

McDonald Village Council
August 19, 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: Mark Fox, Betsy Novakovich, Erika White, Joe Guarino, Liz Johnson, Ken Miner, Dylan Bigelow, Nick Mancini, Mary Jo Krumpak, Sue Boughner, Ron Simeone, Sandy Morgan, Robin Ruschman, Jennifer Pountious, Josephine Ulrich, Denise Deltondo, Brenda Noel, Theresa Morgan, Janice Greene, Dave Urban, Barb Urban, Lynn Miller, Barb Stitt, Dorothy Hannon, Kathy Miskell, Sandra Guarino, Karen Krolopp, Susan Lipkovich, Shirley Jo Nemec, Joe Midlick, Sharron Mayfield, Angela Frederick, Debbie Maley, Kevin Fizet, Don Shiley, Doreen Shiley, Jeff and Jackie Rasile, Janice Burkholder, Paula Dougherty, Amanda Dougherty, Jean Batian, Robert Batian, Fred Harvey, Jesse Homa, Elaine Homa, Anthony Rozzo, Mary Kay Skufca, Ray Getz, Linda Getz, Nat Gallo, Sandy Frazzini, Linda Tote, Karen Muche, Paula Kunkel, Samanta Muche, Jean Morello, Butch Morello, Pat McCarthy, Debra Fortune, Andrew Kitchens, Michael Witkoski, Ruth Flere, Ray Flere, Marianne Ryan, Jay Ryan, Kay Banyon, Carol Ann Hart, Robert Steele, Janet Tondo-Steele, Nick and Kathy Laneve, Emma O'Connell, Amy O'Connell, Priscilla Gallagher, Kylie Green, Trevor Westervelt, Eric and Paula Hoffman, Amanda Haines, Tony Maffei, Linda Lee, Frances Vitullo, Cindy Pepper, Nancy Kish, Susan Joyce, Angela Sanson, Rebecca Brady, and Ron Jones.

Press: Bob Coupland, *Tribune Chronicle*, WFMJ and WKBN.

1. The August 19, 2026 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:05 p.m.

*Mr. Puckett was sworn in by Solicitor Ross prior to roll call.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – present
Mr. Metzinger – present
Mr. Sanson – present

Mrs. Reckard – present
Mr. Bosheff – present
Mr. Puckett – 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 July 15, 2026 Council minutes and the July 27, 2026 and August 3, 2026 Special Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the July 15, 2026, July 27, 2026 and August 3, 2026 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – abstain

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. Sanson – aye

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated that, for the month of July, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$60, court costs \$99, Village revenue from fines \$450, Niles Municipal Court fines \$55, and parking tickets \$30 for a grand total of \$694.

Mayor Lewis read the resignation of Anthony Moore from the Fire Department into the record. He wishes Anthony all the best.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to accept the resignation of Anthony Moore from the part-time Fire Department.

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis would like to appoint Marty Puckett as Finance Chair and as a member of the Safety Committee. Also, Joe Sanson as the Levy Exploration Chair and a member of the Service Committee.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the appointments.

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that, with Mr. Puckett rejoining Council, there is a vacancy on the Board of Zoning. Mayor Lewis would like to appoint Dylan Bigelow to take over effective immediately.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to appoint Dylan Bigelow to the Board of Zoning.

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that turbo putt disc golf will be installed in the next few weeks. This was donated by someone who installs the courses. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Carkido and McDonald Local Schools for their donation of excess turf scraps that are being stored at Wolford's to create some T-boxes. The nine-hole course will be available this fall. It will integrate Billy Goat Hill without touching it.

The Millworkers' Trail is in the works. Mayor Lewis stated that we are working with the school to get the students involved. The Village received a grant from the State for this interactive trail. The Village also received a \$10,000 EPA water station grant. This will

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

put three water bottle filling stations in the park to replace water fountains. Mayor Lewis stated that these will be installed either this fall or in the spring, weather depending.

Mr. Domitrovich and Mayor Lewis had their first call with Eastgate regarding the STBG and TAP grants that were awarded for sidewalk replacement and new installation. These projects will not go in until 2028. The Village will have a sidewalk from Ohio Avenue to the stadium and will replace some of the extremely worn-out sidewalks throughout the Village. This is funded 80% by the State. The Village is still trying to figure out the grant match, but at the end of the day, if you are going to get a million dollars from the State, you find a way to take it. More details will follow.

Tomorrow is the first day of school. Mayor Lewis encourages everyone to be diligent and do the speed limit. He encouraged everyone to slow down and watch out for the children.

Mayor Lewis thanked Heidi Hoffman and the park attendants. This was probably the most trying summer that we have had in a long time. It is becoming more difficult to find recent graduates that want to work in the park. Mayor Lewis encouraged anyone that has an upcoming junior or senior to get in their ears now. What we have in that park is special and we do not want to lose it.

Mayor Lewis met with a few residents after the last Council meeting. They came up with the idea of doing some "coffee talks" where they discuss data centers. Mayor Lewis thanked the Rasile family for hosting the first one on Monday. He thought it was very productive and is aware there are still a lot of questions to be asked. As Mayor Lewis has stated in the past 12-15 meetings, if someone wants to talk with him or a member of Council, get in touch with them. They are open books. There are no secrets, there is nothing to hide. If you have questions, you have to ask. They will give you answers where they can.

Mayor Lewis talked about this on the record several meetings past. He is not going to revisit where the mill site is and what is going on. Mayor Lewis stated that, back in July, we found out from a potential developer that they received a power study back from First Energy. Since July, he has been communicating with that company telling them that they have the responsibility of telling this community what they may want to submit to our Village and what they may want to do here. Mayor Lewis just received confirmation this afternoon, Oppidan, a company that could be, not is, could be developing in this Village a data center is coming here September 15. They will have an open forum. They are going to talk to residents. They are going to let residents ask the questions. It is not this board's responsibility to identify what different industrial businesses can exist. It is that

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

particular business's and they will be here September 15. It will be in the high school gym. There will be press releases, the news media will be notified and everyone will be made aware. Mayor Lewis thinks this is a first, at least in this area, where a company is willing to come in and talk about what they may want to do prior to possibly submitting a site plan. Which again has not been submitted to the Village despite what you may read. For those who continue to ask, Mayor Lewis stated that never has he nor never will he sign a nondisclosure. Can we put that to rest?

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated no report.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi congratulated Mr. Puckett. Chief Ronghi missed the last meeting which was also Mr. Smith's last meeting. Mr. Smith ended up becoming one of Chief Ronghi's favorite people. He is a very calming presence and Chief Ronghi appreciates that.

Chief Ronghi stated that there were 110 calls for service in July with 26 traffic stops. He stated that, Countywide, departments will be switching from ID Networks to Sundance which is the program that is used to communicate with dispatch. Chief Ronghi stated that it would be about \$11,000 for the first year to switch all the data over. Yearly, the cost would be about \$2,900. Chief Ronghi will get a copy of the quotes to Mrs. Smith. Also, United Contractors will start the renovation on the interior of the Police Department on August 31. The Village has four Flock cameras on a trial period. It is a tool that the Village is looking at potentially keeping. One of the cameras was not damaged but it was messed with.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum stated that there have been 369 calls for service to date. Chief Marcum congratulated Anthony Moore. He had the opportunity to become full-time in Girard. Mutual aid from July 15 to date is 19 given, 14 received and Lane has responded five times to the Village. To date, there are 134 transports. Total charges \$136,574 and total revenue is \$50,000. Lieutenant Willoughby will be attending inspector school in October. In June, the live burn at the Weathersfield house was a huge success. The house will be burned to the ground on September 27. Chief Marcum met with the athletic director last week to discuss the Billy Goat which is August 29. In July, Chief Marcum traveled to the National Fire Academy in Maryland to be part of the peer review panel process for the FEMA grants that go out every year. He discussed some of the details of his trip. Chief Marcum may have another opportunity to go back in the next several months. Also, Chief Marcum thanked Mr. Smith for his time.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Chief Marcum stated that Engine 37 responded to a fire in Weathersfield in July. He described a minor crash involving Engine 37. Chief Marcum's strategic plan for the next three years is near completion. He is hopeful to have this by the October meeting.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated no report.

Solicitor Ross welcomed back Mr. Puckett. 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. September Committee meetings will be on September 8. Council meetings will be held September 9 and 23. Also discussed was the need to codify ordinances, fire resignation of Anthony Moore and zoning and committee appointments.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to exit summer recess and go to regular meeting schedule.

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

Motion carried.

Mr. Schmidt congratulated Mr. Puckett. It is great to have him back on Council. Mr. Schmidt also congratulated Dylan Bigelow and thanked him for getting involved.

Mr. Schmidt continued to thank Council and Mayor Lewis, Village employees, and everyone that is involved with what we have going on. He stated that all are working diligently to get things set in place. We all have the best interest of the Village, its residents, and our employees in mind while making decisions regardless of what everyone hears elsewhere.

Parks & Buildings Mrs. Reckard stated that UCI will begin construction on the Police station. The park closed last week ending with the Spartan Challenge. Mrs. Reckard thanked Mr. Domitrovich and his crew who were down at the pavilion cooking and helping the kids with the obstacle course. She also thanked them for what they do all year. Mrs. Reckard thanked the Parks and Rec Committee who made a monetary

7. Committee reports cont'd.

donation to the park. These are the funds from Oktoberfest and the Homecoming Festival. Mrs. Reckard described what was purchased for the park. She also thanked everyone that has made a donation to the park. The pavilion rental is coming to an end this year as cross country begins in the park. The Billy Goat is scheduled for August 29. Also, the Trumbull County cross country meet will be held at the park. Mrs. Reckard thanked Heidi Hoffman. We can never find a better park supervisor. The park attendants were fabulous. There were a few glitches at the park but they maintained their support and leadership. Mrs. Reckard stated that Lee Evans asked if McDonald can host a fall ball tournament that is taking place on October 17 and 18.

It was moved by Mrs. Reckard to allow the McDonald Baseball Association to utilize the park baseball fields for a tournament on October 17 and 18.

Roll call:

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis would like the record to reflect that he is 2-0 against his daughter, Michaylen. She challenged him to a foot race two years ago which he won. This year, she challenged him to a javelin throw and he won.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that Dan Jamison, who is our former Fire Captain, stepped down due to family reasons. Richie Rider will potentially be promoted to Captain in September. Trevor Willoughby will be going to inspector school. There is a potential need to bring on four new fire personnel as staff go onto other things. There are four Flock cameras in the Village. For those that are interested in what those are, they are license plate readers. They are there to protect us. Mr. Schmidt wished Anthony Moore the best of luck in his endeavors. He thanked Anthony for his service to our community.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Schmidt stated that there are two pieces of legislation. The first one is amending appropriations for the water filling stations and the money coming in for that. There is a transfer for \$15,000 for the tactical cameras at the baseball fields.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Service Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that the 2026 paving project by Lindy Paving is done. The new signage on Seventh Street will be installed soon. The backup generator at the water tower is fully operational. Mr. Metzinger described a violation notice with MVSD. Never did a bad batch of water ever leave. Residents will receive a notice in the mail in the next water bills. MVSD has a rate adjustment coming up at the Court of Jurisdiction. They have not raised rates in six years. There are sidewalk improvement and installment grants coming up in 2028 and 2029.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to enter into contract to codify the ordinances.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mrs. Reckard –aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

Motion carried.

Mr. Metzinger congratulated Mr. Puckett and Dylan Bigelow.

Planning Commission Mr. Bosheff stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Sanson stated no report.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the Homecoming Festival was a huge hit. The four days were a lot of fun. Oktoberfest will be held on October 10. There will be games, food, contests, entertainment, and the beer tent among other things. The beer tent will open at 3:00 p.m. with a traditional tapping of the keg with the German band there. More details will follow.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Prior to calling on residents, Mayor Lewis stated that everyone will have the opportunity to speak whether you utilize your five minutes of time or not. Residents will be given five minutes exactly to address Council. There will be no yielding of your time so if you decide not to speak, that is up to yourself. In addition, if residents do have questions for Council, they are in no way obligated to answer said questions. Mayor Lewis stated that we will start with those residents that signed up to speak this evening prior with the Office Manager.

Kayla Latimer, 408 Garfield regarding exterior maintenance. Ms. Latimer was not in attendance.

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

Elizabeth Johnson, 871 Ravine Dr. South. Follow-up on discussion at the July 15 Council meeting regarding moratorium and citizen's group. Mrs. Johnson recognizes that Council has the best interest of our citizens at heart. It is evident by the minutes. It is evident by the verbal communication. That is not in doubt. Now is the time, according to the records on file, where the rubber is meeting the road in planning. The citizens want on the bus in a productive and collaborative manner to make sure that we preserve our most important assets in this Village. Ultimately, the Ohio constitution and our state laws allow citizens to drive the bus. Number one is citizen health, peace and well-being. Number two is to preserve Ohio's Finest Village status asset. The risk to those assets as discussed is very high. We are not asking Council to walk away from economic development for this Village because we have limited avenues to generate revenue and we all know that. In Mrs. Johnson's opinion, the industrial park brownfield is the key obstacle. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if the brownfield obstacle would go away? The data centers will decommission and they will do it fast, within 10 years. We want to leave the next generation the opportunity to bring revenue in. The data center use on that property is the most important land use decision McDonald will ever make in its 100 plus year history. We need to get it right. We need to have citizens involved in productive, intelligent dialogue with the Planning Commission as they are proceeding to complete their plan. We need our citizens to have full access to public records including Planning Commission minutes which are not online. Mrs. Johnson came to the party late by neighbors telling her about it. She trusts Council implicitly but the information sharing should be beefed up. Mrs. Johnson gave suggestions on how Council can give more information. Planning Commission needs to give a forum, not a public hearing, to give input where we can do a Q & A. That is outside the coffee meetings, which have been informative but it is all verbal. Mrs. Johnson wants the money documented as a citizen. She wants the conversations documented as a citizen. That is open communication, that is productive communication and Mrs. Johnson is asking if Council can do that. In her assessment, after spending almost all her time on this subject matter for four weeks, there are four key implicating risks that require medication before Mrs. Johnson, as a citizen, will support an ordinance change. She is still on the fence because we need money. We need the brownfield cleaned up. That is the most important goal in her opinion. The four key risks that Mrs. Johnson wants to be involved with Planning Commission and the design people to get these things mitigated properly. The Village needs citizens to buy in. They are scared to death. Mrs. Johnson is scared. People are calling her telling her they are going to move. The four risks are: brownfield cleanup requirements as a permanent condition, tonal noise and vibrations, noxious and carcinogenic omission standards must be tier 4. That is a non-starter. Failure to bring the citizens along to gain acceptance is a risk. They need to get on the bus or they will drive their own bus.

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

Sandy Frazzini, 805 New Jersey regarding data centers. Mrs. Frazzini is a retired nurse who has spent most of her life in this town. She is concerned about potential public health and safety risks. Mrs. Frazzini is not opposed to a data center. She is not opposed to economic development or technology. Her concern is how do you make sure the development is safe for our citizens today and for future generations. During her career in healthcare quality, one principle was fundamental: we do not wait for adverse events to happen before addressing a known risk. We identify hazards and assess the potential consequences, establish measurements, standards, monitor performance and develop corrective action plans when these things are identified. Most importantly, there was independent governing and oversight by experts. Mrs. Frazzini believes McDonald should take this approach before approving a project of this magnitude that could adversely affect the health and safety of our community. The American Lung Association 2026 stated the air report specifically addresses data centers as a rapidly growing source of air pollution. It identifies two major air quality pathways: electricity generation that could result in fine particles, nitrous oxide and ozone pollutants. Those things could be associated with serious health defects such as cardiovascular disease and respiratory problems. Secondly, diesel backup generators that omit nitrogen oxide and diesel particulate matter that include carcinogens. The American Lung Association's 2026 report specifically recommends that proposals for data centers be developed in partnership with the community and powered by renewable zero emission energy sources. It also found that traditional EPA monitoring stations do not necessarily detect pollutants at the neighborhood or block level. Mrs. Frazzini would like to know what are the proposed energy sources? Will the community be involved in the process decision making? Will there be neighborhood or block level studies to detect pollutants pre and ongoing posted limitation by independent organizations? Will data be shared with the community ongoing and will the data center owners be held accountable for resolving deficiencies? Will there be independent engineers reviewing generator capacity size, location, testing schedules, fuel storage and expected emissions? Will it be required that diesel engines meet at least the tier 4 emissions standards for non-emergency and emergency use to ensure health protection from carcinogenic exposure? Will there be fire hazardous materials response plans and do we have local responders with adequate staffing, training and equipment? Once the facility is built, it may be extremely difficult to correct problems if we do not handle them upfront. Those are Mrs. Frazzini's requests. She is not against data centers or implementation. Mrs. Frazzini knows that McDonald really needs something to help us. Mrs. Frazzini wanted to share that, in the American Lung Association's 2026 state of the air report card, as far as ozone and smog, Trumbull County came out with a "C" rating which is unhealthy. There were some unhealthy zone days during the time period which was 2022-2024. For the 24-hour particular pollution, Trumbull County had a grade of "D". This is the most concerning result. There were significant short-term spikes in fine particle pollution. Overall, Trumbull County passes

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

because we are not a little bit worse than what we are. This was based on data two years ago. She doesn't know what the current state of the thing is-the American Lung Association is not reporting that. It probably won't for two years.

Thomas Kunkel, 725 Pennsylvania Avenue regarding data centers. Mr. Kunkel thanked Council for dangling this property in front of potential suitors because we do need the economic development. The data centers are a very intriguing and contemporary way for our Village to move forward. Mr. Kunkel is not against it either. He also thanked whoever put a document together that was circulating online. It is very informative. He thinks it is incumbent upon Council and the Mayor to address all those things the previous speakers spoke of and what is in that document. Mr. Kunkel would trust that Council and the Mayor are not recklessly going into this. He believes they have the residents' best interest in mind, as does everybody here. We will move ahead together. Mr. Kunkel has been reading on AI and how it benefits society at large and how it is terrifying to society at large. He has not thought about it much for our small community and how it affects us. That is why everybody is here now. That is what we need to clear up as we move forward. Mr. Kunkel spoke in favor of the moratorium suggested in that document. It gives us time to learn and ask questions. It gives us time to make sure the economic, the health, and the environmental aspects are all in our best interest.

Joe Guarino, 837 Connecticut, Data Centers and Planning Commission. Mr. Guarino spent 20 years in this Village on Planning Commission and Board of Zoning. In those 20 years, there were issues that came up and brought to the attention of the Village. In March 2025, the Planning Commission voted to have the Solicitor prepare language that data centers would be permitted as a term of use in the zoning ordinance. As it sits right now without any change in language, data centers do not exist in our Village. They do not meet the criteria of our zoning. Planning asked to change the definition to make data centers a lawful company. The next meeting was not until March 2026. Data centers are still outlawed by our ordinances because nothing has changed. Whether it was Planning or the Solicitor, nothing came about changing whether or not data centers are allowed in the Village. There has been a lot of discussion from the Mayor and Council about the fact that a moratorium is a deal killer for any data center. Mayor Lewis responded that this was not his statement. His thought on moratoriums is that they are deal killers for new business in general. Mr. Guarino stated that the Village has been working on this for a year and a half and we don't have any language. We don't have any zone changes. We don't have any clarifications because nothing has come out of Planning. Mr. Guarino knows that the Council person that is on Planning right now became Councilman in January. He is in charge of Planning. The most important decision this Village is going to face in probably the next 20 years if we're still a Village in 20 years, and you put the least experienced Councilman in charge of Planning. Does that make sense? No, it

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

doesn't. The fact, that in July, you asked the Solicitor to prepare some language on data center zone changes and we still don't have anything out. We won't have anything out before September 15 when a company comes in and holds a public hearing about data centers. Is that company writing our new zone changes? Are they helping to write the language so they can go in and prosper? Gentlemen, you have some explanations to do. You have been sitting on your butts and on your hands for a year and a half. You have done nothing. We're here because we want something done. You can put a data center in. Mr. Guarino will give a suggestion. You have approximately 100 acres of land down there zoned heavy industrial. So, change that code. Allow a data center to go into the heavy industry which is the farthest from the Village. You need to do something. You need to think about it. You need to come out of the box. You make the rules and protect our Village. Not a data center.

Sandra Guarino, 837 Connecticut Avenue. Data centers. Mrs. Guarino has lived in McDonald for over 40 years. She is aware that commercial property could be an asset to our Village. She is concerned about the impact on our small Village incorporating a data center. Before McDonald approves zoning that could allow a data center, will the Village establish legally enforceable standards for water consumption, noise, air emissions, generators, setbacks, lighting, emergency service and infrastructure costs and will those standards be in place before an applicant submits a site plan? Mrs. Guarino is especially concerned about the low-level constant humming that is associated with the data center. This is called tonal noise. This deserves especially strong attention. McDonald residents have already raised concerns about the potential for generator and cooling equipment noise. What maximum number tonal noise and decibel level will be allowed at the property line? What will the limit be at the nearest residence for tonal noise and decibel level? Will noise be measured 24 hours a day? Will the backup generators and cooling equipment be included in the noise calculations? Who performs the testing? Is it independent monitoring or is the company monitoring it? What happens if the company exceeds the limits? How far must the data center be from residential property? How far from schools, parks, and daycare centers? How much revenue is planned for McDonald from the data center operations? McDonald's website introduces our Village as "Welcome to Ohio's Finest Village where the Village of McDonald is a quiet, warm, friendly community which embraces small town values". Quiet is paramount and any standard or ordinance that does not absolutely protect that Village asset and Mrs. Guarino's peace of mind as a resident would be (inaudible).

Jay Ryan, 715 Connecticut Avenue. Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Metzinger about the sidewalk grant that he mentioned during his report. Mr. Metzinger expounded on the details of the grant which would include sidewalk install on Second Street, repaving Olive Street to Second Street. There is also a grant for existing sidewalks that need repaired. Mr. Ryan

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

gave Mr. Metzinger a photo of a sidewalk on Fourth Street between Garfield and Hayes. Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Schmidt, who is Safety Chair, about scooters and bikes. Mr. Schmidt stated that there is legislation that is being prepared. Mr. Ryan stated that he and his wife are avid walkers. A scooter came up behind them the other day, a girl who was maybe 8-10 years old. She was doing at least 25 mph and, not only did she almost hit him, she scared the living daylights out of Mr. and Mrs. Ryan. He does not want his wife to get hit because we, as a Village, didn't curtail. Mr. Ryan's suggestion is that, if it doesn't have pedals, it should not be on the sidewalk if it is motorized. New Castle is having a problem with electric vehicles and they are addressing it. Also, Mr. Ryan talked with Chief Ronghi about the intersection of New York and Washington. These are two roads that converge, both have the right of way. You need to fix it.

Mayor Lewis wanted to clarify on the sidewalk grants. When the Village applied for those grants through Eastgate, Mr. Domitrovich walked the entire Village and measured every single sidewalk. They put together a grid as to what the worst of the worst were based on. What is going to be fixed will be the worst of the worst. There will be plenty of discussions in committees prior to when that is determined. Mr. Domitrovich explained that they haven't always allowed communities to submit a grant to replace broken sidewalks. He stated that, according to McDonald, homeowners are responsible for their sidewalks. Finally, the State put money into this because there are a lot of broken sidewalks out there. Mayor Lewis and Mr. Domitrovich applied as soon as they were made aware of the grant. Mr. Domitrovich walked every square foot of sidewalk in the Village and marked, by address. There was a kickoff meeting with representatives from the State of Ohio and the engineer and design team. Mr. Domitrovich hopes that before the end of 2029 all sidewalks that are broken in McDonald will be repaired.

Mr. Ryan asked how it is the property owner's responsibility when it is the Village's trees that are destroying the sidewalks? He would like some input on that one.

Mayor Lewis wanted to clarify with the e-bikes. Council has been on this. The Police Department is somewhat hand-tied. If you write a kid a ticket for riding an e-bike on a sidewalk, which is illegal. If you write a kid a ticket for running stop signs- illegal. If you write a kid a ticket for not wearing a helmet, what happens? They don't come to Mayor's Court. They go to the Trumbull County Juvenile Court. If there is any issue that has had more conversation amongst this Council, Chief, Captain and Solicitor, it has been the e-bike issue. Mayor Lewis stated shame on the adults that ride them like idiots. If you are one of the people riding with your kid on the front with no helmets, shame on you. What kind of example is that? They are looking at this to put something in place within the Village so there are some actual teeth to punish the parents. They are the ones that buy these things.

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

Debra Fortune, 530 Indiana Avenue. Ms. Fortune has seen kids go through stop signs and not obey the rules. She considers these as a motor vehicle. In the past, the Village has had kids on bikes giving them lessons on how to obey the stop signs and so forth. Ms. Fortune stated that the Village has yet to provide that for the children. Show them a video of what could happen if they get hit by a car. Try something. Ms. Fortune asked Mr. Domitrovich about a sidewalk three months ago. She has got nothing back from him. He knows who she is and he knows where she lives. Why wasn't she informed? Ms. Fortune stated that you people have built a retirement home. There are a couple people who ride scooters to the store and the bank. Why do they have to go all the way down and all the way up? There is a hump that Ms. Fortune almost tripped over at her age. Why couldn't he fix it? All you had to do was get two of your guys, take a pole and flop it over. The cement is not broken. Dig out that mess and place it back down. What is so hard about that? You never, ever called me or came to my house and you do know who I am. No answer? Yet everybody cares about this Village.

Chief Ronghi stated that, in reference to the training for the children, the last week of school himself, Mayor Lewis, Captain Caraway and four other officers went in to each individual elementary class K-6. They spent 10-15 minutes with them and passed out some helmets. They explained to them rules and what they are supposed to do. The problem is that kids at the end of the day, they go out and they do what they do. Ms. Fortune stated that, when she was in school, the school put on all kinds of things. She said there is shit out there. Go get it. Show it to the kids. Chief Ronghi stated that it hit all at once where it exploded. They have been around but it seems like, for the last six months, they are everywhere now. Chief Ronghi stated that, when they see them, they stop them and talk to their parents.

Sue Lipkovich, 490 Utah Avenue. Mrs. Lipkovich is not for a data center. She would like to note that, awhile back, there was an ordinance that residents do not get full credit for income tax because of working outside the Village. Instead of Mrs. Lipkovich paying 2%, she actually has to pay 3.75%. It is almost double to live in the Village and pay income tax. Mrs. Lipkovich is asking if Council does decide to do a data center, please do not give them tax abatement. If we have to live here and pay income tax because we have to work outside the Village, these data centers should not receive tax abatement. They are filthy rich and what they are going to do to us is poor. Mrs. Lipkovich asks that Council consider no tax abatement for these companies.

Kathy Miskell, 841 Connecticut Avenue. Mrs. Miskell stated that, two months ago, she came to Council and asked why not form a coalition and get Weathersfield, Niles, Girard. If somebody gets a data center, it will affect the whole area. They say there is a six-mile radius. Mrs. Miskell was told it was a good idea. A couple weeks later, she brought it

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

up. She was told everybody was in a different zone and it wouldn't work. To Mrs. Miskell, nothing was done. If you don't try to form something, nothing's ever going to get done. It was just put on hold and that was it. Mrs. Miskell thinks Council missed the boat. You believe in organizing things and you're not organizing. You're thinking of only McDonald and it isn't only McDonald.

Nat Gallo, 403 W. Seventh Street. Mr. Gallo has been a business person his whole life of which 28 years was in the industrial park. He thanked Council because they are the first group that's ever shown any interest in that industrial park. In all the years he was down there, there was a committee down there that wanted to do things to improve the industrial park so we would not lose our base. Where are we at now? What do we have now? That is private property down there. In Mr. Gallo's eyes, if somebody is interested in buying it, they want to develop something. The only thing we can do as a group is make sure they tow the line. There is nothing wrong with data centers. There is nothing wrong with a garbage dump if you want to look at it that way. It is up to our group to stick together to do something. In the 80 years that Mr. Gallo's family has been in business, there were no tax abatements. They never got assistance from the Village. Mr. Gallo, Attorney Roux, Mr. Hart, and Mr. Domitrovich had meetings. It took almost six years for the Village to buy the bridge for \$1.00. They wrote a letter to the Trumbull County Engineer's and got over \$1,000,000 to fix the bridge. As soon as the bridge was fixed, they had to get it out of the Village's name and back into the industrial park. Instead of looking at it and saying "we can develop the infrastructure. We can get lighting. We can enhance the industrial park to make it worth something". We've done nothing. So, whether it's an industrial park or a data center, make sure you understand all the information that's come along with that data center and how current things are and what exactly it will do for our community. Mr. Gallo is concerned that maybe he can pay a 10% tax increase but what about the other 80% of the people that can't? He appreciates Council's input and if there is anything he can do to help out just speak up.

Robert Batian, 449 Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Batian agrees with most everything he has heard. He wants to emphasize the issue of the tax abatement. Mr. Batian grew up here. He studied what Andrew Carnegie did when he built this town. He remembers in his history class, their budget was \$500,000,000. That is Mr. Batian's figure adjusted for inflation to build McDonald as a whole and the steel mill. They are talking about spending twice as much money as it took to build all of this adjusted for inflation. And they are going to ask for a tax abatement? And, on top of that tax abatement, back in 2006, the State of Ohio took away the TPP tax which was the primary tool that got between 60-70% of the tax out of that facility down there for this town. That tool is gone. It doesn't exist. So, they're going to be paying as it is, if we charge them full price with no abatement, they will be paying maybe 30% of what the steel mill paid to

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

McDonald. Mr. Batian stated that he just knows something bad is going to happen. We've got to know our numbers. We don't grasp what a billion dollars is. If Mr. Batian paid you \$1.00 a second, he would pay you \$1 million dollars in 11 days. But he would not pay you \$1 billion dollars for 32 years. And they're going to spend \$1 billion down there to build that data center. They don't want to pay us 1%. They're going to fight to not pay us 1%. Andrew Carnegie was kinder to McDonald than they're ever going to be. And those people have way more money than Andrew Carnegie did.

Joe Shoaff, son lives at 510 W. Third Street. Mr. Shoaff stated that his son moved here a year ago. It is like Mayberry. He doesn't want to see the face of Mayberry change. Forget the finances. Maybe they can come in but there is a personality to this community that deserves to survive. Big industry tends to weigh against that. The only thing that Mr. Shoaff would say is other places have put a moratorium and he knows Council's view on that. He understands. Mr. Shoaff doesn't even know if that is the answer. But it does at least buy time to further evaluate. So, it is something you could consider to buy time while they are coming to talk to the community on the 15th. The community can take a breath and think a little bit more and give you their collective conscience. And for Council. He knows they care about the community. Mr. Shoaff stated that if a data center comes here, his advice to his son would be to put the for sale sign up. He doesn't want his son to lose the value that they have pumped into that house. He might be wrong but he wants his son to live in Mayberry and this is currently Mayberry. It is one of the few communities in the area that he found. Mr. Shoaff can't believe it's here to be honest. He would suggest to consider a pause to allow the collective to be heard and evaluated. If that is not an option, then put standards around the noise. Mr. Shoaff doesn't have a lot of confidence that they'll adhere to them. He heard that 50 decibels is like somebody conversing. Do you want somebody talking in your bedroom at one in the morning? It's 24 hours. If the machine can't be stopped, put sensible, prudent parameters around it that maybe Mr. Shoaff's son can stay here and not be in his yard or eating dinner or trying to fall asleep with a humming and a buzzing that most people think is ok. It doesn't have to happen to this community. Guess what? If they don't come here, people will still survive and it will still be a great community but it will have its personality.

Angela Frederick, 336 Iowa Avenue. Ms. Frederick asked if what that gentleman said is true that the zoning right now does not accommodate having a data center at that location. Mayor Lewis stated that it is not listed in our zoning. Ms. Frederick asked if the zoning were to change, who would vote on it, Council or residents? Mayor Lewis responded that this would go to Planning Commission and then Council. Ms. Frederick stated then we would not have a vote. Mayor Lewis responded no.

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

Dylan Bigelow, 410 McKinley Blvd. Mr. Bigelow stated that there is obviously a lot of pressure here and a lot of feelings about data centers. There is a lot of pressure on Council to get this one right. We also have a unique opportunity at the State this year. The governor's race is going to determine a lot with exactly what is going to happen with data centers in the State of Ohio. Mr. Bigelow wants to make sure that everyone is paying attention to that. He is not here to support either candidate. If you have a lot to say, go ahead. Get involved in that. Pay attention. (inaudible) is right there. Make it a little easier on Council. Mr. Bigelow thinks they are doing what they can.

Nancy Kish, 923 Pennsylvania Avenue. Ms. Kish described her family's history in the Village. All she asks of this Council that has been elected by us is that they perform the will of the people. Ms. Kish requests and demands this crucial decision moving forward be put on a ballot. That would become the will of the people. This is what we know and have been taught to be a democracy. If only these gentlemen get to decide our fate, not the will of the majority, that is not a democracy.

A resident asked if she could second Ms. Kish's motion. Mayor Lewis stated that this is not something that we can do. A resident asked if she made a motion, why can't we- Mayor Lewis stated that we can't put that on the ballot. That is a citizen thing. That is not something that- Ms. Kish apologized. She was informed there was a woman on Council. Ms. Kish asked if she had anymore time. Mayor Lewis informed her that she has about one minute and 48.

Ms. Kish came back to the podium and asked if this is not something that the will of the people can decide or are you not able to answer? Mayor Lewis stated that he is no expert in election law. Ms. Kish asked if anybody in this room believes that the will of the people should be heard? (Clapping is heard) Ms. Kish asked and you are not saying this is the case? Mayor Lewis stated that he is not the Board of Elections.

Ms. Kish asked if there is anyone more well versed in this process initiate this to become part of our ballot, part of the will of the people. She is not an expert in this particular realm but she does have a voice and a mouth and she is willing to speak. Ms. Kish stated that she has been down this road with this Council and this legal process in this Village for a very long time and it has cost her thousands of dollars.

Mrs. Cynthia Kish Pepper, 923 Pennsylvania Avenue. Mrs. Pepper would like to know if there is any printout of how the people of this Village could follow the money during this transition. Money either in taxes or how we can follow where our money goes because that is just a simple 1+1 is 2. Then residents will know how it will affect each individual in their pocket according to the size of their property and so forth. Mrs. Pepper asked

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

“how is this going to affect our children” with their breathing, with the water we drink? Mrs. Peffer remembers when the rivers caught on fire. She remembers the sounds when they would dump that ore and the explosions at night and the fire. Mrs. Peffer discussed her husband’s grandfather, who was the chief engineer that built the mill. He got sick going in and out of the furnace rooms. He got pneumonia and died at a young age. Mrs. Peffer also discussed her grandmother who stood outside and sold gloves to the workers that would walk from Girard and from Niles because they didn’t have any cars. They were that poor. She stated that we saw this community built up and she would like not to see it go back down again.

Karen Krolopp, 535 Utah Avenue. Mrs. Krolopp read an article from Channel 21 on August 7. The article was titled “Ohio Village can’t keep citizens from voting on data centers”. Mrs. Krolopp is saying that this is an issue that we should investigate. She thinks this is something that should put a committee together and investigate whether this Village can have it put on the ballot. Mrs. Krolopp stated that we know we need revenue into the Village. That is without question. We also know that we don’t want to have any tax abatements. We pay enough. We also have to consider the fact that you’ve got a multi-billion dollar facility wanting to come in. With their construction, we are going to absorb a good portion of that construction in the form of our utility bills. Our utility supply has to be upgraded by law. The way the utility system is set up in Ohio, those expenses get passed on to us, those of us that are paying the bills. Not necessarily the person building the facility. If that comes to fruition, that expenditure 100% needs to go on them. They also need to take into account no tax abatement and they need to absorb any utility expense increases that we would get. Mrs. Krolopp asks that we look at getting something on the ballot. We can make a very informed choice. Our Village needs revenue, no question. But we need it in a responsible manner where our safety, natural resources and our pocketbook are saved.

Ty Jividen, 333 Indiana Avenue. Mr. Jividen has never been to a Council meeting. He trusts that the Village does their job efficiently and proficiently so he wouldn’t have to be here. Mr. Jividen is worried about the data centers and their installment for a lot of reasons. He referred to a statement online from Mike Cenitt which said “this could be a prototype for the future of this industry”. Mr. Jividen doesn’t think we should be using our area for a prototype or testing of this industry. This industry has billions of dollars that they have to invest in these data center units. He doesn’t think they should be siphoning money from the taxpayers. There is no guarantee that when these are in place, they will be a benefit to the community. There may be advantages with AI but it’s a system in which they’ve given us a bunch of empty promises that we have yet to see. Mr. Jividen believes it is a bubble that is ready to blow up and it’s not going to benefit the communities that they’re in. He feels like there are going to be data center graveyards in

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

the near future. Mr. Jividen has been trying to do some research on facilities that are around, like Lordstown. Apparently, that is a 300-kilowatt facility currently or was going to be. There was a statement made that, basically, they were going to try to pop up all these nodes and basically, if one doesn't work out and there is a memorandum to prevent that, they'll just have another node ready to go. It seems like this property down here has already been purchased for like \$3.2 million and there is already a plan to use that property. Mayor Lewis stated that he can't speak for private business. That property was purchased by Applied Partners LLC. They are not data center developers. Mr. Jividen stated that Applied Partners LLC is an LLC that was created by V Corp Services. V Corp Services LLC is a foreign limited liability company. They lost a \$500,000 suit for how they dispose of asbestos in cleaning out a facility like down there. Mr. Jividen thinks AI is in its infancy stage and we don't know the impact of installing something like that.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. 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. Schmidt to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt that Ordinance No. 3339-26 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

11. Legislation cont'd.

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – abstain

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. Schmidt to suspend the Rules of Council.

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt that Resolution No. 1966-26 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – abstain

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$186,332.60.

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. Schmidt to accept the Fiscal Officer's report and pay all bills.

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

Roll call:

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

Mrs. Reckard – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – abstain

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Sanson at 7:50 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer