

McDonald Village Council
January 21, 2026
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Police Chief Ryan Ronghi, Fire Chief Fred Marcum, Attorney John Chaney, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Visitors: Kathy Miskell, Michelle Marcum, Barb Stitt, Ashley Farrell, Moira Farrell, Jess Jamison, Dustin DeMarsico and Angela Sanson.

*Joe Sanson was sworn in as Councilman by Attorney John Chaney prior to Caucus.

1. The January 21, 2026 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:15 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – present
Mr. Metzinger – present
Mr. Bosheff – present

Mrs. Reckard – present
Mr. Smith – absent*
Mr. Sanson – present

*Mayor Lewis stated that Mr. Smith is excused this evening. He had a death in the family. We send our condolences and Mayor Lewis wishes him safe travels.

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 January 7, 2026 Re-Organizational Council minutes and the January 15, 2026 Special Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the January 7, 2026 and January 15, 2026 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Sanson – abstain

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – 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. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis met Matthew Ellis at the baseball fields a few weeks ago to discuss the grant for the baseball fields. He was greeted with a nice present that one of our residents left which was meticulously placed bags of tied-off dog poop. These bags were left on one of our picnic tables. There were about eight of them in fancy green biodegradable bags that are very easily identifiable. Mayor Lewis wants to stress that whoever the resident is, they will be prosecuted and max fined.

Mayor Lewis is still doing the Regional Chamber Leadership Training. With our membership, we were able to set up a meeting on February 3 with the Mayor, Mr. Carkido, Ohio Edison, potentially MVSD, and a few experts in the field of data centers. These experts are both within the industry advocates and opponents. Mayor Lewis is trying to educate himself to gather as much information as possible for the potential that, if one of these businesses decide to set up shop in our industrial park. There is a lot of buzz. Nobody has submitted a site plan. There is nothing in place. If you hear rumblings, unless you hear it here, it is fake news. Please know that the Mayor and Council are ensuring that they are educating themselves so they know exactly what, potentially, could be coming down there. The last thing they want to do is put our residents in harm's way. The last thing they also want to do is turn away a business that could, potentially, bring in millions of dollars within our Village.

Mayor Lewis stated that the grant applications that Matthew Ellis from KO discussed will be followed up in February at Committee Meetings.

Also, Mr. Stitt and Mr. Jamison are up for two well earned and deserved promotions. Chief Marcum stated that Dan Jamison will reach 20 years of service this May. He was promoted to Lieutenant in March 2024 and since then has demonstrated the readiness and character that is expected from the senior leaders. Chief Marcum spoke on Dan Jamison's qualifications for being promoted to Captain. Dan Jamison's wife, Jess, pinned the badge on him. Chief Marcum also promoted Todd Stitt to Lieutenant.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

He brings a total of 21 years to the organization, including 15 years as Captain, three years serving as Chief. Chief Marcum spoke on Todd Stitt's qualifications. His granddaughter, Moira, pinned the Lieutenant's badge on her Grandpa.

Captain Dan Jamison and Lieutenant Todd Stitt were both sworn in by Attorney John Chaney.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich congratulated the new appointments in the Fire Department. They are definitely well deserved. Mr. Domitrovich received the engineering contract from GPD for the work they will do with the 2026 road paving project which involves Seventh Street. He will review this with the Solicitor in time to have it ready to be signed before the Committee meetings. It will be in the Council packets for review if they choose to do so. If all agree, it will be signed and moved forward in the hopes of getting the 2026 project bid out in February.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi congratulated Captain Jamison and Lieutenant Stitt. They have been here as long, if not longer, than Chief Ronghi. Lieutenant Stitt's background is in police and fire. There is not a question that he can not answer. Chief Ronghi also congratulated Mr. Sanson.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum stated that there have been 37 calls to date compared to last year at 33. Mutual aid between January 7 to January 20 is 10 given, two received and Lane has been in the Village four times. It is too early for Chief Marcum to give any report on billing. His year-end report was submitted to Council today. The new ambulance was originally promised in October. Chief Marcum discussed why it has been delayed. This is not Penn Care's fault. It is the fault of the manufacturer of the bracket. The ambulance should be on Village property within two weeks. Chief Marcum is putting together an open house for the Village to put the new ambulance in service. He would like to have an event tentatively March 2 but the date is subject to change.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham congratulated Captain Jamison and Lieutenant Stitt. These promotions are very well deserved. In March, we will be celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the R.E.S.T. program. Mrs. Cunningham spoke with Colleen Chance and the celebration will be held on Friday, March 27. There will be a lunch buffet and Colleen has offered to sing. They will be reaching out to the local news channels as well as the Senior Advisory Council with an invite. The Mayor and Council are invited as well.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Solicitor Ross was not in attendance. Attorney John Chaney stated no report on his behalf. He thanked everyone for the opportunity. It seems he only attends when people are getting sworn in.

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. February Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, February 3. Council meetings will be held on Wednesday, February 4 and Thursday, February 19. Also discussed were fire promotions, garbage contract, Police Department remodel, and Matthew Ellis from KO had his report. Mr. Schmidt congratulated Mr. Sanson for being appointed to his Council seat. He looks forward to working with Mr. Sanson. Mr. Schmidt also congratulated Lieutenant Stitt and Captain Jamison.

Parks & Buildings Mr. Metzinger stated that quotes for the Police Department renovation were discussed and will be further discussed in the February Committee meetings. Mr. Metzinger stated that summer baseball will be from April 27 to the end of June. There were a few grants that were applied for that would improve the concession stand roof, gutters, siding, and renovating the dugouts and fields. The Village will be reapplying for grants that we were previously denied for with new language from the feedback that was given to us to strengthen our applications. March 27 will be the 10-year celebration for the R.E.S.T. program. The Village is applying for an AARP grant for Ohio Avenue beautification which would redo both cupolas and potentially add decorative poles on Ohio Avenue from Fourth Street to Sixth Street. Mr. Muckridge spoke about a new idea for his scholarship program which would be adding flags to the devil strip. Before moving forward, Council would like to seek some legal advice. Mr. Metzinger congratulated Mr. Sanson, Captain Jamison and Lieutenant Stitt.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt discussed the promotions for the Fire Department which included Dan Jamison to Captain and Todd Stitt to Lieutenant. We are hopeful that we will receive our new ambulance soon. Mr. Schmidt thanked Chief Marcum for his efforts on getting the ambulance into the Village soon.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith was not in attendance. In his absence, Mr. Schmidt stated that Village resident, Mrs. Foster was granted time on the floor to discuss some potential ideas. There will be a first reading of the permanent budget. Mr. Smith is looking for department heads to get any ticket items or ideas that they would like to have done this year to him as soon as possible. He and Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith will work on the budget to see if there are any changes needed from the first reading to the

7. Committee reports cont'd.

second reading. The Police Department remodel is one of those mentioned previously on where the funds can come from for that. Council is looking into the interest that was earned on the investments for the Village.

Service Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that the potential rate increase from MVSD was discussed. The new healthcare plan was also discussed and informing employees how to submit claims. There was an EPA violation that has NOTHING TO DO WITH THE QUALITY OF THE WATER. The concrete tank just needs disconnected underground.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to contact Ohio Valley Waste to notify them of our intention to potentially extend the garbage contract for 24 months and negotiate the rate up to or below a 10% increase by February 1.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that the rate increase for the water and sewer has already been factored in on our end. There will be a potential increase from MVSD to the Village. There will not be another increase that Council will be looking at in June.

Planning Commission Mr. Bosheff stated no report. He congratulated Mr. Sanson, Lieutenant Stitt and Captain Jamison. Mr. Bosheff is looking forward to working with everyone.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith was not in attendance. In his absence, Mr. Schmidt stated that the timeline for the levy was discussed. Things have to happen in February to have things potentially ready to go on the ballot. This will be discussed further with the Police Chief and Fire Chief. More information will be given to Council in February.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that it will be hard to follow Mr. Joynes. With the committee that has been comprised, it should be a pretty straight forward type situation.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. First Reading Of An Ordinance To Make Permanent 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. Schmidt that the ordinance pass first reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

B. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Transferring Funds Within Various Funds Within The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, For A Period Beginning January 1, 2026 And Ending December 31, 2026.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt that Resolution No. 1954-26 pass emergency reading as read.

11. Legislation cont'd.

Discussion: Mr. Schmidt stated that this is just a timely situation. That is why this is being passed as an emergency.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$266,061.92.

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. Schmidt to accept the Fiscal Officer's report and pay all bills.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Bosheff at 6:47 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer

