



Prior to the calling the meeting to order, Council President Levon requested a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Chris Mlachak. Chris was a very active member of the City who served on multiple commissions and attended nearly every Council meeting.

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

The following were present at Roll Call:

Council President	Edward A. Levon
Council Members	Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Salotto, Thielman
Mayor	Joseph Sakacs
Law Director	Jeremy Iosue
Finance Director	Michael Matas
Engineer	Peter J. Formica
Service Director	Dave Kroccheck
Recreation Director	Timothy Stopp
Police Chief	Jonathon Bush
Fire Chief	Christopher Grossman

Excused: Building Commissioner Dino Capra

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, to allow Councilpersons Bala, Levon, and Salotto to abstain from voting on the minutes of the Wickliffe City Council regular meeting of November 10th, 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 regular meeting of November 10th, 2025 be approved as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried. **November 10th, 2025 regular meeting minutes approved.**

Reports and Communications from Mayor/Safety Director

Mayor Sakacs read his written report.

The Mayor added that Chris Mlachak was his neighbor. Chris had been attending Council meetings since he was a teen. He lost his bout with cancer at age 53. He served for more than 30 years on both the Environmental Commission and Keep Wickliffe Beautiful (formerly the Clean City Commission). He worked for the Service Department and the Recreation Department (at Green Ridge Golf Course and the Community Center). Someone put up a post about Chris on the KWB Facebook page which was shown to Chris' father. Chris' father lost his wife (Chris' mom) a few months ago and has been very out of sorts. He asked the Mayor to thank everyone for their well wishes.

Reports and Communications from Director of Law

Law Director Iosue noted he will not be able to attend the December 15th Council Meeting, but the Prosecutor, Mr. Michael Kenny, will attend in his place.

Mr. Iosue also noted he will be emailing a draft of the Policy manual to Council for their review next week. It will be a draft, as it has not been finalized.

Reports and Communications from Council President

Council President Levon had no Reports or Communications.

Additions or Amendments to Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

Administrators

A. Police Chief (Bush) Written Report Submitted

Chief Bush noted there was a traffic accident on Franklin and Worden that involved an e-bike and a vehicle last week. This has invoked discussion regarding adding legislation pertaining to e-bikes in the City. The Chief asked if this topic could be put into committee for discussion as this is becoming a problem.

Chief Bush read a letter of commendation that was written to the Mayor regarding an incident at a robbery at Green Ridge Hotel. (see attached).

The Chief wished to speak about the importance of FLOCK. He noted there was an incident at Speedway the other day, and the FLOCK cameras allowed the department to find the vehicle involved. He noted this tool is invaluable. Councilperson Bala asked if additional FLOCK cameras were needed. Chief Bush noted Wickliffe currently has eight cameras and he believes we are good currently. Councilperson Koski asked if the program needs updating. Chief Bush stated that there were a few that were not working well, but this has been addressed. He noted we "share" with both Willowick and Willoughby Hills. Ms. Koski asked if it was a state-wide or national database, and the chief responded anyone with access to FLOCK has access to all the cameras throughout the nation.

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

B. Fire Chief (Grossman)

Chief Grossman noted he had nothing to report.

There were no questions or comments for the Fire Chief.

C. Finance Director (Matas)

Finance Director Matas noted the unencumbered General Fund Balance is currently at \$9.2 Million, and at this same time period last year (2024) that total was \$7.7 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 written report and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilperson Jaworski asked when the striping on SR84 will be complete. Mr. Formica noted he does not have the schedule, however there is a temperature limit to this process as it is not paint, but a thermal plastic tape. He noted they have met with ODOT, and if this product fails over the winter, they will be back in the spring to replace it.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked for an update on two unfinished projects: Luxona and Green Ridge Golf Course. With regard to GRGC, the Engineer noted he submitted a letter to the dredging contractor and has not yet heard from them. He is assuming they are waiting for the ground to freeze. Mr. Gerhardstein noted that earlier in the year, this contractor was waiting for the area to dry out, and when it did, they did not return. Mr. Formica noted it was supposed to be in the fall, but then there was rain. He noted if they do not return, we will hire someone else to complete the job before the spring season. With regard to Luxona, Mr. Formica noted they have not heard from that contractor. Service Director Kroccheck noted

he received an email today that the contractor had been there and they finished the area and fixed the drainage problem; he will have someone check to make sure this has been completed tomorrow. Mr. Gerhardstein asked if both catch basins have been repaired, or if it was just one. Mr. Kroccheck noted the catch basin in the ditch was fixed in-house and the other one had an issue with crumbling. It was dug up, a base was established, and it was refilled with asphalt. It will be checked tomorrow while it is raining to be sure it is working correctly. Mr. Gerhardstein asked if this completes the punch list from two years ago for this project/contractor. Mr. Kroccheck noted he believes so, however there may still be a bit of puddling, as there is only so much grinding that can be done.

Councilperson Koski asked, regarding the Golf Course, if there is money outstanding that can be used for a new contractor if necessary, and Mr. Formica noted there is.

There were no additional questions or comments for the Engineer.

E. Service Director (Kroccheck)

Service Director Kroccheck noted he met with ODOT last week regarding replacement of additional curbs. They are charging per foot, with a five foot minimum, and they have determined an amount which is in the \$40,000.00 range. Currently it is believed there are funds "left over" that can be used for this, however this has not been confirmed and additional money may be necessary to fix the missing curbs.

Councilperson Gerhardstein asked if the City performed the patch in front of Mt. Carmel on Euclid Avenue. Mr. Kroccheck stated it was a Water Department job using Empire Paving. Mr. Gerhardstein followed up asking how many outstanding Water Department paving jobs remain. Mr. Kroccheck noted he does not have a specific number, but he can check, as there were quite a few more over the summer. Mr. Gerhardstein asked what is the longest these have been outstanding. Mr. Kroccheck noted they did complete a number of the older ones, so it is probably about six months.

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

F. Building Commissioner (Capra)

Building Commissioner Capra was excused.

There were no questions or comments for the Building Commissioner.

G. Recreation Director (Stopp)

Recreation Director Stopp reported he just returned from a Food Distribution event at the Family Resource Center. This food was collected at the Election Day canned food drive. Club Molisani and a few private individuals offered donations, which were used to purchase ALDI gift cards. These gift cards were added to the food distributed this evening. He noted that he believed they had served about thirty (30) cars before he left to attend this meeting. He added it was great to partner with the Family Resource Center.

The Recreation Director noted the annual Turkey Hunt was held this past Saturday. Eighteen (18) turkeys and dinner fixings were distributed to the eighteen winners. The attendance was lower than usual for this event, and the reason is hard to determine since it was a very nice weather day.

Mr. Stopp stated the Recreation Department is quite busy at this time of the year with the Holiday Helping Hands program which is coordinated with the schools and is supported by many area businesses and organizations.

Mayor Sakacs noted he received multiple calls asking what the City would and/or could do to help families, especially those who have lost SNAP benefits. This is what led to today's distribution which was for Wickliffe Residents only. He added that anyone can contact the FRC at any time for assistance, as well as Lifeline 211. Added to the box of food at tonight's distribution was an Aldi gift card to help those who might be having a difficult time.

There were no questions or comments for the Recreation Director.

Audience Participation

Council President Levon opened Audience Participation to those in attendance at 7:20 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 7:21PM.

Committee Reports

Council President Levon presented the minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting held November 17th, 2025.

Commission Reports

There were no Commission Reports.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

A. Council Meeting Date Change

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Jaworski, to move the December 22nd, 2025 regular Council Meeting to December 15th, 2025 due to the Holiday.

Discussion: Mr. Gerhardstein noted the inauguration of the newly elected members of Council will take place immediately following the Council Meeting on December 15th in the Victorian Room with a swearing in by Judge Robert Patton.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

Ordinances

OR2025-47 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 Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein, that Ordinance 2025-47 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-47 adopted.**

OR2025-51 By Title Only An ordinance amending certain sections of Chapter 935 - Sewer Regulations and Rates of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-51 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 Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, that Ordinance 2025-51 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-51 adopted.**

OR2025-52 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a participation agreement with the Lake County Board of Commissioners for the provision of a comprehensive healthcare plan for certain employees of the city; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Gerhardstein, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-52 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 Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, that Ordinance 2025-52 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-52 adopted.**

OR2025-53 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company for the provision of life insurance coverage for certain employees of the city; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-53 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 Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2025-53 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-53 adopted.**

OR2025-54 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with MetLife Vision Insurance Company for the provision of vision care benefits for certain employees of the city; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-54 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 Gerhardstein, seconded by Bala, that Ordinance 2025-54 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-54 adopted.**

OR2025-55 *By Title Only* An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wickliffe, Ohio to enter into a contract with MetLife Dental Life Insurance Company for the provision of dental benefits coverage for certain employees of the city; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-55 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 Gerhardstein, seconded by Thielman, that Ordinance 2025-55 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-55 adopted.**

OR2025-56 *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, 2026 and ending March 31, 2026 **FIRST READING**

OR2025-57 *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; and declaring an emergency (E)

Motion by Bala, seconded by Salotto, the rules of Wickliffe City Council be suspended and Ordinance 2025-57 be placed on third and final reading.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: Gerhardstein

Motion carried.

Motion by Bala, seconded by Salotto, that Ordinance 2025-55 be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: Gerhardstein

Motion carried. **Ordinance 2025-57 adopted.**

OR2025-58 *By Title Only* An ordinance amending and revising Chapter 769 Tourist Homes and Motels related to Short-Term Rentals of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wickliffe **FIRST READING**

Resolutions

There were no Resolutions.

Other Legislation

There was no Other Legislation.

Miscellaneous

Council President Levon added Community Gardens to the Committee of the Whole and E-Bikes to the Legislation and Welfare Committee.

Adjournment

Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session following a five minute break pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) Per ORC 121.22 G (8)

To consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance, provided that both of the following conditions apply:

(a) The information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance that is to be provided or administered under any provision of Chapter 715., 725., 1724., or 1728. Or sections 701.07, 3735.67 to 3735.70, 5709.40 to 5709.43, 5709.61 to 5709.69, 5709.73 to 5709.75, or 5709.77 to 5709.81 of the Revised Code, or that involves public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project.

(b) A unanimous quorum of the public body determines, by a roll call vote, that the executive session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project.

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned to Executive Session following a five minute break at 7:32 PM.

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

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting reconvened at 8:11 PM.

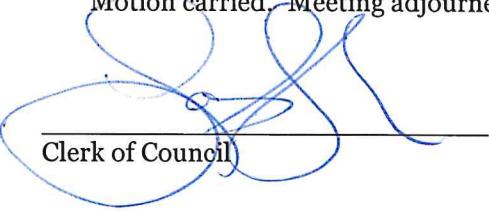
Motion by Gerhardstein, seconded by Koski, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

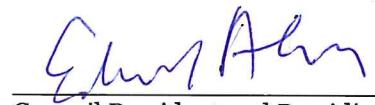
Yes: Bala, Gerhardstein, Jaworski, Koski, Levon, Salotto, Thielman

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.



Clerk of Council



Council President and Presiding Officer