketball courts. Last month, she gave Council the splash pad rules from other communities where they take her grandson. Mrs. Miskell thinks this is wrong. She believes it is age discrimination and she would like it fixed. Mrs. Miskell does not believe that they should have to leave McDonald when there is a splash pad here. She thinks that is ridiculous. Mayor Lewis stated that, if Council deems it as something they want to discuss, they will bring it up under Parks and Buildings in Committees. If they do not feel that it is necessary, they are not obligated to do that either.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. First Reading Of A Resolution Accepting The Amount And Rates As Determined By The Budget Commission And Authorizing The Necessary Tax Levies And Certifying Them To The County Auditor.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that the resolution pass first 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.

C. Emergency Reading Of An 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 Other Sources Of Revenue For 2025.

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 Ordinance No. 3320-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye  
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

D. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Transferring Funds Within Various Funds Within The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, For A Period Beginning January 1, 2025 and Ending December 31, 2025.

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.

11. Legislation cont'd.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution 1937-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger –aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$260,062.56.

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. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger –aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Joynes at 6:45 p.m. All voted aye.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest to:

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Fiscal Officer