



The City of Wickliffe

City Council Meeting Minutes March 25, 2024

A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council Clerk Sandi Fink on Monday, March 25, 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
Mayor	Joseph Sakacs
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 Chief	Christopher Grossman

Excused: Council President Edward Levon, Councilperson Thielman

Election of Council President Pro Tem

Motion by Koski, seconded by Gerhardstein, that Councilperson Jaworski be elected Council President Pro Tem for the March 25, 2024 meeting.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Council President Pro Tem Jaworski noted there were not enough Councilmembers present to approve the March 6th Special Meeting/Public Hearing minutes. He requested a motion to table the approval of these minutes to the next regular meeting (April 8th, 2024).

Motion by Koski, seconded by Gerhardstein, to table the approval of the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Special Meeting/Public Hearing of March 6, 2024 to the next regular meeting (April 8th, 2024).

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **March 6, 2024 Special Meeting/ Public Hearing meeting minutes tabled.**

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of March 11, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **March 11, 2024 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 nothing to report.

Reports and Communications from Council President

Council President Levon was excused and had no report.

Additions or Amendments to Agenda

Council President Pro Tem Jaworski added New Late September Event to New Business Item B. and WCSD Communication to New Business as Item C., both as requested by Mayor Sakacs in his written report.

Administrators

A. Police Chief (Bush) Written Report Submitted

Chief Bush reported back to Councilperson Bala regarding the Block Watch meeting. He noted it has been scheduled for May 16th, 2024 at 7:00PM at the Police Department. The topics include a K-9 demonstration and Safety Tips for residents.

The Chief noted there has been some mis-information on social media; there have been reports of problems with burglaries/break-ins on the north end. Chief Bush stated this is untrue. He has reviewed reports over the last month and there have been none. He has increased patrols to "set minds at ease", but it is mis-information.

Councilperson Bala questioned a shut-down of the Rt. 2 exit ramp today. Chief Bush noted he was unaware of any issues, and Chief Grossman noted it was a brush fire along the freeway that the Fire Department was addressing; the police car was to block traffic for the Fire Department.

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

B. Fire Chief (Grossman)

Chief Grossman reported there was a brush fire along Rt.2. He took the opportunity to remind all that there is a lot of dry matter at this time of year. He noted the open burn policy is on the website, but that people should be extra careful as dry material is easily ignitable.

There were no questions or comments for the Fire Chief.

C. Finance Director (Hunter)

Finance Director Hunter noted in 2019, the City granted an exemption of sewer fees to Umicore Specialty on Lakeland Boulevard. It has been requested that this exemption be revoked. The Engineer, Service Director, and Fire Chief are looking into this and once all have completed their review, they will come back to Council with a recommendation.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

D. Engineer (Formica) Written Report Submitted

Engineer Formica reported the 296th Street project is going along well. He and the Service Director had an onsite meeting there a week ago. He noted there is an extensive amount of base repair necessary, and the contractor is pricing a new concrete road vs. the concrete gutter and curbs with asphalt, as it may be a better solution. He and the Service Director are reviewing the quote, then will be coming to Council with a recommendation.

Council President Pro Tem Jaworski asked for a percentage estimate of the amount of the street that may require this. Engineer Formica noted he would like to discuss this in committee.

Councilperson Gerhardstein noted the budget is on final reading tonight and wondered if the road project bids are ready to begin if the budget is passed. Mr. Formica noted he is on top of it.

There were no further questions or comments for the Engineer.

E. Service Director (Strauser)

Service Director Strauser noted there are a few pieces of legislation on tonight's agenda regarding capital improvements, once the budget is passed. The dump body and salt spreader package is for the new truck that arrived today. Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if this is the truck body that was ordered last year, and Mr. Strauser noted that to be correct.

Councilperson Gerhardstein also asked who is responsible for contacting the County regarding lights that are out along Rt. 2. The Service Director noted he could do so. Mr. Gerhardstein noted most of the lights are out. Mr. Strauser noted there have been multiple meetings on this. The County's explanation is that they are having problems with the lighting contractor; it is an issue in the County engineer's hands. Mr. Gerhardstein asked if it is part of the Rt. 2 maintenance fee that we pay, and Mr. Strauser noted it is, but we are billed for what they do and the past few years it has been way under budget for us. Mr. Gerhardstein asked that someone reach out again about the lights. Mayor Sakacs noted they have been contacted. He noted he has attended many meetings where this has been discussed and the County engineer, who is an

elected official, does not respond. He noted the Commissioners are also not getting a response and he has heard this person does not care. Service Director Strauser noted the service provided is not like it used to be. Mayor Sakacs noted litter pick up on the ramps is not getting done, and a few organizations have volunteered to do clean ups here. Council President Pro Tem Jaworski noted this is a shame. Councilperson Koski noted Keep Wickliffe Beautiful has also performed clean ups of the freeway exit ramps. Service Director Strauser noted he assigned third shift to do clean up there one time for approximately four hours and the next day it was so bad you couldn't tell it had been cleaned.

Councilperson Bala inquired regarding getting street striping done earlier this year. Mr. Strauser noted he does plan to begin this earlier. He had that same intention last year, but there were problems getting the reflective paint. He has already been looking into this and there will not be issues with acquiring paint this year so he anticipates this project to be completed sooner rather than later.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if landscaping companies are permitted to sponsor a flowerbed, and add their signage. Mr. Strauser stated it is ultimately the Mayor's decision, but noted he would not have a problem with it, as long as the company does not put in extensive plantings and they maintain it throughout the year. Mr. Gerhardstein noted it is the planters at Lloyd and Euclid.

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

F. Building Commissioner (Sack)

Building Commissioner Sack had nothing to add to his previously submitted Written Report.

Councilperson Koski asked if Dino was out looking at roofs, etc. on people's houses. Mr. Sack noted that yes, they have began this last week.

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

G. Recreation Director (Stopp)

Recreation Director thanked all who supported the Easter Egg Hunt. He noted that, despite the snow, there were a few hundred people who attended, as well as the Easter Bunny and the Easter Armadillo from Texas Roadhouse.

Council President Pro Tem Jaworski offered kudos to the Rec. Department and volunteers, noting other cities cancelled their events due to weather.

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

Audience Participation

Council President Pro Tem Jaworski opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:16 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 should use the microphone as the meetings are being streamed on YouTube; they 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.

Jeff Butler of 660 Sterling Road stated he is a member of the Planning Commission. With regard to the School Property, he noted his disappointment. The Planning Commission spent a great deal of time discussing this property, as they recognize its importance to the City. They came to what they felt was the best decision which was the recommendation of the R1-60 lots. He noted Council held a Public Hearing and not all Council Members attended, but he's heard that Council now wants to "scrap the plan". He stated that buyers will not design a plan then present it before they own the property. He is curious as to why this was not brought up at the Hearing. Councilperson Gerhardstein noted he attended all the meetings (Mr. Butler noted Mr. Jaworski was also in attendance) and he 100% supported the recommendation of the Planning Commission at both Public Hearings. Mr. Butler asked for an explanation as to the thought process behind "leaving it as it is" and "hoping someone shows up". Council President Pro Tem Jaworski noted he has not changed his stance since the beginning, and Mr. Butler noted he knows where Mr. Jaworski stands and respects his position 100%. Councilperson Salotto noted she had work responsibilities and was unable to attend. She respects what [Planning Commission] has done, and they have done a great job. She noted some on the Council were hoping for "a little more meat to the presentation". She suggested there could have been more about what the homes would look like, the cost of the homes, etc., which she noted developers are often able to provide. She said they were "looking for more" detail regarding the sixty-foot lots. Mr. Butler noted those are not the details that can be required at this point. He also noted his concern is that it would become another Ponderosa that "just sits there". If it is not zoned, it sells for less, which

means more taxes down the road. He noted it would be in our best interest to work with the schools and do what would be the most beneficial to the schools and ourselves. Ms. Salotto noted they are thinking about the tremendous opportunity in the center of the city to put something remarkable there that can also help the city and reset things moving forward. She noted no one is really against this. Mayor Sakacs noted when we get to New Business, he believes that letter will have something that Council will like. Councilperson Bala agreed with the sixty-foot frontages and noted he does not want the property to be sitting there. He noted it is wrong of some council members to ask for pictures, as there were examples given of area developments that were offered for review. He noted they should have gone and driven through them. Councilperson Koski noted she was against the [R1-]50s but thinks the [R1-]60s are a good balance. She noted the Engineer did provide some pictures and she is not against the 60s. Mr. Butler noted his impression is that since they aren't sure about the 60s, they are willing to leave [the property] in limbo.

Gail Willis 28979 Sherbrook is a twelve-year member of the school board. She noted they have been working on this for a long time and is disappointed in hearing the negativity on this. She suggested it will turn into a Ponderosa that will sit there. She noted a lot of work has gone into this, especially Joe Speccia. She suggested some have not attended any of the Planning Commission meetings. She also noted there was a lot of positivity and discussion about what people will buy and what the market will bear. She noted it will be taking money away from the community. She stated it is a shame that anyone would be negative. Examples were given and if some did not do their due diligence it is unfortunate, and disappointing. She noted there are currently about six developers, but none will create a plan at this point. She added Mr. Levon noted at a previous meeting that whoever purchases the property will have to bring forward to and have approved by Council a plan for the property. She restated her disappointment in some of the Councilmembers.

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 7:26PM.

Committee Reports

Economic Development/Euclid Avenue Re-Development Committee Meeting Minutes (March 18, 2024 meeting) presented by Councilperson Salotto.

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes (March 4, 2024 meeting) presented by Council President Levon [read by Council President Pro Tem Jaworski].

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes (March 4, 2024 meeting) presented by Council President Levon [read by Council President Pro Tem Jaworski].

Council President Pro Tem Jaworski called for a motion to authorize the Law Director to create legislation for the WCSD rezoning, as mentioned in the Committee of the Whole Meeting minute (above).

Motion by Jaworski, seconded by Gerhardstein, to authorize the Law Director to create legislation regarding the rezoning of the WCSD property per the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Council President Pro Tem Jaworski asked Law Director Iosue if we needed to create the legislation for the Euclid Avenue rezoning or if that topic returns to the Planning Commission. Mr. Iosue noted this will go back to the Planning Commission.

Commission Reports

There were no Commission Reports.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

A. Bid Presentation – Drenik Drive Sanitary Sewer Lining

Engineer Formica presented the results from the bid opening held on March 1st, 2024. Three bids were received and the low bidder was Performance Pipelining, a company out of Illinois. Mr. Formica noted he had not worked with this company but called all the references. All spoke very highly of the company, comparing them to known local companies that have similar reputations, which was reassuring. He recommends this contract be awarded to Performance Pipelining. He reminded all that the project is being funded by ARPA funds, a grant, and funding received by the Finance Director, which should total approximately 100%.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, to accept the bid from Performance Pipelining, Inc., 1551 W. Norris Drive, Ottawa, IL 61350, for the Drenik Drive Sanitary Sewer Lining Project in an amount not to exceed Seven Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$782,570.00) as the lowest and best and to reject all other bids; and authorize the Law Director to prepare legislation to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Performance Pipelining, Inc. for the Drenik Drive Sanitary Sewer Lining Project.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

B. New Late-September Event

Mayor Sakacs related he would like to add to committee discussion regarding adding an event for late September. He is proposing a Browns Tailgate Party/Rib Burn-Off at the Community/Senior Center. He noted Club Molisani offered to hold the event in their parking lot, as they have a liquor license, and run shuttles like the Mt. Carmel Festival and the Fest. He is suggesting also a big tv to watch the Browns play. Council President Pro Tem added this topic to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

C. WCSD Communication

Mayor Sakacs noted he had a phone call from Mr. Speccia. He stated he told Mr. Spiccia that all councilmembers have the City's best interest in mind. He then read a letter he received from Wickliffe City School District Superintendent Joe Speccia regarding the WCSD rezoning that is on first reading at tonight's meeting. (See attached)

Ordinances

OR 2024-10 AMENDED By Title Only An ordinance providing appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio for the period beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 THIRD READING

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-10 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Koski, Salotto

No: Jaworski

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-10 AMENDED adopted.**

OR 2024-11 By Title Only An ordinance providing for the compensation of 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 THIRD READING

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-11 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-11 adopted.**

OR 2024-12 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation of certain salaried and hourly employees of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance THIRD READING

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2024-12 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-12 adopted.**

OR 2024-13 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation and other employment provisions for special police officers of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance THIRD READING

Motion by Bala, seconded by Gerhardstein, that Ordinance 2024-13 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-13 adopted.**

OR 2024-14 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation and other employment provisions for the part-time public safety dispatchers of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance THIRD READING

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-14 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-14 adopted.**

OR 2024-15 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation and other employment provisions for the part-time firefighters of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance FIRST READING

OR 2024-16 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation of certain employees of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance THIRD READING

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-16 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-16 adopted.**

OR 2024-17 *By Title Only* An ordinance amending certain sections of Chapter 1369 – Requirements for Improvements, Reservations, and Design of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio THIRD READING

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-17 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-17 adopted.**

OR 2024-20 *By Title Only* An ordinance amending the City of Wickliffe Zone Map referred to in Section 1341.80 of the Wickliffe Codified Ordinances rezoning four parcels owned by the Wickliffe City School District in Wickliffe, Ohio FIRST READING

OR2024-21 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the purchase of one (1) new Caterpillar Mini Hydraulic Excavator with requested equipment, for use by the Service Department of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-21 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Bala, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2024-21 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-21 adopted.**

OR2024-22 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the purchase of one new one new dump body and hydraulic package through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Office of State Purchasing, for use by the Service Department of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-22 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2024-22 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-22 adopted.**

OR2024-23 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the purchase of one new salt spreader assembly with requested equipment through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Office of State Purchasing, for use by the Service Department 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 2024-23 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-23 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-23 adopted.**

OR2024-24 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the purchase of two (2) new current model vehicles for use by the Police Department of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio, through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-24 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, that Ordinance 2024-24 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-24 adopted.**

Resolutions

RES 2024-03 *By Title Only* A resolution expressing unwavering support and sympathy for the innocent civilians experiencing violence in Israel and Palestine being Muslim, Jewish, and Christian and condemning all violence of any kind; affirming Wickliffe's status as a welcoming community for any religion; encouraging residents to decry any and all acts of violence both in our communities and around the globe, and express their deepest condolences to all those affected by the atrocities of the war on Gaza **SECOND READING**

RES 2024-04 *By Title Only* A resolution proclaiming April 2024 Child Abuse and Prevention month in the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-04 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Resolution 2024-04 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

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

RES 2024-05 *By Title Only* A resolution authorizing the Director of Finance of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to issue payment of Community Reinvestment Area Compensation Agreement to the Board of Education of the Wickliffe City School District for Tax Year 2023 pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-08; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-05 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Councilperson Gerhardstein noted this legislation is regarding the City and School Board's sharing in the income tax from Truline Industries.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Resolution 2024-05 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Resolution 2024-05 adopted.**

Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

Miscellaneous

Council President Pro Tem Jaworski inquired of Engineer Formica regarding his request to put the East 296th project into Committee for discussion. He wondered if it should be in Finance if it was going to be more of a financial discussion or Improvements. Mr. Formica noted it is regarding the possibility of a change order, so should possibly go into the Finance Committee. Mr. Jaworski asked if it was something that should be scheduled sooner rather than later and Engineer Formica noted sooner would be better.

Council President Pro Tem Jaworski called for a meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss the East 296th Street Project modifications on Monday, April 1st, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Adjournment

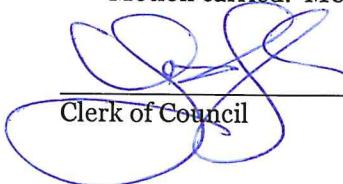
Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.



Clerk of Council



Edward Ahn

Council President and Presiding Officer