McDonald Village Council
October 21, 2026
Regular Council Meeting

Staff: Officer Ron Pratt, Fire Chief Fred Marcum, Solicitor Douglas W. Ross, Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich, Fiscal Officer Stephanie Smith, and Office Manager Amy Cunningham.

Visitors: Lynn Miller, Sandy Morgan, Gayle Frantz Bowser, Terry Frantz, Sandra Frazzini, Morris Frazzini, Kim Sikora, Liz Johnson, Doreen Shiley, Don Shiley, Ray Getz, Linda Getz, Mary Kay Skufca, Sharron Mayfield, Karen and Sam Muche, Barb and Todd Stitt, Joanne Frantz Carkido, Courtney Kunkel, Diane Fossaceca, Dorothy Hannon, Kathy Miskell, Lynn Sutton, Sherry Sutton, Sandra Guarino, Joe Guarino, Jeff Rasile, Jackie Rasile, Rob Ross, Bob Steele, Frances Vitullo, Marie McNulty, Stacy Foster, Trevor Westervelt, Rocco Lacivita, Ty Jividen, Amanda Haines, Fred Harvey, Linda Lee, Cara Pecchia, Jason Brown.

1. The October 21, 2026 meeting of McDonald Village Council was called to order by Mayor Ray Lewis at 6:04 p.m.

   Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – present	Mrs. Reckard – absent
Mr. Metzinger – present	Mr. Bosheff – present
Mr. Sanson – present	Mr. Puckett – present

   *Mayor Lewis stated that Mrs. Reckard is not in attendance. She is vacationing with her family.

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 October 7, 2026 Council minutes.

   It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to approve the October 7, 2026 minutes as mailed:

   Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye	Mr. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye	Mr. Sanson – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye	

   Motion carried.

4. Adoption of agenda:

4. Adoption of agenda cont'd.

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

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 he and Mr. Schmidt spoke to Oppidan last week. They asked if Q & A's would be answered from the meeting. They are still working on that. Mayor Lewis attended a meeting with the Mahoning River Corridor Mayor's Association with Governor DeWine. The disc golf course is complete. Mayor Lewis thanked Brad Silvers from Turbo Putt Disc Golf for donating the course.

Mayor Lewis encouraged everyone to get out and vote on Election Day. The Verdantas quotes were received and will be discussed at November committees. The first quote was for the environmental and economic impact study in the amount of $73,500. The second quote was for the zoning code audit in the amount of $6,000.

Mayor Lewis wished the Blue Devils the best of luck in Friday's game against Mineral Ridge.

6. Report of Village Officials:

Village Administrator Thomas Domitrovich stated that the closeout documents are being completed in order to pay for the 2026 resurfacing of Seventh Street. There was a savings of $10,000 in construction costs. The total expense for the project will be $119,799. A formal document will be sent from GPD to the Fiscal Officer for payout.

Police Chief Ryan Ronghi was not in attendance. Officer Pratt gave the report on his behalf. The Police Department is waiting for the agreement paperwork with Sundance. When it is received, the agreement will be forwarded to Solicitor Ross and Mrs. Smith for review.

Fire Chief Fred Marcum stated that the calls to date are 465. Mutual aid from October 6 to October 20 is two given, three received and Lane was in the Village four times. There have been 175 transports with total charges of $179,472 and total revenue of $68,985.

6. Report of Village Officials cont'd.

Office Manager Amy Cunningham stated that quotes from Love Insurance for package insurance will be received soon. We are in the process of getting quotes for employee health insurance. All quotes should be received by Committee meetings in November. Mrs. Cunningham and Mr. Domitrovich reached out to Tom Bellish from Buckeye Energy. These quotes were included in Council packets. The pages for codified ordinances were received several weeks ago. Mrs. Cunningham asked Council to drop off their codified ordinance books and she will update them as she can. Ordinances are updated on the website. There was resident concern regarding signs in the right of way. Mrs. Cunningham wanted to remind residents that signs are not permitted in the right of way. If someone has an issue, they can file a formal complaint.

Solicitor Ross was not in attendance. Attorney Chaney stated no report in his absence.

7. Committee reports:

President Pro Tem Mr. Schmidt stated that Caucus met this evening and the following items were discussed: agenda, Council minutes, Fiscal Officer's report, and legislation. November Council meetings will be on the 4 and 18. Committee meetings will be held on November 17. Also discussed was the resolution for the Mahoning River legislation, bonfire and costume contest and the softball tournament.

It was moved by Mr. Schmidt to give permission for the school and art club to host the annual bonfire and costume contest on Halloween.

Roll call:

Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

Parks & Buildings Mr. Metzinger reminded everyone that that Ram Roast is tomorrow. There was a softball tournament last week and everything went as smoothly as possible even with the rain. This week, they would like to have the 16U girls' tournament this week.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to allow the 16U softball tournament to continue this week at the park grounds.

7. Committee reports cont'd.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

Safety Committee Mr. Schmidt asked residents who have children on e-bikes to have a discussion with them of what is appropriate. He stated that the Village is working on legislation to keep the children safe and have some type of punishment if they do not follow the rules. This goes beyond that. Their safety is of the utmost importance. It is out of hand -this is at nighttime where there are no lights on the bikes. We cannot see them. Please discuss with your children to obey all the traffic signs.

Finance & Capital Improvement Mr. Puckett stated that there is a second reading of the temporary budget.

Service Committee Mr. Metzinger stated that branch pickup is over and leaf pickup has begun. He stated that his thought on data centers is that there are issues that are bigger than six people and he thinks data centers is one of them. Mr. Metzinger stated that he would like to see it come to a vote whether it comes from Council putting it on a ballot or the residents calling a citizens' initiative.

Planning Commission Mr. Bosheff stated no report.

Levy Exploration Committee Mr. Sanson stated that signs have been out for a couple weeks. If anyone would like to donate money for signs, more can be ordered. Mr. Sanson stated that he has noticed a few things on social media about the levy so the word is getting out.

Mayor Lewis stated that, he brought up a couple years ago at the State of the Village, that numbers don't lie. We are spending down about $300,000+ annually. We have $3 million in the bank.

Homecoming Festival Committee Mr. Schmidt stated that the Oktoberfest was a huge success and he thanked everyone involved behind the scenes. He thanked the Village employees for all their work, the Police and Fire Departments, and Mr. Schmidt's wife who spends countless hours on the event. It is astonishing the time and effort that his

7. Committee reports cont'd.

wife and her committee put in for a one-day event. Mr. Schmidt also thanked everyone that came out. The money raised will continue to help us to get some things in the park.

8. Remarks from persons or groups present: Liz Johnson, 871 Ravine Drive South. Mrs. Johnson discussed power plants. She stated that this is a critical factor in developing ordinances for data centers. Mrs. Johnson discussed how data centers will use gas engines because diesel is too expensive. She is concerned about this. Mrs. Johnson does not want a power plant in the Village. She recommends that the Village not do a data center ordinance but an ordinance for the industrial park as a whole. The factors that need to be considered are the same no matter what comes in down there. She also recommends that Planning Commission develop an ordinance that governs and controls key risks. Mrs. Johnson does not believe that an ordinance can be written without a strategic plan. She suggested that Oppidan may have done an environmental assessment – ask for it. Mrs. Johnson stated that residents need to give input for their buy-in. If you don't get the residents' buy-in, you will get what you don't want. Mrs. Johnson is frustrated that Council will not answer their questions.

Joe Guarino, 837 Connecticut. Mr. Guarino stated that the problem that he and many other residents have is there is no avenue to ask questions and get answers. He was made aware that the Solicitor has given advice to Council not to answers questions when they are asked in this venue. Mr. Guarino stated that the residents have a right to answers to their questions. Attorney Chaney stated that the Village Council allows the public to speak. There is nothing in the law that requires this. They have extended that courtesy but it is not a question-and-answer period. Mr. Guarino asked if this needs to be put in Council rules in January when it is brought up. He said that you can't get a simple answer. Mr. Guarino asked Mr. Metzinger if he would entertain a motion for a ban from Council of data centers to which Mr. Metzinger replied "Council or the residents whatever comes first". Mr. Guarino asked Mr. Metzinger to put that on the agenda and make a motion so Council goes on record. He asked Mr. Bosheff if Planning Commission has thought about how they are going to get feedback from the community on what direction those ordinances are going to be written. Mr. Bosheff stated that the moratorium has slowed the process down. He thinks that this is becoming something that will encompass a lot of different businesses that want to go to the industrial park.

Sandy Frazzini, 805 New Jersey Avenue. Mrs. Frazzini attended the Trumbull County Planning Commission's first of three meetings for Niles, Weathersfield, Girard and McDonald last week. She described the plans of the Planning Commission. Mrs. Frazzini stated that they have a lot of resources and grants. She asked Mayor Lewis if he would be involved in this and would he encourage residents to fill out a survey with multiple questions regarding McDonald. Mayor Lewis stated that whenever he can

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

participate. He participates in everything he can. Mayor Lewis encouraged residents to be at every meeting and include input whenever they can. Mrs. Frazzini read from Mrs. Johnson's notes which stated that Liz Johnson, Joe Guarino and Blaine Carter want to be involved with the policies and planning. She stated that these three people should be on the citizen's committee to give their input for the Planning Commission and the ordinance development.

Lori Gawdyda. Ms. Gawdyda discussed what is in the ground at the old mill property. She described pickle liquor which is a hazardous waste. Ms. Gawdyda described how the pickle liquor was stored. In 2013, the site was tested. In 2022, the Village wrote its own cleanup plan which included hauling away 3300 tons of soil. Cleanup was never done. Ms. Gawdyda stated that Oppidan hired Atlas, a consultant who submitted a review of the old mill site to the EPA. The Ohio EPA read Atlas' documents and Ms. Gawdyda stated that the documents left out crucial details. The Village itself followed the rules back then. Now those rules don't apply to the site. Ms. Gawdyda asked Council to include in the ordinance covering the entire 360+ acres to require full depth testing of the acid pit to make the results public and require acceptable remediation.

Glen Holmes. Mr. Holmes hopes to turn the temperature down. The infighting is sometimes good for growth and sometimes harmful. Everybody was proud of this region because of all the steel mills along the Mahoning River. There were a lot of negative things that happened but we learned from it. Every major accomplishment in America was protested. Mr. Holmes wants to applaud the legislative authority and the Mayor. JobsOhio doesn't have to report. They do all this in secret because of competitiveness. They may not know the answer. They can't answer your questions because it is a moving target all the time. These folks are willing to spend millions and millions of dollars. You can probably eliminate your tax base, quadruple your real estate tax for the schools. It is good to see people talking about the ordinance. Mr. Holmes stated that you can't lose who you are. Don't let this divide you and cast shadow on the people you have elected. They have good hearts and proper agendas.

Lynn Sutton, 731 Ohio Avenue. Ms. Sutton asked Mayor Lewis if he signed a purchase agreement to which Mayor Lewis responded no. Mayor Lewis stated that he doesn't know how to be more transparent as he has repeatedly stated that he has not signed anything. The Village does not own the property. Ms. Sutton wants to know what McDonald will get out of this. Attorney Chaney stated that we don't know. He stated that the Village can't tell anybody who to sell their house to. It is your house. That land isn't the Village's. Ms. Sutton asked then if ordinances can be made so safe that they can leave to which Attorney Chaney stated that is correct. Attorney Chaney stated that it will impact every business that wants to come there, not just data centers. The Village can't

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

contract with anybody, they don't own the land. Ms. Sutton stated that, if the residents have answers, they can work from there but the residents have nothing.

Cara Pecchia. Mrs. Pecchia asked if there is a way to have a timeline of when information might be coming out. She discussed the timeline that Oppidan had mentioned. Mrs. Pecchia leads with information at her business and would like to know when information will be available. Mayor Lewis discussed the Verdantas quote and the timeline that would be needed in order to complete the assessments if Council chooses to do so. Mrs. Pecchia asked if there is a plan during the moratorium. Mayor Lewis stated that if Council moves forward with the assessments, at that point, they can determine what they are going to do. Mrs. Pecchia asked for a fact sheet with a timeline to calm everyone's anxieties and answer questions.

Kim Sikora, 530 W. Third St. Ms. Sikora asked if there is a possibility for an entertainment complex with surrounding restaurants instead of a data center. Mayor Lewis stated that it can happen but we need to find the investor that will clean up that property. Mayor Lewis stated that McDonald is open for business and needs to be open for business or we aren't going to be McDonald. If we are complacent and we think that Mayberry is going to be here in a decade, we are looking in a mirror that is broken. When your population is 60% retired and 20% fail to pay their income taxes, we are floating on borrowed time. Mayor Lewis stated that it is very upsetting when people attack you and Council for trying to do the right thing based on what you read on the internet. It is half truths. Mayor Lewis stated that we need to have more of this-solutions and ideas. Ms. Sikora will get information to Mayor Lewis.

Stacy Foster, 811 Florida Avenue. Mrs. Foster quoted an article regarding AI infrastructure. She suggested that change of ownership or operator should be in an ordinance. Mrs. Foster would still like to ask for an open forum. She suggested ways of doing this. If the public had some answers, Mrs. Foster believes it could settle a lot of nerves. She suggested that the ordinance be all-encompassing. Mrs. Foster also suggested that planning should come first and to have some citizens on planning.

Fran Vitullo, 500 Dakota Avenue. Mrs. Vitullo supports the levy. She shared a few comments that people posted on Facebook. Someone stated that the five-year levy is only five-years because it would cover until a data center was built. Mrs. Vitullo stated that the lack of transparency has led to the lack of trust. She is disheartened as public records are released. Mrs. Vitullo stated that residents need to be included. Oppidan and AP need to stay out of our discussions.

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

Chief Marcum responded to Mrs. Vitullo's comment by stating that there are two options when we want to put a levy in front of the voters. One is a five-year and the second is continuous. Chief Marcum asked for a continuous levy when he presented it to Council in 2024. He sees the future and he knows it is not sustainable. Chief Marcum then agreed with Council that the Village would come back to the voters every five years. He stated that it had absolutely zero to do with a data center.

Marie McNulty, 334 Grant. Ms. McNulty discussed some of her thoughts on bringing business to the industrial park. She stated that Kimberly Clark will be in need of more distribution sites. Ms. McNulty also discussed the submarine contract that was given to Cleveland. They will also need additional sites. She stated that, until the land is remediated, nobody is building on it. Ms. McNulty asked if there was any money from the State of Ohio to remediate to which Mayor Lewis responded that there was. The Village had a state grant to remediate, we had the match funds from a previous governor that were pulled. Mayor Lewis stated that we can get the grants. It's having the match funds and we don't have it.

Sherry Sutton. Ms. Sutton stated that she is the resident that called for the signs in the devil strip. She asked when it became the Village right of way. Ms. Sutton stated that residents were told that none of the ordinances have changed for years. She asked who the zoning guy was to which Mayor Lewis responded Mr. Pancoe. Mayor Lewis stated that Ms. Sutton can call the Village and file a complaint and that our zoning follows up on zoning complaints.

Ty Jividen, 333 Indiana Avenue. Mr. Jividen had comments based on the WFMJ report. He stated that Mayor Lewis's motivation was to get Oppidan a foot in the door more so than to protect the residents. Mr. Jividen asked Mayor Lewis what would get him to vote no on data center development. He suggested that many reasons have been presented to not build a data center. Mr. Jividen stated that, if Mayor Lewis is not against this, he is complicit. Mr. Jividen challenges Mayor Lewis to give good reason why a data center would be a benefit to the community. Mr. Jividen referred to the WFMJ Watchdog report.

9. Old Business: none.

10. New Business: none.

11. Legislation:

A. Second 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 second reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Metzinger –aye
Mr. Sanson – aye
Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye

Motion carried.

B. Emergency Reading Of A Resolution Authorizing The Village Administrator Of The Village Of McDonald To Prepare And Submit An Application To Participate In The Federal Land And Water Conservation Fund Program Administered Through The State Of Ohio, Department Of Natural Resources.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger that Resolution No. 1969-26 pass emergency reading as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

11. Legislation cont'd.

Motion carried.

C. First Reading Of A Resolution Supporting the Mahoning River Water Trail Extension.

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

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Metzinger to pass Resolution No. 1970-26 as a first read and waive the second and third reads as read.

Roll call:

Mr. Metzinger – aye
Mr. Bosheff – aye
Mr. Puckett – aye
Mr. Schmidt – aye
Mr. Sanson – aye

Motion carried.

12. Fiscal Officer's report:

Mrs. Smith stated that the bills for the Fiscal Officer's report total $29,393.23.

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

12. Fiscal Officer's report cont'd.

Motion carried.

13. Miscellaneous: none.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Sanson at 7:28 p.m. All voted aye.

_____
Mayor

Attest to:

_____
Fiscal Officer