



Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council Clerk Sandi Fink on Monday, February 24th, 2025 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall.

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

Council Members	Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman
Law Director	Jeremy D. Iosue
Finance Director	Chlondra Hunter
Service Director	Dave Krofcheck
Building Commissioner	Raymond Sack
Recreation Director	Timothy Stopp
Fire Chief	Christopher Grossman

Excused: Council President Edward Levon, Engineer Peter J. Formica, Mayor Joseph Sakacs, and Police Chief Jonathon Bush

Election of Council President pro tem

Motion by Jaworski, seconded by Koski, that Councilperson Gerhardstein be elected Council President pro tem for the February 24th, 2025 meeting.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Salotto, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of February 10, 2025 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **February 10, 2025 meeting minutes approved.**

Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director

Council President pro tem Gerhardstein read the Mayor's written report.

Reports and Communications from Director of Law

Law Director Iosue had no report.

Reports and Communications from Council President

Council President Levon was excused and had no report.

Additions or Amendments to Agenda

There were no Additions or Amendments to the agenda.

Administrators

A. Police Chief (Bush) Written Report Submitted

Chief Bush was excused. Council President pro tem Gerhardstein read an email from Chief Bush.

I was notified by The Lake County Blue Coats Association that Officer Anthony Regnier and Officer Anthony DiDona will be receiving the Jorge Medina Distinguished Service Award this coming Wednesday, Feb. 26th, 2025. This award is for their heroic actions responding to the shooting incident on E. 290th Street on April 16th, 2024. This is a highly coveted award and I am extremely proud of these two officers and the entire Wickliffe Police Department.

There were no questions or comments for the Police Chief.

B. Fire Chief (Grossman)

Chief Grossman noted he would echo the Blue Coats award, as when the Fire Department arrived on scene that day, the police officers were applying tourniquets and offering life saving measures. He called it outstanding. He noted there is a high level of training within the Police Department and this award is well-deserved.

He reported the Fire Department has completed their annual Med Account EMS Revenue Billing Audit for the year. He will have notes for the next meeting regarding this. He noted they did outstanding in the audit. He stated transports are down but calls are up, which is a trend they are seeing, but in the end, revenue is up. Medicare and Medicaid have increased the amount we can collect for EMS bills. He noted anyone can reach out to him with further questions.

Councilperson Jaworski noted the number from Medicare and Medicaid has increased and asked if any ordinances need to be changed to accommodate these changes. Chief Grossman noted no changes are necessary. The ordinance states “the Mayor or his designee”. We bill at the standard rate, which is higher than Medicare, Medicaid, or insurance pays out, but then “soft bill” so residents are not responsible for any balance – we accept whatever their insurance covers.

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

C. Finance Director (Hunter)

Finance Director Hunter noted she had no report.

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 (Krofcheck)

Service Director Krofcheck reported the Drenik Drive sewer rehab project will be ending soon. They will finish up with manhole seals and caps, then once the weather breaks, they will come back and finish with topsoil.

The Empire project is underway. There have been a number of sewer digs on Kerry Lane.

First Energy has replaced the poles that were missing on Rush Road. He noticed they seem to have replaced the missing poles but replaced the fixtures with the old style (non-LED). He plans to call there tomorrow to inquire about this concern.

Mr. Gerhardstein asked Mr. Krofcheck if he knew anything regarding the authorization of council to begin the engineering on the Parkwood and Euclid Avenue projects. Mr. Krofcheck noted he was unaware of this. Mr. Gerhardstein asked Mr. Sack if he had any knowledge of this, and Mr. Sack noted he was unsure of this requirement. Mr. Gerhardstein noted he will take it up with him at the next meeting. Mr. Jaworski noted he believed it might be that, since it is part of the current budget, it may not be able to begin until after the budget has passed.

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

F. *Building Commissioner (Sack)*

Building Commissioner Sack stated he spoke to the contractor for the new street today and asked them to “take it easy on Silver Street”, asking them to use Lincoln when possible.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

G. *Recreation Director (Stopp)*

Recreation Director noted he had nothing to add to his previous report.

There were no questions or comments for the Recreation Director.

Audience Participation

Council President pro tem Gerhardstein opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:09 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 must 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 pro tem Gerhardstein closed Audience Participation at 7:10 PM.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from the February 17th, 2025 meeting were presented by Councilperson Koski.

Commission Reports

Councilperson Jaworski noted the Architectural Review Board met on February 12th as a continuation of the meeting of February 6th. The board, with several conditions, granted a request for a new development located at 29240 Euclid Avenue.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

There was no Old Business.

Ordinances

OR2025-02 AMENDED *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 **SECOND READING**

OR2025-04 *By Title Only* An ordinance enacting Chapter 149.06 Officer Training Payment and Reimbursement of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio **SECOND READING**

OR2025-07 *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 December 31, 2025 **FIRST READING**

OR2025-08 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation of Appointed Officials of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance **FIRST READING**

OR2025-09 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation of Certain Salaried and Hourly Employees of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance **FIRST READING**

OR2025-10 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation of Certain Employees of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance **FIRST READING**

OR2025-11 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation and other employment provisions for Part-Time Firefighters of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance **FIRST READING**

Council President pro tem Gerhardstein ask the Law Director to review Section 1, paragraph J of this ordinance to see if it should be removed. He believed that it was not removed by mistake when updating the ordinance for the current year. Mr. Iosue asked if it is because it references 2024, and Mr. Gerhardstein noted it is. He asked if it could be amended and put on second reading as amended at the next meeting. Mr. Iosue noted he will speak to the Fire Chief and they will make the necessary adjustments.

OR2025-12 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation and other employment provisions for Special Police Officers of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance **FIRST READING**

OR2025-13 *By Title Only* An ordinance providing for the compensation and other employment provisions for the Part-Time Public Safety Dispatchers of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio and repealing any and all other ordinances or parts thereof that may be inconsistent with this ordinance **FIRST READING**

OR2025-14 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with the Ohio Plan, agent Love Insurance Agency, for the provision of liability insurance coverage for the city; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-14 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2025-14 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-14 adopted.**

OR2025-15 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Houston Casualty Company, agent Love Insurance Agency, for the provision of cyber liability insurance coverage for the city; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Salotto, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-15 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2025-15 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-15 adopted.**

Resolutions

There were no Resolutions.

Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

Miscellaneous

There was no Miscellaneous Business.

Adjournment

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) *for the purpose of pending or imminent court action* following a five minute break.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 7:41 PM.

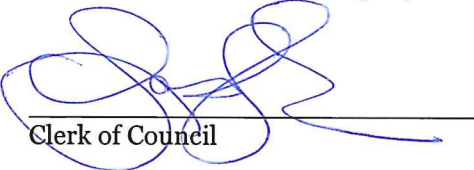

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.


Clerk of Council
Council President and Presiding Officer