

McDonald Village Council
October 8, 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: Ron Jones, Kathleen Miskell, and Marty Puckett.

1. The October 8, 2025 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – present	Mr. Joynes – present
Mrs. Reckard – present	Mr. Jones – present
Mr. Metzinger – present	Mr. Smith – present

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 September 17, 2025 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the September 17, 2025 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye	Mr. Joynes – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye	Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Metzinger – 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	Mr. Joynes – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye	Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye	Mr. Smith – aye

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated for the month of September, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$60, court costs \$248, additional costs \$167, Village revenue from fines \$230, continuance fee \$40, Niles Municipal Court fines \$250, parking tickets \$25 and police reports \$5.00 for a grand total of \$1,025.00.

Mayor Lewis met with a candidate for the Police Department. Pat Mulligan is retired from Youngstown. Mayor Lewis would possibly like to appoint him at the next meeting. Also, due to the possibility of having a home playoff game, Trick or Treat will be held on Thursday, October 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be a bonfire that evening.

Oktoberfest will be held this weekend, October 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. This is a family friendly event. Mayor Lewis thanked Kim Jones-Schmidt for all of her hard work. She also has a committee that works with her. The goal is to raise money for our park. Lastly, Mayor Lewis welcomed former Mayor Puckett to the meeting.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that Christmas In the Village will be held on Saturday, December 6. The stick program will conclude on Thursday, October 9. Leaf pickup will begin next week.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that there were 126 calls for service and 186 residential spot checks for the month of September. Chief Ronghi thanked Niles VFW Post 2074 and their commander, Dave Sheely. They donated \$6,000 to the F.O.P. This donation will be used toward the renovations in the Police Department.

Captain Caraway is in the process of obtaining his Master Criminal Investigator certification. It is 228 hours and entails advanced training in homicide and crime scene investigation. There are 33,000 police officers in Ohio and only 500 have this certification.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum was not in attendance. Mrs. Cunningham gave his report in his absence. The calls to date are 442 compared to last year at 426. Mutual aid from 9/3 to 9/16 was six given, four received and three from Lane. Billing through 9/16/25 was 136 transports, total charges \$133,699 and total revenue was \$54,187. The load system arrived on 10/7 and will be installed by Penn Care when the ambulance arrives. Lastly, the Fire Department purchased two new thermal cameras.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that the copies of codified ordinances have been received. She asked Council to drop off their codified ordinance books, if they have a physical copy. The ordinances will be updated on the website by next week.

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 and legislation.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that the boys' high school baseball organization would like to update their field with a new bullpen on the first base side and paint the dugouts. Mr. Jones reminded everyone that Oktoberfest is Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. There are many activities and events throughout the day. He is hopeful that everyone can support the fundraising for the park.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that there is a potential new hire in the Police Department. He is hoping for the approval for the hiring of Patrick Mulligan at the October 23 meeting. Chief Ronghi had made some recommendations regarding the probationary period and vacation time for Mr. Mulligan. There will be a meeting regarding the SRO position which will include Chief Ronghi, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Smith, a board member and the superintendent. Chief Ronghi had discussed building upgrades inside and outside of the Police Department. They are doing some upgrades themselves inside the building. Mr. Schmidt stated that they will look into doing some upgrades on the exterior of the building to make it safer for them. This would include some ballistic glass amongst other things.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that the water and sewer rate adjustments were discussed. He thanked Mr. Domitrovich and Mrs. Smith for the work they have been doing with PFM. We are close to having rates. Our goal will be to have legislation prepared and passed so the rates are effective by December 1. This would allow that read period to be affected by those rates. The residents will not see those rates in a bill until April. Mr. Smith stated that there was a good discussion about reducing the Village's income tax credit for tax paid to other municipalities. There was a discussion about reducing this from 2% to 1%. We would have that set so it will be effective January 1, 2026 with a sunset in five years. Mr. Smith has been working with RITA to move forward. The goal is to have this effective for Council's consideration so legislation can be passed before the end of this year.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Mr. Smith stated that there was some discussion about the provisions in the budget. Council entered executive session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss the compensation of public employees. Council remained in executive session until 8:12 p.m. with no further business.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard stated that the Village received the scoring from Eastgate for next year's paving project. Currently, we are in the top 25% for scoring. The grant would be \$75,000 and the Village would pay the remainder. The project would include W. Seventh Street to McDonald Avenue. Also, there is a sidewalk replacement grant through Eastgate which needs to be completed by the end of November. Suez will be cleaning and repairing the water tower. They will wash and install the mixer. The submersible pump replacement is 80% complete. The Village is awaiting the external generator at the water tower. That project is delayed until January. The paving project on Nebraska, Dakota and Utah Avenues is finished. R.T. Vernal fixed the roads and made extensive repairs. The signage, stripping for crosswalks and stop bars and hot tarring still need to be completed. There seems to be a flawless transition from the garbage billing to the residents. The term for electric aggregation is expiring the end of December. We are hopeful that Tony Ramos with NOPEC can go over some options with our residents. Mr. Domitrovich stated that the last branch pickup is Thursday. The leaf pickup will begin next week. There is an emergency reading to codify the ordinances.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith stated no report.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes gave kudos to the Oktoberfest committee. They have put a lot of work into these events. Kim Jones-Schmidt puts a lot of effort into it. It is good to see all her dreams with that event coming to fruition on Saturday.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Kathy Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. At the last meeting, she heard someone say they did not like her tone. If she offended anyone, she is sorry. It was not her tone but her frustration level. Mrs. Miskell has been coming to the meetings. She has given two options for the splash pad. One was to have an adult with anyone over the age of 14. The second option was to try it for a month or two weeks. She has gotten no response. Mrs. Miskell loves living in McDonald. Our park is like a Norman Rockwell picture. There are churches on one side, recreation center, the administration, police and fire departments. You couldn't live in a better place. Mrs. Miskell is not trying to cause problems. She wants everyone to be treated

8. Comments from persons or groups present cont'd:

fairly. She feels the ones over 14 are not being treated fairly. Mrs. Miskell has a personal interest. She comes to the meetings, says the same things every time, and she gets nothing. Nobody will discuss why or she heard that it has been discussed. What has been said? What is the sense in coming and having open discussion if it is only on this side? If you were sitting over here, you may feel different. Maybe if Mrs. Miskell was sitting there, she would feel different. She does not have the knowledge of what is actually going on in the Village. Are 14 year olds juvenile delinquents that the splash pad is the only place in the park that has an age restriction. Mrs. Miskell apologized if she has been rude to anyone. It is frustration.

Mayor Lewis stated that there was an open candid discussion regarding the splash pad at the August Committee meetings. Council did not decide to move forward with any changes. That is where it is with Council. Mayor Lewis stated that proper protocol is that if a member of Council felt as though the rules needed to be changed, they would have motioned to change the rules. In not motioning, they decided the rules are the rules as they are. Mrs. Miskell asked if she has the right to know why. Mayor Lewis stated that the discussion was had the night before and Mrs. Miskell was present for that. Mrs. Miskell thinks it is wrong and she is going to keep coming back. Mayor Lewis stated that this is fine. She is entitled to her opinion. Mrs. Miskell stated that not every child has the ability to have a swimming pool or a friend have a pool or transportation to go to a lake. Mrs. Miskell stated that, when we had a heat wave, Cortland actually extended their splash pad hours. McDonald didn't. Mrs. Miskell stated that the Village won't budge and she does not understand that. Times change, people change. Mrs. Miskell does not understand why we can't have open communication of why. She asked if there has been damage done. Every community wants a splash pad now.

Solicitor Ross stated that Mrs. Miskell was present when the police chief shared his safety concerns about why an age limit was set. He went into detail when he talked about it. It was not something that was done arbitrary. It was not something to single everybody out. The age limit is applied fairly across the board. Solicitor Ross stated that Mrs. Miskell is looking out for her grandson. He understands that Council has tried to accommodate her needs by offering certain sensory hours. It is not like there has been no attempt to accommodate her. Council has tried. The rules are the rules for the reason explained by the Chief and the safety concerns they have. They are not arbitrary or discriminatory. They are fair and reasonable and they are set for that reason. It has been explained to Mrs. Miskell from the floor why those rules are the rules. Mrs. Miskell stated that the way she took it was that Council decided, before it even opened, that 14 was going to be the age limit. Has there been damage done? Mrs. Miskell stated that nobody has said anything about damage being done to the splash pad. Mayor Lewis respects Mrs. Miskell's opinion. He encourages her to always voice her opinion.

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

However, what Council is not going to do is enter into dialogue. Mayor Lewis just wanted to clear that with her. He is more than happy to meet with Mrs. Miskell again and talk new issues over with her. During this meeting, Council is going to keep it within how meetings have been conducted.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. First Reading Of An Ordinance To Make Temporary Appropriations For 2026 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 2026.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that the ordinance pass first reading as read.

Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that this is typical. This is done each year. The temporary budget is the stop-gap to allow the Village to continue to operate while we work through what will be considered, eventually, the permanent budget. Council may make some modifications to this before the subsequent reading.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

B. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance Approving The Editing And Inclusion Of Certain As Parts Of The Various Component Codes Of The Codified Ordinances Of McDonald, Ohio.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

11. Legislation cont'd.

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

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

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that Ordinance No. 3322-25 pass emergency 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 \$105,055.11.

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

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