



A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Ed Levon on Monday, December 16th, 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 |
| Law Director          | Jeremy D. Iosue  |
| Finance Director      | Chlondra Hunter  |
| Engineer              | Peter J. Formica                                       |
| Service Director      | Dave Krofcheck   |
| Building Commissioner | Raymond Sack   |
| Recreation Director   | Timothy Stopp  |
| Police Chief          | Jonathon Bush  |
| Fire Chief            | Christopher Grossman                                   |

Excused: Mayor Joseph Sakacs and Building Commissioner Raymond Sack

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Koski, to allow Councilperson Salotto to abstain from voting on the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of December 9, 2024.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of December 9, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **December 9, 2024 meeting minutes approved.**

### **Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director**

Mayor Sakacs was excused; Council President Levon read his written report.

### **Reports and Communications from Director of Law**

Law Director Iosue wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He noted he had no report.

Councilperson Gerhardstein inquired regarding an email sent to the prosecutor on the topic of accessory parking. Mr. Iosue noted he spoke with Mr. Kenny today and they will look into this and get back to him. Mr. Gerhardstein noted this has been going on for over a month. Mr. Iosue noted he would like Mr. Kenny's opinion, as Mr. Kenny will be the one who would prosecute.

Councilperson Thielman asked if the determination is that there is no violation, a reason be offered. Mr. Iosue noted he would let everyone know once he hears back from Mr. Kenny.

## Reports and Communications from Council President

Council President Levon had no report.

## Additions or Amendments to Agenda

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if Sewer Rates could be added to New Business as Item A, and Council President Levon added this item to the agenda.

## Administrators

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

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

Councilperson Koski asked Chief Bush if anyone has identified the very loud boom that was heard the other night for miles. Chief Bush noted he had no information on this, except what he has seen on Facebook.

Councilperson Gerhardstein inquired regarding the test dates for the current national testing that the Police Department is running. Chief Bush noted it is running now through the end of December. Councilperson Gerhardstein asked where the department stands with regard to staffing; Chief Bush noted they will be one person short in January.

Councilperson Koski asked if there had been many more accidents at the intersection of Rockefeller and Ridge. Chief Bush noted he was not aware of any other issues since the one he had mentioned at a meeting previously this year.

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

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

Chief Grossman suggested anyone celebrating the holidays with a live Christmas tree be sure to keep it watered well and remove it from the house after festivities. He noted live trees significantly increase the risk of house fires during this time of year. He wished all a Happy Holiday.

Councilperson Bala noted he has seen many downed power lines after the recent storm and wondered what the protocol is regarding this issue. Chief Grossman noted the general practice is to contact the resident if possible to determine if the line is in use. If not, the Fire Department will cut it. If the resident is unavailable, the Fire Department will coil for anticipated repair and notify dispatch to send out a call. He noted the Illuminating Company take a while, and the cable and phone companies take a long time to repair an issue. He noted there were a lot of wires down after the last storm.

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

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

Finance Director Hunter noted the transfer ordinance that is on tonight's agenda is for 2025.

She also mentioned since the City had charged over \$1 million dollars on the City Credit Card, the City received a rebate of approximately \$10,000.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

### D. *Engineer (Formica)*

Engineer Formica wished all a Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas.

Councilperson Bala mentioned he was at Green Ridge recently and asked if the construction company for Green Ridge would be draining the pond, or if the City had to do it themselves. It was noted the company is responsible for that and it should be at half at this point. Mr. Formica also noted the work will not begin until the ground is frozen.

Councilperson Jaworski inquired regarding the timeline of the project. Mr. Formica noted it should take approximately two (2) weeks once it has begun.

Councilperson Koski asked what happened if the ground doesn't freeze. Mr. Formic noted the hope is that January and February will be cold enough to complete the project, but acknowledged the last two years have not been significantly cold. If necessary, an alternate solution will be proposed.

There were no additional questions or comments for the Engineer.



E. *Service Director (Krofcheck) Written Report Submitted*

Service Director Strauser noted he has nothing to add to his written report.

There were no 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 he did not have anything to add to his previously submitted report.

Councilperson Koski inquired regarding the progress of the Holiday Helping Hands Program. Mr. Stopp noted tomorrow they will receive the gifts from Truline and should have the gifts from Lubrizol by the end of the week. Ms. Koski asked who delivers the gifts. Mr. Stopp noted it is a combination of a number of individuals and organizations like the City Club and Knights of Columbus. There were thirty-seven families with a total of one hundred two children served this year. Mr. Gerhardstein noted the City Club will be delivering Saturday morning. They add a number of items to the baskets, which is most appreciated!

Councilperson Thielman thanked Mr. Stopp for the photos of the new equipment at Orlando. He was happy that government moved at the speed of business. Councilperson Koski noted there are wood chips and yellow caution tape there now. Mr. Stopp noted there will be more, and better chips once spring arrives; the yellow tape will remain until the amount of wood chips reaches the correct level of safety. Mr. Krofcheck noted what is there is only temporary.

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

## **Audience Participation**

Council President Levon opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:13 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 7:14 PM.

## **Committee Reports**

There were no Committee Reports.

Councilperson Jaworski noted the Planning Commission will have a meeting January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

## **Commission Reports**

There was a meeting of the Volunteer Firefighter's Dependent Fund this evening at 6:45 PM.

Fire and Legislative appointments were made and it was confirmed that the 2024 Assessment was paid on May 17, 2024.

Councilperson Jaworski noted the Planning Commission will be meeting January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

## **Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

## New Business

### A. Sewer Rates

Councilperson Gerhardstein noted sewer rates continue to increase. He requested that Council reach out, through the Clerk or Law Director, to our state and federal representatives to request relief for the Euclid Treatment Plant. It was noted Euclid passed another ordinance recently that will increase rates an additional thirty percent. The Euclid Treatment Plant must follow national mandates from the EPA. Council President Levon asked the Law Director to draft a letter to state and federal representatives on this topic. He also suggested including Willowick and Willoughby Hills, as they are also affected by the increases. Mr. Iosue stated he will speak to the Law Directors from both cities to see if they have any objections to being included. Mr. Gerhardstein noted Willoughby Hills goes through our system, and Mr. Formica noted Willowick flows into the Euclid system. Mr. Levon suggested the letter be sent to both local and federal representatives and senators for our area (Cirino, Joyce, Marino, etc.)

## Ordinances

**OR2024-42 AMENDED** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio 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 Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-42 AMENDED 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 Salotto, that Ordinance 2024-42 AMENDED be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

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

**OR2024-65** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to transfer a sum of money from the General Fund to various funds; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-65 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 Bala, that Ordinance 2024-65 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-65 adopted.**

## Resolutions

**RES2024-19** *By Title Only* An resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the cities of Wickliffe, Willoughby, and Willoughby Hills for the LAK-US20-o.00 Project, PID 12230; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-19 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 Bala, that Resolution 2024-19 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Resolution 2024-19 adopted.**

## Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

## Miscellaneous

Councilperson Bala noted Brewer's Supply on Lakeland Boulevard painted the front of the building. He commented that it looks very nice and shows what a coat of paint can do.

Councilperson Bala also noted it is nice to see that there is dirt being moved at the old Ponderosa property.

## Adjournment

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, 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 7:20 PM.

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 7:33 PM.

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

  
Clerk of Council  
Council President and Presiding Officer