

McDonald Village Council
April 22, 2026
Regular Council Meeting

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: Pam Sowers, Lynn Miller, Tom Colarich, Lauren Hill, Kathleen Miskell, and Brad Silvers.

Press: Bob Coupland, *Tribune Chronicle*.

1. The April 22, 2026 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:30 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 April 8, 2026 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the April 8, 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:

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 that Jake Olson submitted his resignation letter to the Fire Department. He read the letter into the record.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the resignation of Jake Olson from the McDonald Fire Department.

Discussion: Mr. Schmidt thanked Mr. Olson for his service with the Village. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Olson as well. He was always quick to make a phone call. Mayor Lewis sent well wishes to Jake's father.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis thanked Lauren Hill from Trumbull County Engineer's for visiting this evening. He also thanked Mr. Silvers and looks forward to working with him on the disc golf course. Mayor Lewis is hopeful the issue with the park attendants can be resolved. There were 16 scholarship applications submitted this year. Mayor Lewis is still working through those applications. The recipients will be announced at the award ceremony at the school. They are all great applicants. It is a difficult decision.

Civics Days was last Friday with the students. There was a mock Council meeting. Mayor Lewis thanked the Police and Fire Departments for all they did with that event. He also thanked the third-grade teachers for bringing the kids down. Lastly, Mayor Lewis thanked Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Smith who helped to coordinate the event.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Mayor Lewis stated that we received a report from RITA on our filings. In our most recent list of non-filers, 264 did not file in 2024 and 750 did not file for multiple years, including 2024. Mayor Lewis urges anyone who thinks they may be on that list to contact the Village. We can let you know. We are going to find you and you can pay the income tax you owe or you are going to file. Streets are not free, employees are not free, if we do not have the money coming in, we will not be a Village. This Council has had to take drastic measures through the garbage contract and income tax forgiveness because we need to find revenue streams for us to maintain the level of service that we have. To see that 750 people have multiple years listed is insulting. Granted, some of that list is invalid, some have retired in the meantime, some are, unfortunately deceased, and some may not owe anything to the Village. It is still hundreds. That has to change. If we do not collect the income tax, we cannot sustain what we have. Residents need to know.

Mayor Lewis revisited an article that was in the Tribune Chronicle the other day regarding an EPA violation at the mill property. He has received several phone calls about the sale of the property. This is news to him and news to the Village. The property has not been sold. They plan to sell it and have made that clear from day one. AP McDonald is there to salvage the mill and find an end user. They will not be the end user. As soon as we know something as a Village, we will make sure the public knows. We are trying to be as transparent as possible. All we can do is educate ourselves on any potential business whether it be a manufacturer or a data center. We cannot speculate and come up with assumptions. Nothing has been submitted, nothing has been sold. When we know, the public will know.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the backup generator has been put in place and connected by KV Electric. It is almost ready to start up. KO Consulting helped the Village to get the generator grant for \$50,000.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that Captain Caraway is working on quotes for cruisers. Flock cameras are ready to go when we want to move forward. Chief Ronghi attended the chiefs' meeting on April 9 to discuss issues with the 911 center. They are planning to meet again with a member of the 911 center committee. Officer Pratt will have back surgery in June and will be out for three months. Former Police Chief Dan Leskovac passed away on April 13. He served in the Village for 30 years and was well liked. It is always rough when you lose a member of your team. Chief Ronghi and Captain Caraway attended the services and he wanted again to send condolences to Dan Leskovac's family.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum stated that there have been 178 calls to date. Mutual aid from April 8 to April 21 was one given, one received and Lane has been in the Village twice. There have been 62 transports this year. Total charges are \$62,947 and total revenue is \$21,982. Most of the equipment from the State Fire Marshal grant is ordered. Chief Marcum discussed the live burn training that he has been coordinating. This would involve Weathersfield, Girard, Austintown and McDonald.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated there were several calls received regarding the NOPEC letter that was sent out. There is now something on Facebook as well as the Village website describing the new rates and how residents can lock in for 12 or 24 months. We received an email from Trumbull County Adult Protective Services regarding Elder Abuse month which is in June. They will be placing purple cardboard ribbons in front of the community room for one week in June. There is nothing that the Village has to do. They will let us know in advance so we can notify the Street Department for mowing the grass.

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, legislation and May meetings. Committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 5. Council meetings will be held on May 6 and 20. Also discussed was summer park attendants, Lauren Hill from Trumbull County Engineers, Turbo Putt disc golf in the park, fire resignation of Jake Olson, and the ambulance bid. Mr. Schmidt appreciates Mayor Lewis addressing the non-filers for taxes. He thinks those people should be ashamed of themselves that continue to not file. If there is a way we can publicly let them know, Mr. Schmidt would like to have Solicitor Ross look into that. He knows that, in years past, when people that he knew were in the paper for property taxes, they had no idea. Seeing that in the paper helped them and they paid it immediately. Mr. Schmidt is not saying that will change the non-filers because, if you are a repeat offender, that is just who you are.

Parks & Buildings Mrs. Reckard stated that the Ohio History Connection awarded the Village a check in the amount of \$16,696 to begin the mill history storybook trail project. This will capture 100 years of the steel industry throughout our area. Mrs. Reckard thanked Matthew Ellis from KO Consulting for spearheading this endeavor. The baseball season is well under way. Mrs. Reckard thanked Mr. Domitrovich and his employees and the high school in making sure the kids could be down at the fields to practice and

7. Committee reports cont'd.

play. Donation letters went out for Concerts In the Park. Memorial Day services have been changed to Monday, May 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt thanked Jake Olson for his time in the Fire Department.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith stated that the Mahoning County Auditor is engaging a series of lectures about property taxes. The laws are the same in Trumbull County when it comes to property tax. Mr. Smith stated that, if a taxpayer owes, you can go to the RITA office on Salt Springs Road. They will complete the tax returns for free. Fast File is also available online and takes about a minute and a half to complete a tax return. The ordinances that have been revised by the Ohio State precludes a municipality from charging a fee for failure to file on a return that owes no money to the municipality. Mr. Smith encouraged people to step forward. Mayor Lewis stated that the Village tries to vet that list but, as it gets in the 100s it is very difficult.

Service Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that there is a first reading for the cybersecurity ordinance which was reviewed by the office staff. This is state mandated.

Planning Commission Mr. Bosheff stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith stated no report.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that everything is going smooth. The committee is still trying to figure the bingo issue out. They have some ideas. Mr. Schmidt thanked all that are looking into these ideas.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Lynn Miller, 924 Ohio Avenue. Mrs. Miller asked if there is any progress on getting some ordinances for the possibility of if the data centers are coming. We know there is a possibility they are not but we still need to be proactive and get something on the books. Mrs. Miller asked Council if anything has been started and how far are they? Mayor Lewis stated that he appreciates Mrs. Miller's advocacy. Historically, there is no back and forth discussion during public comments. However, Mayor Lewis did respond to Mrs. Miller by telling her that the Village is looking at carving out some zoning restrictions. It behooves the Village to have some things in place with regard to what we can control. That is in progress. There is nothing set. Mayor Lewis described the process that would be followed. Solicitor Ross stated that, if Planning Commission recommends to do with the ordinance, at that time a draft of the ordinance would be available for the public to look at. Mrs. Miller can get a copy of the draft ordinance, come to the public meetings and say whatever she would like for or

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

against. Mrs. Miller stated that she is worried with the speeding of everything and the anticipation.

Kathy Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. Mrs. Miskell asked if Council has considered coming together with Weathersfield, Niles, and Girard. She read that if a data center comes in, it is a six-mile radius where individuals will be affected. Mrs. Miskell suggested that, if the municipalities formed a coalition where all the ordinances would back each other up, they would all be the same. If the data center did come, because it will affect the whole area, at least the municipalities would be on the same page and it would be in place before it even started. That way, they would know what they are getting into because it is going to affect the poor areas. Mayor Lewis stated that this is something they will look into.

Mrs. Miskell stated that, again, she would like to remind everybody about the splash pad and the age limit. Woodland Park is a public park and McDonald is the only one that has an age restriction on the splash pad.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. First Reading Of An Ordinance Adopting A Cybersecurity Program In Accordance With Ohio Revised Code Section 9.64.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger that the ordinance pass first reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye

Mr. Smith – 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 \$34,778.70.

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

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
Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

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

Motion carried.

Mrs. Smith also read the bid for the 2006 ambulance into the record and it is as follows:

Emergency Remarketing, 38130 Airport Parkway No. 3, Willoughby, Ohio 44094. The bid amount is for \$2,000.00.

It was moved by Mr. Smith to reject the bid for Emergency Remarketing in the amount of \$2,000.00 as it does not meet the \$10,000 reserve price.

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 7:01 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer