

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF MCDONALD BOROUGH COUNCIL
HELD ON APRIL 7, 2025**

Council President Tom Rockwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members answering roll call were Tom McQuillan, Ray Miller, Amber Wasko, Kirk Inskipt, Mike Bish, Jodi Robertson and Tom Rockwell. Others in attendance were Kim Lauff, Dale Csonka, Philip Boggs, Megan and Ken Ward, Lori Miller, Pat Gannon, Romel Nicholas, Adriane & Scott Ware, Ron Catrain, Sr. Mayor David Cooper, 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.

Dale Csonka stated that he was only observing.

Phil Boggs gave the fire report to McDonald Volunteer Fire Department.

Megan and Ken Ward stated that they were there to support their son, Blake, who is currently employed by the Borough.

Romel Nicholas, of Gaitens, Tucceri & Nicholas, P.C. gave a presentation of his law firm for the position of Solicitor for McDonald Borough.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: NONE

MINUTES: The minutes of March 7, 2025, 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 March 7, 2025, as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Mike Bish stated that the Police Department would like to promote Officer Jason Sippey to full-time status. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Ray Miller and carried unanimously to hire Jason Sippey as a full-time officer, with no change in wages only adding a life insurance increase and pension benefits to his status.

Mike Bish stated that he would like to hire Ada Vega as a part-time officer. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Tom McQuillan and carried unanimously to hire Ada Vega as a part time police officer.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Tom McQuillan and carried unanimously to pass Resolution 05-2025 which give Officer Vega the power to enforce the laws in McDonald and Midway Boroughs.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Tom McQuillan carried unanimously to pass Resolution 06-2025 which authorizes Tim Motte, executive director and patrol officer, to enforce all the laws of the McDonald and Midway Borough.

Tom Rockwell stated that an executive session has been requested.

Tom Rockwell stated that the Council got the code enforcement report for March.

MAYOR: Mayor Cooper gave the Mayors Report for March. Mayor Cooper stated that police staffing has been filled well.

Mayor Cooper reported that there was a phone meeting with the Army Corp and that the federal government is now paying for ALL the study and construction for the entire Chartiers creek watershed.

STREETS: Kirk Inskipt gave the street report for March. Kirk stated that after further investigation of the bridge on Arabella Street, another section is more unsafe and that section needs to be closed. Mr. Inskipt reported that the currently closed section of bridge can be reopened.

Motion by Kirk Inskipt to hire Tom Atchinson. Tom McQuillan asked about the application that was submitted to Council. Discussion held regarding this matter. Mr. and Mrs. Ward stated that Blake, their son, wants to work this summer. Kirk Inskipt rescinded the motion to hire Tom Atchinson.

Tom McQuillan asked about accident reports within the street department. The Manager stated that she is aware of all accidents at this time.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Amber Wasko thanked Canonsburg Armory for their donation of a shed to the baseball teams. She is asking for a thank you card to be sent.

Ms. Wasko stated that two fields are ready to go.

Amber Wasko stated that she got a proposal for a new fence and backstop for the East End Park. Ms. Wasko stated that this backstop is extremely dangerous. Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to approve spending not to exceed an amount of \$1,322.00 for chain link fence on top of backstop and brace rail. Mike Bish stated that he will get a quote from Metro fence asap.

Amber Wasko stated that the Junior Olympics' are scheduled for May 9th in Heritage Park.

Amber Wasko stated that the Easter Egg Hunt is April 19th.

Amber Wasko stated that the Tennis program is starting soon.

FINANCE: Jodi Robertson gave the Profit and Loss and finance report for March. Mrs. Robertson stated that currently the Borough is at a \$44,000.00 negative balance.

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

The bills were as follows:

GENERAL FUND: CHECKS THROUGH	TOTAL
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LIQUID FUELS: CHECKS THROUGH	TOTAL
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GENERAL FUND EFT:	TOTAL
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ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL: Ray Miller stated that Council does need to hire a new solicitor and have an interview process.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNICATIONS: Tom McQuillan stated that a new business may be coming into McDonald Borough.

Tom McQuillan asked about having the contest again for the street markers.

Pasty Schaal asked about a contest for a new Borough seal. This will be tabled for now.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Discussion held regarding the traffic light in the Borough. The Manager stated the water co turned the bill into their insurance company. Mike Bish asked if it matters that this is a state road.

The Manager stated that Comcast reached out to her regarding a new franchise agreement with the Borough. The Manager will work with the Solicitor regarding the changes that Comcast is proposing. This will be discussed at the May meeting. Discussion was held regarding franchise agreements and how to get one with Verizon or any other provider in the Borough.

Discussion held regarding telephone poles in the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS: No Report.

CORRESPONDENCE: No Report.

The Chair called for an Executive Session at 8:30 pm to discuss legal and personnel issues.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to explore loan options from various bank institutions in the amount of \$300,000 for McDonald Borough.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to suspend this current meeting and to reconvene the meeting on April 22, 2025, at 7:15 p.m., for general purposes.

The meeting of April 7th was reconvened on April 22, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. The chair Council President Tom Rockwell called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Members answering roll call were Tom McQuillan, Ray Miller, Amber Wasko, Kirk Inskipt, Jodi Robertson and Tom Rockwell. Council member Mike Bish was unavoidably absent. Others in attendance were Tucker Arensberg law firm. Lane Turturice and Josh Larkin Attorneys at law, Mayor David Cooper, Solicitor John Hofrichter and Borough Manager Marie Maximovich.

Tom Rockwell stated that McDonald Borough is need of a new solicitor for the Borough.

Ashley Puchalski and Ahsley Wagner of Tucker, Arensberg gave a presentation regarding their law firm.

Lane Turturice gave a presentation regarding his law firm.

The Chair suspended the meeting and called for executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss legal, financial and employment matters and in the Borough.

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

Motion by Ray Miller seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously to authorize to terminate Joe Wilson from the Street Department if he fails to show up for work on Wednesday, April 23rd declaring job abandonment after three consecutive days of missed work.

Tom McQuillan made a motion to hire a full-time street department employee. Kirk asked to table this motion until May's Meeting. Tom McQuillan stated that he will table this until May.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Motion by Tom McQuillan and carried.

Thomas Rockwell, Council President

Marie Maximovich, Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

