



Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mayor swore in three gentlemen:

Police Patrolman Steven C. Ivaskovic

Fire Lieutenant Allen Inithar

Fire Captain Paul Baptie

He welcomed the new Police Patrolman and congratulated the two Fire Officers on their promotions.

A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Levon on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:06 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall following the swearing in of personnel.

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 Thielman, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of January 22, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **January 22, 2023 meeting minutes approved.**

### **Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director**

Mayor Sakacs read his written report. With regard to the Local Government Fund, he added there is another meeting tomorrow on this topic and the western Lake County Mayors will be represented. The formulas that are currently being proposed are detrimental to the Lake County cities. Worst case scenario is the money we stand to lose would be over a six-year period. We are hoping there will be a cap on the losses, if they happen.

### **Reports and Communications from Director of Law**

Law Director Iosue had no report for Council.

### **Reports and Communications from Council President**

Council President Levon had no report.

### **Additions or Amendments to Agenda**

Councilperson Jaworski requested Planning Commission Report be added to Commission Reports as Item B. Council President Levon added this item to the agenda.

### **Administrators**

#### **A. Police Chief (Bush)**

Chief Bush reported that the department has just completed National Testing Network tests for the available patrol offer spot. They will soon be ready to fill the last opening that will bring the department to full staff. He is thankful for Council and Administration working with him to get the department fully staffed. He asked to be excused following his report to attend the celebration for the new officer. As there were no additional questions or comments, he was excused by the Council President.

B. *Fire Chief (Grossman) Written Report Submitted*

Captain Sean O'Neil was in attendance for Chief Grossman who was not feeling well. Captain O'Neill noted there were no additions to the written report and encouraged all to contact the Chief via email with any questions.

There were no questions or comments for the Fire Chief.

C. *Finance Director (Hunter) Written Report Submitted*

Finance Director Hunter noted January has been closed. The current General Fund carry-over balance is \$8.4 Million.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked when a revised copy of the budget will be available to Council. Ms. Hunter noted she sent it out to the Administrators today for review, and she will be sure it is available to Council on Thursday.

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

D. *Engineer (Formica) Written Report Submitted*

Engineer Formica reported the Drenik Drive sewer project is ready to go out to bid. He is planning to advertise the information this Friday and open bids in three weeks.

The Lakeland Boulevard Paving Project Phase 2 is complete, with a negative/deduct change order in the amount of \$316,000.00. This was due to not having to do as much base repair as was originally estimated.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if the Green Ridge Golf Course dredging had begun. Mr. Formica noted it had not. He spoke with the contractor; final paperwork is being completed and the plan is to begin this week with preparations (tree trimming and pond pumping), and there is a pre-construction meeting planned.

Councilperson Gerhardstein inquired regarding the 296<sup>th</sup> Street project. Engineer Formica noted it is moving along. The water line is nearly complete. Service Director Strauser noted he was on site today, and the first few houses are already connected to the water line.

Councilperson Koski asked why the material removed by the dredging of the pond at the golf course was not being removed (taken off site). The Engineer noted it was much less expensive to not have to remove it. The plan is to fill in the area between the eighth green and the second tee creating a "mound" which could be a sled-riding hill. She asked about the target depth of the pond. Mr. Formica noted it will be ten feet deep with gradual sloping. The edge of the pond will be seeded with grass.

There were no additional 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.

There were no questions or comments for the Service Director.

F. *Building Commissioner (Sack) Written Report Submitted*

Building Commissioner Sack thanked Councilperson Bala and the Mayor for the suggestion to add a line to the occupancy permit application for businesses asking for an email and the courtesy of contacting the City of Wickliffe if/when their business is closing or leaving the City.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

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

Recreation Director noted he had nothing to add to his written report.

There were no questions or comments for the Recreation Director.

### **Audience Participation**

Council President Levon opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:18 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. They will be asked to use the microphone, as the meeting is being recorded, and will be given a five minute maximum for their comments.



Mary Acton of 30201 Regent Road noted she collects aluminum pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House. In 2023, RMH received \$10,000.00 for the collection of pull tabs. In her last trip there, one hundred fifty-three pounds of tabs were dropped off. This earned the club, called "The City of Wickliffe", the designation "Member of the Million Pull Tab Club", with the help of Ken Ganley Subaru. She presented the certificate to Mayor Sakacs. She noted it is easy to participate, and asked all to save their pull tabs. She noted she will come to collect them and deliver them to RMH, who is very appreciative. She has included Willowick and Eastlake who are also now collecting tabs, and has literature if anyone is interested. Mr. Acton noted if we would like to share their names, phone number, and email with residents, they are okay with that, and noted they would come to residents to collect the tabs and deliver them to RMH.

Dan Bishop of 28841 Ridge Road noted there are rumors that the Mayor has taken a 2023 Chevy Tahoe that was issued to the Fire Department which was equipped with fire safety gear and removed the safety equipment to make room for his band/DJ equipment, and it is now his personal vehicle. Mr. Bishop asked if this is true. Mayor Sakacs noted it is not; he did not remove any safety gear. The Mayor noted he takes his equipment to his home, then puts it in his Explorer, but has not needed his equipment recently. Mr. Bishop asked again if the vehicle was being used for personal use. The Mayor noted he uses the vehicle around town to go to meetings, etc. He noted there is not a time he is not doing something with it. He does not take it out of state, but may stop at the store on his way to or from meetings, as he is always "on the clock". He noted he is not taking advantage of anything, as he would never do that.

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 7:22 PM.

### **Committee Reports**

Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes (Jan. 29, 2024 meeting) presented by Councilperson Jaworski (*see attached*)

Legislation and Welfare Committee Meeting Minutes (Jan. 29, 2024 meeting) presented by Councilperson Gerhardstein (*see attached*)

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes (Jan. 29, 2024 meeting) presented by Council President Levon (*see attached*)

Motion by Levon, seconded by Gerhardstein, to authorize the Law Director to amend Chapter 1369.01 as suggested by the Legislation and Welfare Committee and to prepare the necessary legislation.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

### **Commission Reports**

BZA Meeting (Jan. 25, 2024) Report presented by Councilperson Gerhardstein (*see attached*)

Planning Commission Meeting (Feb. 1, 2024) Report presented by Councilperson Jaworski. Following the Public Hearing, Planning Commission approved a parking lot plan for a new business at 29100 Lakeland Boulevard in an Industrial District for YTL International Inc.

### **Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

### **New Business**

A. Planning Commission Recommendation Letter

Council President Levon noted Council has received a letter from the Wickliffe Planning Commission regarding their recommendations for the property included in the letter.

The Council President called for a Public Hearing on this matter to be held Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Senior/Community Center located at 900 Worden Road.  
This information will be posted on the City website, and advertised in the newspaper.

## Ordinances

**OR 2024-05** *By Title Only* An ordinance enacting Chapter 1152 Nuisance Abatement of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio **FIRST READING**

**OR 2024-06** *By Title Only* An ordinance levying an assessment for unpaid bills and cost of cutting noxious or poisonous weeds, vines, tree limbs, or grasses growing upon parcels of land in the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Koski, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-06 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 Koski, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-06 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-06 adopted.**

**OR 2024-07** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to transfer a sum of money from the General Fund to various funds; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Koski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-07 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 Salotto, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-07 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-07 adopted.**

**OR 2024-08** *By Title Only* An ordinance providing temporary appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio for the period beginning January 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2024; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-08 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 Salotto, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-08 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-08 adopted.**



## Resolutions

**RES 2024-01 By Title Only** A resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a Settlement Agreement and Release with the International Association of Firefighters, Local 1536, AFL-CIO regarding a healthcare insurance settlement; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Salotto, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-01 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 Resolution 2024-01 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: Gerhardstein

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

**RES 2024-02 By Title Only** A resolution authorizing all actions necessary to accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2024 Energized Community Grant(s) funds; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-02 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 Salotto, seconded by Bala, that Resolution 2024-02 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

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

## Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

## Miscellaneous

Council President Levon called for a meeting of the Finance Committee to meet to discuss the 2024 Budget on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall.

## Adjournment

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Council President and Presiding Officer