

McDonald Village Council
September 3, 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: Kim Jones-Schmidt, Ron Jones, Kathy Miskell, and Brian Bosheff.

1. The September 3, 2025 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by President Pro Tem Sean Schmidt at 6:03 p.m.

Roll call:

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

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

*Mr. Schmidt stated that Mayor Lewis had an unforeseen 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 August 20, 2025 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Smith to approve the August 20, 2025 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Smith to accept the agenda as presented:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis was not in attendance. No report.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the concrete part of the paving project is mobilizing and demolition of sidewalks could be as early as tomorrow.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that he discussed the truck ordinance with Solicitor Ross. Everything was cleared up without having to amend anything. Chief Ronghi spoke with the school regarding safety concerns. He will be meeting with Mr. Carkido later in the month. Chief Ronghi would like to recognize an anonymous resident who generously donated \$10,000 to the Police Department. This money will go toward the renovation of the department.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum stated that the calls to date are 383, last year was 367. Mutual aid numbers from August 19 through September 3 are five given and one received. Lane has been in the Village seven times. Chief Marcum reported on 550 Ohio Avenue. A few weeks ago there was a severe lightning strike that did substantial damage to the building systems, one of which was the elevator. Chief Marcum updated everyone on the process that was taken to repair the elevator which is now up and running. The other issue was that the fire alarm system went down. Chief Marcum described the steps that were taken to ensure everyone in the building was safe.

The recent inspections are going well. Chief Marcum discussed some programs that he has been working on and is preparing to roll out in the Village. He wants everyone in the Village to have working smoke detectors in their home. Chief Marcum has enrolled in a program through the State Fire Marshal's office where they will give us some smoke detectors that will be installed for people in need. This information is uploaded to the website so they can see how safe communities are. Any residents that are hearing impaired would receive alarms that are called bed shakers that will wake you up in case of a fire. The same program is being done with the Red Cross as well.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

The Fire Department is working with the State Fire Marshal's office to develop a school educational program. As soon as the firefighters that have volunteered to do this get their plan together, it will be rolled out, hopefully this school year. The third program is the home oxygen thermal for fuses. Chief Marcum described this program in detail.

Chief Marcum would like to work toward a CPR community. This is a program through the Red Cross that would offer classes for residents. Chief Marcum reported on the Billy Goat. This year, only 10 patients were treated and only one was transported. There were no bee stings. Chief Marcum gave kudos to the Village Administrator. He also had a great turnout from his staff.

Billing to date is 114 transports, total charges of \$110,741 and total revenue is \$45,408. Mrs. Reckard stated that she can help Chief Marcum with the CPR training as she is affiliated with the Red Cross.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham reminded everyone that our Village Facebook page is "Village of McDonald, Ohio Administration". This page was created for information only. We are not affiliated with any other McDonald Facebook pages. Those pages are created and administered by Village residents, not our Village administration. Mrs. Cunningham would like to remind the residents that our office does not participate in any kind of voting or tallying of opinions from other Facebook pages. The office is always available to answer any resident concerns or questions. However, there is not enough staffing for tallying votes. If a resident would like to state an opinion on anything regarding the Village amenities, services, personnel, etc. we encourage them to attend our Council meetings where they are able to speak directly to our elected officials.

Solicitor Ross reiterated what he has previously stated regarding Facebook. He advised everyone to pay no attention to people on Facebook. To him, it is irrelevant social media. Solicitor Ross encouraged everyone to do their jobs and if they get criticized, to deal with it.

7. Committee reports:

Mr. Smith stated that Caucus met this evening and the following items were discussed: agenda, Fiscal Officer's report, Council minutes, and legislation which is the second reading of a resolution for the amounts and rates. Also discussed was the possibility of changing the date for Trick or Treat.

Parks & Buildings Mr. Jones thanked Mrs. Reckard, Tracy Carkido and Jodi Cintron for painting the Woodland Park sign. He stated that the donated scoreboard for the high

7. Committee reports cont'd.

school baseball field is installed and ready for KV Electric to hook up. Mr. Jones discussed the possibility of an adult softball tournament at the ballfields. This would be a two-day tournament and would not interfere with any fall ball games being played. Council discussed this and asked several questions. Becky Muckridge and Pete Sudol will be running the tournament. They attended the last Council meeting and presented their plan to Council.

It was moved by Mr. Jones to allow the adult softball league to utilize the Woodland Park fields on September 21 and September 28.

Roll call:

Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

Mr. Jones stated that the possible removal of the age limit at the splash pad was also discussed. Council had a nice discussion and everyone made some valid points on this matter. Mr. Jones thanked everyone for voicing their opinions. Mr. Jones stated that, if there is anyone from Council who would like to make a motion for the removal of the age limit at the splash pad, to please do so now. If not, we will move forward with the meeting. No motion was made and there will be no other discussions on the splash pad age limit at this time.

Mr. Jones stated that Oktoberfest is October 11. There will be kids' activities, kids' yoga, story time in the park which are all sponsored by the Learning Tree from 9:00 a.m. to noon. There will also be bounce houses, putt putt, face painting, hay rides from noon to 6:00 p.m. The Saxon Club Band is playing from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. followed by RDNA from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We will have the beer tent and food vendors. There will be a craft market from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Jones will have more information at the next Council meeting. There are sponsorships available until September 15. If anyone is interested, please contact Chad Jones, Mrs. Reckard, or Kim Schmidt.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the auto lift for the new ambulance that is arriving in September was discussed. We are looking to have legislation at the next meeting to purchase the auto lift so it is ready to be installed when the ambulance arrives. Mr. Schmidt stated that there is a need for a resolution for the chaplain program. More information will follow. We do have an individual that was recommended by Chief

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Marcum. Chief Ronghi discussed the meeting with the school for active shooter training. There have been some truck route issues where trucks are veering off the main roads. There was a discussion regarding potential new signs to help so they are not going the wrong way. There was also a generous donation that a resident made to the Police Department in the amount of \$10,000.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that the legislation was discussed as well as the Fiscal Officer's report. He stated that the 2026 budget discussions with department heads will be soon. There are some moving parts including the Niles sewer rates and the upcoming paving project for 2026. Mr. Smith stated that they discussed at least exploring with RITA what the revenue implications would be of reducing the credit to be allowed by taxpayers to have with payments they are making to other municipalities. He will bring that information to the next committee meeting.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard stated that the sewer project on Nebraska is completed. The paving will start in a few weeks. With the leftover funds, they will install handicap accessible crosswalks on Dakota. New street signs, traffic control signs and painted crosswalks will finish the paving project. The 2026 paving project was discussed. Fifth and Sixth Street were mentioned and they discussed Seventh Street also. More to follow on that. There are two grants for sidewalk replacement. Solicitor Ross followed up with the City of Niles. We have not heard anything from the audit. Mayor Lewis met with Nate Ogden about employee health insurance.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith stated no report.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes stated no report.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Becky Muckridge, 344 Indiana Avenue. Ms. Muckridge thanked Council for giving them the opportunity to host the softball tournament.

Kathy Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. Mrs. Miskell is very disappointed that not one of you would put the motion in to put it up for a vote. Are you afraid people are going to find out how you voted? Mrs. Miskell stated that she can't understand. She asked if there is an age limit on Halloween. There could be perverts out there, there could be a larger child that would fall on a smaller child. Same principle for the splash pad. President Pro Tem Mr. Schmidt stated that Council has talked at length about this and they appreciate Mrs. Miskell attending the meetings and telling them her concerns. She is someone that

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

actually came in and did the right thing and came to talk with Council. Mr. Schmidt stated that Council has talked about this at length. Mrs. Miskell stated that she has spoken to the Attorney General. Mr. Schmidt informed Mrs. Miskell that we are done with this conversation.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Second 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 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.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$116,482.88.

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

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Joynes at 6:34 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer