

McDonald Village Council
December 18, 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: Robert Steele, Gary Carkido, Kathy Miskell, Stacy Foster, and Pam Sowers.

1. The December 18, 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 – absent*
Mr. Metzinger – present	Mr. Smith – present

*Mayor Lewis stated that Mr. Jones is still at work and is excused for this evening.

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 December 3, 2025 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the December 3, 2025 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye	Mr. Joynes – aye
Mrs. Reckard – 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:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated that Christmas In the Village was very well attended. He thanked everyone that put in time for this event. There are a couple appointees for the Fire Department. Faith Hartman is an EMT/FF and Jessica Novicky is a paramedic. Mayor Lewis would like to have them appointed effective January 2.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the appointments of Faith Hartman and Jessica Novicky to the Fire Department.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis and Mr. Metzinger participated in the first session of the Regional Chamber leadership academy. This is a four-month training and they will take part in all four sessions.

Mayor Lewis stated that Mr. Jones did not run for another term on Council due to his work schedule. He is working 12-14 hour days. Mayor Lewis thanked him for his service to the Village and for stepping up when a lot of people are not willing to do so. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Joynes for all that he does especially outside of Council. His party never ceases to amaze Mayor Lewis. Mr. Joynes' party raised \$25,500. Mr. Joynes has been on Council for six years. Mayor Lewis considers him a good friend and wishes him all the best. Mayor Lewis wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that he and Mrs. Cunningham worked with the employees for a question-and-answer session with Nate Ogden, the

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

health insurance broker, to answer questions regarding the new insurance. There will be some changes to how claims will be processed.

Mr. Domitrovich has chaired the Christmas In the Village event for 22 years. He appreciates all the effort everyone puts into this event. Mr. Domitrovich thanked the school for their committees and NHS students that help with Christmas In the Village. Moving the date did not affect the attendance. It was still a well-attended event. Mr. Domitrovich thanked Kim Jones-Schmidt for all her efforts.

Mr. Domitrovich also thanked Chad Jones for his service. It takes a lot to become a Council person and apply yourself and do the right thing for every taxpayer in the Village. It is not an easy thing to do. Mr. Domitrovich enjoyed working with Mr. Jones, who is chair of Parks and Buildings.

Mr. Domitrovich told Mr. Joynes that he has until December 30 to get his letter of interest in for Council. Mr. Joynes has been a friend and Mr. Domitrovich watched him grow up. Mr. Joynes is suited for civil positions and Mr. Domitrovich hopes this is not his last public service.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that Shop with a Cop was last Wednesday. The Police Department took seven children to Austintown Walmart. Chief Ronghi thanked Mr. Carkido for allowing the Police Department to use a school bus to take the kids shopping. Also, Mr. Jones volunteers his time to drive the bus. Mayor Lewis gave the kids gift cards to the Village Creamery.

Fire Lieutenant Dan Jamison stated that mutual aid calls through December 18 were six given and one received, all for Lane. Chief Marcum wanted everyone to know that we will probably be getting more calls for Austintown. Lane is having a lot of trouble staffing and they do provide mutual aid to us. There have been 169 transports this year, total charges have been \$167,367 and revenue is \$69,574. Lieutenant Jamison thanked Council for appointing Jessica Novicky and Faith Hartman. Chief Marcum will have a year-end report by the second meeting in January. Chief Bickerstaff's last official day was December 15. He helped out the Fire Department a lot. Lieutenant Jamison and Chief Marcum went to Elkhart, Indiana to inspect the new ambulance which will be arriving sometime next month.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that there have been six applicants for the vacant Council seat to date. We will be taking applications through December 31 at noon. Mrs. Cunningham wished Mr. Joynes and Mr. Jones all the best. They have both served the Village very well. Mrs. Cunningham wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

6. Reports of Village Officials cont'd.

Solicitor Ross told Mr. Joynes that it has been a pleasure and he will miss him. He would say the same thing to Mr. Jones if he was here. They have been great to work with and Solicitor Ross wishes them both the best of luck.

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 Re-organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7. Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 20 and Council is to be held on Wednesday, January 21. There were two Fire Department appointments. Lastly, Officer Mulligan's vacation carryover was discussed.

Mr. Schmidt thanked his wife for all her hard work. He sees everything she does, obviously, living with her. She has a nice committee that meets together. For those in attendance, there is a reason why it goes the way it goes. It is because of the committee and those involved. Mr. Schmidt also thanked the Fire Department for lighting the bonfire. It was a nice addition and helped everyone stay warm. Mr. Schmidt commended the Police Department for what they did with Shop with a Cop.

Mr. Schmidt stated that Mr. Jones and Mr. Joynes are fantastic people to work with. They made all those hard decisions that Council needed to make. Mr. Schmidt thanked them. Hopefully they will come back - kids grow up and you get bored.

Parks & Buildings Mr. Metzinger shared the same sentiments for Mr. Joynes and Mr. Jones. Christmas In the Village gets better every year.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt wanted to review Officer Mulligan's request to carryover 32 hours of vacation. These hours need to be used in the first quarter of 2026.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the 32-hour vacation carryover for Officer Mulligan into the first quarter of 2026.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that legislations A through D are a second reading but they will be read as emergencies to afford Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith the opportunity to get the payroll database ready for the first of the year. Legislation G and H will true up the budget line items and make sure that we finish the year in the black on all the areas where we need to. Mr. Smith thanked Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith for all the work she puts in. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Jones was the buffer between he and Mr. Metzinger. He also remembers rooting for Mr. Joynes in cross country. Mr. Smith wishes them nothing but the best.

Service Committee Mrs. Reckard stated that there is an emergency reading of the legislation for the 2026 street paving project, which is Seventh Street. The water tower generator should be in after the new year. Mrs. Reckard discussed the email that was sent from Enbridge. This has nothing to do with our gas aggregation. It has everything to do with the capital service charge. Mrs. Reckard explained the notification and explanation for the charge. She stated that Enbridge is now responsible for the service lines and this is a way the customers will no longer have to replace these by themselves.

Mrs. Reckard wanted residents to know that if they need anything over the holidays, Community Chest is still available. Please get ahold of her or Mrs. Cunningham and they will reach out.

Mrs. Reckard is very proud of Mr. Joynes and all his endeavors. She said that his mom would be so proud of him. Mrs. Reckard ran for election with Mr. Jones. She will definitely miss him but she understands that family comes first always.

Planning Commission Mr. Jones stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith reminded everyone that we will be leaning into exploring a levy for this community to consider with the target being the general election date in November 2026.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Joynes stated no report. He looks forward to staying involved with the committee.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Gary Carkido, Illinois Avenue. Mr. Carkido stated that one of the most rewarding parts of being the McDonald Superintendent is working more directly with the Village. He has received nothing but cooperation and support since taking the position. Mr. Carkido thanked Mr. Domitrovich for everything he does. He continues to always be willing to work with the school system. Mr. Carkido thanked Chief Ronghi and Chief Marcum for allowing their personnel to support and

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

promote the kids. He also thanked the Police Department for their help with the school-wide evacuation and lock-down drills as well as their visibility on the school campus. That means more than a lot of people know. Mr. Carkido discussed a few collaborations between the Village and the school which included the scoreboard that was donated for the varsity baseball team. The cost of installation was shared between the Village, the school and the youth baseball organization. There will be a new scoreboard added to the softball field. This is, again, being done in cooperation between the youth baseball organization, the school, and the Village. Mr. Carkido thanked Mayor Lewis for offering the assistance of the Village workers for installation of the scoreboard. This is another great thing we are doing for the kids and a partnership that is very valuable. These are examples of what we can achieve when the youth baseball organization, the school, the Village and the community all pull in the same direction. Mr. Carkido looks forward to continuing this work to ensure the students have the best. Mr. Carkido's goal is to keep the line of communication open.

Dan Jamison, Fire Lieutenant thanked Kyle Joynes for his help during the festival. It is not easy putting on the festival and getting everybody together.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Emergency 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 to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

11. Legislation cont'd.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3328-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

B. Emergency 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 to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3329-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

C. Emergency 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 to suspend the Rules of Council.

11. Legislation cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3330-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

D. Emergency 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 to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3331-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Motion carried.

E. Emergency 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. Metzinger to suspend the Rules of Council.

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger that Ordinance No. 3332-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard -aye

Motion carried.

F. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer And/Or Village Administrator Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, To Prepare And Submit An Application To Participate In The Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement And/Or Local Transportation Improvement Program(s) And To Execute Contracts As Required.

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

Discussion: Mrs. Reckard stated that this is about the timing. The application is due tomorrow.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard that Resolution No. 1952-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Motion carried.

G. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance To Make Final 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. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3333-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Joynes – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Motion carried.

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

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution No. 1953-25 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye	Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Joynes – 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 \$55,244.36.

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. 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 6:37 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer