

McDonald Village Council
November 20, 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: Denise Deltondo, Kathleen Miskell, Brian Bosheff, Susan Lipkovich, Robert Steele, and Ted Conway.

Press: Bob Coupland, *Tribune Chronicle*.

1. The November 20, 2025 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:04 p.m.

Roll call:

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

*Mayor Lewis stated that Mr. Schmidt is excused from the meeting as he is out of town for work.

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 5, 2025 Council minutes and November 11, 2025 Special Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Smith to approve the November 5, 2025 minutes and November 11, 2025 Special Council minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

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

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated that everyone is underdressed for a good reason. Everyone wore McDonald gear at the last meeting – not that anyone is superstitious. The Village of McDonald applied for a few grants last week. Mayor Lewis thanked Council for opening up options to allow the Village to apply for either STBG or TAP. A last-minute switch was made which was suggested by Joey Kempe from Eastgate. The STBG was for the road paving project which was submitted for Second and Olive Streets. Both sidewalk projects will be going through TAP. Mr. Domitrovich was contacted by Eastgate and the Village will be having some meetings with them regarding our priorities.

Mayor Lewis wanted to address the room. We usually do not have an audience. He believes he knows why we have an audience. The news and local publication ran a story a few weeks' ago. Rest assured, there are no plans at the old mill property. Should there be any plans, you can know that Council, himself, everyone in this room, has nothing but the Village's best interest in mind. We will make sure that everything is transparent. We will weigh the pros and cons. We will make sure that we are doing everything that is going to benefit this Village and this Village only. If anybody is on Facebook and is listening to the Facebook warriors, please do not. There is a lot of false news out there. If you have questions, Mayor Lewis is an open door. He will call back or meet with any resident. If any residents have concerns, call down to the Village building.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated no report.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that Officer Mulligan started officially yesterday. Chief Ronghi and Captain Caraway will be escorting the team tomorrow to Macedonia.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum stated that there are 488 calls for service to date compared to last year at 481. Mutual aid from November 5 to November 19 are 2 given, 3 received and Lane has been in the Village once. There have been 157 transports, total charges of

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

\$155,058 and total revenue of \$64,677. The government shutdown slowed a lot of payments down. The new ambulance is scheduled to be delivered to Penn Care on December 18. Chief Marcum is hoping for a January 1 date that the ambulance will be in service. The data entry for the new software is complete. Training on the basics of the program is scheduled for December 1 with a live date of January 1. The State Fire Marshal's grant opens December 1. This is a non-matching grant. Chief Marcum plans to submit on December 1. He discussed what he would like to use the grant money for. Effective today, the 2025 Fire Code is out and enforced. There is no legislation needed until the code becomes available for purchase. Chief Marcum wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated no report.

Solicitor Ross stated no report.

7. Committee reports:

President Pro Tem Mr. Schmidt was not in attendance. In his absence, Mr. Smith stated that Caucus met this evening and the following items were discussed: agenda, Fiscal Officer's report, Council minutes, and legislation. December meetings were set with Committees being held on Tuesday, December 2 and Council being held on Wednesday, December 3 and Thursday, December 18. Mr. Smith stated that there will be a vacancy on Village Council as of January 1. Council will be looking for an interested Village resident who would like to be a member of Council. Anyone interested can submit a letter of intent to Council care of the Village office. Council will review and schedule some opportunities to interview.

It was moved by Mr. Smith to appoint Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Metzinger to the Fire Dependency Board.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

Park & Buildings Mr. Jones reminded everyone that Christmas In the Village is December 6 at 6:30 p.m. He wished the McDonald Football team the best of luck as they

7. Committee reports cont'd.

play for the regional championship. They are a good group of hard-working young men. Let's pack the stands and fill the seats. They deserve it.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated no report.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated no report.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard stated that there are three pieces of legislation for this evening. The 2025 street project on Utah, Nebraska and Dakota is completed. The water tower pump is finished as well. The generator project will be next year. It is being pushed back because we are waiting on some parts. The grant will remain intact. The PFM contract is completed in regards to our water rates. Our 2026 street paving project is scored at 25 through Eastgate. We are waiting for official notification that this will be awarded. Mrs. Reckard thanked Mr. Domitrovich and Mrs. Cunningham for submitting the grants for STBG and TAP. Congratulations and Go Blue! Mrs. Reckard also said "break a leg" to the drama club for their play on Saturday and Sunday. She also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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 he spoke with Lieutenant Jamison. He plans to put together a committee in January for the Homecoming Festival. Mayor Lewis informed Mr. Joynes that he would be one of the community members. He plans to change it up a little bit. The public will not notice. This is just to make things more efficient.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Ted Conway, 916 Iowa Avenue. He wants to discuss the rate increase on income tax. Mr. Conway believes this is the wrong direction. He looked through RITA online and there are approximately 500 cities in RITA. If you look at the nearest city in RITA which is Niles, they are 2%. If Mr. Conway works in Niles, he will pay 2% to Niles and 1% to McDonald. He thinks this is the wrong direction. If you look at realty, people look at income tax, property tax and school districts in where they are moving. We need residents. He thinks it is the wrong direction to increase income tax like this. Mr. Conway explained how he paid taxes years ago when he worked at Packard. He believes this is a consideration that people take when they are buying or building a new house.

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

Susan Lipkovich, 490 Utah Avenue. She asked if Village Council would put forth an ordinance to exclude any data centers from McDonald.

Bob Steele, 881 Ravine Drive South. Mr. Steele seconded what Mrs. Lipkovich said. He wants to make sure there is a lot of communication about this issue. The more we communicate back and forth, the more public meetings about this, the more everyone will be on the same page. Council will understand what the people of McDonald want, who Council represents, and residents will appreciate that.

Mayor Lewis stated that transparency is number one on his agenda. It will continue to be the same way moving forward.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Previous Village Ordinance No. 3199-16 Regarding Water Rates And Authorizing The Village Administrator To Amend And Increase The Water Rates And Schedule Beginning December 1, 2025, Which Will Be Reflected In The First Billing In April of 2026.

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

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that Ordinance No. 3325-25 pass emergency reading as read.

11. Legislation cont'd.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

B. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance For The Purpose Of Amending Previous Ordinance No. 3257-21 To Revise The Charges For The Operation, Maintenance, And Replacement Costs For The Use Of The Village's Wastewater Treatment Facility And Sewage System Effective December 1, 2025 Which Will Be Reflected In The First Quarter Of 2026 Billing In April Of 2026.

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

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that Ordinance No. 3326-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

C. Second 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 that the ordinance pass second reading as read.

11. Legislation cont'd.

Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that he sits on the committee as the finance chair. The Village has seen a proposed almost \$200,000 decrease in municipal income tax revenue because of the closure of the mill property. We are projecting to run a deficit with our spending versus our budget just to keep the lights on and the place operating. We have very few arrows in our quiver so to speak. For the first time ever in the history of the Village, we ceased paying for trash removal which went back to the residents. The second option that the Village has, which is not very tasteful quite honestly, is to reduce the credit allowed for taxes paid to municipalities outside of the Village. It becomes a non-equal impact to Village residents. Retirees have no impact because their income is not taxable. Those who work in the township already pay 2% to the Village. Those that work in a municipality with less than 2% pay some amount and they may see no impact. Those who are working in a municipality with a 2% or higher rate would indeed see a 1% increase in the amount of taxes that they would pay. We anticipate that to generate approximately the money that we would have lost from the mill. It is not a never-ending ordinance. We have the opportunity to review it and change or rescind once we have a revenue stream that would bring us back to where we had been before.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

D. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution To Amend Resolution No. 1941-25 Allowing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And/Or Village Administrator, On Behalf Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, To Apply For Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Funds Programmed By The Eastgate Regional Council Of Governments (Eastgate) To Construct The 2030 Street Resurfacing Project.

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

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

11. Legislation cont'd.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that Resolution No. 1948-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Jones – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$349,086.33.

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
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Jones – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: Mayor Lewis stated that, tomorrow at 3:50 p.m. the bus leaves from the new athletic facility. It will head down Second Street and all the way down Ohio Avenue. Mayor Lewis encouraged everyone to come down and cheer for these boys. Not that McDonald has not had good teams in the past but there is something about this team.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Joynes at 6:32 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer