

McDonald Village Council  
May 20, 2026  
Regular Council Meeting

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

Visitors: Nathan Hite, Shirley Jo Nemec, Laurie Smith, Kathy Miskell, Stacy McCale, Ashlee Haynes, Dave Evinsky, and Tom Colarich.

1. The May 20, 2026 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:10 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 May 6, 2026 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the May 6, 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 that there are enough applicants to have a park program this summer. He is looking for Council's approval for the appointment of the following: Natalie McKay, Brady Flere, Jason Cupan, Chloe Baldwin, Derek Hilbun, Sienna Gavitt, Ava Kuntz and legacy park attendants Alain Stitt and Michaylen Lewis

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to approve the 2026 park attendants as stated.

Roll call:

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

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

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis thanked everyone who did a lot of recruiting to make it so we do have a park program.

Mayor Lewis thanked the visitors for attending the meeting. It is always nice to see our residents show some interest in Village government. Mayor Lewis is not a big social media guy. He does not acknowledge it and uses the term “keyboard warriors”. He signed up for this. His wife and kids did not. What he said was vindicated last night and he will leave it at that.

Mayor Lewis wants to clarify a lot of things. Never has he nor anyone in this Village signed an NDA. Never have they kept secrets. For two years, the property has been owned by AP McDonald. Mayor Lewis stated that we have tried to be as transparent as possible. He is an open book. He has never not had a phone call with a resident. He has never shied away from conversation. He will never do that. It has been his goal since he became mayor of this town to be transparent, open and honest and to make sure that we have a sustainable, viable, safe community. Mayor Lewis has concerns about any business that should come into our Village just like any resident should. His goal is also to make sure that we have some development within our Village. Mayor Lewis has been trying over the past 18-24 months to educate himself as has our Council. There have been open discussions. We have been talking about these businesses called data centers for that entire time. We did not know anything about them. We still do not know a lot about them. Mr. Bosheff, Mr. Schmidt and Mayor Lewis toured a small-scale shared

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

space that is only 50 minutes away. They had a full four-hour tour of the place and had a lot of questions answered. Mayor Lewis has spoken with New Albany, Marysville, Garfield Heights, Cleveland, and Dayton. You name an individual if we can reach out and we have reached out. We are trying to gather as much information as possible. Mayor Lewis has participated in webinars, seminars, face to faces with the Ohio Research Foundation, the Statehouse, Ohio Chamber of Commerce. He did a Regional Chamber meeting with TPMA, which are a large nationwide consulting firm. He has talked with First Energy, our utility company, the Lordstown Mayor, our superintendent, Marty Loney of the Building Trades. On June 4, Mayor Lewis and Mr. Bosheff are going to New Albany to get a lot of the questions answered. Hopefully we can find out if there are any truths and myths, because we really do not know.

Mayor Lewis wants to reiterate, on the record, never has the Village been presented with an NDA of any sort. Never would he sign one. Never would he keep a secret from his neighbors and friends. Mayor Lewis lives closer to that industrial park than most of the people in this community. The last thing he wants to do is put himself in some type of adverse living condition. Mayor Lewis stated that there is a process. When someone decides to submit a site plan at that industrial property, which is privately owned, it will go to our Planning Commission of which Mayor Lewis is one vote. They then vote to present that recommendation to accept that site plan. Then Council votes on that site plan. Should that happen, it requires a lot of different individuals to come into play.

Mayor Lewis asked those in attendance that if they have friends and neighbors that are concerned about businesses that want to come into our Village, call the Village building. Mayor Lewis will meet during the business day or after hours and our Council is accessible. We do not have anything to hide. In addition, Mayor Lewis truly believes that we, as a body, are ahead of the game compared to our neighboring communities. For the past year and a half or so, our Planning Commission has proactively been looking at carving out some restrictions for data centers. Again, there is not a site plan. There is not a plan for anything to be down there. As it stands now, those businesses would be allowed to come in under what is called a conditional use. There is very little regulation that the Village has. Solicitor Ross, Mr. Domitrovich, our Planning Commission members and members of Council have looked at zoning rules across the country on what we, as a Village can regulate. Things such as sound, setbacks, distance from sensitive areas, and noise. Mayor Lewis is proud to say that they are nearing the end of a draft of potential zone changes that would carve out these businesses should they decide to submit a site plan within the Village.

Years back, a landfill wanted to set up shop in our industrial park. Mr. Domitrovich stated that the elected officials met with our legal counsel to stay ahead of it because they

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

realized it would be a tremendous detriment to our community. Council worked within the legal parameters to restrict that property for landfills. Over the years, these elected officials have been privy to businesses that wanted to come in that could have been very detrimental to property values, environment, everything. Mr. Domitrovich stated that we have thwarted all of them through good education and good legal steps that we could take. We do not want to steer away business but we definitely want to take concerns of any of our residents or past practices of these industries and restrict those things that are not wholesome for our community. Mr. Domitrovich believes that this is what this elected body is doing right now. We are way ahead of it and he thinks that is encouraging. Mr. Domitrovich commended everyone that is getting an education on it.

Mayor Lewis stated that this is a matter of, if something happens at the industrial park, he can reassure everyone in this room that our goal is to have it benefit our Village. This is home. Mayor Lewis stated that, when he has folks using vulgarities directed toward himself and his 20-year old daughter showing it to him, he will let that person lay their head on the pillow at night. Mayor Lewis pointed out that Mrs. Miskell has heard him mention the keyboard warriors. He asked her what she did after she made a post. Mrs. Miskell responded that she quit posting when they attacked her grandson. Mayor Lewis stated that it is always a few individuals. Unfortunately, social media is infotainment. A lot of people go on there to gather information but it is infotainment. People that use it as such just want to get a charge out of people. Mayor Lewis encourages everyone in attendance to come to every one of our meetings, call our Village building, request meetings, and phone calls. He will spend hours making sure that questions are answered. There are no secrets. Mayor Lewis offered to stay after the meeting to answer any questions or hear any concerns. Residents will have their opportunity to speak.

Mayor Lewis again said that the property is owned by AP McDonald. This has been clear for two years. They are a salvage company. They are demoing that mill and they will do one of two things: they are going to sell the property to an end-user or they are going to leave it. When Mayor Lewis says leave it, it will be another Brownfield in the Youngstown area along the river that sits there for the next 100 years that "woulda, shoulda, coulda". Their goal is to have an end user. Mayor Lewis has met with several potential end users. These are people that are business investors. He has no idea other than that. Two of them have been data center developers. At the end of the day, they have not purchased the property and they have not submitted a site plan. We can speculate all we want but until pen is to paper, there is nothing to talk about. If a site plan gets submitted, there is a process. We are trying to stay ahead of that process. We are trying to educate ourselves. Again, there is no NDA, there is no site plan, there are no secrets. If you or friends and family have questions, have them call the Village. We will talk. We are not hiding things. Mayor Lewis appreciates everyone in attendance.

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Mayor Lewis stated that he hopes that his daughter does not have to come up to him in tears because professionals in our safety services decided to resort to using vulgar, insensitive things on what they think is some entertaining venue. God bless them.

6. Report of Village Officials:

**Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich** stated that the cost for garbage pickup through Ohio Valley Waste has increased to \$15.17 a month or \$45.51 quarterly. This is an increase of \$.72 a month or \$2.16 quarterly. This was discussed at great length when the Village extended the contract with Ohio Valley Waste in February. Also, Mr. Domitrovich and his employees have completed one of the five concerns that the EPA has. This was related to the gate valve mapping and exercise program. Mr. Domitrovich repeated that this has been done. It was not up to par according to the EPA so it was put into the form that they like it in. They will move on to significant deficiency #1 which is the separation of the concrete tank. Weather permitting, this will be done in the next couple weeks. Mr. Domitrovich will keep everyone updated as these deficiencies and violations drop off and we become in good graces with the EPA. Again, this is largely paperwork.

**Police Chief Ryan Ronghi** stated he is not on any of the Village Facebook pages. He got off those years ago because it is toxic. However, he gets sent screenshots of comments that are made. He received some last night. It is frustrating. Chief Ronghi has known Mayor Lewis since he moved into town. He has worked closely with the mayor for about 10 years. If people knew the things he has done, those comments would not be happening. Chief Ronghi doubts that we will see any of the people making comments in attendance to get educated. He vouches for Mayor Lewis a thousand times over. He has Chief Ronghi's full support. He trusts Mayor Lewis fully. As far as Councils go, Chief Ronghi has been here 18 years. There have been some good Councilmen. As a chief who is in charge of seven other guys, their careers and they have families, we are lucky to have each Council member, the mayor specifically. The work Mayor Lewis has been putting in and to get that is insane.

Chief Ronghi stated that there is a summer safety initiative at the school. Mayor Lewis drove down to Columbus to pick up 60 bike helmets that we received through a grant he had applied for. Chief Ronghi, Mayor Lewis, Captain Caraway and Officer Pesa spoke with each grade school class about bike safety especially e-bikes and e-scooters. Thanks to the Village Creamery, the Police Department will be giving out coupons for free ice cream to kids that are wearing their helmets.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Chief Ronghi mentioned that the City of Avon is requiring anyone under the age of 16 to wear a helmet. Also, anyone under the age of 16 cannot ride an e-bike or e-scooter that goes over 20 mph. This might be something to discuss at the Committee meetings.

Safety Day will be held on July 18. The Village Creamery will be participating in this event. The 911 Center meetings were held on May 12. The County Commissioner was present. Mr. Domitrovich is going over permitting with Flock cameras. Chief Ronghi hopes to have these set up within 60 days or so. Lastly, Chris Mills may be able to start with the police station remodel this week.

**Fire Captain Dan Jamison** stated that there have been 216 calls to date. Mutual aid from May 7 through May 19 are five given, two received and Lane has been in town once. There have been 75 transports this year. Total charges have been \$76,045. Total revenue has been \$20,210. The AFG grant opened yesterday. Chief Marcum would like to discuss with Council at the next Committee meetings what he would like to submit for. Captain Jamison discussed the controlled burn that has been scheduled. The dates for the burn will be June 8, 15, 22 and 29. Departments in the area have been invited. Chief Marcum also invited Council to participate on June 15. Both trucks passed pump testing. Captain Jamison discussed an issue with one of the trucks that has since been resolved.

**Office Manager Amy Cunningham** stated no report but she wanted to echo Chief Ronghi's sentiments on the way that Council has been handling all the information and preparing in case a data center would come to the industrial park. As an employee, Mrs. Cunningham sees how hard Council is working to keep the Village safe and the residents' best interest at heart. As a resident, she feels very comfortable with whatever decision they make.

**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 summer recess. June meetings will be held on June 16 for Committees and June 17 for Council. Also discussed were the summer park attendants and the New Albany trip.

**Parks & Buildings Mrs. Reckard** stated that Chief Ronghi, Captain Caraway, and Mr. Domitrovich secured a spot for Mrs. Cunningham's records retention area. The new park attendants have been announced. An opening date for the park will be announced soon. The Memorial Day service will be held on Monday, May 25 at 1:00 p.m. Trumbull

7. Committee reports cont'd.

County Sheriff Mike Wilson will be the guest speaker and Colleen Chance will sing for us. Mrs. Reckard invited Council and residents to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be moved to the Ramsay Pavilion.

Mrs. Reckard congratulated the varsity baseball and softball teams and wished them good luck. McDonald hosted a post-season softball game on Monday. The Lady Devils won and Aubrey Evans pitched a no hitter. Mrs. Reckard thanked Tom Amicone, the high school custodians, Mike Schuller, Mike Lepor and all of our guys for maintaining the baseball fields.

Repairs and cleanup at the Community Room building is being done by Wilttrout Roofing. Mrs. Reckard discussed these repairs. The grade school will be using the pavilion in the park for their picnics as the school year is ending. John Muckridge will lead the litter cleanup on June 13 with a rain date of June 20. He is also the person to contact for the flags in the yards. The money he is raising will go toward scholarships.

Mayor Lewis congratulated the softball and baseball teams who both won the MVAC this year. Aubrey Evans and Quinn Schmidt were both voted player of the year. They are both underclassmen which is not easy.

**Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt** thanked Chief Ronghi and Chief Marcum for all the work they do around this Village to keep us safe. He has seen several kids that are now wearing bike helmets because of the safety program. Mr. Schmidt also thanked the Village Creamery. Chief Marcum put together a fire survey. We are looking for some feedback from our residents. They can use the QR code or go to the website. Chief Marcum is looking for some feedback from the residents on how we are doing and what improvements can be made.

**Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Smith** stated no report.

**Service Committee Mr. Metzinger** stated that Mr. Domitrovich and his employees are working on the EPA violations. He stressed that these violations have nothing to do with water quality issues. There is a third reading for the cybersecurity ordinance. The post office lease will be discussed at the next committee meetings. Solicitor Ross will review the lease options. Mr. Metzinger thanked Mr. Domitrovich and his employees. Being the youth baseball president, for as much rain as we have had, they have had quite a few games. Mr. Metzinger really appreciates all the work they do.

**Planning Commission Mr. Bosheff** stated no report. There may be a possible meeting set for June.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

**Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Smith** stated that there is a first reading of the resolution to proceed. This will be placed on the November ballot. This is an opportunity for taxpayers to decide whether or not to approve a 4.5 mill levy that would be for the purpose of funding, in part, our safety services. Mr. Smith stated that 4.5 mill would raise \$310,085 annually. This is a five-year levy. Taxpayers have a chance to vote. If they say yes, they have five years to decide whether they want to renew it. Mr. Smith stated that this is not a done deal. It is certainly something for the taxpayers to consider.

Mr. Smith stated that these are the types of things when somebody on Facebook says “why don’t they do something else other than bring in a data center”? These are the “something elses”. What we have seen is trash costs have been pushed to the taxpayers. Reduced income tax credit beginning in 2026 comes to the taxpayers who are working in municipalities with 2% or higher tax rate. They are no longer getting full credit for what they are paying to other municipalities. This levy would be another leg in that. Those are they types of things that, if businesses were to come in here and offset our revenue stream, that the Village can roll back. We are preparing to have revenue for the Village in case we are not seeing businesses come in. We have been kicking the can down the road for years. This is the Council that has been willing to step up.

**Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Schmidt** stated that the committee has sent paperwork out to previous donors. Any resident or business owner wanting to sponsor the event is still able. The committee is still discussing options for bingo. Everything else is going great.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Kathy Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. Mrs. Miskell asked when the property at the industrial park is sold, do the ordinances go away and new ordinances are needed for every new owner. Solicitor Ross replied that the ordinances stay in effect. Mrs. Miskell revisited her suggestion from a few meetings ago to form a coalition with surrounding communities. If everyone had the same ordinances to protect everyone, it would not stop it from being built but at least we could protect as much as we could before it got built. Solicitor Ross stated that the Village is drafting an ordinance that would put in place protections to deal with those types of business should one apply. Right now, there is nothing on the books. What other municipalities are doing, as you see in the paper, everybody is all over the place. Solicitor Ross stated that forming a coalition is something that would take a lot of effort so we are doing what we can do for the Village.

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

Mrs. Miskell brought up the splash pad in hopes that Council would reconsider having anyone 14 and above to have an adult with them or do away with the age. She still feels this is unfair and she would like Council to reconsider it before the splash pad opens.

Nathan Hite, 465 Utah Avenue. Mr. Hite asked about the size of the data center that may be in the Village. Mayor Lewis stated that this is speculation. There has not been anything submitted to the Village. Mayor Lewis is going to tour another data center on June 4. He stated that there is a large group from the Mahoning Valley going on a bus. They will report back on everything that they see, hear and learn.

Mr. Domitrovich stated that the important thing about the New Albany site is that it is new construction. The manufacturers are learning to build them to not be offensive to the neighborhoods or the properties that they are going to build them in. There has been a lot of conversation as to how they were built before. Mr. Domitrovich stated that industrial sites in our area is where they should go. Mr. Hite asked if there is some type of sound barrier. Mayor Lewis stated that this is supposed to be public comments. He encouraged Mr. Hite to stay after the meeting and he will answer every question that he can.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Third Reading Of Ordinance No. 3338-26 Adopting A Cybersecurity Program In Accordance With Ohio Revised Code Section 9.64.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger that Resolution No. 3338-26 pass second 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.

B. Second Reading Of A Resolution Adopting The Alternative Tax Budget Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio, For Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2027, And Submitting Same To The Trumbull County Auditor.

11. Legislation cont'd.

It was moved by Mr. Smith that the resolution pass second 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.

C. First Reading Of A Resolution to Proceed And Submit To The Electors Of The Village Of McDonald, Ohio The Question Of An Additional Tax On Real Property In Excess Of The Ten-Mill Limitation To Provide For Safety Services.

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

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$102,185.23.

I, Stephanie Smith, Fiscal Officer for 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.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Sanson at 6:59 p.m. All voted aye.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fiscal Officer