

McDonald Village Council
Regular Council Meeting
March 4, 2026

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: Andrew Kitchens, James Kitchens, and Kathy Miskell.

1. The March 4, 2026 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:07 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – present
Mr. Smith – present
Mr. Sanson – 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 February 18, 2026 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the February 18, 2026 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated for the month of February, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$40 court costs \$140, additional costs \$29, Village revenue from fines \$350, Niles Municipal Court fines \$85, parking tickets \$35 and police reports \$5 for a grand total of \$684.00.

Mayor Lewis had the opportunity to officiate a wedding last week. The newlyweds, Macy and Dakota Jones, graciously donated \$200 to the park program. Mayor Lewis thanked them for their donation.

Mayor Lewis stated that, with the Village taking the reins for the Homecoming Festival, he will rename that committee at the next meeting. It will become the McDonald Community Events Committee. It is yet to be determined how it will be comprised. Mayor Lewis will integrate all the events into one. It will still have all the representatives from fire and police and from the original committee. He will add in the Oktoberfest committee and maybe some input from Christmas In the Village. The committee can meet year-round.

Mayor Lewis plans to attend the Regional Chamber Drive-In in Columbus next week. His goal is to discuss our one-page capital improvement project that was submitted to the Statehouse. Mayor Lewis will have the opportunity to meet with Mr. Santucci, Mrs. O'Brien and, hopefully, a few others.

Mayor Lewis stated that Council had a lengthy discussion on adding the legislation for a levy and the vote this evening for the need for the safety forces. He wanted to remind the residents that Council has not looked at this as a way to look for money. It has been a long time coming. Since Mayor Lewis has been on Council, the garbage contract has increased in the tens of thousands. This was an expense the Village could no longer incur. Council held off as long as they could. Mayor Lewis commended Council for finally biting the bullet on it. Council took the income tax forgiveness down to 1%. Mayor Lewis is working with RITA to get some clarification to our residents to let them know if they are not paying a full 2% to McDonald, they will owe 1% additional.

In a nutshell, the best thing about this community has become its ultimate Achilles heel. We are the safest, quietest town in the tri-county. We are the definition of a bedroom community. We have had the mill and several other businesses close. Our largest tax base, which is our number one funding for how we do business as a Village are the school employees. That is not a good thing. Number two is another business and number three is our employees. Our employees are paying their own wages. We still have 1400+

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

income tax accounts but of those, only about 700 up until December 31, were paying any income tax to the Village. In a town of over 3000, less than 25% of the residents were basically footing the bill for the others. Council could have sat back and said "let's just watch the bleed keep happening". Instead, they were proactive and changed it and what those two things are going to do is help to right the ship to stop the bleeding. The expenses are not going to stop. Things get more expensive every day. The Village is not immune to inflation, increases in healthcare and retirements and wages, etc. It is not something that just happens overnight. Mayor Lewis commended Council for taking the time, doing their due diligence, doing the research to say it might not be popular with some, but if we want to remain McDonald, we have to look at this need for a safety levy and put it on the books. Leave it up to the residents. If they vote it down and they decide it is not for them, it is not for them. But for \$30 a month on average, Mayor Lewis will take what we have.

Mayor Lewis wished Coach Franceschelli and the boys' basketball team the best of luck. They will be playing Hillsdale in Mineral Ridge on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the documentation for the two-year extension with Ohio Valley Waste has been finalized. The curbside spring clean-up will be held on Tuesday, April 14 or Wednesday, April 15 depending in what part of town residents live. The curbside branch pickup resumes March 26. The crews are currently out cleaning up some messes that are dangerous on the roadside or on the park property.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that for the month of February, there were 99 calls for service, 14 traffic stops, and 177 business and residential checks. The Flock cameras were discussed. Captain Caraway emailed everyone on the Safety Committee. There will be another meeting with Flock on Tuesday, March 10 at 9:00 a.m. Chris Mills is tentatively scheduled to start the Police Department renovation sometime in May.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum commended the Village Administrator and the Water Department. As he drives through town and sees where there were water breaks, the repairs look really good. As he saw three repairs from another water department and the work that was performed, Chief Marcum hopes everyone appreciates the pride Mr. Domitrovich puts into the finished product.

To date, there have been 109 calls for service. Mutual aid from February 18 through March 3 were three given, one received and Lane has responded four times. There have

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

been 31 transports and total charges of \$31,534 with revenue exceeding \$13,000. The new ambulance is in service. Chief Marcum discussed an alignment that needs to be done with the new ambulance. He has turned in the estimate to the manufacturer and is waiting to hear from them. The ambulance is not unsafe to drive but Chief Marcum does not want to wear out the tires.

There have been three requests for smoke detectors. Chief Marcum wanted to make the public aware that the smoke detectors through the State Fire Marshal are not because a resident wants an additional smoke detector. This program is if you have zero smoke detectors and no ability to get one. The Fire Department does have a few smoke detectors that were given to them but that supply is very limited.

The open house for the new ambulance was on Monday and was a great success. Chief Marcum is very proud of his staff. They did an excellent job in helping to educate the public. Mayor Lewis commended Chief Marcum on the open house. It was a nice event.

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: agenda, Fiscal Officer's report, Council minutes, and legislation. The second March meeting will be held on March 19 in Council Chambers.

Parks & Buildings Mrs. Reckard stated that the NOPEC Sponsorship grant in the amount of \$500 will be going into the Oktoberfest fund that is used to benefit Woodland Park. There was a discussion about the Flock Safety systems and a tour of the police station where the new updates will take place. Mazza Heating will replace the heating and air conditioning unit. Mayor Lewis married Macy and Dakota Jones and the newlyweds donated \$200 to the park. Mrs. Cunningham is preparing to send applications to the school for summer park attendant positions. There was an article in the paper describing the ODNR recreational trail grant the Village is applying for in the park. Mrs. Reckard stated that the Village welcomes feedback to ensure the application accurately reflects the needs and priorities of our community. Residents are asked to submit their comments and memories of Woodland Park to the Village by March 14. The 10-year celebration of the R.E.S.T. center is March 27 at 12:30 p.m. The Easter Egg Hunt is in Woodland Park on March 29 at 1:00 p.m.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the white ambulance will need to be auctioned after legislation is passed. There was a brief discussion regarding safety helmets for the children riding around on electric bikes. The Village will still look into this but it will mostly be on the parents to do their part. We can all do our part in letting them know the safety purposes for that and what can happen if they do not wear a helmet. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Reckard were in a meeting with the Police Department regarding the flock cameras. Mr. Schmidt thanked everyone that attended the open house for the ambulance. It was nice to be there and see the neighboring communities come and support as well. We are proud to have that piece of equipment. Mr. Schmidt thanked the Trumbull County Commissioners.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that the Mayor would like to participate with the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber in their annual Columbus drive-in which is March 10 and 11.

It was moved by Mr. Smith to support Mayor Lewis's trip to Columbus next Tuesday and Wednesday for the Regional Chamber Drive-In.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

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

Motion carried.

Mr. Smith stated that Council will look at the travel reimbursement policy to make sure it is right sized for 2026 and beyond.

Service Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that there are two pieces of legislation. There is the third reading of the NOPEC grant and an emergency reading to accept the bid of Lindy Paving for the 2026 paving project. The EPA violation was also discussed. This was not a water quality violation. It has to do with disconnecting the concrete tank. A drawing has been accepted by the EPA and this will be done soon. There is mandatory drug-free training for all employees on March 5. Spring cleanup is scheduled for April 14 and 15. Branch pickup will begin on March 26.

Planning Commission Mr. Bosheff stated that Planning Commission met prior to the Council meeting to explore creating a zoning ordinance for the old mill property. Members of the Planning Commission discussed various parts of the model ordinance

7. Committee reports cont'd.

exploring noise restrictions, setbacks and height requirements amongst other things for any building or business to go into the industrial park. Solicitor Ross and Mr. Domitrovich plan to go through engineering restrictions. Planning Commission will meet again once the draft of an ordinance is created.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith stated that there is a proposed levy that Council intends to place before the voters in the November ballot. There were a couple issues that Council resolved before they put the resolution together. They titled it the "Safety Services Levy". The levy will be set at 4.5 mill for a period of five years. The purpose behind it is it generates the appropriate amount of revenue the Village believes they need to augment our Police and Fire Departments. It is set for five years so that both the administration and residents can determine at a future point in time whether or not to continue. The levy itself would be effective in 2027 with a first collection occurring in 2028. Time is of the essence. Mr. Smith discussed the process to getting the levy on the ballot.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the Huckin' Fillbillies will be performing on Saturday and Dueling Pianos will be on Friday. The committee is looking into creating a 501C-3 for the new committee that is being formed for funding purposes and also some permit abilities. Mr. Schmidt thanked Mr. Domitrovich for working on this. Mr. Jamison and Mr. Golden will be handling the parade.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: none.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Third Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing All Actions Necessary To Accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Energized Community Grant(S).

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger that Resolution No. 1958-26 pass third reading as read.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Motion carried.

B. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Accepting The Bid Of Lindy Group, 1807 Shenango Road, New Galilee, PA 16141 For The 2026 Street Resurfacing Program With A Base Bid Of One Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty And 00/100 Dollars (\$169,960.00) And For The Further Purpose Of Authorizing The Mayor, Fiscal Officer, And/Or Village Administrator To Enter Into A Contract With Lindy Group And Execute Any Other Documents Necessary To Further The Project.

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

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger that Resolution No. 1959-26 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

C. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance Authorizing A One-Time, Lump Sum Payment To Full-Time Police Officers Of The Village Police Department As Of January 1, 2026.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Mr. Bosheff – aye

Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3335-26 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Bosheff – aye

Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

D. First Reading Of A Resolution Declaring The Necessity Of The Levying Of An Additional Tax On Real Property In Excess Of The Ten-Mill Limitation To Provide For Safety Services And Requesting Certification From The Trumbull County Auditor's Office.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Bosheff – aye

Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$130,767.97.

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.

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Smith read the bid results for the 2026 paving projects into the record and they are as follows:

Lindy Paving, 1807 Shenango Road, New Galilee, PA 16141	\$169,960.00
Geauga Highway Paving, 14126 Main Market Rd, Hiram, OH 44234	\$212,760.05
Karvo Companies, 4524 Hudson Dr, Stow, OH 44224	\$242,615.40
R.T. Vernal, 11299 South Ave, North Lima, OH 44452	\$171,076.05

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Sanson at 6:41 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer