



A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Ed Levon on Monday, October 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall.

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 October 14, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **October 14, 2024 meeting minutes approved.**

Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director

Mayor Sakacs read his written report.

Councilperson Koski stated she went to the golf course and she believes a path is not necessary around the entire course. She noted maybe the low spots and possibly angling it with a high curb. She reported there were some holes that need to be filled, but she does not think they should be filled with gravel. She also stated there are some deep ruts on the eastern side of the course. She also noted the back of the course is "like a desert". Mayor Sakacs noted the lack of water is being addressed earlier next year.

Councilperson Jaworski asked about the irrigation system at the course, noting he's seen pictures and it is "abysmal". Engineer Formica noted the dredging is the first step. The contractor will be mobilizing this week and hopefully starting work next week. He noted we will then have a water source. He stated adding an irrigation system is very expensive, so they are looking into how to do it in phases, like the path. It could be possible to do some of the work "in house". They are also looking into acquiring funding. Ms. Koski noted it has never looked as bad as it does now. Mr. Formica noted there is a water system and it is still working, however it is only for the greens, not the fairways. Ms. Koski suggested the Engineer visit the course, and Mr. Formica noted he will be there with the contractor next week. She asked if people will still be able to play while the dredging is in process, and Mr. Formica noted they will, with the exception of the one hole, which was the plan from the beginning. Mr. Jaworski is worried we will lose the course due to its current condition.

Councilperson Bala noted it has been exceptionally dry this year. He is hoping the dredging will improve the condition of the greens. Mr. Formica noted his estimate to complete the irrigation system is \$1 million.

Councilperson Salotto asked what can be done without replacing the entire irrigation system. Mr. Formica noted the water is getting to the greens. Mayor Sakacs noted there is a tank on the back of the gator that is used to water as well. He noted this has been "pushed down the road" for years and we are trying to make the necessary repairs now.

Councilperson Jaworski noted no one has come to Council with a number asking for something to be done.

Councilperson Gerhardstein suggested council members visit the course and the clubhouse to see the area suggested for the golf simulators prior to awarding any money to this project, since we are suggesting investigating ways to pay for an update to the irrigation issue. He suggested the irrigation is more important. He noted it is rough upstairs, and this should be considered. Mayor Sakacs noted money from the simulator would be made back in a year, and suggested there are requests for leagues. He is aware it will cost money. Mr. Gerhardstein noted councilmembers should go there to see it for themselves before a discussion occurs or money is allocated. The Mayor assured all it will not lose money.

Councilperson Salotto asked if the upstairs of the clubhouse is structurally unsound or if it needs refurbishing. She noted she does not have a problem if there are items that are attractive to citizens. She is also concerned we will lose the course if these items are not addressed.

Mr. Formica noted it may not just be a water issue, and noted he will look into the possibility of an insect issue, but Ms. Koski noted it is not.

Council President Levon noted the simulator will be discussed with the regular budget, so there is time to do as Mr. Gerhardstein requested.

Reports and Communications from Director of Law

Law Director Iosue had nothing to report.

Councilperson Gerhardstein noted he received a phone call, and spoke to Chief Bush earlier this week, regarding a concerned resident on Luxona. The resident's concern is regarding the City of Willoughby Hills' ordinance which allows bowhunting of deer. He believes their ordinance requires permission from owners of adjoining properties to authorize this practice. Mr. Gerhardstein asked the Law Director to contact the City of Willoughby Hills and look into the steps necessary to protect Wickliffe residents who have adjoining properties. Law Director Iosue agreed and will work with Chief Bush and the Willoughby Hills Law Director on this item. Council President Levon asked Chief Bush if he has contacted the Willoughby Hills Police Chief. He noted he did and they had a discussion. He noted there has not been an issue yet, but they are aware of the resident's concern. Councilperson Salotto noted she also has had residents express concern regarding this topic.

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 had nothing to report.

There were no questions or comments for the Police Chief.

B. *Fire Chief (Grossman)*

Chief Grossman reported they completed day one of a three-day honor guard training academy. He noted Captain Mihalik put in a lot of his off-time to coordinate this. He also wished to thank Phil Guban and CPL for their hospitality, allowing us to use their facilities to train; over forty law enforcement officers and firefighters from northeast Ohio are here for this three-day training.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked the Fire Chief if Green Vision was still closed. Chief Grossman noted it is, and there is a re-inspection scheduled for this Wednesday.

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

C. *Finance Director (Hunter)*

Finance Director Hunter noted the healthcare legislation is on tonight's agenda. Medical rates have increased 6.5% and dental rates went up 5%.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

D. *Engineer (Formica) Written Report Submitted*
Engineer Formica noted he had nothing to report.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if the Engineer is aware of the two catch basins on Luxona and, if so, are they being addressed. Mr. Formica noted these were not part of the original road program, but they can be taken care of. The one in the ditch was not part of the program, but the issue in the cul-de-sac would be. Mr. Formica noted the cul-de-sac issue is on the punch list.

Councilperson Jaworski asked, with regard to the issue on the cul-de-sac where it is retaining water, whether the City or the contractor will be responsible for the problem. Mr. Formica noted it is the responsibility of the contractor, and they will not be paid until all of the items on the six-page punch-list are completed to the City's satisfaction. Mr. Jaworski asked if this was poor workmanship on the part of the contractor. Mr. Formica noted in some cases it is, but not all. Mr. Jaworski also noted the catch basin was a concern as well, adding that the goal is make our streets better than they are. Mr. Formica noted there should have been more of a crown to enable drainage, but the catch basin in the ditch was not part of the scope of the project as it is still an unimproved street. The thought was that someday a curbed street would be added there and it will be raised to grade and used. He will be sure it is completed.

Councilperson Bala asked if this will all be fixed by the first of the year. Mr. Formica noted it should be, but if not, they will not be paid until it is all complete.

There were no further questions or comments for the Engineer.

E. *Service Director (Strauser)*

Service Director Strauser noted the printout of the recommendations for the 2025 Road Program were distributed by Engineer Formica prior to the meeting. This is the compilation of work by Engineer Formica, Assistant Service Director Krofcheck, and himself.

Councilperson Koski inquired regarding the orange snow fence along the homes on the 300th Street side of Orlando Park. Mr. Strauser noted the work is complete; a new fence was installed and the orange fence was temporary during the installation.

Councilperson Gerhardstein wished to thank Service Director Strauser for all the projects they have worked on together. He noted he tried to get the lights on at the cemetery as a "going away" tribute. He thanked him for all his years of work, especially the cemetery project. He wished him good luck on his retirement.

Council President Levon added the 2025 Pavement Improvement & Infrastructure Projects to the Improvement Committee.

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

F. *Building Commissioner (Sack)*

Building Commissioner Sack noted applications for the Storefront Renovation Reimbursement Grant Program are due October 31st, 2024. There have been approximately 7 applications received so far. He and the Mayor will be reviewing them soon.

Council President Levon asked if Council funded this program for \$50,000.00 for 2024, and Mr. Sack noted that was correct.

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

G. *Recreation Director (Stopp)*

Recreation Director stated he is currently accepting applications for the Senior Center Coordinator position. The job description and application are online on the City website. Applications should be sent to his attention.

Council President Levon asked if there was a cut-off date for receiving applications. Mr. Stopp noted the plan is to have someone trained and in place by January 1st, so he is looking to have a candidate selected by the end of November.

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

Audience Participation

Council President Levon opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:25 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.

Mr. Nick Mayer introduced himself as the purchaser of Auto Nation East. He noted he owns the Mayfield Ford/Lincoln store and was looking to move it. Auto Nation protested his move to Alpha Drive, causing him to aggressively pursue other options. He worked with the Mayor to come up with a plan to allow Ford to keep the property open as a dealership. He noted it should boast approximately one hundred employees soon. He noted he met with the new owners of the bowling alley property who are spending \$2.5 million in renovations to transform the property into a warehouse for online auction items. His project is also approximately \$2.5 million in renovations. They would like to pave the street, then have the City take it over to maintain it.

Council President Levon noted Council would have to discuss this item. Councilperson Salotto asked if this was the area between the bowling alley and Euclid Avenue. Mr. Mayor noted that is correct. He noted they already have agreed to terms and have a price to pave it, but they do not want to maintain it, so they would like to engage in partnership where they will give it to the City in exchange for the maintenance of the road.

Service Director Strauser noted he is not against the City maintaining the street, but cautioned that there are a lot of legalities involved including right-of-way, completion of the road to City specifications, etc. He has no issues with salting and plowing, but wanted to make sure that water lines, sewer lines, etc. are considered. Council President Levon agreed that the Law Director would need to look into this and help to determine what are the necessary steps to determining the possibility of this. Mr. Strauser noted he believes it should have been a dedicated street when it was created.

Council President Levon noted the Law Director will look into this. There will be a discussion on this and we will get back to Mr. Mayer.

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 7:30PM.

Committee Reports

- A. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from the October 21st, 2024 meeting presented by Council President Levon

Commission Reports

There were no Commission Reports

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

There was no New Business.

Ordinances

OR2024-50 *By Title Only* An ordinance amending Chapter 748 entitled "Medical Marijuana Licensure" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio **SECOND READING**

OR2024-52 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a participation agreement with the Lake County Board of Commissioners for the provision of a comprehensive healthcare plan for certain employees of the city; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-52 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 2024-52 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-52 adopted.**

OR2024-53 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the city of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company for the provision of life insurance coverage for certain employees of the city; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-53 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 2024-53 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-53 adopted.**

OR2024-54 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Delta Vision for the provision of vision care benefits for certain employees of the city; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-54 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Councilperson Jaworski noted the dates on the legislation are January 1st, 2023 through January 1st, 2027 and asked if these were the correct dates. Finance Director Hunter noted the previous legislation presented to Council had incorrect dates. The dates on this legislation corrected the previous incorrect legislation.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-54 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-54 adopted.**

OR2024-55 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Delta Dental for the provision of dental benefits for certain employees of the city; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-55 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 2024-55 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-55 adopted.**

Resolutions

RES2024-13 *By Title Only* A resolution requesting the Lake County, Ohio Auditor to make advance payments of taxes *THIRD READING*

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein, that Resolution 2024-13 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

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

Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

Miscellaneous

Councilperson Jaworski called for a meeting of the Improvement Committee to be held November 18th, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers to discuss the 2025 Road Improvement Program.

Adjournment


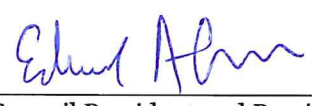
Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.


Clerk of Council
Council President and Presiding Officer