



# The City of Wickliffe

## City Council Meeting Minutes June 24, 2024

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mayor swore in a new Police Patrolman, Joseph A. Lehner: He welcomed the new Police Patrolman to Wickliffe.

A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Ed Levon on Monday, June 10, 2024 at 7:02 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall.

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

|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Council President     | Edward Levon                          |
| Council Members       | Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Salotto |
| Mayor                 | Joseph Sakacs                         |
| Law Director          | Jeremy D. Iosue                       |
| Finance Director      | Chlondra Hunter                       |
| Service Director      | Ron Strauser                          |
| Building Commissioner | Raymond Sack                          |
| Police Chief          | Jonathon Bush                         |
| Fire Chief            | Christopher Grossman                  |

Excused: Councilpersons Koski and Thielman, Engineer Peter J. Formica, Recreation Director Timothy Stopp

Motion by Jaworski, seconded by Gerhardstein, to move RES 2024-09 to the top of the agenda.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

### Resolution 2024-09

Mayor Sakacs thanked Mr. Cain for all his years of service to the Civil Service Commission. He noted the City is lucky to have a wonderful guy who was devoted to the City and this Commission. He stated that Mr. Cain will be missed, but knows Mr. Iafelice will do a great job as the new Chair. He presented the resolution to Mr. Cain with his thanks.

Mr. Cain stated he has served four different Mayors, four Fire Chiefs, three Police Chiefs, and one Ray Sack. He noted he was asked by former Mayor Ruffner to serve on the commission, stating that the commission only met as needed, which was rarely. Mr. Cain stated this was a white lie, but he has enjoyed his time and has enjoyed working with everyone in all the departments and City Hall. He stated it was all worth it, and quoted Ronnie Milsap stating, "I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

**RES2024-09 By Title Only** A resolution recognizing James A. Cain for his years of service to the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-09 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion:

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, that Resolution 2024-09 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: Councilperson Gerhardstein wished to thank Mr. Cain for all his years of service to the City of Wickliffe as a volunteer. Council President Levon agreed with Mr. Gerhardstein and recognize all the work he's done over the years for the City.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Resolution 2024-09 adopted.**

## Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of June 10, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **June 10, 2024 meeting minutes approved.**

## Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director *Written Report Submitted*

Mayor Sakacs read his written report.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked how many of the communities have adopted the LGF proposal. Mayor Sakacs noted he was unsure, as there have been no communications regarding this topic.

## Reports and Communications from Director of Law

Law Director Iosue had nothing to report.

## Reports and Communications from Council President

Council President Levon had no report.

## Additions or Amendments to Agenda

Council President Levon added Executive Session to discuss Personnel (per ORC 121.22 G1 to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing) as number nineteen (19) on the agenda and to move Adjournment to number twenty (20).

## Administrators

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

Chief Bush noted most may be aware there was a standoff yesterday on Worden at Phillips. It was resolved successfully and the suspect was charged with domestic violence and obstruction, and is not allowed back to the house.

There were no questions or comments for the Police Chief.

### B. *Fire Chief (Grossman)*

Chief Grossman added this is the last week Doug Leovic. He has offered to help with the transition by coming back evenings or weekends if needed. They will make sure things go smoothly and plan to work with Building regarding occupancy permits. He and Capt. Isom will be handling plan reviews. They will look for a replacement once they get everything worked out. If anyone has questions, he is happy to answer them.

There were no questions or comments for the Fire Chief.

### C. *Finance Director (Hunter)*

Finance Director Hunter had nothing to report.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

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

Engineer Formica was excused.

There were no questions or comments for the Engineer.

### E. *Service Director (Strauser)*

Service Director Strauser noted his Annual Report was submitted on Board Docs.



Mr. Strauser noted there is an ordinance on tonight's agenda regarding the lining of 600 feet of sewer pipe on Palisades Parkway which has had root issues. The company currently working on the Drenik Drive project offered advantageous pricing as they are currently working in the city. If Council prefers, he can look for other quotes, but we will lose this offer. This project is being funded with ARPA funds. Councilperson Jaworski noted this area has been a problem for years, and wondered if this will be the "fix" or if it will require additional lining. Mr. Strauser noted sections have been replaced previously, and there is additional work that will be necessary along the tracks, but this should take care of it. Councilperson Gerhardstein noted he read the Annual Report and it was "pretty amazing" with regard to what gets done with the amount of staff we have; it is impressive.

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

F. *Building Commissioner (Sack)*

Building Commissioner Sack had nothing to report.

Councilperson Jaworski inquired regarding the old Sand Bar and the work that is currently being done there in the parking lot. He does not recall them coming to the Planning Commission to have plans approved. Mr. Sack noted it was in the plans. Mr. Jaworski asked how long ago, and Mr. Sack noted that it was long ago. He stated he can pull the plans for Mr. Jaworski. Mr. Jaworski wondered if the plans should have a time limit on them, adding that if the plans are old, they may not comply with current code requirements. Mr. Sack noted there is nothing that states plans must be complete in a certain amount of time, however work must begin with twelve months after the Planning Commission has approved the plans. Mr. Jaworski asked the Law Director if he is aware of other communities who may have time limits associated with construction/approval of plans. Law Director Iosue noted it would likely be a "reasonable" amount of time. Mr. Jaworski noted his concern is that Ordinances and Code changes, and he believes that something taking more than ten years may not be "up to code". Councilperson Salotto agreed and believes it is incumbent upon us in the future to place limits on plan approval to stay current. Mr. Iosue noted we could certainly add something. He noted he does not believe there is anything about this in our current code. Mr. Gerhardstein noted there were large blocks there that have been removed and a curb has been poured. He noted this could not have been in the plans. Mr. Sack noted he will check them out.

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

G. *Recreation Director (Stopp)*

Recreation Director was excused.

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 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.

Michael Nadolski of 1532 Maple Street came up to see if golf carts could be allowed to drive on the roads. He has done research on this topic. He noted other cities are allowing this, and he is aware that there are certain requirements for safety including inspections, etc. Council President Levon noted in the fifteen years he's been on Council it has never been discussed. Councilperson Gerhardstein noted he spoke with Mr. Nadolski, and then went to the Police Department. He noted he did not have the ORC that outlawed them, but allows communities to adopt their own rules regarding golf carts. The Wickliffe Police Department noted it would be a safety risk to have golf carts on our roads. He noted it can be adopted by the City, but the Police Department does not support this as it is a risk. Mr. Nadolski noted the state allows it. Mr. Gerhardstein noted the state does not allow them, but does allow each city to adopt legislation to make them legal. He also noted the Police Department is of the opinion this is a safety issue and Mr. Gerhardstein agreed. Mr. Nadolski noted it would be the same as a motorcycle, and wondered why it is not included with our ordinances. Mr. Levon noted it is not included because the state did not allow it. Mr. Nadolski noted the state has opened it up. Mr. Levon noted it seems the recommendation of the Police Department is to keep it illegal. He noted it could be put into committee for discussion. Mr. Nadolski wondered what would happen if he got his golf cart safety inspected, and all items to make it "legit" with a plate, etc., then drove down his street. Mr. Levon noted Council could investigate it, noting one of the reasons the state may have allowed it is due to the

many rural areas in our state where it may not be a problem. Mr. Nadolski noted it is allowed in Fairport, Geneva, Eastlake and Mentor-on-the-Lake. Mr. Levon noted he will add it to committee and look into it further. Mr. Nodolski noted he has a nice golf cart he'd like to use.

Jottie Allison of 1853 Kennedy Drive inquired if Kennedy Drive will be repaired anytime soon. Service Director Strauser responded that it is on the list for patching this year and then joint repair next year. He also added they will do some patching there this year.

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 7:24PM.

### **Committee Reports**

Council President Levon presented the minutes from the June 17th, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

### **Commission Reports**

Councilperson Bala read his report from the Parks and Recreation Meeting/Park Tour. (see attached)

### **Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

### **New Business**

There was no New Business.

### **Ordinances**

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

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-36 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: Councilperson Jaworski inquired regarding the time frame. Ms. Hunter noted the assessments will be for accounts over 90 days delinquent.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-36 adopted.**

**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 **THIRD READING**

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-37 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: Councilperson Jaworski noted he believes this is a stop gap measure and would like to see Senior Housing addressed at some point. He would like it put into committee for discussion so that a recommendation can be made to the Planning Commission. This property and the Greens of Mapledale may also fall under this.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-37 adopted.**

**OR2024-39** *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 hundred seventy-nine parcels in Wickliffe, Ohio **SECOND READING**

**OR2024-40 AMENDED** *By Title Only* An ordinance amending Section 1313 entitled "General Business District" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio **SECOND READING**



**OR2024-41** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Geauga Highway Company for the 2024 Pavement Repair Program, Contract A: Asphalt Resurfacing Project; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-41 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Councilperson Gerhardstein noted this does not contain the names of the streets that are included under Contract A and asked the Service Director to list the streets. Mr. Strauser noted contract covers: Larchmont Court, Rickey Lane, Frances Drive, Richard Court, Gary Court, Robert Street (west) [the extension of the street to the cul-de-sac], Luxona Street, and Catawba Street. Mr. Gerhardstein thanked him for the clarification.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, that Ordinance 2024-41 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-41 adopted.**

**OR2024-42** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with TC Construction Company, Inc. for the 2024 Pavement Repair Program, Contract B: Concrete Slab Replacement Project; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-42 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Jaworski, seconded by Gerhardstein, that Ordinance 2024-42 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-42 adopted.**

**OR2024-43** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Performance Pipelining, Inc. for the Palisades Parkway Sanitary Sewer Lining project; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-43 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2024-43 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-43 adopted.**

**OR2024-44** *By Title Only* An ordinance amending certain sections of Chapter 935-Sewer Regulations and Rates of the Codified Ordinances 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 2024-44 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Councilperson Gerhardstein noted he was unaware when we were working on this that we also pay the bills for Willowick and Willoughby Hills, asking if Euclid charges us for their usage. Service Director Strauser noted their sewers connect to ours; their sewage runs through our pipes and we, in turn, charge them a rate for that. Mr. Gerhardstein noted since this legislation has been delayed until June, we have covered part of the cost of this increase. Mr. Strauser noted it is a very minimal amount. Mr. Gerhardstein noted he was unaware that our delay caused our residents to have to pay for the other city's portions.

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2024-44 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-44 adopted.**

## Resolutions

**RES2024-08** *By Title Only* A resolution adopting the Tax Budget of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and submitting same to the Auditor of Lake County, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Gerhardstein, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-08 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, that Resolution 2024-08 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

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

## Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

## Miscellaneous

Mayor Sakacs noted he received a text from the Auditor – twelve (12) cities have passed resolutions to adopt the LGF proposal.

The Mayor also asked that Pickleball Courts be added to Committee for discussion.

Council President Levon added Pickleball Courts to the Committee of the Whole, Golf Carts to the Committee of the Whole, and Senior Zoning to the Committee of the Whole for discussion at later meetings.

## Adjournment

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, to adjourn the meeting to executive session following a five minute break to discuss Personnel (per ORC 121.22 G1 to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing).

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:37 PM.

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 7:56 PM.

Council President Levon called for a special meeting of Council on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall for the third readings of Ordinances 2024-39 and 2024-40.

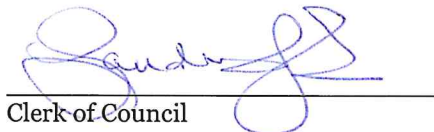
Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Council President and Presiding Officer