

McDonald Village Council
October 7, 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: Lynn Miller, Denise Deltondo, Joe Guarino, Janice Burkholder, Marie McNulty, Sandra Frazzini, Linda Getz, Lynn Sutton, Sherry Sutton, Sharron Mayfield, Dorothy Hannon, Jeff Rasile, Jackie Rasile, Kathleen Miskell, Cathy Woods, Linda Walker, Mary Kay Skufca, Stacy Foster, Robert Steele, Laurie Ruane, Ty Jividen, William Rushen, Sue Lipkovich, Blaine Carter, Frances Vitullo, Cindy Kish Pepper, Nancy Kish.

1. The October 7, 2026 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:02 p.m.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – present
Mrs. Reckard – absent*
Mr. Sanson – present

Mr. Metzinger – present
Mr. Bosheff – present
Mr. Puckett – present

*Mayor Lewis stated that Mrs. Reckard is not in attendance due to a family matter.

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 September 23, 2026 Council minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the September 23, 2026 minutes as mailed:

Roll call:

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

Mr. Metzinger – 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. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye

Mr. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

5. Mayor's report- Mayor Lewis stated that, for the month of September, Mayor's Court had computer fund \$90, computer fund 2 \$3.00, court costs \$162, Village revenue from fines \$378, Niles Municipal Court fines \$405, continuance fee \$40, drug fund \$288.50 and parking tickets \$100 for a grand total of \$1466.50.

Mayor Lewis stated that Officer Hake has resigned effective September 30. The police department is down one full-time officer. Mayor Lewis read Officer Hake's resignation letter into the record.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to accept the resignation of Officer Hake effective September 30, 2026.

Discussion: Mr. Schmidt stated that this is a big loss for the Village.

Roll call:

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

Mr. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

Mayor Lewis stated that, after the meeting on September 15, he spoke with Oppidan. They will be sending answers to the questions they were sent. They are also planning on making their complete presentation from September 15 available to the Village. Once it is available, we will get it out to everyone so they can review it. Oppidan informed Mayor Lewis that they are continuing to work on their end. Mayor Lewis informed Oppidan that the Village may be asking them to pay for an environmental and economic impact study.

Mayor Lewis stated that he and Mr. Schmidt reached out to a couple companies that do environmental and economic impact studies. He received a call from Verdantas and

5. Mayor's report cont'd.

asked about doing an environmental and economic impact on the property and a complete zoning overhaul. Our zoning ordinances are obsolete and need updated. Verdantas will prepare some quotes for the Village by October 19. There will be discussion once the quotes are received. Mayor Lewis described how the quotes will be presented as a "phase-out". He stated that the zoning would be paid for by the Village. Mayor Lewis will contact Oppidan to pay for an environmental or economic impact study. He is trying to be as open and transparent as possible. Mayor Lewis's phone is always on and his door is always open.

Mayor Lewis stated that there are four parcels at our industrial park that are all privately owned. There are two businesses that operate at the industrial park that are private. As of right now, the Village has not been submitted a formal site plan for any business, we have not done any zone changes and we are in a moratorium.

Mayor Lewis will be attending a Governor's meeting next Thursday where he will thank the Governor for his service to Ohio as well as ask for money for the Village. Also, Mayor Lewis will attend a Mahoning River Corridor Mayor's Association meeting on Zoom. He will follow-up with what he learns from that meeting.

Mayor Lewis thanked Kim Jones-Schmidt for all her hard work in organizing the Oktoberfest which is this Saturday. He encourages everyone to attend.

Disc golf is partially installed in Woodland Park. This was all free of charge. Brad Silvers with Turbo Putt Disc Golf donated his time and materials. The Village is working with the school to get leftover turf for the t-boxes.

Mayor Lewis stated that there will be a resident advisory board that will be chaired by Mrs. Reckard. She is not in attendance this month. When she returns, Mayor Lewis will leave it up to her how this board will be organized and meet. More information will follow in November.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that he spoke with Brad Silvers regarding the disc golf install. There are seven holes that are playable right now. Mr. Silvers is working with the General Operations Foreman to finish the project after cross country is done for the year. Mr. Domitrovich will be attending an MVSD meeting tomorrow to discuss the potential capital improvements. He will report back to Council.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi stated that there were 110 calls for service in September. He discussed a pursuit within the Village. Captain Caraway reached out to Flock to cancel the cameras. The trial ends this month. Officer Hake finished out his job at the Village for a position in Liberty. Officer Pratt has been cleared for full duty.

Fire Lieutenant Trevor Willoughby gave the report in Chief Marcum's absence. There have been 447 calls to date. Mutual aid from September 23 to October 6 is three given and four received. To date, there have been 174 transports with total charges of \$173,778 and revenue of \$65,926. The Fire Department was not selected for the AFG grant.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated no report.

Solicitor Ross stated no report.

7. Committee reports:

President Pro Tem Mr. Schmidt stated that Caucus met this evening and the following items were discussed: agenda, Fiscal Officer's report, Council minutes, legislation and the resignation of Officer Hake. Mr. Schmidt asked Mayor Lewis to clarify on his report that the two companies that they reached out to are independent companies to which Mayor Lewis confirmed that they are.

Parks & Buildings Mr. Metzinger gave the report in Mrs. Reckard's absence. Fall ball is over this weekend. The Cauldron of Chaos softball tournament is October 17 and 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Cameras are fully operational at the softball fields. There will be a few more installed at the park. The police station renovation is almost done. The HVAC work was done this week. Mr. Metzinger stated that the Oktoberfest is Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the Flock cameras will be terminated. Chief Marcum will get to the public records request as fast as he can. He will do his best to get the information that is being requested. Niles mutual aid is looking for the Village to help due to the lack of employees there. Chief Marcum informed them that the Village residents come first. The fire department was not accepted for the AFG grant. Chief Marcum wanted everyone to be aware of the need for a new fire engine. He will be looking into a grant for this.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Puckett stated that there are two pieces of legislation. There is a third reading of a resolution for the amounts and rates and a first reading of an ordinance for the temporary budget.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Service Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that the second scoring is in for the 2027 paving project. We are currently tied for first. This would be a grant in the amount of \$75,000 for the Sixth Street paving project. There was a kickoff meeting for the TAP and STBG grants. Eastgate asked if the Village would like to combine them into one project. Council would like to keep them separated. GPD will be doing the asset management plan for the EPA notice of violation. The cost to the Village will be \$18,000. The water department has budgeted for this.

Planning Commission Mr. Bosheff stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Sanson stated that yard signs will be available this Friday. A table will be set up at the Oktoberfest with information regarding the levy. Chief Marcum and Chief Ronghi discussed setting up informational meetings.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the Oktoberfest is Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. There will be a craft market and the Village Creamery will be serving breakfast. There are kids' activities which includes jelly ball. Yo Bounce will have their apparatus and there will be a gaming truck. Mrs. Pecchia will be doing story time in the morning. There will be a German band playing during the tapping of the keg at 3:00 p.m. Also, there will be a band coming in for the remainder of the night. All proceeds go to making our park even better than what it is. Mr. Schmidt thanked his wife and her committee and the Village workers for everything they do. He also thanked the companies that are donors. We have a ton of residents that continually pour money into this Village. That shows how much you care about the Village. Mr. Schmidt thanked everyone.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Stacy Foster, 811 Florida Avenue. Mrs. Foster thanked Council for letting residents know that there will be an advisory board. She asked if there will be an advisory board for Planning Commission. Mrs. Foster asked if there can be an open forum where residents can ask questions and get Council's feelings on the data center or what kind of businesses they would like. She hopes that, if Oppidan is still in the picture, that they would be more transparent with the Village.

Suzanne Cornelius, 331 Pennsylvania Avenue. Ms. Cornelius stated that McDonald Council has the authority to put a data center on the ballot. This can be done by the community. Ms. Cornelius addressed some concerns regarding pollution and health effects. She stated that Oppidan also builds senior citizen complexes. Ms. Cornelius stated that Oppidan has the opportunity to build an entire village within this village such as skilled nursing, assisted living, and retirement apartment buildings.

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

Lynn Miller, 924 Ohio Avenue. Mrs. Miller is confused about independent engineering companies. If Oppidan is paying, don't they have the upper hand? Mrs. Miller does not think we should let them pay for it because they would be in control.

A man who stated that his name was Jason approached and asked a vague question about the EPA.

Joe Shoaff. Mr. Shoaff agrees that there is a bias if a company pays for the environmental study but does understand the financial concerns. He believes the economic study is worthless because that is what Oppidan does to sell it. Mr. Shoaff commended Mayor Lewis for putting together a citizens' board. He stated that data centers aren't bad, it's where they want to put it. The issue isn't money- it's quality of life and the people who are next to it. Mr. Shoaff presented a couple ideas to Council which included Oppidan giving the residents money as a resident benefit agreement amongst other things.

Joe Guarino, 837 Connecticut Avenue. Mr. Guarino appreciates Council listening to what the residents have been saying. He asked about the process of how the Village will get information to the company that is hired to write the new ordinances. Mr. Guarino would like to know if direction on these ordinances will go through Planning or Council. Solicitor Ross stated that the ordinances need to be updated, separate of the data center issue. Council will decide whether or not a data center or something goes in there. Planning would probably be involved but it would ultimately be Council. The Village is just starting the process.

Blaine Carter, 445 Utah Avenue. Mr. Carter thanked Council for putting together the advisory board. He appreciates the initiative to get quotes on the zoning. Mr. Carter stated that they will ask what uses the Village wants. He believes the committee as well as the Planning Commission would be a good forum for that input.

Mary Kay Skufca, 540 Dakota Avenue. Mrs. Skufca wanted to address a comment that was made about residents not being present in the past meetings. She never came because she believed that Council has been taking care of things. Everyone is here now because it is a big thing. It is not that residents don't care, they do care. Mrs. Skufca is thankful that Council has done the jobs they have done. She also asked if zoning is done, is there a chance that Council can dissolve the moratorium. Solicitor Ross stated that Council can vote to dissolve or extend it at any time.

Sue Lipkovich, 490 Utah Avenue. Mrs. Lipkovich thanked Council for the advisory board. She would like to hear each Council members' take on the data center. Mrs.

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

Lipkovich asked if anyone has reached out to local bigtime developers of assisted living and nursing homes regarding development.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Third Reading Of Resolution No. 1968-26 Accepting The Amount And Rates As Determined By The Budget Commission And Authorizing The Necessary Tax Levies And Certifying Them To The County Auditor.

It was moved by Mr. Puckett that Resolution No. 1968-26 pass third reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

B. First Reading Of An Ordinance To Make Temporary Appropriations For 2027 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 2027.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total \$108,378.21.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Sanson at 6:57 p.m. All voted aye.

Mayor

Attest to:

Fiscal Officer