



A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council Clerk Fink on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall following the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were present at **Roll Call**:

Council Members	Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman
Law Director	Jeremy D. Iosue
Finance Director	Chlondra Hunter
Engineer	Peter J. Formica
Service Director	Ron Strauser
Building Commissioner	Raymond Sack
Recreation Director	Timothy Stopp
Police Chief	Jonathon Bush
Fire Department	Captain James Isom

Excused: Council President Edward Levon and Fire Chief Christopher Grossman

#### **ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM**

Motion by Koski, seconded by Thielman, that Councilperson Jaworski be elected Council President Pro Tem for the January 8, 2024 meeting.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of December 18, 2023 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

Abstain: Jaworski

No: None

Motion carried. **December 18, 2023 meeting minutes approved.**

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to allow Councilperson Salotto abstain from voting on the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Organizational Meeting of January 2, 2024.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Organizational Meeting of January 2, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Thielman

Abstain: Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **January 2, 2024 Organizational Meeting minutes approved.**

#### **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR**

Mayor Sakacs read his written report. There were no questions for the Mayor.

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIRECTOR OF LAW**

Law Director Iosue had no report. He noted that he was a friend of Mayor Morley, and commented he will be missed.

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Council President Levon, being excused, had no report. Council President pro tem Jaworski had no report.

## **ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

## **ADMINISTRATORS**

### **A. *Police Chief Bush*** Written Report Submitted

Chief Bush noted he had nothing to add to his written report.

There were no questions or comments for the Police Chief.

### **B. *Fire Chief Grossman*** Written Report Submitted

Captain Isom was in attendance for Chief Grossman. Captain Isom noted he had no report.

Councilperson Gerhardstein inquired regarding Green Vision and the details of the operational permit. Captain Isom noted Green Vision is operating under a permit that clearly outlines what they can and cannot do, specifically with regard to pile size and what they can and cannot accept on site. The goal is to get the product processed and packaged.

There were no additional questions or comments for the Captain Isom.

### **C. *Finance Director Hunter***

Finance Director Hunter noted she is working to close the year and is hoping to be finished by the end of the week.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

### **D. *Engineer Formica*** Written Report Submitted

Engineer Formica distributed to all Council Members the Pavement Evaluation Report. Please contact him with any questions. He asked for a meeting of the Improvement Committee to discuss the recommendations in this report, as they may differ slightly from the information provided in the report. Councilperson Jaworski noted he would be calling for a meeting later on the agenda.

There were no further questions or comments for the Engineer.

### **E. *Service Director Strauser*** Written Report Submitted

Service Director Strauser noted he had nothing to add to his written report.

Councilperson Koski asked about shifts. The Service Director noted second shift began in December and third shift began January 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is plenty of work for them, including painting projects.

Councilperson Jaworski inquired regarding salt. Mr. Strauser noted he is hoping for some snow, as we will soon be looking for storage for salt if we are not able to use it on the roads.

There were no further questions or comments for the Service Director.

### **F. *Building Commissioner Sack*** Written Report Submitted

Building Commissioner Sack noted he has submitted his Annual Report, in addition to his monthly report. He gave some details regarding some of the fees in comparison to last year. He noted the City is growing and moving in the right direction, and anyone may contact him with questions.

Councilperson Gerhardstein thanked Patty for her work to recover many vacant building fees, and noted she answers emails, even on the weekends, and he appreciates that she goes above and beyond what is expected of her. He noted he had a discussion earlier today regarding the outdoor storage at the old ABB lot, noting it is being taken care of – the items currently stored there will be removed in accordance with

City ordinances. Mr. Sack noted the items will be removed within sixty days; they were unaware of the ordinances. Mr. Sack noted Patty collected over \$18,000.00 in vacant building fees from one property, and he is proud of her.

Councilperson Jaworski noted he understood the items would be moved to a warehouse in Mentor, but Mr. Sack noted that it will be moved inside at the property here in Wickliffe within sixty days.

There were no additional questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

**G. Recreation Director Stopp** Written Report Submitted

Recreation Director invited all to WinterFest which will be held this weekend, January 13<sup>th</sup> at Green Ridge Golf Course from 1:00 -4:00 PM. There will be many activities, as well as coffee from Biggby Coffee, Lake MetroParks, the Wickliffe Public Library, and Horatio from the Lake County Captains. Mr. Stopp also announced they are low on entries to the annual Chili Contest, and is hoping for a few more.

Councilperson Salotto inquired regarding when entrants to the Chili Contest must enter. Mr. Stopp noted there had been a few walk-ins last year.

There were no further questions or comments for the Recreation Director.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Council President pro tem Jaworski opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:17 PM.

He noted this portion of the meeting is intended for the audience to address the Council and Mayor, not the directors. Anyone wishing to address Council must be acknowledged and give their name and address for the clerk's record and will be given a five minute maximum for their comments.

After multiple calls inquiring if anyone would like to address Wickliffe City Council and there being no reply, Council President pro tem Jaworski closed Audience Participation at 7:18 PM.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Jaworski noted the ARB met last Thursday and approved exterior designs for a new business (a day care) at 29436 Euclid Avenue. Following that, the Planning Commission met and approved the plans for the same day care, as well as recommended the zoning requests on four points regarding the Wickliffe City School District. With a four to one vote.

**COMMISSION REPORTS**

There were no Commission Reports.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Correction of Mayor's Appointments to Keep Wickliffe Beautiful**

Terms were listed incorrectly at the Jan, 2, 2024 Organizational Meeting.

The year for all for Keep Wickliffe Beautiful should have been 2025, not 2026, as these are 2 year terms.

Corrected terms are as follows:

*RE-APPOINT:*

REBECCA HALLER (School Rep) – Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission – term expires 12.31.2025

KATELYNN GURBACH - Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission - term expires 12.31.2025

FRANK ESPOSITO - Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission - term expires 12.31.2025

*APPOINT:*

MICHELLE GUBA – Keep Wickliffe Beautiful – term expires 12.31.2025

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Ms. Rebecca Haller (School Rep), Ms. Katelynn Gurbach, and Mr. Frank Esposito, and appointment of Michelle Guba all with terms to expire 12/31/2025, to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried.

## **B. Bid Presentation/Acceptance for Dredging of GRGC Pond**

This item was not officially added to New Business, however a short discussion regarding this topic began. Engineer Formica noted bids were opened for this project Friday, December 29th. Six bids were received. The Engineer noted he has not worked with the company that submitted the lowest bid, Holcomb Enterprises of Port Clinton, Ohio. He did call each of their references who gave them glowing reviews. He had planned to present the information to Council this evening, but realized this item is still in committee. It was unclear if a bid must be awarded in thirty or sixty days once they have been opened for a project. Council President pro tem called for a meeting of the Finance Committee on January 15<sup>th</sup> to follow the other meetings previously scheduled for this evening to discuss this item so it can be reported out of committee and the bid presentation process can be addressed at the regular Council meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. Mr. Formica also noted the golf course manager does not wish to pursue the alternate bid that was a part of this project.

Mayor Sakacs noted the alternate bid will address the issue of stray golf balls. He noted Mr. Calic does not receive the calls that the City gets regarding this topic, and stressed the importance of accepting the alternate bid. Councilperson Bala noted he agrees that the alternate bid should be accepted.

## **ORDINANCES**

**OR 2024-01** *By Title Only* An ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-01 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-01 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-01 adopted.**

**OR 2024-02** *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation of certain appointed officials of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Koski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-02 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2024-02 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: Councilperson Jaworski inquired what the small print regarding "in addition to the normal scope of duties". Law Director Iosue noted this language generally covers if there was civil litigation that became necessary, he would work with the prosecutor on this, after notifying the Mayor and Council. Filling in for the Law Director at meetings where the Law Director is unavailable would be part of the normal scope of duty.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-02 adopted.**

**OR 2024-03 By Title Only** An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Verdant Commercial Capital, LLC. for the lease of golf carts at Green Ridge Golf Course in the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Koski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-03 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Councilperson Gerhardstein inquired regarding why this legislation was presented as an emergency. He also asked if it was necessary to put this item out to bid (to get more than one quote) if it is over \$50,000.00. Service Director Strauser noted he believed the threshold for the requirement for bidding changed at the beginning of January to be \$75,000.00, per state law. It was clarified by Finance Director Hunter that, per our charter, the amount is fifty percent of \$75,000.00 is the correct amount. Law Director Iosue noted it requires a vote of Council. Mayor Sakacs noted that it was time sensitive. Mr. Stopp noted "the sooner, the better". Mr. Gerhardstein noted the contract is dated December 21<sup>st</sup>, and asked why this needs to be considered an emergency measure. Mayor Sakacs noted it is due to timing on pricing. Councilperson Bala asked if this is the same company we have been using. Mr. Stopp noted it is the same company, but this is different in that it is going through a leasing company. Councilperson Jaworski asked when was the last time the City investigated other companies. Mr. Stopp noted there are only two companies in the area that offer this service, and we have not investigated the other company, as this company has kept the pricing consistent over the years; and many of the other courses in the area also use this company. Councilperson Salotto clarified that this is an emergency due to the pricing. Mr. Jaworski clarified this contract is for twenty carts, and asked why we are not increasing the number, as he has heard that, occasionally there are not enough carts for events. Mr. Stopp noted twenty is the maximum number we can store and have charged – it is a spacing issue. We do not run out all the time, it is only occasionally. If we have more than we need on a regular basis and do not rent them, then we are losing money. Mayor Sakacs noted the major issue is during our City outing, and we already have a plan in place to cover that date.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: Gerhardstein

Motion carried.

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-03 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: Gerhardstein,

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-03 adopted.**

## RESOLUTIONS

There were no Resolutions.

## OTHER LEGISLATION

There was no Other Legislation.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Council President pro tem called for a meeting of the Improvement Committee to discuss the 2023 citywide Pavement Conditioning Rating and Recommendations on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall.

Councilperson Thielman inquired regarding what the next steps are regarding the recommendations of the Planning Commission on the rezoning of the WCSD property. Law Director Iosue noted there will be a public hearing at the next Planning Commission meeting. The notices for this are currently being prepared, and following the Planning Commission meeting there will be a recommendation to Council, then Council will have a public hearing. Mr. Jaworski noted there are a few items that Mr. McGraw of the Planning Commission and Law Director Iosue are working to complete, then once Council receives this recommendation, it will need to be worked through in the Economic Development/Euclid Avenue Re-development Committee.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Koski, seconded by Salotto, to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) for the purpose of pending or imminent court action following a five minute break.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, to reconvene the meeting from Executive Session.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 7:57 PM.

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Salotto, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman

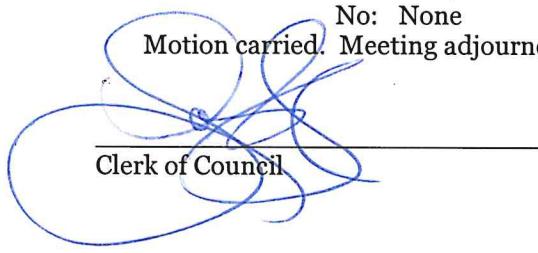
No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.



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Council President and Presiding Officer



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Clerk of Council