



A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Ed Levon on Monday, November 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall.

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

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

Excused: Councilperson Maria Salotto and Engineer Peter J. Formica

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of October 28, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **October 28, 2024 meeting minutes approved.**

Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director

Mayor Sakacs read his written report.

He added that an offer letter will be going out with regard to the new Assistant Service Director this week.

Councilperson Jaworski asked if the demo of the old ABB building would include the demo of the lower warehouse building. Mayor Sakacs noted the warehouse is still in good shape so it is not part of the demo. Mr. Jaworski wished to thank Senator Cirino for his part in "going to bat" for our City.

Councilperson Koski inquired regarding the parking lot behind the fire station. Mayor Sakacs noted that there are no plans to change it from a parking lot at this time. She asked if the Mayor has seen any prototypes with regard to a spec building. Mayor Sakacs said he had not, and that there are no specifics yet. He noted there will be a phone conversation soon and will keep council informed. She stated the Mayor has done a good job with regard to Euclid Avenue. She looks forward to the new development.

Councilperson Thielman echoed the sentiments of the other councilpersons with regard to the receipt of the \$1.9 million, noting it is not easy as the competition for this money is high, and it is a tough, long process. He mentioned the good development team that began this work, noting it is a big win for the Mayor and the City.

Reports and Communications from Director of Law

Law Director Iosue had nothing to report, but will have information during the executive session.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if there had been any response from the Willoughby Hills Law Director with regard to deer hunting. Mr. Iosue noted there has not and he will reach out again. Councilperson Koski asked the length of deer season. Mr. Gerhardstein noted it is not about the length of deer season, but rather what is stated in Willoughby Hills' ordinance. Mr. Gerhardstein stated in Ohio, bow season runs through February.

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 reminded all about the fraud workshop in partnership with Flagstar Bank at 9am on November 20th at the Senior Center. He asked all to spread the word about this event.

On November 26th, the Police Department will have a table at the upper school Career Day. He invited any interested councilpersons to join WPD at this event being held from 9-11am.

The Police Department deposited the \$44,808.00 received from a grant for new body cameras.

Councilperson Bala asked if the department is at max[imum capacity]. The chief noted they will be down one shortly, and there are two that are still in training, so actively they are down one person, but there are three not on the roads.

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

B. Fire Chief (Grossman) Written Report Submitted

Chief Grossman reported the Fire Department will also have a table at the high school Career Day, and is excited since there is an EMT program there that is supported by WFD.

He also wished to expand on his written report with regard to open burning. He noted there is a statewide ban on any open burning through the end of November as this is a hazardous time; there has already been an incident and they are hoping to prevent any further problems. Information on this as well as City ordinances and recreational burning can be found on the City's website on the Fire Department page.

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

C. Finance Director (Hunter)

Finance Director Hunter noted October will be closed this week.

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)

Assistant Service Director Kroccheck noted leaf season is in full swing. Three crews are out collecting leaves. They have been around the City five times so far and are beginning the sixth rotation. There is also a crew in the parks. He noted they are doing a great job.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked when Kimble's last yard waste pick up for the year would be. Mr. Kroccheck noted it would be December 15th.

Councilperson Jaworski asked how long leaf season would last, as there seems to be many leaves still on the trees. Mr. Kroccheck noted second shift begins December 3rd, and cut off would likely be on December 15th if not before due to weather. Three salt trucks will be ready by Thanksgiving.

Councilperson Bala asked about the new salt truck. Mr. Kroccheck noted it is being fitted with the radio, etc. and it is very nice.

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

F. Building Commissioner (Sack) Written Report Submitted

Building Commissioner Sack noted he had nothing to add to his written report.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

G. Recreation Director (Stopp) Written Report Submitted

Recreation Director invited all to the annual Turkey Hunt to be held rain or shine beginning at the gazebo behind City Hall on Saturday, November 23rd beginning at 11:30am. He thanked Lubrizol for their support – they are sponsoring this event.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked when the dredging would begin at Green Ridge [Golf Course]. Mr. Stopp noted he did not know, and Mr. Formica is not here. The equipment is there, but work has not begun. Councilperson Koski asked if the course will be playable once the dredging begins. Mr. Stopp

noted it will be playable. They will shorten one hole by bringing the tee ahead of the pond. Councilperson Bala asked if it will then be a par 2 hole, which resulted in laughter.

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

Audience Participation

Council President Levon opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:14 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. Dan Coverstone of 2136 Sunset Drive wished to ask regarding his increased property tax. He mentioned the schools and his taxes. Council President noted the levy was put on the ballot by the Wickliffe City School District, not the City, and passed by the voters of Wickliffe. Mr. Coverstone noted buildings don't educate kids, but rather teachers do. He was upset that he was unable to get a complaint form regarding the tax increase, but this is through the County, not the City. He suggested there must be a better way to educate students. He also stated the teachers in private schools make much less than public school teachers. Council President Levon noted Mr. Coverstone should attend a school board meeting to express his concerns, as the schools and the City are separate. Mr. Coverstone noted he was expressing his opinion, and Mr. Levon noted that is perfectly acceptable, but he suggested that the school board meetings might better address Mr. Coverstone's concerns.

Mr. Coverstone also inquired regarding the new construction with regard to zoning. Councilperson Jaworski noted there is a proposition to change the zoning in this area [the Sunset Development project] to senior living only. This would be for independent seniors. This would limit the section to only seniors.

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

There were no Committee Reports.

Commission Reports

BZA Meeting Report from October 24, 2024 presented by Councilperson Gerhardstein. *Written Report Attached.*

Councilperson Jaworski noted Planning Commission met on November 7th, 2024 and approved the request for a lot split at 2688 Bishop Road in an R-175 Residential District. The applicant is scheduled to appear before PC in December regarding zoning changes from IR to R-175 residential district. If it passes, this will eventually come before Wickliffe City Council.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

There was no Old 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 THIRD READING

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2024-50 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: Council President Levon wished to clarify that a *yes* vote on this ordinance limits the number of dispensaries in the City to one and puts permit process and fees in place and a *no* vote would remove any limit on dispensaries and/or permit processor fees.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-50 adopted.**

OR2024-56 *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, 2025 and ending March 31, 2025 FIRST READING

Resolutions

RES2024-17 *By Title Only* A resolution approving the 2023 Solid Waste Management Plan, updated September 2024, of the Lake County Solid Waste District; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-17 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that Resolution 2024-17 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

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

Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

Miscellaneous

There was no Miscellaneous Business.

Council President Levon reminded all about the Improvement Committee Meeting next Monday, November 18th at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers to discuss the 2025 Proposed Road Program.

Adjournment

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, to adjourn the meeting to executive session following a five-minute break to discuss pending or imminent court action (per ORC 121.22 G3) then to discuss preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment (per ORC 121.22 G4).

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:26 PM.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, to reconvene the meeting from Executive Session.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 7:49 PM.

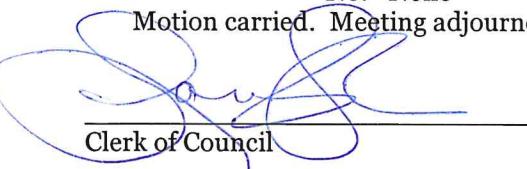
Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

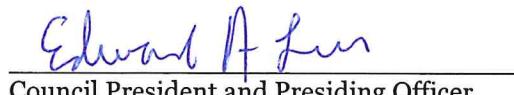
Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Levon, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.



Clerk of Council



Edward A. Lur

Council President and Presiding Officer