



Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Ed Levon on Monday, April 14th, 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 March 24, 2025 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **March 24, 2025 meeting minutes approved.**

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to allow Councilperson Koski to abstain from voting on the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Special Meeting/Public Hearing of April 9, 2025.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion Carried.

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Special Meeting/Public Hearing of April 9, 2025 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Levon, Thielman

Abstain: Koski

No: None

Motion carried. **April 9, 2025 meeting minutes approved.**

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

Mayor Sakacs read his written report.

He added a Thank You to Mr. Tony Tribuzzo, former Wickliffe graduate, Foreman for the City of Beechwood who connected him with a contact for a few new signs at the entrances to the City. One will be put in heading west as you enter from Willoughby on Rt. 84 and one will be at the Lloyd Road exit ramp on Lakeland Boulevard. The Service Department is installing these for us.

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

Law Director Iosue asked if Residential CRAs for Old School Way could be added to the agenda tonight for discussion. Council President Levon will add this to New Business.

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

Council President Levon noted had no Reports or Communications.

## **Additions or Amendments to Agenda**

Council President Levon added Planning Commission Recommendation Letter to New Business as Item G.

As requested by Mayor Sakacs and Law Director Iosue, Council President Levon added CRA for Old School Way (Residential CRA) to New Business as Item H.

Councilperson Koski requested CH1521 be added to New Business for discussion. Council President Levon Added this to New Business as Item I.

## **Administrators**

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

Chief Bush noted Christian Brooks was sentenced to nine years in prison for the East 290<sup>th</sup> shooting which occurred in 2024.

With regard to the replacement of the engine on Unit 765, Service mechanics are doing their best to locate an engine, however they have been unsuccessful; none are available at this time. They will keep looking.

There were no questions or comments for the Police Chief.

### **B. Fire Chief (Grossman) Written Report Submitted**

Chief Grossman reported he met with the Mayor and Finance Director to discuss the final numbers for the proposal for the replacement of the 1999 ladder truck for the Fire Department.

Council President Levon noted he was reviewing the finances and noticed the part-time fire inspector line has had zero expenses so far this year. He asked if we will be hiring someone. Chief Grossman noted they have been unable to locate anyone. They have a fulltime firefighter in that position currently who is performing inspections to keep things moving. He has been transferred off shift, but put back on due to injuries within the department to limit overtime. They are juggling right now to keep things covered, but yes, the plan is to get someone in that position.

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

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

Finance Director Hunter noted that March is closed and the General Fund Carry-Over Balance is approximately \$7.2 million.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

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

Engineer Formica noted there is a new ODOT funding source which will pay for new sidewalk installations up to 100%. Applications are due at the beginning of May. He noted if Council is interested in taking advantage of this, possibly an Improvement Committee meeting could be called for further discussion. He was thinking Johnson, Cabin, and Clark, as that was on a previous list.

Council President Levon asked if this funding was through OPWC, and Mr. Formica noted it is through ODOT.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if this is for new or replacement sidewalks, and Mr. Formica said he believes it is for new, but he will check. Mr. Gerhardstein noted if it was replacement, we should consider Euclid Avenue. Mr. Formica noted he will check.

Council President Levon asked Mr. Formica if there are any other locations throughout the city that he believes sidewalks are necessary. Mr. Formica noted he is not aware of any where the residents have requested sidewalks. There unimproved streets (i.e. Waldnesa, Luxona, Bridle Path, Country Club, Pine Ridge). The Council President asked if the focus should be on improved streets. Mr. Formica agreed that should be the first priority. Council President Levon stated he didn't believe a committee meeting would be necessary. He suggested Mr. Formica apply for the funding, unless there are any objections from Council for the Cabin, Clark, and Johnson location.

Councilperson Bala asked if there was a survey done there, or was it just a few people who wanted sidewalks. Council President Levon noted there are a number of people who walk on that street and residents noted their concern that it is unsafe. He asked Councilperson Gerhardstein, as it is his ward, to comment on the request. He noted there are many children (and adults) that are walking in the street and when there are cars parked on the street, it becomes a traffic hazard. There have been many complaints that it is a safety issue.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if it would be the inner ring or the outer ring. Mr. Formica noted the previous research noted the inner ring would be easier. Funding was pursued through Laketran, but it included bus stops on Ridge Road, which Council did not approve. Mr. Gerhardstein noted there are enough obstacles on Bishop that impede traffic, and the Jewish community does not use buses to travel.

Council President Levon thought the inner ring was going to be more expensive, as retaining walls would be necessary. Mr. Formica noted there may be some that are necessary, but there are culverts on the outer ring. He will look it up and calculate it again if necessary, then let everyone know.

Councilperson Jaworski asked if there is a limit to what can be requested. Mr. Formica didn't think so, within reason. All of Euclid Avenue probably "wouldn't fly".

Council President Levon noted, unless there are any objections, Mr. Formica should apply for the funding. There were no further questions or comments for the Engineer.

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

Service Director Krofcheck noted the salt ordinance is on the agenda this evening. The salt came in at the same price as last year.

Council President Levon read in Mr. Krofcheck's report that fences were installed for the high school teams at Jindra and Coulby. He asked if the City is storing the fencing, now that the Provo House is gone. Mr. Krofcheck noted we are. The Coulby fence stays in the old service garage and the Jindra fence is stored in the concession stand.

Councilperson Bala asked, with summer coming, if there is a punch list for the pools to make sure everything is working, getting fixed if it needs to be fixed, and is ahead of schedule. Mr. Krofcheck noted the leaves have been removed from the lazy river and Jindra. They still have the twelve-foot area at Coulby to do, but every time they drain it, it rains again. Mr. Bala asked if there were any major items they are anticipating to be a problem. Mr. Krofcheck noted he is unaware of any issues right now.

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

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

Building Commissioner Sack reported he checks on Old School Way every day. They sanitary sewers have been installed and they are currently installing the remainder of the catch basins and the storm sewers. The contractor has noted they should be able to pour the road in four to five weeks.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

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

Recreation Director Stopp noted the annual Easter Egg Hunt was Saturday. There were approximately 150 kids who participated, which was a good turnout. He thanked Council for their support of their event.

Council President Levon asked how the new Senior Center Director is working out. Mr. Stopp noted the transition has been very smooth, and she has hopped into his role very well. He has expanded some of the programming there. He is happy with the selection and noted he is doing a really good job.

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

## Audience Participation

Council President Levon opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:17 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 Levon closed Audience Participation at 7:18PM.

## Committee Reports

Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes from the March 31st, 2025 meeting were presented by Councilperson Jaworski. *Written Report Submitted*

Legislation & Welfare Committee Meeting Minutes from the March 31st, 2025 meeting were presented by Councilperson Gerhardstein. *Written Report Submitted*

Motion by Levon, seconded by Gerhardstein, to authorize the Law Director to modify Chapter 1303.70 to include "required for all City buildings".

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Levon, seconded by Gerhardstein, to authorize the Law Director to modify the wording in Chapter 1341 to increase the zoning fee from \$250.00 to a \$1,500 deposit.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

## Commission Reports

There were no Committee Reports.

## Old Business

There was no Old Business.

## New Business

### A. Mayor's Appointment to Planning Commission

Mayor Sakacs noted he would like to appoint Mr. Michael Fishwick to fill the unexpired term of S. Bittence on the Planning Commission. The term will expire December 31, 2025.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Michael Fishwick – term to expire 12/31/2025 – to the Planning Commission.

Discussion: Councilperson Jaworski noted that, as the Council representative to the Planning Commission, it would have been nice if someone had told him there was a resignation; rather he read it on the agenda.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**B. Number of Vape Stores**

Mayor Sakacs noted he has received complaints. There were only two, but they seem to be popping up everywhere. We cannot prevent a business unless there is zoning in place. If they have the correct permits we can't just say no. He stated there are four now. He did some research. In Willoughby, they do not allow them in downtown Willoughby. His thought was to limit the number on Euclid Avenue or do we leave it alone. He noted he believes we are business friendly, and we don't want to add restrictions, but wants to know what Council thinks. He noted there are many places to get vapes. He spoke to the Law Director, and mentioned "house rules". Mr. Iosue noted he would have to do some research to see if we can limit this. Mayor Sakacs asked if should go into committee for further discussion. Council President Levon suggested putting it into Committee of the Whole until the Law Director can look into the capability to limit this.

Councilperson Jaworski asked for clarification that we are differentiating vape stores from stores that sell tobacco and other products. Mr. Iosue noted he will also look into what the distinctions would be.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked what the problem is, noting vape products can be bought at many stores. Mr. Levon noted it seems there may be residents who dislike the quantity of vape stores opening. Mayor Sakacs noted he's had about eight complaints, and wanted to know how he can address these. He noted it fills up an empty building. Mr. Gerhardstein noted he didn't understand, adding if it is zoned for that location, it would be allowed, unless we are planning to ban the sale of vaping supplies in the City. He wondered what store would be next – tobacco stores or beverage stores – which would not be allowed. Mr. Gerhardstein noted he was trying to understand, and Mayor Sakacs noted he was told by many residents that there are too many vape stores opening in the City. Mr. Levon stated he believes that possibly some residents assume that the City reaches out to businesses. He stated these locations are zoned General Business and vape stores are allowed in General Business zones. Mr. Gerhardstein noted the younger generation tends to vape, and he still doesn't understand the issue. The Mayor noted he is just the messenger.

Councilperson Jaworski noted this reminds him of about seventeen years ago when there was an issue with dollar stores. Mr. Levon asked what happened, and Mr. Jaworski noted Council did nothing. Mr. Levon noted it could be put into committee and have the Law Director look into this. They Mayor noted it would be okay if Council believes this would be a waste of time.

Mr. Gerhardstein noted his concern is if it is categorized as a vape store and we decide to limit them, then what category would be next, especially if there are complaints about another category like automotive garages. He does not want to get to a point where we are continually saying we have too many of this or that. Councilperson Bala noted Council did limit the number of internet cafes and marijuana dispensaries. He noted he is not a fan of vape stores as they pop up so quick. He believes there are five now, but also noted "it is what it is", and suggested looking into it, but we would be limiting one's right to own a business in the right district. Councilperson Thielman agrees with the Mayor and would be happy to look at the opportunity to limit vape stores. He is not too concerned with the vape pen, but it would be the other items in addition to vape products that are being sold. He stated some cities and even states have banned Delta 8s, etc. He noted Ohio is not one of them but believes the state legislature is looking at it. His problem with them is how they generally look – they have bright flashing lights that "pop out at you" and say this is a crappy looking site and we have crappy stuff for you to buy. He would be happy to regulate them. He knows the current ones will be grandfathered in, but would vote yes to limit the number of vape shops in this community.

Council President Levon put this topic into the Committee of the Whole and will wait to hear back from the Law Director.

**C. Amend First Energy Lightbulb Agreement**

Mayor Sakacs noted he has had multiple complaints about the brightness of the new LED lights that are installed. He noted he was speaking with our contact at First Energy and was told about a Failure Event. The contact noted we could put verbiage in this addendum that would denote any lights being replaced in the future be the lowest wattage (50 watts). He believes when a light goes out, they put in whatever is available, as they are different – some are brighter than others. He noted some people like the brightness, as it makes them feel safer. He gets more complaints than compliments recently. Some residents called First Energy, who told them it is up to the Mayor to bring it to Council. He recommends changing the verbiage in the Failure Program to note "lowest wattage", if this is what Council would like to vote on. He also noted the lights fade over time.

Councilperson Bala noted the low pedestal lights on Kimberly are very bright and due to the level they are at, go right into bedrooms and living rooms. He suggested the lowest wattage may be best for the new development going in.

Councilperson Thielman noted it may not be about wattage, but rather lumens – how bright the light is. He agreed that some may be brighter than others. He suggested the lowest lumens that are acceptable for safety. He also suggested doing some research to see if they are different or if it is coincidence, or angle, or something else. He noted he has not received any complaints. Mayor Sakacs stated that First Energy said the fifty watt is still bright.

Councilperson Jaworski noted it is not necessarily the lumens, but a color difference – the new ones are white and the old ones are more orange-yellow, a softer color. Mr. Thielman noted Wickliffe was different than other communities in the 90's – they were "orange-y".

Mr. Gerhardstein noted he and Mr. Korfcheck spoke with a First Energy contact today as there are issues fixing some lights. It was explained that when they come out, the crew may not have a new LED (due to a shortage of these), so they put in what they have, and in some cases are putting back the old style. It has been weeks waiting for certain lights to be repaired/changed, and they will put in "what they have". He noted most [residents] will say "that is different", then after a week or so they love the new light because it is brighter and they feel better. He noted he believes it has been more positive than negative.

Mayor Sakacs also noted that when residents have called, First Energy is telling them to call the City about a shield. He explained that the City has to pay for them, they are expensive, and they are still waiting for shields that were requested at two locations for over a year. He believes he gets more compliments than complaints. He noted there are other situations like a bent pole that he asks to be addressed.

Mr. Korfcheck asked, since he has to fill out paperwork for the roads that are on schedule to be resurfaced this year, if we would like to request the lowest wattage for all the new bulbs. Councilperson Koski said yes. Mr. Levon noted that would likely be the simplest and easiest thing to do. Ms. Koski asked if there is an example of one that is the lowest, for comparison. She would like to see the difference. Mr. Korfcheck noted they [First Energy] did put up old ones, as they have run out of the new ones. He noted he is working on the compliant Mr. Jaworski brought to his attention. Mr. Levon asked what Council's preference would be with regard to Mr. Korfcheck's question. Mr. Bala stated he believes Ridge Road should be the brightest as they are a bit farther away and it is a State Road, and the side streets should be the lowest wattage. Mr. Korfcheck noted that on some streets, there will be differences, as some have already been switched out (i.e. Robert and Gary are scheduled to get the high wattage bulbs). If it has already been replaced and we request a change, we have to pay for it. Mr. Thielman asked if we would really know if there are differences. The question is regarding the new streets – to write it into the agreements.

It was decided that, with the exception of Rt. 84, the new contracts should use the lowest wattage bulbs, and Rt. 84 should have the brightest. Mr. Levon noted he will wait until there has been further investigation to put it into committee for discussion.

#### **D. Stanley Steemer Business CRA**

Mayor Sakacs asked this be put into the proper committee for discussion. Council President Levon said he would add it to the Finance Committee, but wondered if there was a deadline for this. Mayor Sakacs noted they are getting close to beginning construction and Mr. Sack can find out when they will start. Mr. Sack noted it is likely a few months out. He added this item to the Finance Committee and noted when it is ready for discussion, let him know and he will call a meeting to discuss it.

#### **E. Cannabis Revenue**

Finance Director Hunter noted the Auditor of State issued a bulletin suggesting Council have legislation stating how the City will use any revenue received from the cannabis tax. She is recommending it go into the Finance Committee for further discussion. Council President Levon assed Cannabis Revenue to the Finance Committee.

#### **F. Contract Renewal for CT Consultants**

Engineer Formica stated CT Consultants is now Verdantas. Verdantas would like to issue contracts to their liking to all their communities. Pete has put together a Municipal Service Agreement which is basically legal-ease. He noted he met with the Finance Director, the Mayor, the Law Director, and the Building Commissioner to go over it. At this meeting there were revisions suggested; Mr. Formica will make the revisions, and will send out the revisions to all. Mr. Levon asked if the business is still CT Consultants.

Mr. Formica noted that it is Verdantas, but Ms. Hunter noted the invoices still say CT. Mr. Levon added this item to the Finance Committee and will call a meeting on this.

G. **Planning Commission Letter to Council** (letter attached)

Council President Levon noted he received a letter from the Planning Commission dated April 3, 2025. He read the letter to Council. Per CH1341, the Planning Commission recommended the proposed rezoning for the Loreto/Old School project from General Business and Residential to Multi-Family be approved. Mr. Levon called for a special meeting/public hearing on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Wickliffe Community/Senior Center per CH1341 for Council's consideration of the proposed rezoning.

H. **Residential CRA**

Council President Levon put this item into the Finance Committee and when this topic is ready for discussion, he will call a meeting on this topic.

I. **Chapter 1521**

Councilperson Koski noted she would like to put this item into committee to discuss the entire Chapter, especially 1521.99 Penalty. She believes it needs updating as there are some questionable items that are allowed that she would like to discuss. Mr. Levon added this item to the Legislation & Welfare Committee for discussion.

## Ordinances

**OR2025-14 AMENDED** *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 (E)

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

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

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

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

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

**OR2025-17** *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 (E)

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-17 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 2025-17 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-17 adopted.**

**OR2025-18** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the purchase of one new 2025 Asphalt Maintenance Trailer from Concord Road Equipment Mfg. for use by the Service Department of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-18 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Councilperson Jaworski inquired regarding the delivery date of the equipment. Mr. Kroccheck noted the company assured him we are at the top of a list of 20 orders. Mr. Jaworski followed up asking if it would be this calendar year. Mr. Kroccheck assured him it would be this year.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2025-18 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-18 adopted.**

**OR2025-19** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the provision of road salt; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-19 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: Councilperson Jaworski asked for clarification that this was only for the commitment to purchase, not the amount to be purchased. Service Director Kroccheck confirmed it was only the commitment to purchase.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2025-19 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-19 adopted.**

**OR2025-20** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the purchase of one (1) new 100KW Cummins Generator and associated equipment for use by the Police Department of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-20 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 2025-20 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-20 adopted.**

**OR2025-21** *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the purchase of two (2) new current model vehicles for use by the Police Department of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio, through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-21 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 Bala, that Ordinance 2025-21 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-21 adopted.**

**OR2025-22** *By Title Only* An ordinance amending the City of Wickliffe Zone Map referred to in Section 1341.80 of the Wickliffe Codified Ordinances rezoning one parcel owned by the Rabbinical College of Telshe Yeshiva in Wickliffe, Ohio **FIRST READING**

## Resolutions

**RES 2025-05** A resolution recognizing the broad duty to affirmatively further fair housing in the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2025-05 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 Bala, that Resolution 2025-05 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried. **Resolution 2025-05 adopted.**

**RES 2025-06** A resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to submit an application to the Lake County Office of Planning & Community Development for funding through the competitive Community Development Block Grant Program; and declaring an emergency (E);

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2025-06 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 Bala, that Resolution 2025-06 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried. **Resolution 2025-06 adopted.**

**RES 2025-07** A resolution authorizing and directing the Building Commissioner of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to apply for and accept financial assistance from the Lake County FY'25 Community Development Block Grant Program to improve the housing stock in the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Resolution 2025-07 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 Bala, that Resolution 2025-07 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried. **Resolution 2025-07 adopted.**

## Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

## Miscellaneous

Councilperson Jaworski noted he forgot to ask the Law Director earlier in the meeting regarding the Policy Handbook. He noted when he asked in December, there were edits necessary. He noted it is April and wondered if it was ready for Council to review. Mr. Iosue noted it is close. He will continue to work on it and it will be ready in the near future.

Council President Levon called for a Finance Committee meeting for Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall to discuss the following topics: Cannabis Revenue Legislation, Contract Renewal for CT Consultants/Verdantas, and Ladder Truck Financing.

Councilperson Gerhardstein noted he wished to respond to a remark made by Councilperson Bala at the previous Council meeting. He stated that Councilperson Bala noted if a councilperson voted no on the budget they should ask themselves what they did to change the budget. He noted he wished to respond on the record that the three council people who voted no initiated forty-two inquiries regarding revenue and expenses during two council meetings on the budget. He noted these questions cut expenses in some instances and identified a revenue error regarding the school resource officer over the last two years. He noted this is one example of how asking questions and being prepared adds value. He also noted the four council people who voted yes on the budget initiated only six inquiries on both revenue and expenses during those same two meetings and two people didn't ask one question on a fifteen page, \$35 Million budget. He noted that the question should have been "What did the members who voted yes do?" Additionally, he stated the budget belongs to Council, not the administration and not questioning or attempting to balance the budget is not bringing value to one's council position.

Councilperson Jaworski added that the group that voted to reduce the expenses by approximately \$378,000.00 and added approximately \$120,000 to revenue.

## Adjournment

Motion by Gerhardstein, 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, Levon, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 9:01 PM.

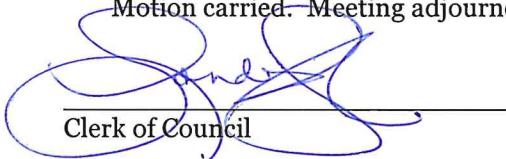
Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.



Clerk of Council



Edward A. Lur

Council President and Presiding Officer