

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF MCDONALD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

Tom Rockwell stated that before proceeding with this meeting the January 6, 2025, the regular meeting of Council needs to be adjourned. Motion by Mike Bish, seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to adjourn the January 6, 2025, regular meeting of council.

Council President Tom Rockwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members answering roll call were Ray Miller, Amber Wasko, Mike Bish, Jodi Robertson and Tom Rockwell. Members Tom McQuillan and Kirk Inskipt were unavoidably absent. Others in attendance were Kim Lauff, Dale Csonka, Rick Fry, Joe Wilson, Lori Miller, Matt Cochran, Tim Motte, Phillip Boggs & Celestine Braxton joined remotely, 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 asked about an invoice from Steve Kashmere for the repair of Christmas Lights. The Manager stated that she has not received an invoice. Dale Csonka asked about an invoice for the scissor lift as well, The Manager reported that no invoices have been received by the Borough from Mr. Kashmere. Dale Csonka asked if all the lines had been marked on West Lincoln Avenue at the gym property. Joe Wilson stated that all the lines are currently marked. Kim Lauff stated that the mapping project for storm and sewage are being worked on and should be done in May. Mr. Csonka asked if the invoices from Meyers plumping have been paid. The Manager stated that no bills have been paid. Tom Rockwell asked Mr. Csonka when The Borough can get reimbursement for the engineering costs for the footbridge at West End. Mr. Rockwell stated that a meeting for the footbridge needs to be soon, because the DEP wants a status report.

Mr. Fry stated that he was only observing.

Lori Miller stated her concerns for digging near her daughter's house on Terrace Street. Tom Rockwell stated that this is a civil dispute.

Matt Cochran asked when the Christmas Tree lights would be removed from the tree. Mr. Bish stated that as soon as the weather is warm enough, he will get them off the tree.

Mr. Cochran thanked the Borough for procuring the East End Park grant. Mayor Cooper stated that another grant for downtown revitalization is next in the works.

Mike Bish asked Mr. Cochran if they can get the good lights that change color for every holiday, if they could keep them on the tree year-round? Matt Cochran stated that if it looks ascetically pleasing then yes.

Celestine Braxton asked if the East End Park grant included flood protection. Mayor Cooper stated that no it does not and that it is a separate project. Mayor Cooper stated that there will be a call in meeting on Wednesday with the Army Corp and that the Manager can send her the link if interested.

Phil Boggs, McDonald Fire Department Chief, gave the fire report for January. Mr. Boggs thanked Kim Lauff for the occupancy report and quick turnaround. Mr. Boggs stated that the Fire Department did order a new pumper truck and that himself and a few other firemen will be going to South Dakota for an inspection.

Tim Motte gave a detailed report on things that are happening in the Police Department.

Tom Rockwell closed the visitor section.

### **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: NONE**

**MINUTES:** The minutes of January 6, 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 January 6, 2025, as written.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Mike Bish stated that Council received from United Code Consultants the 2025 Service agreement and 2025 Fee schedule. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Amber Wasko and carried unanimously to accept the 2025 service agreement and fee schedule with United Code Consultants.

Mike Bish stated that there is no Code Enforcement report for January 2025 because at this time all is quiet and all issues are being handled.

Mike Bish asked the Council for an executive session to discuss employee personnel matters.

Mike Bish stated that Council received a resignation letter from part time police officer Kaden Cvitkovic. Mr. Bish stated that his last day was January 30, 2025. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of part time officer Kaden Cvitkovic effective January 30, 2025.

Mike Bish presented to Council the changes to the current 2024-2026 collective bargaining agreement. Mr. Bish stated that payrate and education requirement changes have been made. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Amber Wasko and carried

unanimously to accept the payrate changes and education requirement to the 2024-2026 collective bargaining agreement with an effective date of January 21, 2025.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Cooper gave the Mayors Report for January.

**STREETS:** Joe Wilson gave the street report for January. Discussion was held regarding the bridge on Arabella Street that had to be closed due the refusal of the Borough's Insurance company to insure due to its condition. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Ray Miller and carried unanimously to close the bridge at Arabella Street due to its damage and safety to the residents. Tom Rockwell stated that he wants to schedule a meeting with Redcon Engineering regarding getting an estimate cost to fix the bridge. Matt Cochran stated that he has worked with contractors on fixing bridges ensuit.

Joe Wilson stated that there is an issue with a resident on East Grove regarding allowing him to mark one calls on the property. This matter will be addressed as the Borough Street Department must have access to mark the lines. .

Phil Boggs stated that McDonald Fire Department saved a man who was in cardiac arrest while plowing his driveway.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Amber Wasko stated that the Borough needs to pass a Resolution authorizing Harshman to complete the grant with East End Park. Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to authorize Harshman to submit a grant on behalf of McDonald Borough not to exceed costs of \$4,000.00.

Amber Wasko stated that McDonald Parks has created an athletic field use and reservation policy for the parks ballfields. Ms. Wasko stated that the policy contains insurance information and field maintenance. Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to approve this policy.

Tom Rockwell stated that the policy was very thoroughly written. Amber Wasko stated that all teams and organizations must sign and submit this application back to the Borough. Amber Wasko stated that field mix needs to be ordered soon.

The Easter Egg hunt will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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

The Manager asked Council to please read through the 2023 audit report and management letters.

The Manager stated that she would like to reach out to Comcast to discuss the current cable franchise agreement.

**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:** No Report.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Tom Rockwell stated that the Borough is going to abandon a portion of Terrace Street. Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to pass Resolution 01-25 which abandons an alleyway or a small portion of Terrace Street.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No Report.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Manager gave the Council a letter from Verizon regarding the issues with their lines on West Lincoln Avenue.

The Chair called for an Executive Session at 7:45 pm to discuss a police employment personnel matter.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously, that continual upon the outcome of an executive session at a Mount Pleasant Township meeting that McDonald Borough will sign for thirty (30 days) a municipal police services intergovernmental cooperation agreement in the case that McDonald Borough should need help covering a police shift. This agreement will also contain a clause that can extend for another 30 days.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Motion by Amber Wasko and carried.

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Thomas Rockwell, Council President

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Marie Maximovich, Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer