



A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Ed Levon on Tuesday, May 28, 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
Recreation Director
Fire Chief

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

Excused: Building Commissioner Raymond Sack and Police Chief Jonathon Bush

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of May 13, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **May 13, 2024 meeting minutes approved.**

Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director

Mayor Sakacs read his written report.

The Mayor presented Proclamations to the three Lake Metroparks employees (mentioned in his report).

Councilperson Bala asked if there would be an increase in auxiliary police patrols at the parks similar to last year. The Mayor noted it will begin this week or next and start at Intihar Park, where there have been some incidents recently. The cars, which are a great deterrent, move as needed from park to park.

Service Director Strauser noted the camera system that was purchased for Jindra Park has been installed and the cameras were just turned on today.

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

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

Administrators

A. *Police Chief (Bush)* Written Report Submitted

Chief Bush was excused.

There were no questions or comments for the Police Chief.

B. *Fire Chief (Grossman)*

Chief Grossman thanked the Mayor for the recognition related to the Metroparks incident. He noted part of it is "what they do", but this was more than a typical call. He stated there were many variables that played into this, but having the manpower and the expensive tools was helpful. He noted this is supported by the community and was a "victory" for the community and they appreciate the support.

There were no questions or comments for the Fire Chief.

C. *Finance Director (Hunter)*

Finance Director Hunter noted the 2023 Annual Financial Report has been submitted to the State Auditor. It should be available via their website around the second week of June. There is a link to this on the Finance Department page on the City's website. It will not be audited; we are only audited every other year, and the next audit is scheduled for next year. Ms. Hunter has a copy of the ninety page report if anyone is interested in viewing it.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

D. *Engineer (Formica)*

Engineer Formica reported there will be bid openings for the 2024 Pavement Repair program (both asphalt and concrete projects) this Friday, May 31st at noon.

Councilperson Jaworski asked if there had been any news regarding the intersection of Rockefeller and Ridge for ODOT. Mr. Formica stated the contractor has reached out regarding closing the intersection at Buena Vista. He did not think detours are necessary, but noted they will work with them. The work should begin there soon.

There were no further questions or comments for the Engineer.

E. *Service Director (Strauser)*

Service Director Strauser noted he had nothing to report.

Council President Levon inquired regarding the salt contract. He asked if there was an opt out option in the contract. Mr. Strauser noted that there is not. We committed to at least ninety percent of seven hundred tons, which is less than the normal order, as we had salt left over from last year. The 2023 order is complete and all the salt has been put into storage. The salt bin is full, there is a pad at the new Service Department which is holding approximately five hundred tons, and the remainder (approximately six hundred tons, is in the old garage opposite the pool.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if the gas pipeline crew has finished on Euclid Avenue. Mr. Strauser noted it has not. They were able to close up all the holes, as requested, along the parade route. They are around 300th Street and need to go to Empire. They will come back to do all the concrete work once they have completed the drilling. There is a similar project, which is actually a continuation of the current project, scheduled for the spring of 2025 on Palisades Parkway. The cement crew may be starting soon on the work that has already been completed. Mr. Gerhardstein wanted to be sure the road and sidewalk would be returned to its former state, and Mr. Strauser noted it would. Mr. Strauser noted they are happy with the work of the construction company.

Mr. Gerhardstein also inquired regarding the East 296th project. Mr. Strauser noted it continues, but is a little slower than they would like; he does not believe they will meet the completion date deadline.

Councilperson Jaworski asked about the sewer problems on Buena Vista. He wondered if we should be considering sending down a camera, etc. Mr. Strauser noted that Buena Vista and Ridge Road have had a number of sewer issues. They have televised it and believe the issue is not with the main, but rather with the connectors. He noted replacing all of them would be extremely expensive, so they have been doing them as they discover issues. He noted the most recent issue was approximately thirteen feet underground, which is about the limit of the service department. He noted they can get a price if Council would like to do so. He noted since it is the connectors, it would not be a candidate for lining the sewer.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if there has been any contact with CEI regarding updating the lighting on Rockefeller near the school back in October. He noted this has not been completed. He also noted all recently passed road construction is also supposed to have the streetlighting updated as well. Mr. Strauser noted he has contacted Ms. Zele, but will follow up this week. With all the storms, etc., they are behind and updating streetlights may not be their main priority. Mayor Sakacs and Mr. Strauser noted they will both follow up on these items.

Mr. Gerhardstein also inquired regarding the light on Grand Boulevard that fell down/was missing during a recent storm. Mr. Strauser noted it has been replaced.

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

F. *Building Commissioner (Sack)*

Building Commissioner Sack was excused.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

G. *Recreation Director (Stopp)*

Recreation Director noted that the Movie in the Park is this Friday, May 31st at Coulby Park. This will begin the summer activities. Pre-movie activities including a bounce house, food, face painting, Fire and Police Department guests, etc. He thanked NOPEC for the grant that will cover all expenses for this event. The movie, which begins at dusk, is "Wonka".

Mr. Stopp noted that many good things have happened in the last two weeks with regard to life guards. There are approximately eight new guards who will certify on Friday and twelve more who will re-certify, for a total of twenty new lifeguards. We are in good shape for opening this weekend.

Council President Levon asked for clarification on which park will accommodate Movie Night and Mr. Stopp noted it will be here at Coulby.

Councilperson Koski asked about the irrigation issues at the golf course – specifically three greens that are dead since they are not able to water them. She noted this was brought up in January. Mr. Stopp noted this is part of the ongoing irrigation project. He noted he will speak with Service, but this is part of the project that was put on hold until the fall. Mayor Sakacs noted it is being addressed, but it isn't an easy project. Service Director Strauser noted the water has not been turned on there yet. There have been other issues with the pool, etc. that the Service Department has been dealing with, so they are running a bit behind. Normally, spring is a bit wetter so it is not an issue, but they will get to it. He noted the grass is not dead, but may be lacking some water. Ms. Koski noted the golf course makes money and the pools do not, so she believes the golf course should be a priority. Mr. Strauser noted a guess on replacing the irrigation system there would cost over \$100,000.00. She believes there may be money in the golf course fund. Council President Levon noted the City's outing is coming up and hopes that the course will be in shape for its own outing.

Ms. Koski also asked what the starting salary is for a teen at the golf course as opposed to a teen at the pool. Mr. Stopp noted the starting salary for a golf course employee is \$10.75 an hour, and the starting salary for a certified lifeguard is \$12.00 an hour. The golf course employees are not required to have any certifications. Ms. Koski believes this should be looked into, as McDonalds and Target are paying \$14-15.00 an hour to start. Mr. Levon noted if there are no issues hiring, then there would be no reason to change the rates.

Mayor Sakacs noted the golf course is a priority. There have been improvements made in the club house, the cart path has had improvements, and the irrigation system is in progress. It takes time, as it is not an easy fix – if it was, it would be done. The Mayor noted that the reality is the pools outweigh the golf course in importance to the community. He noted he has spent a lot of time focusing on the golf course, and continues to do so. He has had multiple meetings with Mr. Calic to keep him informed.

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

Audience Participation

Council President Levon opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:24 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 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.

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 7:25 PM.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Mr. Levon added a discussion on Sewer Rates to the Finance Committee Meeting that was previously called for Monday, June 3rd at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Commission Reports

There were no Commission Reports.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

There was no New Business

Ordinances

OR2024-31 *By Title Only* An ordinance amending a section of Chapter 521 entitled Health, Safety, and Sanitation of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio THIRD READING

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that Ordinance 2024-31 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-31 adopted.**

OR2024-32 *By Title Only* An ordinance enacting Section 521.17 entitled Food Trucks, a Section of Chapter 521 – Health, Safety, and Sanitation, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio THIRD READING

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-32 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-32 adopted.**

OR2024-34 *By Title Only* An ordinance amending Chapter 935 Sewer Regulations and Rates of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio SECOND READING

OR2024-36 *By Title Only* An ordinance levying assessments for unpaid delinquent sewer amounts upon parcels of land in the City of Wickliffe, Ohio FIRST READING

OR2024-37 *By Title Only* An ordinance amending the City of Wickliffe zone map referred to in Section 1341.80 of the Wickliffe Codified Ordinances rezoning one parcel owned by SDI Construction LLC in Wickliffe, Ohio FIRST READING

OR2024-38 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the purchase of one new 2024 Chevrolet 2500HD pickup truck from Classic Chevrolet for use by the Service Department of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Salotto, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-38 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if this was in the Service Department capital budget and for what amount. Service Director Strauser noted \$60,000 was budgeted for this truck. He added the amount here does not include the plow, or other items that need to be added to the truck. They will still be under the \$60,000 once the truck has been outfitted. He also noted that this truck is not through state bidding. He did investigate the state bid pricing, but it was more expensive.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-38 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-38 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 Jaworski, to adjourn the meeting.


Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.



Clerk of Council

Council President and Presiding Officer