



Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Ed Levon on Monday, January 13th, 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 Krofcheck
Building Commissioner	Raymond Sack
Recreation Director	Timothy Stopp
Police Chief	Jonathon Bush
Fire Chief	Christopher Grossman

Excused: Councilperson Salotto

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of December 16, 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **December 16, 2024 meeting minutes approved.**

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Organizational Meeting of January 6, 2025 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **January 6, 2025 organizational meeting minutes approved.**

Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director

Mayor Sakacs read his written report.

There were no questions or comments for the Mayor/Safety Director.

Reports and Communications from Director of Law

Law Director Iosue had no report.

There were no questions or comments for the Law Director.

Reports and Communications from Council President

Council President Levon had no report.

Additions or Amendments to Agenda

Council President Levon added Capital Equipment Request Memos to the agenda as New Business Item B.

Administrators

A. Police Chief (Bush) Written Report Submitted

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

There were no questions or comments for the Police Chief.

B. Fire Chief (Grossman) Written Report Submitted

Chief Grossman noted the Run Volume Totals were an addition today to BoardDocs. He noted the year 2024 ended with 2,904 calls, not including the over 150 or so calls that occurred during the 24 hour period of the August storm. The 2,904 total is similar to previous years, and the additional calls added a big number for our tracing purposes, but with regard to state reporting, the storm calls were all attributed as one incident.

There were no questions or comments for the Fire Chief.

C. Finance Director (Hunter) Written Report Submitted

Finance Director Hunter noted December is now closed and we ended 2024 with a General Fund Carry-Over Balance of approximately \$7.7 million, which is about \$300,000.00 less than last year. This was to be expected as Council approved additional monies for roads and a few things happened over the year that were adjusted. Ms. Hunter thanked all for a financially good 2024.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

D. Engineer (Formica) Written Report Submitted

Engineer Formica reported he spoke to the contractor who will be handling the dredging project at Green Ridge Golf Course. They were planning to begin today, but had an emergency repair to take care of; they will begin there tomorrow.

There were no questions or comments for the Engineer.

E. Service Director (Krofcheck) Written Report Submitted

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

Councilperson Jaworski noted he has received complaints regarding the replacement of a new bright street light on his street. He asked what the process is regarding replacement of bulbs in streetlights – asking whether First Energy waits until a light burns out to replace it with the new, brighter bulbs, or is it by request of the City/resident? Service Director Krofcheck noted the Service Department is doing a survey on Rockefeller, but Mr. Jaworski noted he was referring to Valley View. Mr. Krofcheck noted if it is burned out, First Energy will replace the bulb with no charge to the City once they are alerted to the burned out bulb. He noted the City can change a bulb if necessary, but then the cost is the City's. Mr. Jaworski noted he recalled there are two types – the really bright ones and a “softer” version. He asked, when a bulb burns out, who should a resident contact to request the “softer” bulb. Mr. Krofcheck noted residents can call the Service Department and they can relay this to First Energy. He also noted a shield is an option to diffuse the bright bulb or the bulb can sometimes be “tilted” to re-direct some light. Mr. Formica noted he believed the main roads were to be replaced with the brighter bulbs and the side streets were to receive the softer bulbs when replacement is necessary. It was noted this may not be the case, as there are some bright lights on side streets. Council President Levon asked if there was a pattern to the replacement, such as bright lights unless a softer bulb was requested, or will they make modifications if requested. Mr. Krofcheck noted if residents note it is too bright, the shield or tilting can be requested, but it often takes a while. Mayor Sakacs added he believed there were three different wattages available upon request. He also stated he instructed his First Energy contact to use the lowest one on the side streets. It was noted the new bulbs, no matter the wattage, still seem MUCH brighter than the old bulbs. Mr. Bala noted the halogen to the LED is a dramatic difference, however after a few nights, one gets used to it and then it calms down. Mr. Jaworski wanted to be sure residents have the option to request the softer bulb. Mr. Krofcheck noted residents should contact the Service Department, but it may take a while.

There were no questions or comments for the Service Director.

F. Building Commissioner (Sack) Written Report Submitted

Building Commissioner Sack noted his end of the year report was included in the packet. He would like to call a meeting regarding CH 1303.70 Occupancy, which he believes is in the Legislation & Welfare Committee.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

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

Recreation Director invited all to WinterFest at Green Ridge Gold Course this Saturday, January 18th from 1:00-4:00 PM for free winter fun. There are currently 12 entries in the chili contest.

There were no questions or comments for the Recreation Director.

Audience Participation

Council President Levon opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:15 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 7:16PM.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

Commission Reports

Councilperson Jaworski reported on the January 2nd, 2025 Planning Commission Meeting, noting they approved a lot split and consolidation at 1729 East 290th Street. Information and guidance was offered for a zoning request for a change from Institutional/Recreational to R1-75 at 2688 Bishop Road. Information and guidance was also offered for student housing at Telshe Yeshiva.

Old Business

Councilperson Gerhardstein wished to thank the Law Director and Clerk for creating the letters to federal and state legislators to request help with the rising sewer rates due to EPA regulations. Letters were distributed throughout the meeting for all councilmembers to sign. Letters are being sent to Representative Dan Troy, Representative Jerry Cirino, Senator Bernie Moreno, and Senator Dave Joyce requesting monies to help Euclid pay for the repairs necessary at the Euclid Sewer Treatment Plant.

New Business

A. Liquor License Application for Don Tequila Beer and Tacos LLC.

The business requesting a new license is located at 29280 Euclid Avenue in Ward 1B. Council President Levon instructed the Ward Councilperson, Mr. Bala, to let the clerk know if there are any objections. Mr. Bala had no objections.

B. Capital Equipment Request Memos

Council President Levon added the Police and Fire Capital Equipment Request Memos into the Safety Committee. He added the Recreation Department's Capital Equipment Requests to the Parks and Properties Committee, and added the Service Department's Capital Equipment Requests to the Service and Special Equipment Committee.

Ordinances

OR2025-01 By Title Only An ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-01 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 Ordinance 2025-01 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-01 adopted.**

OR2025-02 By Title Only An ordinance accepting a highway easement granted by 28825 Euclid Avenue, LLC. unto the City of Wickliffe, Ohio as to a portion of the property located at 28825 Euclid Avenue in said city; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Bala, seconded by Jaworski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-02 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Councilperson Gerhardstein suggested this ordinance should have been discussed in committee. He would like to have this item placed into committee for discussion. All other council members agreed. Councilperson Thielman added that he believed this is how he believed it would "flow" following the meeting where Mr. Mayer spoke to Council. Council should take a look at this. Councilmember Levon stated he will leave it on first reading and will call a meeting on this so Council can discuss it further. He noted the date denotes July 1st, so there is ample time for discussion, and he was unsure why this ordinance was categorized as emergency.

Roll Call:

Yes: None

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

Motion failed.

Ordinance 2025-02 remains on First Reading.

OR2024-58 AMENDED B 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, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2024-58 AMENDED B be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein, that Ordinance 2024-58 AMENDED B be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2024-58 AMENDED B adopted.**

Resolutions

2024-19 AMENDED By Title Only A 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 Willowick for the LAK-US20-0.00 Project, PID 12230; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Jaworski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2024-19 AMENDED be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Law Director Iosue noted this amendment is to correct the title only – the body of the legislation was correct. The title should have listed Willowick instead of Willoughby Hills and everyone missed the typographical error.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein, that Resolution 2024-19 AMENDED be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

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

Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

Miscellaneous

Council President Levon called for a meeting of the Committee of the Whole to discuss OR2025-02 on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Wickliffe City Hall in Council Chambers.

Councilperson Gerhardstein requested CH 1303.70 be added to the Legislation & Welfare Committee. He noted it was removed at the Organizational meeting, and earlier in this meeting Building Commissioner Sack requested that a meeting on this topic be called. Council President Levon added CH 1303.70 to the Legislation & Welfare Committee. He asked Mr. Gerhardstein if he wished to call the meeting on this. Mr. Gerhardstein noted he will speak with Mr. Sack first.

Councilperson Koski called for a meeting of the Safety Committee to discuss the Police and Fire Capital Requests to follow the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025.

Councilperson Jaworski called for a meeting of the Service and Special Equipment Committee to discuss the Service Department Capital Requests to follow the Safety Committee Meeting on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025.

Councilperson Bala called for a meeting of the Parks & Properties Committee to discuss the Recreation Department Capital Requests to follow the Service and Special Equipment Committee Meeting on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025.

Council President Levon reiterated the meetings to be held on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025 beginning at 7:00PM as: Committee of the Whole to discuss OR 2025-02, followed by Safety Committee to discuss Police and Fire Capital Requests, followed by Service and Special Equipment Committee to discuss Service Department Capital Requests, followed by Parks and Properties Committee to discuss Recreation Capital Requests.

Adjournment

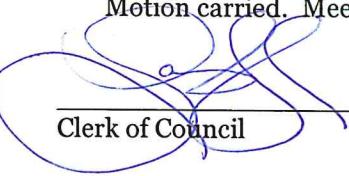
Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.


Clerk of Council


Edward A. Lur
Council President and Presiding Officer