

## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF MCDONALD BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON DECEMBER 2, 2024**

Council President Tom Rockwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members answering roll call were Amber Wasko, Kirk Inskipt, Mike Bish, Jodi Robertson and Tom Rockwell. Members Thomas McQuillan and Ray Miller were unavoidably absent. Others in attendance were Kim Lauff, McDonald Sewage Authority, Dale Csonka, Celestine Braxton, Sharon Synowsky, Artie Tortorice, Bobby Hall, Solicitor John Hofrichter and Borough Manager Marie Maximovich.

Everyone joined the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**VISITORS:** Kim Lauff stated that she was only observing.

Artie Tortorice asked about using East End Park exclusively for girls softball. Tom Rockwell stated that he has no idea who else wants the fields for next year and that he does not want it to be limited to one organization, being that the parks are public.

Celestine Braxton and Sharon Synowsky stated that they were only observing.

Dale Csonka asked the Manager if she got the two invoices from Meyers for the sidewalk issue in front of the Gym and Subway on West Lincoln Avenue. The Manager reported that she did not. Mr. Csonka gave her his two copies.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** Tom Rockwell stated that a motion needs to be made to change the agenda to include discussions of vacation time for Borough employees.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of November 4, 2024, regular meeting of the Council were presented for approval. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Amber Wasko and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of November 4, 2024, as written.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Mike Bish stated that a meeting is scheduled tomorrow evening regarding the police regionalization and that he plans on attending. Mr. Bish asked if a part time ad was posted on Indeed. Paul Bosle reported that he did put the ad on Indeed. Mr. Bish stated that the part-time administrative quit on Wednesday and that a new ad will need to be placed on Facebook. Mr. Bish reported that an executive session was requested to discuss a police personnel matter.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to authorize free parking from December 23<sup>rd</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**MAYOR:** Paul Bosle gave the Mayors Report for November.

**STREETS:** Kirk Inskipt gave the street report for November. Mr. Inskipt stated that he would like the leaves to be picked up by a later date next year. Mr. Inskipt stated that two telephone poles were hit on West Lincoln Avenue. Mr. Csonka asked about who hit the poles, no one knows who hit the poles. Mr. Csonka asked when the flush truck would be coming to flush under his sidewalk on West Lincoln. Tom Rockwell said he does not know at this time.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Amber Wasko stated that she does not have much to report and stated that Lite-Up Night was amazing this year and thanked all those involved.

Amber Wasko reported that The McDonald Presbyterian Church is asked for Salvation Army bell ringers for out front of Giant Eagle. If anyone is interested, Amber can give you the information and time slots.

**FINANCE:** Jodi Robertson gave the Profit and Loss and finance report for November.

The Manager asked Council if she could reach out to First Commonwealth Bank and ask for a \$100,000 tax anticipation loan for 2025 instead of \$85,000.00.

Discussion held. Motion by Jodi Robertson seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to take a tax anticipation note with First Commonwealth Bank in the amount \$100,000 for year 2025. Motion by Jodi Robertson seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 13-24 which authorizes the Borough to take a \$100,000 Tax anticipation note with First Commonwealth Bank.

Jodi Robertson reported that the 2025 Budget has been duly advertised and is ready for adoption by the Council. Motion by Jodi Robertson seconded by Amber Wasko and carried unanimously to approve the 2025 budget with revenues totaling \$1,727,600 and expenses totaling \$1,727,600.

The manager presented to Council resolution 12-24 which sets the tax rates for 2025. The manager stated that taxes are NOT being raised in 2025. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Amber Wasko and carried unanimously to pass Resolution 12-24 which sets the tax rates for 2025.

**BILLS:** The bills were presented for payment. Motion by Jodi Robertson seconded by Amber Wasko and carried unanimously to approve payment of the bills as presented.

The bills were as follows:

GENERAL FUND: CHECKS THROUGH	TOTAL
LIQUID FUELS: CHECKS THROUGH	TOTAL
GENERAL FUND EFT:	TOTAL

**ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL:** The Manager asked if gift cards from Giant Eagle were going to be purchased for the Borough employees. The Manager stated that if so, Tom McQuillan stated that he would like the amount to be \$25.00 this year and not \$50.00, Amber Wasko stated that she feels that is not enough. Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously to approve fifteen, \$50 Giant Eagle gift cards for the Employees.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNICATIONS:** No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Council agreed to have a potluck dinner on 12/12/24 at 6:00 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Tom Rockwell stated that the seller of the property at 115 Terrace Street would like the Borough to abandon the paper street on that property. Tom Rockwell stated that a portion of Paper Street is in Robinson Township. Tom Rockwell stated that he would like to go to Robinson Township asking for their take on this matter. Tom Rockwell stated that he does not want to do this if Robinson Township does not.

Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to approve the abandonment of the paper Street on Terrace Street at the property of 115 Terrace Street if Robinson Township agrees to do the same.

The Chair called for an Executive Session at 7:40 pm to discuss a police employment personnel matter.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to change the agenda to add under admin and policy the topic of the employee handbook regarding vacation days.

Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously to amend the McDonald Borough Employee Handbook to change the verbiage in the Borough Employee handbook from advanced vacation days to accrued vacation days by which each number of weeks that an employee gets is divided by 52 weeks. It was explained that this only applies to an employee if they quit.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. Motion by Mike Bish and carried.

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Thomas Rockwell, Council President

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Marie Maximovich, Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer