



City Council Organizational Meeting Minutes

January 6th, 2025

Pursuant to a request by Council President Edward Levon, an Organizational Meeting of the Council of the City of Wickliffe was held on Monday, January 6th, 2025 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
Engineer	Peter J. Formica
Service Director	Dave Kroccheck
Recreation Director	Timothy Stopp

Excused: Councilperson Maria Salotto, Building Commissioner Raymond Sack, Police Chief Jonathan Bush, and Fire Chief Christopher Grossman

Appointment of Clerk of Council

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that Ms. Sandra Fink be appointed Clerk of Council for 2025.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Adoption of Rules of Council

Motion by Koski, seconded by Thielman, that the Rules of Council (Chapter 121.01) be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointment by Council of Prosecutor

Motion by Koski, seconded by Bala, that Michael A. Kenny, Jr. be appointed as the Prosecutor for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointments by Council to CRA Housing Council

There were no terms which expired December 31, 2024 for the CRA Housing Council.

Appointment of Council Representative to Planning Commission

Motion by Koski, seconded by Gerhardstein, that Councilperson Jaworski be appointed as the Council Representative to the Planning Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals

Motion by Koski, seconded by Thielman, that Councilperson Gerhardstein be appointed as the Council Representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representative to Parks and Recreation Commission

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, that Councilperson Bala be appointed as the Council Representative to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representative to Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission

Motion by Bala, seconded by Thielman, that Councilperson Salotto be appointed as the Council Representative to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representative to Environmental Commission

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Councilperson Thielman be appointed as the Council Representative to the Environmental Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representative to Cemetery Board

Motion by Koski, seconded by Thielman, that Councilperson Gerhardstein be appointed as the Council Representative to the Cemetery Board.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representative to Senior Center Board

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, that Councilperson Koski be appointed as the Council Representative to the Senior Center Board.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representative to Income Tax Board of Review

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that Councilperson Koski be appointed as the Council Representative to the Income Tax Board of Review.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Appointment of Council Representatives to Volunteer Firefighters' Dependent Fund Board

Motion by Koski, seconded by Gerhardstein, that Council President Levon and Councilperson Jaworski be appointed as the Council Representatives to the Volunteer Firefighters' Dependent Fund Board.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointment of Director of Law

Motion by Koski, seconded by Bala, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Jeremy Iosue as Director of Law for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointment of Director of Public Service

Motion by Koski, seconded by Thielman, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Dave Kroccheck as Director of Public Service for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointment of Director of Finance

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Ms. Chlondra Hunter as Director of Finance for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointment of City Engineer

Motion by Bala, seconded by Thielman, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Peter Formica of Verdantas as City Engineer for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointment of Director of Recreation

Motion by Bala, seconded by Thielman, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Timothy Stopp as Director of Recreation for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointment to the Planning Commission

There were no terms which expired December 31, 2024 for the Planning Commission.

Mayor's Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Mr. Joe Nicholas, term to expire 12/31/2029, to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Ms. Danette Pevec, term to expire 12/31/2027 to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Greg Anderson – term to expire 12/31/2027 to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointments to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission

Motion by Bala, seconded by Gerhardstein, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Mr. Chris Mlachak, Ms. Suzanne Skrab (Lubrizol Rep), Mr. Michael Port, and Mr. Timothy Dawson – all with terms to expire 12/31/2026 to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointments to the Environmental Commission

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Donald Zimmerman, (to fulfill the un-expired term of George Luther) term to expire 12/31/2026, to the Environmental Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Mayor's Appointments to the Cemetery Board

Motion by Koski, seconded by Bala, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Ms. Teri Shine, (to fulfill the un-expired term of Sandy Luther) term to expire 12/31/2027 to the Cemetery Board.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried

Mayor's Appointment to the Civil Service Commission

There were no terms which expired December 31, 2024 for the Civil Service Commission.

Mayor's Appointments to the CRA Housing Council

There were no terms which expired December 31, 2023 for the CRA Housing Council.

Mayor/ Council's Appointments to the Tax Incentive Review Council

There were no terms which expired December 31, 2023 for the Tax Incentive Review Council.

Mayor's Appointments to the Lake County Board of Health

There were no terms which expired December 31, 2023 for the Lake County Board of Health.

Appointments to the Committees of Council

The following appointments to the Committees of Council have been made by Council President Ed Levon:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:	<u>LEVON</u> , Koski, Jaworski, Salotto, Gerhardstein, Bala, Thielman
FINANCE:	<u>LEVON</u> , Koski, Jaworski, Salotto, Gerhardstein, Bala, Thielman
SAFETY:	<u>KOSKI</u> , Levon, Jaworski, Salotto, Gerhardstein, Bala, Thielman
IMPROVEMENT:	<u>JAWORSKI</u> , Levon, Koski, Salotto, Gerhardstein, Bala, Thielman
LEGISLATION & WELFARE:	<u>GERHARDSTEIN</u> , Salotto, Bala, Koski
SERVICE & SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:	<u>SALOTTO</u> , Jaworski, Thielman, Gerhardstein
UTILITIES:	<u>THIELMAN</u> , Koski, Bala, Levon
PARKS & PROPERTIES:	<u>BALA</u> , Koski, Salotto, Jaworski
ENERGY EFFICIENCY / ENVIRONMENTAL:	<u>KOSKI</u> , Gerhardstein, Levon, Jaworski
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/	
EUCLID AVE RE-DEVELOPMENT:	<u>SALOTTO</u> , Thielman, Bala, Gerhardstein

(note: capitalized and underlined name denotes committee chairperson)

Council President Levon noted no changes were made to this list from last year. He asked if any had objections to these assignments, and there were none.

Items to be Placed in Committee

The City Council Committee Task Assignments document, latest version updated December 16th, 2024, was distributed to all members of Council. Led by Council President Levon, the document was reviewed to determine whether items could be removed or needed to remain. As each Committee's tasks were reviewed, new items could be added. The document has been updated and attached for reference.

Mr. Levon noted he will check with Mr. Sack regarding:

Storm Sewers on Grand Boulevard (Committee of the Whole)
Ch1313.21 (Committee of the Whole)

Mr. Gerhardstein noted if City Vehicle Usage (Committee of the Whole) will be addressed in the new Policy Manual, he is okay with removing it from the list.

Mr. Stopp noted Golf Carts (Committee of the Whole) was in regard to driving them on the streets of the City.

Mr. Gerhardstein noted Crematoriums (Committee of the Whole) was with regard to the zoning aspect.

Mr. Levon noted that Potential TIFs (Finance Committee) could be reintroduced with regard to specific businesses if necessary.

Mr. Gerhardstein noted he has requested meetings on the topics of Gathering Spaces and Changes to Chapter 1303.70 Occupancy Permits (both topics – Legislation & Welfare) and Mr. Sack has not been prepared to meet on these topics. Mayor Sakacs noted he will speak to Mr. Sack regarding these topics.

Mr. Levon Suggested removing MS Consulting Updates (Economic Development/Euclid Avenue Re-development). Mr. Jaworski noted the Planning Commission continues to seek guidance regarding whether this document (the Euclid Avenue study) is the guideline for the Planning Commission. Mr. Gerhardstein noted he believe many of the items were covered in the overhaul of the zoning code earlier this year. Mr. Jaworski noted some items were addressed, but not all. Mr. Levon noted it will be left in, and asked that Planning Commission let Ms. Salotto know what questions are remaining. Mr. Jaworski noted he will discuss this with the Planning Commission at the February meeting.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Sakacs read his comments (attached).

Adjournment

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

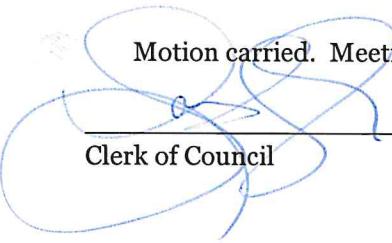
Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.


Clerk of Council


Edward A. Ahearn
Council President and Presiding Officer