



Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President Ed Levon on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall.

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

Council President
Council Members
Mayor
Law Director
Finance Director
Engineer
Service Director
Building Commissioner
Recreation Director
Police Chief
Fire Captain

Edward Levon
Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman
Joseph Sakacs
Jeremy D. Iosue
Chlondra Hunter
Peter J. Formica
Dave Krofcheck
Ray Sack
Timothy Stopp
Jonathon Bush
Paul Baptie

Excused: Fire Chief Chris Grossman

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to allow Councilperson Salotto to abstain from voting on the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of April 28, 2025.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion Carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council Meeting of April 28, 2025 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Abstain: Salotto

No: None

Motion carried. **April 28, 2025 meeting minutes approved.**

Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director

Mayor Sakacs read his written report, adding his condolences to the Fire Chief and his family on the loss of the Chief's father.

Reports and Communications from Director of Law

Law Director Iosue noted he had nothing to report, but stated he will be on vacation for next week's meeting and Prosecutor Michael Kenny will be filling in for him.

Reports and Communications from Council President

Council President Levon had no Reports or Communications.

Additions or Amendments to Agenda

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked that *75 year City Celebration* be added to new Business as Item A. Council President Levon added this item to New Business.

Administrators

A. *Police Chief (Bush)*

Chief Bush noted he had nothing to add.

There were no questions or comments for the Police Chief.

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

Captain Baptie noted he had nothing to add to the Fire Chief's written report, but noted he distributed the Fire Department's 2024 Annual Report at Chief Grossman's request.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if Capt. Baptie could elaborate on whether the citation that was issued for the construction at the new Sunset Development property had stopped work at the site. Capt. Baptie noted he did not have the information to answer the question, but noted he would find out and get back to the Councilperson with an answer.

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

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

Finance Director Hunter noted April is closed and the General Fund Carry-over Balance is approximately \$7.3 million.

There were no questions or comments for the Finance Director.

D. *Engineer (Formica) Written Report Submitted*

Engineer Formica reported he had nothing to add to his revised written report.

There were no questions or comments for the Engineer.

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

Service Director Krofcheck noted he wished to add two items. The first was to report TC construction has completed the 2024 Joint/Slab Repair Project. The second item was to note the Service Department has hired three part-time, seasonal workers who started on May 5th.

Councilperson Koski asked about the "terms" of the season. Mr. Krofcheck noted last year they were able to keep the part-timers until December (through leaf season). Mr. Krofcheck is looking forward to having these three guys for a while.

Councilperson Bala noted Rockefeller is closed and wondered how long that would last. He added that despite the complaints, the beginning [of the project] is a huge improvement. Mr. Krofcheck noted he is hoping to continue with asphalt through the end of the week. Mr. Bala also noted, regarding the fence/gate at Green Ridge Golf Course, it looks so much better.

Councilperson Gerhardstein inquired, regarding last year's road improvement program, if the punch list has been completed. The Service Director noted it is not. Mr. Gerhardstein asked when it might be complete. Mr. Krofcheck noted he is in contact with the company, and they are keeping tabs on this, as there are a few remaining issues. The contractor has not yet received the final payment, and will not until the punch list is complete.

Council President Levon asked if the length of time the part-time employees remain is budget dependent. Mr. Krofcheck noted it is. Mr. Levon noted if it would be optimal to keep them longer into the winter, that Mr. Krofcheck should approach Council with a business case for additional funds, as he believes Council would be amenable if the funds are available.

Councilperson Jaworski noticed work has begun on the pools and wondered how they fared over the winter. Mr. Krofcheck noted they are almost ready to fill Jindra and they are working on Coulby now. They have put in a bit of overtime to get a jump on it. He does not anticipate any drastic issues.

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

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

Building Commissioner Sack noted he wished to follow up on Councilperson Gerhardstein's question to Captain Baptie. He noted there is a temporary road at Bellview where trucks are going in and out prior to

the construction of the roads. He stated the road is big enough for a fire truck. He added that the Lake County Water Department has been involved with the installation of fire hydrants, noting they are the correct type, and this is also going well.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if work there is ongoing or if the violation stopped work. Mr. Sack noted the company has complied with the terms of the violation and work is continuing on the site.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

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

Recreation Director noted the Recreation Department is in need of lifeguards. He noted they have notifications currently on the City website and Facebook. They have attended job fairs, had a message on the school's text blast notification, sent communications to area high school guidance counselors, etc.

Councilperson Salotto asked what we are paying lifeguards. Mr. Stopp noted \$12.00 per hour, which is in the middle compared to area cities.

Councilperson Koski noted they should consider reaching out to seniors. Mr. Stopp noted they have, and will take a certified lifeguard of any age.

Councilperson Salotto noted she believes it is important that Jindra pool have hours to accommodate the community, noting it was closed often last year. Mr. Stopp noted hours are dependent on staffing.

Councilperson Jaworski inquired regarding staff for Day Camp, etc. Mr. Stopp noted they are okay currently in these areas.

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

Audience Participation

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

Mr. Jeff Turchon of 30518 Bridle Path, noted the reason he is here is regarding the article in the May 10th newspaper pertaining to sidewalks. He noted the article states several streets could be considered, but stated Mr. Levon limited the scope to Cabin, Clark, and Johnson. He noted he is here to represent residents of Bridle Path, Country Club, Pine Ridge, and Ridgehurst stating "leave us alone". Mr. Levon clarified that Cabin, Clark, and Johnson have a different construction than the other streets. He also noted there are a lot more people out walking there than in Mr. Turchon's neighborhood, where it is not a safety hazard. Councilperson Bala noted those streets [Country Club, Pine Ridge, Country Club, etc.] will not be touched with sidewalks. Mr. Levon agreed noting there are no plans for sidewalks in that area. Mr. Turchon noted that is exactly what he wanted to hear.

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 7:17 PM.

Committee Reports

Legislation & Welfare Committee Meeting Minutes from the May 5th, 2025 meeting were presented by Councilperson Gerhardstein. *Written Report Submitted*

Motion by Levon, seconded by Gerhardstein to authorize the Law Director to modify CH 1521 – Open Burning of the Codified Ordinances of City of Wickliffe to include the warnings in the penalty section.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Levon, seconded by Gerhardstein to authorize the Law Director to create legislation to modify CH 1323– Fences of the Codified Ordinances of City of Wickliffe to include the wording "no fence-on-fence" unless there is a minimum distance of at least four (4) feet between fences and that

when making application, photos shall be required to demonstrate exactly where the fence will be, and show any current fence or other structures.

Discussion: Councilperson Jaworski wanted to be sure gates are included in the modifications, as this was discussed at the meeting. He noted gates would be necessary for yard maintenance. Councilperson Gerhardstein noted he and the Building Commissioner went over a drawing, which will include a gate in the process.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Levon, seconded by Salotto, to authorize the Law Director to create legislation regarding Sex Offender Residency Prohibition.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Commission Reports

There were no Commission Reports.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

A. 75 year Celebration (Gerhardstein)

Councilperson Gerhardstein noted the City of Wickliffe will celebrate the 75th anniversary of becoming a City next year. He wished to bring this to everyone's attention in case we would like to plan something to celebrate this occasion. He was thinking we could coordinate with the Historical Society.

Councilperson Salotto didn't realize this anniversary was approaching, but she would like to incorporate the long history of Wickliffe, since it goes back way further than seventy-five years.

Mayor Sakacs noted he will touch base with the History ladies and we can begin to formulate a plan. Mr. Gerhardstein noted that would be great, as the dates listed are sometimes confusing.

Councilperson Jaworski noted the city celebrated it's bicentennial a few years ago, and agrees it should be celebrated. Mr. Gerhardstein suggested possibly coordinating something with the Summer concerts.

It was noted we will begin planning for this event.

Ordinances

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 **THIRD READING**

Motion by Levon, seconded by Jaworski, that Ordinance 2025-22 be amended to include the correct parcel number. It was not incorrect, but had not been assigned when this ordinance was created. The correct number is 29-B-010-0-00-024-0.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2025-22 AMENDED be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-22 AMENDED adopted.**

OR2025-24 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Verdantas LLC for the purpose of professional consulting services (City Engineer) **FIRST READING**

OR2025-25 *By Title Only* An ordinance establishing the receipting of adult use cannabis funds **FIRST READING**

OR2025-26 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a LPA Federal ODOT LET Project Final Agreement (PID No. 112506) for resurfacing of Bishop Road/Ridge Road (SR-84) in the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Salotto, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-26 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 Koski, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2025-26 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-26 adopted.**

Resolutions

There were no Resolutions.

Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

Miscellaneous

Councilperson Gerhardstein noted he received a call from a resident on Johnson/Clark who is not interested in sidewalks on Johnson/Cabin/Clark, noting the resident believes it is a waste of money.

Council President Levon reminded all about the Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 14th, at 7:00 PM at the Wickliffe Community/Senior Center for the rezoning of the Old School Property. He also noted the next regular Council meeting will be May 19th due to the Memorial Day holiday on May 26th.

Adjournment

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) *to consider the appointment, employment, or compensation of a public employee or official.*

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 8:15 PM.

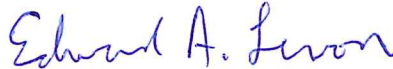
Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Salotto, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.


Clerk of Council
Council President and Presiding Officer