

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF MCDONALD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
HELD ON JANUARY 6, 2025**

Council President Tom Rockwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members answering roll call were Tom McQuillan, Amber Wasko, Kirk Inskipt, Mike Bish, Jodi Robertson and Tom Rockwell. Member Ray Miller was unavoidably absent. Others in attendance were Kim Lauff, Dale Csonka, Margaret Haney, Brian Haney, Lori Miller, Phillip Boggs, Matt Cochran, Tim Motte and Officer Ronald Fedzen, Solicitor John Hofrichter and Borough Manager Marie Maximovich.

Everyone joined the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**VISITORS:** Kim Lauff stated that she had sewage business in the correspondence section.

Dale Csonka asked if the location of the Christmas lights has been added to the new insurance policies. Mr. Csonka asked if the invoices from Meyers plumping have been paid. The Manager stated that no bills have been paid. Mr. Csonka asked when the flush truck will be scheduled to finish the work under the sidewalk issue in front of the Gym and Subway on West Lincoln Avenue. Mr. Rockwell stated that this will be discussed again in the spring.

Margaret Haney asked about the status of the construction business behind her home. Mrs. Haney got extremely disruptive, and a very heated discussion pursued. Police officer Fedzen and Tim Motte escorted Ms. Haney out of the meeting. Mayor Cooper stated that a meeting between Dennis Smith, the Borough Engineer, Zoning and Planning commission needs to be scheduled.

Phil Boggs, McDonald Fire Department Chief, gave the fire report for December. Mr. Boggs reported that he is looking to obtain Hydrant flow reports. Phil is looking for a list for all the tenants and landlords within the Borough. Kim Lauff can provide this information to him. Tom McQuillan asked who pays the Street department overtime for the fire on the light pole. Discussion held regarding telephone poles.

Lori Miller expressed her concerns regarding the residence at 461 Fannie Street. The Manager stated that citations have been issued. Ms. Miller asked when the camper would be removed from Queen Street. Officer Fedzen stated that a hearing was scheduled for today but continued until February. Tom Rockwell stated that they are working on these issues, and the judicial process needs to continue.

Tom Rockwell closed the visitor section.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

**MINUTES:** The minutes of December 2, 2024, regular meeting of the Council were presented for approval. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of December 2, 2024, as written.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Tom Rockwell stated that the Council got a copy of the Code Enforcement Report in their packets this month.

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

Mike Bish stated that Council received a resignation letter from Sergeant Bosle. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Amber Wasko and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of Sergeant Paul Bosle effective December 19, 2024.

Mr. Bish stated that public safety would like to recommend the hiring of Timothy Motte as the Law Enforcement Director of the Police Department in the amount of \$33.12 per hour as an independent contractor effective December 15, 2024. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously to hire Tim Motte.

Mr. Bish reported that the Council received a letter from Officer Fedzen stating that even though he is occasionally working 40 hour per week he is not looking to acquire any type of full-time status or benefits.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Cooper gave the Mayors Report for December. Mayor Cooper reported that McDonald Police is NO longer patrolling Robinson Township.

**STREETS:** Kirk Inskipt gave the street report for December. Mr. Inskipt stated that the guys are busy with the snow, plowing and salting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Amber Wasko stated that there will be a meeting with herself, David and Terri from Harshman to discuss the stage in the park.

**FINANCE:** Jodi Robertson gave the Profit and Loss and finance report for December. Tom McQuillan stated that the Borough has got to get out of this constant deficiency of money. Jodi Robertson reported that the 2023 audit has been completed and must be approved by the Council.

Motion by Jodi Robertson seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to approve the 2023 Audit, motion carried with Tom McQuillan casting a "no" vote.

**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:** Tom McQuillan stated that he wants to work on mileage sheets and maintenance sheets. Tom McQuillan stated that he wants to figure out a way to save money.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Tom Rockwell stated 115 Terrace Street wants the Borough to vacate a portion of the paper street. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously vacating our portion of the paper alley on Terrace Street that is located in McDonald Borough.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Tom McQuillan asked Tom Rockwell why he does not answer his phone when residents call him. Tom Rockwell stated that this is because Marge Haney, who is the phone call that Tom McQuillan is referring to was nonstop calling him on Christmas Eve. Tom Rockwell stated that he is NOT answering his phone under those circumstances.

The Manager stated that Mike, Ray, Jodi, Dave and herself are up for reelection.

Jodi Robertson asked if the Manager could put a no soliciting list in effect for any residents who do not want solicited in the Borough. The Manager will work on this.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Kim Lauff stated that she needs Council to accept the resignation of Ryan Wauither from the Sewage Authority and to appoint David Boyd as the newest member. Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Tom McQuillan and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of Ryan Wauither from the Sewage Authority.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to appoint David Boyd to the Sewage Authority.

The Chair called for an Executive Session at 8:00 pm to discuss a police employment personnel matter.

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

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Tom McQuillan and carried unanimously to accept the separation agreement, waiver and general release of claims with Chief Dennis Ahlborn and the Borough of McDonald. No member of the Council opposed this motion.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to approve the wage increase of \$33.12 to be given to Brian Mickens when he is working as the Officer in Charge and to pay his regular wage as patrolman, which is \$ 23.86 when he is in that capacity.

The meeting did not adjourn, Motion to by Mike Bish seconded by Tom McQuillan and carried to suspend the current meeting until January 21, 2025, until 6:00 p.m. Motion made at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:00 p.m. on January 21, 2025, which was a continuation of the January 6<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of Council.

Mike Bish reconvened the meeting. Members answering roll call were Kirk Inskipt, Jodi Robertson, Mike Bish, Amber Wasko joined the meeting remotely. Members Tom McQuillan, Ray Miller and Tom Rockwell were unavoidably absent.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed changes to the Collective bargaining agreement with the Borough and the police department. Motion by Kirk Inskipt seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to accept the pending verbiage and acceptance of the changes to the Collective bargaining agreement.

Motion by Jodi Roberson seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously to pass Resolution 01-25 which authorizes the Borough to surrender and abandon the unopened alley of 123.36 feet between the crossing streets of Terrace Street and Crow Alley.

Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously to authorize Harshman CE group to submit a proposal for a DCNR C2P@ park development grant.

Motion by Jodi Roberson seconded by Kirk Inskipt and carried unanimously to close the road and to suspend the one way street sign and to dead end a portion of Arabella Street due to the non-coverage of liability insurance of the bridge on Arabella at Robb Run due to its structural integrity and for the purposes of ensuring public safety of the residents.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Motion by Jodi Robertson and carried.

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Thomas Rockwell, Council President

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Marie Maximovich, Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer