

McDonald Village Council
March 19, 2026
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Police Chief Ryan Ronghi, Fire Lieutenant Trevor Willoughby, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Visitors: Kathy Miskell and Ken Miner.

Press: Bob Coupland, *Tribune Chronicle*.

1. The March 19, 2026 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:14 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – absent*
Mr. Metzinger – present
Mr. Bosheff – present

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

Mayor Lewis stated that Mr. Schmidt is excused due to a work engagement.

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 4, 2026 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Smith to approve the March 4, 2026 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

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

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis would like to appoint Heidi Hoffman as the 2026 Park Supervisor.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to appoint Heidi Hoffman as the 2026 Park Supervisor.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis would like to remind high school students that the Village is accepting applications for park attendants and Street Department workers through April 15. These can be turned in to Mrs. Bosheff, the Municipal Building, or by email. Please include your name and phone number on the application.

Mayor Lewis stated that the Niles Boys' Tennis team is waiting on their new courts to be completed this spring. For the past five years, they have used our courts. They have asked for permission to utilize them again this year and usually make a generous donation to our Parks Department. Mayor Lewis would like to grant permission for the Niles Boys' Tennis team to utilize our courts for their home matches.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to permit Niles Boys' Tennis team to utilize our courts for their home matches this season.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that he and Mr. Metzinger completed the Regional Chamber Leadership Academy. Also, Mayor Lewis went to Columbus last week with the Regional Chamber for the drive-in event. He got some fruitful information and met some very relative individuals with regard to being able to help our Village. Mayor Lewis was able to take part in a data center symposium which was led by the Ohio Research Foundation. He encourages any resident that has concerns to look on their website. Mayor Lewis will continue to educate himself. We do not have a data center coming to the Village but, for all we know, there could be one at any time. We do not know that answer.

Mayor Lewis attended the Mahoning River Corridor Mayor's Association meeting. Our state representatives and local mayors participated in a discussion about the Mahoning River. The Girard dam was a topic of conversation. Mayor Lewis and Girard Mayor Zuppo have been reassured that there will be no work done on that dam that would prohibit any type of industry from utilizing our industrial property.

Mayor Lewis stated that Mr. Schmidt reached out to the fire association and they have declined to participate for bingo or any other matters for the festival this year. Mr. Domitrovich has reached out to a few non-profits that could partner with us.

Mayor Lewis stated that the Village was awarded the Ohio History Connection History Fund for the Millworkers' Recreational Trail grant. This grant is for \$16,696. Work can begin on this as early as May 1. Matthew Ellis from KO will attend the April meeting to do a presentation on what this entails. Mayor Lewis is going to try and get as much of Council as possible as well as the school. This will highlight McDonald but it will be something that others who's family members may have worked in a steel mill may want to see. There will be a check presentation on April 10 at 1:30 p.m. Representative Santucci will be in attendance. Hopefully Senator O'Brien will be there as well.

Mayor Lewis received notification on the Eastgate awards. The Village was awarded three grants through Eastgate. One was through STBG funding for the paving of Olive Street, Second Street and a little bit of McDonald Avenue. This has a 20% match which we will pursue through KO and other means to have work begin in 2029 or 2030. The total for the grant is \$948,514. We also were approved for two other grants in the amount of \$245,472 and \$284,456. These grants are for the sidewalk project for the new sidewalk going up to the stadium and sidewalk replacement. The total amount for the grants is \$1,487,442. Per Mr. Domitrovich, this is the largest grant that the Village has received. Mayor Lewis stated that we will work to get those match funds. He will work with the school to see how the Village can partner with them.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Mayor Lewis stated that scholarship money will be due from Council. This will be a \$50 donation from each Council member. This is to fund the Cindy Green Robinson and Michael O'Brien memorial scholarship funds. They are given to two McDonald High School seniors who are graduating. Seniors have to submit a letter that Mayor Lewis will review and make a selection of two worthy individuals. This is never easy. He encourages those that apply to be thoughtful in your letter and make sure you are honest and straightforward. Seniors need to apply through Mrs. Bosheff for these scholarships.

Mayor Lewis reminded residents to lock their doors. There were two vehicles stolen in the Village and a fire in the same day. Mayor Lewis thanked the safety forces. The Police Department was able to solve both crimes of the stolen vehicles within hours. These were, ironically, thanks to the flock cameras. Also, the Village Creamery had a fire. The Fire Department responded quickly. A customer was able to get most of the fire extinguished and put out. There were no injuries and there was no significant damage to the building. Mayor Lewis commended the Riccitelli's in that their priority was making sure the employees were able to return to work the next day. Mayor Lewis again thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their hard work.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the employees completed their drug-free training. There is a pre-construction meeting scheduled with Lindy Paving and GPD next week. They will go over dates for the upcoming road paving project. There was an Ohio EPA audit for the Water Department. Mr. Domitrovich believes the audit went very well. A description of the audit will be sent out in the next few weeks. Mr. Domitrovich will inform Council of the results when he receives them. He also thanked Mayor Lewis for participating with Eastgate on the grants. Mayor Lewis talked with Eastgate, went to the meetings and got involved and Mr. Domitrovich thanked him for that. He believes this went a long way in deciding what Eastgate was going to do with our applications.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated no report. He thanked Mr. Domitrovich for getting Mazza Heating and Cooling in this week. Chief Ronghi stated that the Police Chiefs in the surrounding area have some questions regarding the 911 Center and how they are billing. There is a Chiefs' meeting on April 9 to discuss this. Chief Ronghi will keep Council updated.

Fire Lieutenant Trevor Willoughby stated that calls to date are 131. Mutual aid for March is four given, five received and Lane has been in the Village three times. There have been 43 transports to date bringing total charges to \$43,845 and total revenue to

6. Reports of Village Officials cont'd.

\$16,890. The Fire Department has been awarded the State Fire Marshal's grant in the amount of \$13,190. Lieutenant Willoughby described how this would be spent. Chief Marcum had emailed Council a survey that he would like them to fill out. This will be discussed in the April meeting.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that the NOPEC NEC paperwork was submitted for \$4322. There is a total of \$8550 available to use for an energy-efficient project. The NOPEC Sponsorship paperwork grant was submitted for disbursement in the amount of \$500. These funds will be submitted to the Village to use for the Oktoberfest. Once the Parks Committee receives a 501C3, this grant can be deposited directly into their account. The 10-year celebration for the R.E.S.T. program is Friday, March 27 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Currently, there are more than 40 people signed up for this event.

Solicitor Ross stated no report. He congratulated Council and the administration for the wonderful grants that were received. Solicitor Ross has been doing this for 20 years and that is, by far, the most money he has ever seen. Things like that is what makes this Village a nice place.

7. Committee reports:

Councilman Don Smith stated that Caucus met this evening and the following items were discussed: agenda, Fiscal Officer's report, Council minutes, legislation and Park Supervisor appointment. April meetings will be held on April 7 for Committees and April 8 and 22 for Council. Also discussed was the Niles Boys' Tennis team using our facilities, the scholarships and Council's responsibility for contributing to that, the Homecoming Festival and the grant awards.

Parks & Buildings Mrs. Reckard stated that demolition has started for the girls' varsity scoreboard at the baseball fields. The Village is preparing to install and hang the new scoreboard. KV Electric will hook it up. The Board of Education funded the cost of the scoreboard. The Village agreed to pay for all installation. We are excited to have Heidi Hoffman back as the Park Supervisor. Mrs. Reckard will be meeting with her to see what things she might need for the park this year. The electric and lighting have been updated at the park shanty. The Village received approval for the liquor permit for the Homecoming Festival. The heating and cooling which was quoted at about \$8800, was installed in the police station. The total should be about \$10,000. There were some major windstorms last weekend. Mr. Domitrovich and Mike Schuller got up in the cupola and it needs some work. This will be further discussed at Committees next month. Mrs. Reckard reminded everyone of the 10-year anniversary at the R.E.S.T. center on Friday,

7. Committee reports cont'd.

March 27 at 12:30 p.m. The Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Girl Scouts, will be held on March 29 at 1:00 p.m. in the park.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt was not in attendance. There was no report.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that there is legislation to transfer some money into the capital improvement fund. This will allow the Village to move forward with the paving project.

Service Committee Mr. Metzinger informed everyone to be aware of Senate Bill 376 which would put a 25% cap on municipalities selling water elsewhere. This has not been passed. It was just recently proposed.

Planning Commission Mr. Bosheff stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith stated no report.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Schmidt was not in attendance. In his absence, Mayor Lewis gave the report. The liquor permit has been tentatively approved through the State. The fire association has declined participation this year. However, a few members of the Fire Department are going to run the parade. Mr. Domitrovich is working on getting the committee affiliated with a 501C3 so we can still conduct bingo. Three of the four nights have entertainment booked. The ride company is confirmed. The vendors are being contacted. Mr. Schmidt will report further in April committees.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Kathy Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. Mrs. Miskell distributed splash pad rules from a few surrounding communities. McDonald is the only municipality with age restrictions. Mrs. Miskell stated that we have a park supervisor and park attendants, we are steps away from the Police and Fire Departments. There is no other municipality that Mrs. Miskell has seen that has the safety and security that McDonald has. Mrs. Miskell called the company that the Village purchased the splash pad from and was told that it is made for all ages and all weather. Mrs. Miskell is asking Council to reconsider taking the age limit off or to have a trial period. She does not understand why all the other areas have no age limit and they have no problems. Mayor Lewis appreciates Mrs. Miskell attending and advocating for what she believes and what she wants. That will be up to Parks and Buildings if they decide to bring it back for discussion. This was voted on last year. It was voted on prior. They are in no way obligated to do so. Mrs. Miskell asked why it cannot be an open discussion. Mayor Lewis answered that there was an open discussion. He explained to Mrs. Miskell that Council meetings are an opportunity for residents to voice their opinion. Committees are

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

for that committee to have open discussion amongst that committee. Mrs. Miskell is trying to bring in more information. She does not understand why, 10 years ago, the age limit was put in the rules. Mrs. Miskell feels that this is wrong. Mayor Lewis appreciates Mrs. Miskell making this known. Most just go on social media and want to complain. People that go on social media do it for entertainment. They do not bring relevant things to the table. What Mrs. Miskell is doing is the right way to do it.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Second 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 second reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Bosheff – aye

Mr. Sanson – 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. Smith to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Bosheff – aye

Mr. Sanson – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Resolution No. 1960-26 pass emergency reading as read.

Discussion: Mr. Smith stated that this is to transfer funds to allow the VA to continue with the paving projects and the upcoming meetings.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Bosheff – aye

Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

C. Emergency Reading Of An Ordinance To Declare The Village Of McDonald's 2006 Medix 166 Ambulance To Be Personal Property Not Needed For The Village Municipal Purposes And Granting Authorization To Sell The Ambulance Upon Such Terms And At Such Price As Are Deemed Most Advantageous To Village Of McDonald.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Bosheff – aye

Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that Ordinance No. 3336-26 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Smith – 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 \$72,470.48.

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. 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. Sanson at 6:51 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer