



A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Ed Levon on Monday, November 25, 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, Salotto, Thielman
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: None

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to allow Councilperson Salotto to abstain from voting on the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of November 11, 2024.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Levon, Salotto, Thielman  
No: None

Motion carried.

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

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Levon, Salotto, Thielman  
No: None

Motion carried. **November 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.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if there was an update with regard to the Willoughby Hills deer hunting ordinance. Mr. Iosue noted he had a conversation with the Law Director for Willoughby Hills, Mr. Mike Lucas, and had the Willoughby Hills ordinance with him. He mentioned a few details from the ordinance, and asked what the concern was for the residents of Wickliffe. Mr. Gerhardstein noted it was basically retrieval of a deer once it had been shot. There was discussion regarding a hunter tracking an injured deer could be trespassing if the deer wandered away from the area noted in the Willoughby Hills legislation. He noted he would have a more detailed conversation with Mr. Lucas soon, and noted this could be an item which may require additional work/discussion. Councilperson Salotto also inquired regarding some of the details, noting Wickliffe residents with properties abutting Willoughby Hills may have children who would be out playing which could be a dangerous situation. It was noted there are limitations in the Willoughby Hills' legislation that spell out specific boundaries and require a certificate from the Willoughby Hills Police Chief to be allowed to hunt during deer season. It was also noted some of the regulations are state requirements. Mr. Gerhardstein asked

for a copy of the legislation, and Mr. Iosue gave him the document. Mr. Iosue noted he and possibly Chief Bush will be in touch with Willoughby Hills in the near future.

### **Reports and Communications from Council President**

Council President Levon had no report.

### **Additions or Amendments to Agenda**

Council President Levon added Organizational Meeting to New Business as item B.

### **Administrators**

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

Chief Bush noted had nothing to add to his written report.

There were no questions or comments for the Police Chief.

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

Lieutenant Mann reported for Chief Grossman. He noted there were one hundred twenty-six calls for service during the snowstorm on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. The recall of staff for overtime due to the large volume of calls required seventy-nine hours of overtime. He reported there were many power lines down, but no serious injuries. The Fire Department thanked the Service Department for the great job in keeping the roads open.

There were no questions or comments.

#### **C. Finance Director (Hunter) Written Report Submitted**

Finance Director Hunter noted October is closed and the General Fund carry-over balance is approximately \$7.7 million.

Ms. Hunter expressed her congratulations to Mr. Strauser on his upcoming retirement and thanked him for his years of service to the City. She noted she will miss his phone calls.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

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

Engineer Formica noted that, in addition to his written report, he wished to make Council aware that there was a pre-construction meeting this afternoon with the construction company for the Sunset Development project. The expectations of the City with regard to development projects were outlined. The project should begin the process of clearing as early as this Friday.

There were no questions or comments for the Engineer.

#### **E. Service Director (Strauser) Written Report Submitted**

Service Director Strauser reported on the unprecedented eight inches of snow which fell last Thursday evening. He noted all possible trucks were readied [some are still set up for leaf removal]. Eight Service Department employees and three mechanics worked all night. Four big and four small trucks plowed the City throughout the night and by the morning, all roads were clear for busses and commuters. He thanked all the workers who did a fabulous job.

He also expressed his thanks to all he has had the pleasure of working with over the years, including the Mayor.

Councilperson Bala thanked Mr. Strauser for everything he has done for the City, noting most people don't know about all the things he has done for the residents of Wickliffe. He wished him a Happy Retirement, and hopes he enjoys his new barn.

Councilperson Koski noted Mr. Strauser has always been responsive and timely. She noted her appreciation for all he has done and thanked him sincerely.

Councilperson Salotto also thanked Mr. Strauser for all he has done, noting he is amazing. She recalled the first day she met him before he took over as Service Director, and was amazed at how he always "went the extra mile". She noted he is too young to retire!

Councilperson Gerhardstein thanked Mr. Strauser for everything.

Councilperson Jaworski thanked Mr. Strauser for all his years of dedicated service and the effort he put in to all he did for the residents.

Councilperson Thielman noted this is special since they went to school together from Kindergarten through high school graduation. He has always been impressed with those who grew up here and "returned" to serve Wickliffe. He mentioned that former Service Director Darryll Crossman always spoke highly of Mr. Strauser and he wished him congratulations.

Council President noted he would hold his comments until the resolution discussion.

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

**F. Building Commissioner (Sack) Written Report Submitted**

Building Commissioner Sack echoed the sentiments of the other directors. He noted Mr. Strauser was kind to all the residents, and he knows many of the things that Mr. Strauser did for the City. He thanked Mr. Strauser and noted it was a pleasure to work with him.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

**G. Recreation Director (Stopp) Written Report Submitted**

Recreation Director also noted it was a pleasure to work with Mr. Strauser and wished to echo the sentiments of the other directors.

He also noted he, Mr. Strauser, and Mr. Kroccheck had a meeting today with the company who will be installing the new playground equipment at Orlando Park. The work there should begin soon and will likely be complete within a week of commencement.

Councilperson Gerhardstein inquired regarding the Senior Center Coordinator position. Mr. Stopp noted they are close to filling the position after additional interviews last week.

There were no questions or comments for the Recreation Director.

**Audience Participation**

Council President Levon opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:20 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.

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 7:21 PM.

**Committee Reports**

Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes from the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting presented by Councilperson Jaworski

Council President Levon added the 2025 Road Program to the Finance Committee for further discussion.

**Commission Reports**

There were no commission reports.

**Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

## New Business

### A. December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 meeting

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, to move the December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 regular Council Meeting to December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 due to the Holiday.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

### B. Organizational Meeting

Council President Levon called for the annual Organizational Meeting of Council to be held Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall.

## Ordinances

**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 SECOND READING

## Resolutions

Mr. Iosue expressed his thanks to Service Director Strauser. He recalled that his first interactions with Mr. Strauser were regarding a difficult situation, and he thanked Mr. Strauser for the way he handled the situation. Mr. Strauser also thanked Mr. Iosue for helping to make the situation better.

**RES2024-18** *By Title Only* A resolution recognizing Ron Strauser on his retirement from the Service Department of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio, commending him for his dedicated service, and wishing him good fortune; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-18 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 Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that Resolution 2024-18 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: Council President Levon thanked Mr. Strauser for his years of dedicated service to Wickliffe, as both Assistant Service Director then Service Director. He noted Mr. Strauser was always friendly and attainable, and stated he will be missed.

Mayor Sakacs, as he handed the resolution to Mr. Strauser, noted he felt proud to give this to him. The entire room stood to offer Mr. Strauser a standing ovation.

Mr. Strauser wished to thank his wife, Shelli, for all her support over the years. He noted tonight is their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Resolution 2024-18 adopted.**

## Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

## Miscellaneous

There was no Miscellaneous Business.

## Adjournment

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, 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, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:31 PM.

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 8:08 PM.

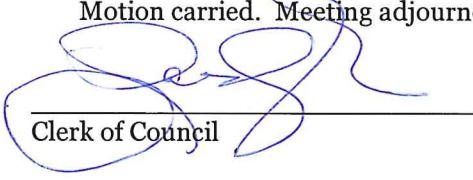
Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

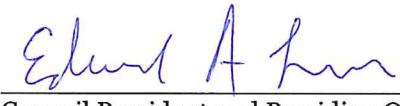
Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Levon, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.



Clerk of Council



Council President and Presiding Officer