

McDonald Village Council
September 17, 2025
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Patrolman Ron Pratt, Fire Lieutenant Richard Rider, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Visitors: Pam Sowers, Kathleen Miskell, and Brian Bosheff.

1. The September 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	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 3, 2025 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the September 3, 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 August, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$50, court costs \$207, additional costs \$29, Village revenue from fines \$510, continuance fee \$40, Niles Municipal Court fines \$350, law enforcement fund \$25 and parking tickets \$90 for a grand total of \$1301.00.

Mayor Lewis stated that there might be a possibility of a home playoff game the night of October 31. He announced that Trick or Treat will be on Thursday, October 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Also, Mayor Lewis encouraged residents, that if a solicitor comes to their door and they do not have a permit to call the police. Currently, there is only one permit issued within the Village.

Mayor Lewis had the opportunity to go with Kim Schmidt and Joe Midlick to the Youngstown Studio to discuss the Oktoberfest. There is a lot going on this year. Mayor Lewis encouraged everyone to spread the word.

Matthew Ellis from KO Consulting stated that there are no new approvals or denials to report. Last month, they submitted a \$20,000 grant to the Ohio History Connection for the McDonald Mill Workers' Trail honoring the Village's industrial legacy. Mr. Ellis hopes to find out the result by December. He submitted a \$15,000 grant to Brothers Helping Brothers Foundation to assist in funding the auto loading system for the ambulance. Mr. Ellis is currently working on a grant for the National Recreation and Parks Association for women's and girls' sports. This is a \$35,000 grant which would be used to fund court improvements and to host recreational programming specifically toward women and girls to ensure there is equal opportunity and equal access to sports. Lastly, Mr. Ellis will be working with Chief Ronghi next month on the OCJS Body One Camera grant.

Mayor Lewis thanked Matthew Ellis for his hard work on the comprehensive park plan. The goal is to approach the state representatives in the next 45 days or so.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the paving project is moving forward. He has been on-site with the engineers and contractors all three days this week.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi was not in attendance. Officer Ron Pratt stated no report.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum was not in attendance. Lieutenant Rich Rider stated no report.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that the Village was awarded by the Trumbull County Commissioner's, as requested for the next two years, for the R.E.S.T. program. The new grant will be from November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2027. The annual amount is \$46,493.00 to fund the program.

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. The October Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, October 7. Council meetings will be held on Wednesday, October 8 and Thursday, October 23. Trick or Treat will be Thursday, October 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones stated that the scoreboard at the ballfields has been installed and the electric is hooked up and ready for the spring season at the high school boys' field. Mr. Jones gave the full schedule of events for the Oktoberfest which included times, activities, tournaments, etc. There will be food vendors, a craft show, activities for kids, a beer tent, entertainment and much more. The Saxon Club Band will be performing from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm followed by RDNA, who will play from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt thanked Council for putting the transfer resolution up for a vote this evening. This would transfer funds for the lift assist so when the ambulance comes, we'll be able to have it fully loaded and ready.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that there are three pieces of legislation. There is a third reading of the amounts and rates. There are also two pieces of legislation that are for emergency reading. One is a transfer resolution that allows us to move funds from the general fund into the ambulance transfers in fund for the power cot. Lastly, there is \$9400 that is going into a line item for police equipment.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard stated that there is an emergency reading of an agreement with the Trumbull County Public Defender. Also, the milling is completed and partial repairs begin tomorrow for the road paving project. Paving could start as soon as Friday, but, probably will begin on Monday. Tactical Protection installed four new cameras around the tennis and basketball courts. Mrs. Reckard thanked Tracy Carkido and Jodi Cintron for painting the park sign by the volleyball courts.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

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: Kathleen Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. She would like to bring up the splash pad again. Mrs. Miskell stated that she was totally disgusted last meeting. She felt that there should have been a motion placed and it should have been voted on. Mrs. Miskell spoke to the DRO and she read an email that they had sent her. The Attorney General's office told her that she should change her request from an age to a disability. She can do that. She did not want to do it that way because she thinks it is fair for everyone over the age of 14 to play in the splash pad. Mrs. Miskell was told that "a disability could be used for a reasonable accommodation for the time frame that could be used to allow them access to the same kind of recreation activities as a none disabled individual. Two hours a week is not considered a sufficient time". This information came from the DRO. The Attorney General's office told Mrs. Miskell to ask if the age was codified. Solicitor Ross informed Mrs. Miskell that, since we are talking about Attorney Generals and claims, we are not going to answer any of her questions. She can do whatever she wants legally. Mrs. Miskell asked why the question could not be answered. Solicitor Ross stated that he will not permit Council to do that now that she is making claims with the Attorney General. Mrs. Miskell asked "so I don't have the right to talk to the Attorney General" to which Solicitor Ross replied that she can talk to whoever she wants. We are just not going to answer her questions.

Mrs. Miskell stated that, when Halloween was brought up at the last meeting, she asked if there was going to be an age limit. It ticked somebody off and they told her that the discussion was over-twice. They did not let her finish her question. Mrs. Miskell loves Halloween and the kids love it and they get to be kids. The Police and Fire Departments patrol the streets. It is a fun time. They have the judging of the costumes. They have the bonfire. Mrs. Miskell just asked a question about the age. It was a point. She got cut off. Mrs. Miskell felt very disrespected. As a resident of the Village, she has the right to ask these questions to Council. Mrs. Miskell stated that we voted you in. She was not disrespectful. She just asked if there was going to be an age limit. She got shut down just like she was now shut down.

Solicitor Ross stated that, with respect, Mrs. Miskell's tone is not always respectful to Council. We understand that Mrs. Miskell is passionate about this issue and she has a right to come to the meeting and make public comments. With some respect, she has a pointed tone, at times. Since she is now threatening legal action, Council is not going to

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

answer her questions. Mrs. Miskell stated that she is not doing legal action. She did basic information to know where she stood. That is all.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Third 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 Trumbull County Auditor.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution No. 1938-25 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. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And/Or Village Administrator To Enter Into An Agreement With The Trumbull County Public Defender's Office For The Benefit Of The Village Providing For Services To Be Rendered By Trumbull County, Acting Through The Trumbull County Board Of Commissioners, At A Pro-Rata Share Of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), For One (1) Year Commencing January 1, 2025 And Ending December 31, 2025.

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

Discussion: Solicitor Ross stated that the Village, literally, received the contract from January 1 within the last week. That is why it is an emergency. This is nothing that the Village did. It is when we received the contract from Trumbull County.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that Resolution No. 1939-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

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. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3321-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

11. Legislation cont'd.

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. Jones – aye

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

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution No. 1940-25 pass emergency 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 \$62,667.12.

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 6:27 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer