



A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Levon on Monday, January 22, 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 President
Council Members
Mayor
Law Director
Finance Director
Engineer
Service Director
Building Commissioner
Recreation Director
Police Chief
Fire Chief

Edward Levon
Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman
Joseph Sakacs
Jeremy D. Iosue
Chlondra Hunter
Peter J. Formica
Ron Strauser
Raymond Sack
Timothy Stopp
Jonathon Bush
Christopher Grossman

Excused: none

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, to allow Councilperson Levon abstain from voting on the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of January 8, 2024.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Jaworski, seconded by Salotto, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of January 8, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Abstain: Levon

No: None

Motion carried. **January 8, 2024 meeting minutes approved.**

Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director

Mayor Sakacs read his written report.

The Mayor also mentioned the Local Government Fund is money dispersed by the State. The townships feel like they are not receiving their share of the money and are demanding a recalculation of the formula. This will affect cities and villages. Mayor Fiala and the western Lake County Mayors will be meeting with a forensic accountant that will be assisting with a counter to the townships' claim. If the townships are successful, the cities stand to lose a significant amount of funding. Mayor Sakacs noted he will keep all updated regarding this topic.

Councilperson Jaworski asked if CSX is planning to paint the underpass at Worden Road which is dilapidated. Mayor Sakacs noted he did bring that up and CSX noted they are only concerned with the structure, not the aesthetics, of the bridge. CSX is not subject to local regulations. The only negotiation tool we might be able to utilize is if we had something that the railroad needed (i.e. property).

Councilperson Salotto inquired how many townships and what amount of money do we stand to lose. Mayor Sakacs noted it is just Lake County, so not too many. He also noted the villages will also be affected and stand to lose funding, but they will support the municipalities. We (Wickliffe) could stand to lose over half a million dollars.

Councilperson Jaworski asked whose decision it will be to make the final determination on this matter; would it be the Commissioners. Mayor Sakacs noted one of the Commissioners is backing the townships. Councilperson Jaworski asked who has the authority to make a final determination. Mayor Sakacs noted he did not know, but thought it would be a court decision. Finance Director Hunter noted she was not sure, but believed it was a vote of a group, with Mentor being the largest, then it goes by percentage based on size of the cities, villages, and townships. It is State money distributed by the County who makes the decision regarding the formula for distribution. The Mayors plan to elect Mayor Fiala as the chair of the committee to defend the cities and villages.

Reports and Communications from Director of Law

Law Director Iosue had no report.

Reports and Communications from Council President

Council President Levon had no report.

Additions or Amendments to Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

Administrators

A. Police Chief (Bush)

Chief Bush noted the Department hired a lateral transfer from Painesville on Friday. The plan is to have him sworn in at the next Council meeting. He thanked Council for the tools to hire – things seem to be working out well. He noted he is one spot “short”.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked what the Chief meant by short. Chief Bush replied that he is one short of the manpower ceiling.

Councilperson Jaworski inquired regarding the cause of phone lines being down today. Chief Bush noted the County was doing an update to the server and things crashed. They were able to get everything restored. The 9-1-1 line was not affected at all, it was just the non-emergency lines.

There were no additional questions or comments for the Police Chief.

B. Fire Chief (Grossman)

Chief Grossman had nothing to add to his previously submitted report.

There were no questions or comments for the Fire Chief.

C. Finance Director (Hunter) Written Report Submitted

Finance Director Hunter noted 2023 is closed and we are bringing an eight million dollar general fund carryover balance into 2024. Our revenue was approximately two million more than was budgeted and we saved approximately seven hundred thousand in expenditures.

Councilperson Jaworski asked what led to the two million dollar “bump” over projections. Ms. Hunter noted it was primarily income tax, Ohio State Net Profit tax, and interest.

There were no additional questions or comments for the Finance Director.

D. Engineer (Formica) Written Report Submitted

Engineer Formica wished to point out that the Ridge Road resurfacing project will begin soon. He has met with Service Director Strauser and ODOT. They have attended scope meetings, etc. and are now at the agreement phase. He noted that it would be in the best interest to authorize the Engineer to begin the engineering. He noted he can send the schedule out when he receives it.

Councilperson Jaworski asked if the project will begin after school lets out. Mr. Formica noted the construction will not begin until 2025. Mr. Jaworski asked about the school year, and Mr. Formica noted they will see what they can do.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to authorize the Engineer to create plans and specifications for the Ridge Road / SR84 Resurfacing Project.

Discussion: None:

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Councilperson Bala inquired whether this would interfere with the Rockefeller Road project. Engineer Formica noted the controller project will begin this spring.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked for confirmation that the Ridge and SR84 intersection will not be paved twice – once this spring and again next summer with the ODOT project. Mr. Formica note it will not. There may be some patches, but no, it will not.

Councilperson Jaworski inquired where the paving would begin (with regard to the western point). Engineer Formica noted it will begin at the change of pavement approximately 300 feet north of Johnston – where the pavement changes from concrete to asphalt. It won't likely begin until spring. Willoughby with also be joining us for a portion of the work. This is all possible through funding received from an \$850,000.00 grant Congressman Dave Joyce's office.

There were no further questions or comments for the Engineer.

E. *Service Director (Strauser)*

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

There were no questions or comments for the Service Director.

F. *Building Commissioner (Sack)*

Building Commissioner Sack stated he had no report.

Councilperson Koski noted she received a text from a resident who wished to remain anonymous. She read the text, which expressed thanks to council, the Building Department, and the Health Department for their assistance with the removal of farm animals from the neighbor's property.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

G. *Recreation Director (Stopp)*

Recreation Director noted he had nothing to report.

Councilperson Koski inquired regarding WinterFest. Mr. Stopp noted attendance was slightly lower than normal due to the Brown's playoff game later in the afternoon, but all who attended had a great time! Chili entries were also lower than last year, but all enjoyed the chili and other refreshments. Lake MetroParks was there with outdoor activities; the Captains sent Horatio (one of their mascots), the library was there, and there were a lot of give-a-ways at the raffle.

There were no questions or comments for the Recreation Director.

Audience Participation

Council President Levon 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 Levon closed Audience Participation at 7:18 PM.

Committee Reports

Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Jan. 15, 2024 meeting) presented by Councilperson Koski

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes (Jan. 15, 2024 meeting) presented by Council President Levon

Legislation and Welfare Committee Meeting Minutes (Jan. 15, 2024 meeting) presented by Councilperson Gerhardstein

Parks & Properties Committee Meeting Minutes (Jan.15, 2024 meeting) presented by Councilperson Bala

Service and Special Equipment Committee Meeting Minutes (Jan. 15, 2024 meeting) presented by Councilperson Salotto

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes (Jan. 15, 2024 meeting) presented by Council President Levon

Motion by Levon, seconded by Gerhardstein, to authorize the Law Director to create a Nuisance Abatement ordinance.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Council President Levon moved Burying Utility Lines in New Developments to the Legislation and Welfare Committee for further discussion.

Councilperson Gerhardstein called for a meeting of the Legislation and Welfare Committee to discuss Burying Utility Lines in New Developments on Monday, January 29th to follow the Improvement Committee Meeting which will begin at 7:00 PM that same evening.

Council President Levon called for a meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss the 2024 Budget for Monday, January 29th to follow the Legislation and Welfare Committee meeting that same evening.

Commission Reports

There were no Commission Reports.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

A. Mayor's Appointment to Keep Wickliffe Beautiful

Mayor Sakacs appointed Greg Anderson to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful to complete the unexpired term which ends December 31, 2024.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Greg Anderson to fill the unexpired term of J. Allison, term to expire 12/31/2024, to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

B. Bid Acceptance for Dredging of GRGC Pond

Motion by Jaworski, seconded by Salotto, to accept the bid from Holcomb Enterprises, LLC., 6660 West Fritch Road, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452, for the Green Ridge Golf Course Dredging Project in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$123,875.00) as the lowest and best and to reject all other bids and to reject the alternate bid; and authorize the Law Director to prepare legislation to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Holcomb Enterprises, LLC., for the Green Ridge Golf Course Dredging Project.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Ordinances

OR 2024-04 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Holcomb Enterprises, LLC for the Green Ridge Golf Course Pond Dredging Project; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-04 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2024-04 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-04 adopted.**

OR 2024-01 AMENDED *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 AMENDED be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2024-01 AMENDED be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

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

Resolutions

There were no Resolutions.

Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

Miscellaneous

There was no Miscellaneous Business.

Adjournment

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(4) for the purpose of preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment and Section 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, or compensation of a public employee or official following a five minute break.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 8:13 PM.


Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:


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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.


Clerk of Council

Wickliffe City Council Meeting Minutes


Council President and Presiding Officer

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