

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF MCDONALD BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON JUNE 2, 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, Maura Boggs, Adriane Ware, Adrienne Frazier, Matt Cochran, Celestine Braxton, Tim Motte, Mayor David Cooper, Solicitor Ashley Puchalski and Borough Manager Marie Maximovich, who joined remotely.

Everyone joined the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Rockwell introduced Ashley Puchalski to the visitors and welcomed her as the new Solicitor of McDonald Borough.

VISITORS: Kim Lauff, Dale Csonka, Celestine Braxton, Adriane Ware, Maura Boggs, and Adrienne Frazier stated that they were only observing.

Phil Boggs gave the fire department report for May. Phil Boggs stated that there have been 282 fire calls year to date.

Matt Cochran asked if the Borough would be addressing the budget deficit. Mr. Rockwell stated that discussion will be made and that the current solution for the deficit is the discussion of raising taxes in 2026.

MINUTES: The minutes of May 5, 2025, regular meeting of the Council were presented for approval. Motion by Tom McQuillan seconded by Ray Miller and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of May 5, 2025, as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT: Mike Bish asked for an executive session to discuss the police regionalization.

MAYOR: Mayor Cooper gave the Mayors Report for May.

STREETS: Kirk Inskipt presented the street report for May. Mr. Inskipt reported that the road is collapsing at 3rd and Grant. Mr. Inskipt stated that this is nearly 6 feet down and that a scoop of work will need to be addressed. Mr. Inskipt stated that a steel plate will need to be placed over the collapse asap.

Mr. Inskipt stated that he would like to discuss hiring Blake Ward in an executive session.

Kirk Inskipt stated that our grant writer, Terri Gladus of Harshman, CE group was able to find a grant that could assist in securing grant funding for the replacement and repair of the Arabella Street bridge.

Motion by Kirk Inskipt seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to apply for a grant to help secure funding for the replacement of the bridge on Arabella Street not to exceed the cost of submission of more than \$3000.00.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Amber Wasko stated that the motion to award the bid for the stage and restroom construction will have to be tabled as no bids were received.

Motion by Amber Wasko seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to table the awarding of the bids for the construction of the new stage and restrooms in Heritage Park.

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

Mrs. Robertson stated that currently the Borough is at a \$70,952.83 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
LIQUID FUELS: CHECKS THROUGH	TOTAL
GENERAL FUND EFT:	TOTAL

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL: Tom Rockwell spoke about a group called historical FC and how they have interesting information regarding McDonald.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNICATIONS: Thomas McQuillan reported that the walking bridge is in Heritage Park. Mr. McQuillan stated that work still needs to be done and that a ribbon cutting ceremony is in discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tom Rockwell stated that Littles Landscaping is appealing the Zoning Hearing board's decision to deny Little's Landscaping variance located on Laurel Hill Road.

Jodi Robertson stated that the Manager looked in a time keeping program with paychex and the cost is currently not feasible.

NEW BUSINESS: Tom McQuillan stated that the military banners are up in town.

CORRESPONDENCE: Tom Rockwell reported that he got a letter from Washington County tourism about the US turning 250 years old. Mr. Rockwell stated that we can apply for a grant if the Borough wants to have a celebration event.

The Chair called for an Executive Session at 8:30 pm to discuss legal and personnel issues. Tim Motte was present in the executive session.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:27 p.m. Discussions in executive session included pending litigation, personnel, and police regionalization.

Motion by Ray Miller seconded by Mike Bish and carried unanimously to hire part time street/park employee Blake Ward as a Full-Time employee with a 30-day probationary period for a wage amount not to exceed \$12.42 per hour effective June 3, 2025.

Motion by Ray Miller seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to hire Gavin Boocks as a part time parks employee not to exceed 24 hours per week for an amount not to exceed \$10.00 per hour effective June 3, 2025.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously give the Solicitor authorization to file a motion of intervention in the Littles Landscaping appeal in the Court of Common Pleas.

Motion by Mike seconded by Tom McQuillan to advertise a question-and-answer session regarding the police regionalization with Tim Motte and Matt Tharp with no date given.

Motion by Mike Bish seconded by Jodi Robertson and carried unanimously to authorize the solicitor and Manager to investigate the DCED stmp program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Motion by Tom McQuillan and carried.

Thomas Rockwell, Council President

Marie Maximovich, Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

