

McDonald Village Council
April 8, 2026
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Police Chief Ryan Ronghi, Firefighter Robert Golden, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Visitors: Marsha Trimacco, Patricia Bundy, Ava Kuntz, Jaclyn Kuntz, Curt Kuntz, Carol Hapcic, Kristina Merola, Lynn Miller, Kathy Miskell, Sara Gardner, Matthew Ellis, Gary Carkido, Pam Sowers, and Tim Merlin.

Press: Bob Coupland, Tribune Chronicle.

1. The April 8, 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 March 19, 2026 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the March 19, 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 amend the agenda and move Legislation B to follow the Mayor's report:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated for the month of March, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$70 court costs \$134, Village revenue from fines \$490, Niles Municipal Court fines \$151.70, parking tickets \$20 and police reports \$10 for a grand total of \$875.70.

Mayor Lewis met with Marty Loney with the local building trades. He plans to attend one of their meetings soon to gain more information on labor's take on the data centers. Mayor Lewis also invited everyone to the Ohio History Connection check presentation this Friday at Ramsay Pavilion at 1:30 p.m.

B. First Reading Of A Resolution Commending Ava Kuntz For Her Recognition With The 2026 ServeOhio Award.

Mayor Lewis asked Miss Julie Weagraff, the Commissioner of ServeOhio to say a few words about Miss Ava Kuntz, who is the 2026 recipient of the ServeOhio award. She spoke on ServeOhio, which is the commission on service and volunteerism. Miss Weagraff also spoke on Ava Kuntz's contribution and accomplishments which includes earning the Presidential Volunteer Service Award at the gold level for 10 consecutive years. Ava has made great contributions not only to the Village but also to the Mahoning Valley.

Mr. Gary Carkido, McDonald High School Superintendent, read a statement from MHS Principal Megan Watson, commending Ava Kuntz. He stated that Ava is the model student that you would hope for. She was the 20 under 20 nominee for two years. The amount of things she has accomplished and done for the community and the school is incredible. Mr. Carkido stated that McDonald Schools is so proud of Ava. He also congratulated Ava's parents, Curt and Jackie Kuntz.

Mayor Lewis stated that Ava's resume goes without speaking. Council would like to recognize her through legislation within the Village. Mayor Lewis read the resolution into the record.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

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

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to waive the three-read process and pass Resolution No. 1962-26.

Discussion: Mr. Schmidt stated that Ava's resume is quite amazing. He congratulated Ava and her parents. They deserve some recognition as well. Mr. Schmidt stated that, as Mr. Carkido suggested, maybe Ava can just hang around for a little bit.

Mrs. Reckard had the pleasure of knowing Ava through the American Heart Association. She fell in love with Ava as soon as she said that she wanted to be a teen of impact. Mrs. Reckard is proud of Ava, that she leads with her heart and she is such a wonderful mentor to all the young women and young students in McDonald. Mrs. Reckard also congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Kuntz on raising a wonderful girl.

Mr. Smith has had the privilege of serving as Ava's pastor and he survived her hands-on CPR class after learning to sing "Stayin' Alive". Mr. Smith also walked with Ava during her confirmation period as well. He said that it has been a privilege knowing Ava as she has been growing up. It's been a privilege to be with Ava's family and a privilege to serve in this community. Mr. Smith thanked Ava for what she has done. He hopes that she will come back many times to influence other people.

Mr. Bosheff commended Ava as well. He coached her in little league and she grew up with his daughters. Ava has been a part of every single thing that they do especially Girl Scouts. Mr. Bosheff wanted to give Ava recognition for the Young Women's Banquet that she just attended. She got together over 20,000 items for that group. That was probably about 80% of the items that they brought in for donation.

Mr. Metzinger stated that a true testament to a person is if you leave the world a better place than when you found it. He thinks that Ava certainly has and he is proud to share a community with her.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Mr. Sanson congratulated Ava. He heard Ava talking about her choice of college and he works at YSU.

Mayor Lewis decided to break the Rules of Council and invited anyone in attendance who wants to speak regarding Ava to do so. Mayor Lewis told Ava that she epitomizes what it is to be a community servant. This Village is going to miss Ava when she goes to school. In his early days on Council, she and the Girl Scouts showed up at his house with a pie. There have been numerous occasions where the Village is going to have an event and someone suggests to get ahold of Ava's mom for Ava to help out. Mayor Lewis stated that we appreciate everything that Ava does for the Village.

Ava Kuntz thanked everyone for being in attendance. Without her community, she would not be able to be here.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich was not in attendance. No report.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that, for the month of March, there were 124 calls for service, 20 traffic stops and 127 residential checks. Mrs. Reckard, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Smith were sent an email from Captain Caraway regarding the number of flock cameras that surrounding municipalities have. The aging fleet of cruisers was discussed. The Police Department has started the process of pricing and they will get numbers to Council. Chief Ronghi is meeting other County chiefs tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the billing and rates for the 911 center.

Firefighter Robert Golden gave the report in Chief Marcum's absence. There have been 158 calls to date. The Fire Department has given assistance three times and received assistance eight times. They have had 53 transports to date. Total charges are \$53,897 and total revenue to date is \$20,528. Once the budget is allocated for the SFM grant, items will be ordered. University Hospital is charging \$15 from the Ohio Board of

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Pharmacy. Medic-37 was aligned last week. Medex will cover most of the cost. The Fire Department is working on securing a property for a multi-agency burn.

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, legislation, Council minutes, Friday check presentation at 1:30 p.m., Building Trades meeting and Matthew Ellis had a report.

Parks & Buildings Mrs. Reckard stated that Matthew Ellis reported McDonald was awarded the Ohio History Connection grant. The Village is working with him to put together a storybook trail of our industrial history. It will be called McDonald Millworkers' Trail. The police station renovation will begin in May. The furnace is already installed and the estimates that were given should remain the same. Jaclyn Kuntz and her Girl Scout troop had another wonderful Easter Egg Hunt for the residents. It was the 10th year the Girl Scouts have had the Easter Egg Hunt. They had over 10,000 Easter eggs filled. Also, it was the 10-year anniversary of the R.E.S.T. program. There were 65 people who regularly attend the program that participated. There was a lunch, ice cream, Colleen Chance performed and awards were given out. It was a fun afternoon. Mrs. Reckard stated that, if someone is over 60 in the Trumbull County area, they are welcome to attend.

Both the baseball and softball fields have a new scoreboard that are completed and in working order. Yearly, the Village ropes off the grass so cars will not park in that area. This should be finished before the summer league begins in 20 days. Mrs. Reckard thanked the individual who donated a refrigerator for the concession stand. Mr. Domitrovich had reported that he met with Tactical Protection and is waiting for a quote to install four cameras at the concession area and one at the entrance on Park Avenue. There was a discussion on moving the Memorial Day event to May 25 since graduation is now May 24. Mrs. Reckard reminded MHS students that the park attendant applications are due by April 15. The park director is Heidi Hoffman. Mrs. Reckard will be meeting with her tomorrow to discuss what might be needed for the park.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that three of the four flock cameras have already been mapped. This demo will happen prior to some events coming up. We look forward

7. Committee reports cont'd.

to having these in place to see who is coming through the Village. Chief Ronghi had discussed the need for a cruiser. The Police Department renovations will begin the end of May with Chris Mills and his company. Chief Marcum created a survey and Council gave their input. He discussed his strategic plan moving forward. The Village will use some type of mailer system for the survey to go out into the mail to the residents to get their feedback. There are some grant opportunities for a fire truck. Chief Marcum is asking Council's approval to have a grant writer. Discussions will follow. The ambulance bid is in the paper April 6 and 13 with a bid opening of April 22.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that the Police Department capital project was discussed as well as the Fire Department vehicles. Water and sewer rates have received some feedback from residents. The rates that we have in the Village are the lowest for those that do not have their own water or sewer treatment facilities in-house. Mr. Smith stated that we still live inside a bubble of how fortunate we are to have the cost affordability compared to those around us. There is an amendment to the appropriations that is clearly to reflect the fact that we have grants coming in that need to flush through our system.

Service Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that MVSD has dam repairs coming up. Any rate increase would need to go through the Court of Jurisdiction. The Village recently had a water audit with the EPA which included a site visit and review of bookkeeping and operations. The Village provided everything the EPA was asking for and everything looks good. The backup generator for the water tower is in and the concrete pad is poured. A small crane is needed to lift the generator and put it on the pad. Mr. Domitrovich discussed some thoughts on the data center legislation. There was a preconstruction meeting with Lindy Paving for the 2026 paving project. They hope to have everything done by the end of July. The paving project includes Seventh Street from Ohio Avenue to McDonald Avenue. Also, a traffic counter will be placed on Sixth Street for scoring purposes for the 2027 paving project. There will be a notice circulating soon regarding NOPEC and their new rates. For those residents who were a part of the Constellation aggregate that is no longer a supplier in the Village, you will be switched to the Enbridge default plan. The Street Department has been picking up branches from fallen limbs and catch basins. Mr. Metzinger stated that they have done a phenomenal job. Lastly, the cybersecurity ordinance is ready. It is waiting the Administrator's review so that it can be passed by July 1.

Planning Commission Mr. Bosheff stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith stated that a discussion was had regarding what types of communication would be used and what strategy the Village may employ

7. Committee reports cont'd.

once we place on the ballot in November the idea of a property levy that would be for our safety forces. Council is discussing the idea of door-to-door opportunities for the public to meet with them personally so they could have questions answered. Also, it was discussed to use opportunities like the Village festival and other times where the public can interact with Council.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the entertainment, liquor license and the rides are secured. The one hurdle is the bingo situation. The committee has reached out to other entities. They are working diligently to have bingo as they know how much the residents enjoy playing. Kyle Joynes, Kim Jones-Schmidt, and Joe Midlick have put in countless hours to take this over and get it to where it is already.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Kathy Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. Mrs. Miskell would like to reiterate what she said last meeting. She previously brought in the rules for the Austintown, Mill Creek, Niles, Cortland, and Warren splash pads. Mrs. Miskell would like Council to reconsider lifting the age limit. She feels that the Police and Fire Departments are steps away from the splash pad, which is the only thing in the entire park that has an age limit. Mrs. Miskell thinks this is very unfair.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Third 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 Resolution No. 1961-26 pass third reading as read.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

11. Legislation cont'd.

C. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance To Amend 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. Smith to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3337-26 pass emergency reading as read.

Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that this is to allow the Fiscal Officer to have numbers on the books for the Village to receive these grants and to distribute the funds as necessary.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$97,815.15.

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.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Sanson at 6:49 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer