

McDonald Village Council  
December 3, 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: Stacy Foster, Brian Bosheff, Blaine Carter, John Muckridge and Kathy Miskell.

1. The December 3, 2025 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:12 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – present  
Mr. Jones – 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 November 20, 2025 Council minutes.

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

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to amend the agenda and add Legislation I “Life Insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment”:

Roll call:

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

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

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated for the month of November, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$40, court costs \$142, Village revenue from fines \$420, Niles Municipal Court fines \$475, and parking tickets \$105 for a grand total of \$1182.00.

Mayor Lewis stated that there was a lengthy discussion in Committees about educating ourselves on data centers. To be clear, there is nothing set in place. If Council hears about any site plans submitted at the industrial park, they will make it known to the public. Council is trying to be proactive. Mayor Lewis reached out to the Regional Chamber to inquire as to unbiased resources they may have available. These resources are available to their member municipalities of which we are not at this time. Mayor Lewis plans to participate in their leadership academy this Friday. In order to save money on that and get access to the unbiased resources, Mayor Lewis would like Council's approval to become a member of the Regional Chamber effective immediately.

It was moved by Mr. Smith to approve the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to join the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce as a municipal member and that the Mayor be permitted to attend the leadership academy that begins on Friday.

Discussion: Mayor Lewis stated that there is an additional \$100 cost for the training so the total cost would be \$633.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that the Christmas tree lighting is this weekend. It was moved this year. The volunteerism to help set up the previous weekend was diminishing. It was decided to move the event forward by one week. There was a Feed The Need race that was run by two senior NHS students, Rita Domitrovich and Juliana Krumpak. They had about 60-70 runners and did a great job organizing the event. Mayor Lewis thanked the Police and Fire Departments for helping out.

Mayor Lewis discussed the activities for the Christmas tree lighting this Saturday. The tree lighter will be Coach Dan Williams. He thought it was fitting. One hundred years of

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Football and probably the best season he's had in his career. Mayor Lewis thought what they did this year really helped to unite the community.

6. Report of Village Officials:

**Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich** stated no report.

**Police Chief Ryan Ronghi** congratulated the football team on a great season. He and the captain got to be with the team for the playoffs. It was fun to watch. The mandatory computer updates for the Police Department are complete. Mr. PC was able to get them four refurbished computers and a donated one. He also donated his labor. That was a huge cost savings. Chief Ronghi discussed the Department of Defense surplus program that the Police Department was approved for. Lastly, Mr. Mills should have the quotes this week for work to be done in the Police Department.

**Fire Lieutenant Dan Jamison** congratulated the football team on a great season. There have been 501 calls to date compared to last year at 503. Mutual aid from November 20 through December 2 was one given and one received. To date, there have been 164 transports. The total charges for the year have been \$162,066. Total revenue is \$66,881. The Fire Department is currently working on their ESO software for billing. Chief Marcum submitted for the State Fire Marshal grant which opened on December 1. Lieutenant Jamison discussed what items Chief Marcum submitted for funding. The grant is for \$15,000. Chief Marcum asked for \$13,990. Lieutenant Jamison discussed the explosion that occurred a few weeks ago. The Fire Department responded to that incident and the crews did assist. Lieutenant Jamison stated that they are very proud of their department. They did a great job. The Fire Department received six smoke detectors as part of the smoke detector initiative with the State Fire Marshal's office. A request for more detectors can be submitted once those six are gone. There will be a social media campaign to make the residents aware.

**Office Manager Amy Cunningham** stated no report.

**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: amending the agenda to add Legislation I, Council minutes, Fiscal Officer's report, legislation, Regional Chamber, rental inspection changes, and Council vacancy. Mr. Schmidt stated that, anyone who is interested needs to submit a letter to

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Council on why they feel they are the right person to join. There will be an end date of December 31. This will give Council ample time to review and ask questions in order to make a sound decision. Mr. Schmidt congratulated the football team on a great season. They did a heck of a job and we are very proud of them. Mr. Schmidt thanked the Police and Fire Departments for being a part of the sendoffs. The kids appreciate that. The Police and Fire Departments are always there for them anytime we head out to State regardless of what sport it is. Mr. Schmidt thanked Council and the Mayor for their donations to the PTO for the white towels with the "M" that were used by the kids at a playoff game.

**Parks & Buildings Mr. Jones** stated that pending park grants were discussed. There is a new scoreboard that will be installed on the softball field. It should be up and running this spring. The Village will help with the installation of the score board. It was purchased by the youth baseball program and the McDonald school system. This Saturday is Christmas In the Village. Mr. Domitrovich and all the volunteers have been working hard to make this a fun event. Mr. Jones encouraged everyone to attend.

**Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt** stated that Chief Marcum and Dan Jamison will be going to do the final inspection for the ambulance before it arrives in the Village. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the explosion in Austintown. Mr. Schmidt commended our men and women for all the help that they provided. There will be a social media campaign for the fire alarms. Mr. Schmidt encouraged residents that, if they know anyone in the Village in need of a smoke alarm, please reach out to the Fire Department. They will get resupplied as we go through them.

Mr. Schmidt stated that the Police Department has been working overtime since the last chief left. Chief Ronghi and Captain Caraway have done an amazing job just like Chief Marcum did with the Fire Department and EMS. We now have a full staff. The reason we have so many people on staff is so we have the coverage. Having an individual by themselves at night is not safe in any community. Also, Mayor Lewis reminded everyone that there are no active solicitor permits in the Village at this time.

**Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith** stated that there is a third reading for Legislation A but it will be submitted as an emergency so that it will take effect before the end of the year. It will allow our third-party administrator, RITA, to engage in the notification of the collection process. There was also time spent discussing the budget. There is a temporary budget in place which allows us to keep the lights on. The goal is to present a simplified budget for Council's approval. The details would be known by the manager and the VFO so that if there needs to be a change at the line-item level, we can do that without having to engage Council in any kind of amendments to the budget.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

There was also a lengthy discussion regarding usage at the industrial park. Council was polled on their thoughts and they would like to have more information on what pros and cons various types of businesses would bring to us. Mr. Smith provided some examples. The general consensus is that Council is open to exploring all types of businesses but they would like to do so in a transparent manner. They want to involve the community in the discussion phase. Ultimately, the decision comes to Council but they want to make sure everyone will have the opportunity to weigh in.

Mr. Smith stated that there will be a Finance Committee meeting at the time of Caucus on December 18. There are a few items that are unfinished business and need to be discussed.

**Service Committee Mrs. Reckard** stated that there is legislation for employee health insurance. The health insurance will be through Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The yearly premium was quoted at \$198,203.04. The package insurance will be with Ohio Plan Risk Management through Love Insurance at a cost of \$37,806. The life insurance legislation will be through Hartford at a cost of \$1,579.20.

The Village has been awarded \$75,000 through Eastgate for the 2026 paving project. The water and sewer rates were discussed as well. The increase will begin showing in the April bill. Currently, there is no change for water and sewer rates. This increase is for staffing, hiring a new employee, the MVSD rates and the City of Niles sewer plant rates. We will know in February what the sewer plant rates will be. The utility pole is up at the water tower waiting for electric to be changed over. The generator will be placed and installed after the first of the year.

Mayor Lewis thanked Mrs. Cunningham for her due diligence on the health insurance. COSE MEWA's rate was significantly higher than the Anthem rate.

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

**Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith** stated that there was a discussion on putting efforts toward a safety forces levy on the ballot and targeting November 2026. Residents have an opportunity to weigh in as to whether this is something they want to support. Mr. Schmidt stated that we want to get the information out there and be as transparent as possible and let the residents weigh in.

**Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes** thanked everyone involved with Christmas In the Village. This is a special thing that separates the Village from other

7. Committee reports cont'd.

communities to have these types of traditions. The one person who is always involved is Mr. Domitrovich. Council appreciates the hard work he puts into the event.

Mayor Lewis stated that he will be renaming a new committee next year for the Homecoming Festival. Mr. Joynes is going to be on that committee even though he will not be on Council. He has been an integral part in that festival for the past five to seven years.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: John Muckridge, 830 Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Muckridge described the scholarship program that he started in 2022 and how it has evolved. This program is for non-traditional students that are graduating from McDonald. Mr. Muckridge described how he raises money for the scholarships which are \$500 each. He is trying to find a way to make sure that everyone that fills out an application will receive something. Mr. Muckridge would like to start a McDonald American flag membership program. He described how he would put a flag in a yard for \$40 a season. The flags would be put on the devil strip which is Village property. Mr. Muckridge is asking for permission to proceed with this program. He would like to start with Pennsylvania Avenue. The money will go toward the scholarship fund. Mr. Muckridge also had an idea regarding the Village islands. He described how he would get the landscaping companies involved and what the program would entail. The companies would be able to advertise while also maintaining the island for a season. Mr. Muckridge has an idea for volunteers to paint the lines on the crosswalks. He is aware that a Village employee would have to show them how to do this. In 2022, Mr. Muckridge started a Village cleanup day. These are a few things that he is doing to try to keep busy and build his purpose in retirement.

Mayor Lewis stated that this is an opportunity to speak to Council as a whole. There is not interaction back and forth. Mayor Lewis would recommend to Council that they invite Mr. Muckridge back for the January Committee meetings. This would be an opportunity to have an open discussion and answer questions, concerns, logistics and things of that nature. That would give Council the opportunity to decide if they would want to bring any of these ideas to the Council floor at the next meeting to vote whether they allow him to do the flags or the painting or the island idea.

Stacy Foster, 811 Florida Avenue. Mrs. Foster had spoken with Mr. Smith regarding the income tax legislation. She does not see a budget shortfall. Mr. Smith explained that the Village is experiencing a budget shortfall which is why the 1% is needed. This will not affect everybody. Mrs. Foster understands that the Village needs the money but she also wants to make sure everyone is looking at expenditures. She stated that you can not fix this problem by hitting 300-500 people for 1% income tax and not look at the other side.

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

Mrs. Foster told Council that you are sitting here in these seats and you are in these seats because you want to run this Village. You love this Village. When you sit in the seat, you have hard decisions that you have to make. Some of them are not going to be popular. Some of the things Council needs to think about is regionalization. Maybe we need to rent out the ambulance bay to Lane or somebody. We are in a time where we have to look outside the box. When you have to look at making expenditure cuts, you also have to look at the top. You guys also have to be willing to maybe make some changes in your pays and structures. People deserve raises, Mrs. Foster is not saying that. But the Village has to be looking at what we are spending too. She is sure that Council is doing this. Something was said about a new ambulance. Maybe the Village puts money away every year so five years down the road, we have the money for the ambulance instead of a long-time hit. Mrs. Foster hasn't been paying attention and she stated "shame on me". More people need to be involved. She used the example of a resident that lives here and works in Youngstown. Mrs. Foster is asking Council to put on their hats, sharpen their pencils and really take a look and make some hard decisions on some of the expenditures.

Mayor Lewis stated that he appreciates that beyond belief because too often folks want to make the assumption and not come to Council. It is very refreshing to see this. Mayor Lewis offered to talk with Mrs. Foster whenever she would like. He can go over everything that this Council has done to "stop the bleeding" before we are bleeding out. A prime example is the regionalization. Mayor Lewis has approached Weathersfield and gets stopped at the door. He credits Council for making tough decisions. The garbage billing was not very popular. Mayor Lewis wants to make sure that everyone in this Village is reassured that no stone will go unturned. Mrs. Foster's words do not just go in one ear and out the other. Mrs. Foster stated that sometimes it is optics too. Council is saying they are going to do a 1% income tax and people deserve raises and there are salary ordinances. It is an optics thing also. Mayor Lewis agreed.

Blaine Carter, 445 Utah Avenue. Mr. Carter stated that the information on the website is incomplete. There are not attachments and the ordinances being voted on are not on the website. There are grants being applied for that have no attachments. Mr. Carter works for the DOT in Akron. He is paying a full 2.5% there. His overall impression is if that is what it has to be to make the town's budget work, it is kind of an annoyance but it is what it is. Mr. Carter has a side business that they already pay 2%. He wants to feel comfortable with understanding the numbers. It goes to what numbers are available online. Also, Mr. Carter had some nervousness reading the articles on the data center. Mr. Carter discussed Lordstown and the site plan application. Typically, that locks in the rules. If you are not comfortable with the rules you have and someone comes in, it could really put the Village in a bad spot. Mr. Carter asked if a data center is allowed with an

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

administrative approval or does it have to go to a planning board. He said that is a pretty basic question. Also, Mr. Carter brought up the noise question. How effective is the language in the ordinance for noise versus what a data center wants to come in? Usually, they come in and have applications all over the state and they are trying to find the lowest cost. If that is to come into McDonald with a bunch of generators that make a bunch of noise and they can sell that to one of these big data companies, here we are with a new business but it is keeping everyone awake at night. Mr. Carter would feel more comfortable with the answer to that question knowing if it has to go to a vote. How effective is the language that is in there now on the industrial zoning for noise? Does that give the option to inform a data center of the type of center they can bring in?

Solicitor Ross stated that the legislation is not posted until it is passed. If Mr. Carter ever wants information on finances of the Village, he can do a public records request. On the data center zoning, it is not addressed in our industrial zoning as a permitted use so it would probably be a conditional use application. Solicitor Ross stated that Council is considering passing a very specific ordinance to deal with that issue. There are model ordinances out there. Those data centers are a very hot topic in zoning.

Mr. Smith asked under what condition would it be advantageous to any business to run a generator as opposed to using native power of some other source. Mr. Carter stated that the question is can you get the power. If the local grid can not supply it to you, they can rent a bunch of generators. That works for them. They have natural gas to power them. Mayor Lewis asked Mr. Carter if they could talk after the meeting.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance To Amend Section 183.06 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio Regarding Municipal Income Tax, Which Section Is Titled "Credit For Tax Paid To Other Municipalities".

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye  
Mrs. Reckard – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3327-25 pass third 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.

B. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Ordinance Number 3305-24 (The “Salary Ordinance”) To Increase The Salaries And Wages Of Certain Employees Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio; And For The Purpose Of Repealing Any And All Other Ordinances Or Resolutions In Conflict Therewith.

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

C. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Previous Village Ordinance No. 3307-24 To Provide A Raise For The Building And Zoning Inspector.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Motion carried.

D. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Previous Ordinance No. 3306-24 Concerning The Appointed Position Of Village Fiscal Officer Created In Accordance With Section 733.262 Of The Ohio Revised Code.

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

E. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Ordinance No. 3278-23 To Increase Compensation For The Fire Chief And To Repeal All Other Ordinances In Conflict Therewith.

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

F. First Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Chapter 1359 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, Entitled “Rental Property”.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Jones – aye  
Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye  
Mrs. Reckard -aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

G. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution For The Purpose Of Accepting The Health Insurance Proposal From Anthem Blue Cross And Blue Shield Through Cornerstone Broker Insurance Services Agency, 2102 Florence Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206, For The Village Of McDonald Ohio's Employee Health Insurance Coverage For A One-Year Term Commencing January 1, 2026 And Ending December 31, 2026; And Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer And/Or Village Administrator To Enter Into A Contract With Anthem Blue Cross And Blue Shield Through Cornerstone Broker Insurance Services Agency For Health Insurance.

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

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that Resolution No. 1949-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Discussion: Mrs. Reckard stated that this is being passing as an emergency due to the starting date of January 1, 2026.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye

Mr. Jones – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Smith – aye

Motion carried.

H. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution For The Purpose Of Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And/Or Village Administrator To Enter Into An Agreement With Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc., Through Love Insurance Agency, 373 Center Street,

11. Legislation cont'd.

Suite A, Chardon, OH 44024, For The Village's 2025-2026 Package Insurance In The Amount Of Thirty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Six And 00/100 Dollars (\$37,806.00) Commencing December 1, 2025 And Ending November 30, 2026.

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

Roll call:

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 Resolution No. 1950-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Discussion: Mrs. Reckard stated that this is also an emergency reading due to the dates.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

I. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution For The Purpose Of Accepting The Life, Accidental Death, And Dismemberment Insurance Proposal From The Hartford, Presented By Cornerstone Broker, For The Village Of McDonald's Employees For A One-Year Term Commencing January 1, 2026 And Ending December 31, 2026; And Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer And/Or Village Administrator To Enter Into A Contract With The Hartford For The Purchase Of The Aforementioned Insurance.

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

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. 1951-25 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.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$105,519.58.

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

Mrs. Reckard – 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 7:13 p.m. All voted aye.

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Mayor

Attest to:

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Fiscal Officer