



Pursuant to a request by Council President Randy Gerhardstein, an Organizational Meeting of the Council of the City of Wickliffe was held on Monday, January 6th, 2026 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers at Wickliffe City Hall.

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

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Council President     | Randy Gerhardstein                           |
| Council Members       | Bala, Ball, Jaworski, Koski, Levon, Thielman |
| Mayor                 | Joseph Sakacs                                |
| Law Director          | Jeremy Iosue                                 |
| Finance Director      | Michael Matas                                |
| Engineer              | Peter J. Formica                             |
| Service Director      | Dave Krofcheck                               |
| Building Commissioner | Dino Capra                                   |
| Recreation Director   | Timothy Stopp                                |

Excused: Police Chief Jonathon Bush and Fire Chief Christopher Grossman

#### **Appointment of Clerk of Council**

Motion by Levon, seconded by Koski, that Ms. Sandra Fink be appointed Clerk of Council for 2026.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

#### **Adoption of Rules of Council**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Koski, that the Rules of Council (Chapter 121.01) be adopted as presented.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

#### **Appointment by Council of Prosecutor**

Motion by Bala, seconded by Thielman, that Michael A. Kenny, Jr. be appointed as the Prosecutor for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

#### **Appointments by Council to CRA Housing Council**

Motion by Levon, seconded by Bala, to appoint Mr. Tom Thielman and Mr. Jeff Butler, terms to expire 12/31/2028, to the CRA Housing Council.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

#### **Appointment of Council Representative to Planning Commission**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Koski, that Councilperson Jaworski be appointed as the Council Representative to the Planning Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Appointment of Council Representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals**

Motion by Bala, seconded by Thielman, that Council President Gerhardstein be appointed as the Council Representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Appointment of Council Representative to Parks and Recreation Commission**

Motion by Koski, seconded by Ball, that Councilperson Bala be appointed as the Council Representative to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Appointment of Council Representative to Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission**

Motion by Bala, seconded by Koski, that Councilperson Thielman be appointed as the Council Representative to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Appointment of Council Representative to Environmental Commission**

Motion by Bala, seconded by Koski, that Councilperson Ball be appointed as the Council Representative to the Environmental Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Appointment of Council Representative to Cemetery Board**

Motion by Bala, seconded by Koski, that Councilperson Gerhardstein be appointed as the Council Representative to the Cemetery Board.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Appointment of Council Representative to Senior Center Board**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Ball, that Councilperson Koski be appointed as the Council Representative to the Senior Center Board.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Appointment of Council Representative to Income Tax Board of Review**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, that Councilperson Levon be appointed as the Council Representative to the Income Tax Board of Review.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Appointment of Council Representatives to Volunteer Firefighters' Dependent Fund Board**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Ball, that Councilperson Levon and Councilperson Jaworski be appointed as the Council Representatives to the Volunteer Firefighters' Dependent Fund Board.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Mayor's Appointment of Director of Law**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Koski, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Jeremy Iosue as Director of Law for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Mayor's Appointment of Director of Public Service**

Motion by Levon, seconded by Ball, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. David M. Krofcheck as Director of Public Service for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Mayor's Appointment of Director of Finance**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Michael T. Matas as Director of Finance for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Mayor's Appointment of City Engineer**

Motion by Levon, seconded by Thielman, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Peter J. Formica of Verdantas as City Engineer for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Mayor's Appointment of Director of Recreation**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Ball to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Timothy E. Stopp as Director of Recreation for the City of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

**Mayor's Appointment to the Planning Commission**

Motion by Jaworski, seconded by Thielman, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Mr. Michael Fishwick, term to expire 12/31/2031, to the Planning Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.



### **Mayor's Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals**

There were no terms which expired December 31, 2025 for the Board of Zoning Appeals.

### **Mayor's Appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission**

Motion by Bala, seconded by Ball, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Ms. Marcia Kish, Mr. Steve Stewart, and Ms. Mary Kimble, terms to expire 12/31/2028, to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

### **Mayor's Appointments to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission**

Motion by Levon, seconded by Bala, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Ms. Michelle Guba, Ms. Katelynn Gurbach, and Mr. Peter Pogacar– all with terms to expire 12/31/2027, to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission; to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Ms. Mary McKeon (School Representative) – term to expire 12/31/2027, to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission; and to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Ms. Erin Barbish to fulfill the unexpired term of Chris Mlachak – term to expire 12/31/2026, to the Keep Wickliffe Beautiful Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

### **Mayor's Appointments to the Environmental Commission**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Levon, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Mr. Larry Orozco, term to expire 12/31/2028, to the Environmental Commission; and to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Ms. Fran Bevis and Mr. Mike Yates, terms to expire 12/31/2028, to the Environmental Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

### **Mayor's Appointments to the Cemetery Board**

Motion by Thielman, seconded by Bala, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' appointment of Ms. Dawn Gargulio, term to expire 12/31/2029, to the Cemetery Board.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried

### **Mayor's Appointment to the Civil Service Commission**

Motion by Bala, seconded by Koski, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Mr. Robert Heiss, term to expire 12/31/2031, to the Civil Service Commission.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

### **Mayor's Appointments to the CRA Housing Council**

Motion by Koski, seconded by Ball, to affirm Mayor Sakacs' re-appointment of Mr. Donald Zimmerman and Mr. Nino Baffa, terms to expire 12/31/2028, to the CRA Housing Council.

Discussion: None

Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried.

## Mayor's Appointments to the Lake County Board of Health

There were no terms which expired December 31, 2025 for the Lake County Board of Health.

## Mayor/ Council's Appointments to the Tax Incentive Review Council

There were no terms which expired December 31, 2025 for the Tax Incentive Review Council.

## Appointments to the Committees of Council

The following appointments to the Committees of Council have been made by Council President Gerhardstein:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:                             | <u>GERHARDSTEIN</u> , Koski, Jaworski, Levon, Bala, Thielman, Ball |
| FINANCE:  | <u>GERHARDSTEIN</u> , Koski, Jaworski, Levon, Bala, Thielman, Ball |
| SAFETY:   | <u>KOSKI</u> , Levon, Jaworski, Gerhardstein, Bala, Thielman, Ball |
| IMPROVEMENT:  | <u>JAWORSKI</u> , Levon, Koski, Gerhardstein, Bala, Thielman, Ball |
| LEGISLATION & WELFARE:                              | <u>LEVON</u> , Jaworski, Gerhardstein, Koski                       |
| SERVICE & SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:                        | <u>THIELMAN</u> , Jaworski, Gerhardstein, Ball                     |
| UTILITIES:  | <u>KOSKI</u> , Bala, Levon, Thielman                               |
| PARKS & PROPERTIES:                                 | <u>BALA</u> , Ball, Koski, Levon                                   |
| ENERGY EFFICIENCY / ENVIRONMENTAL:                  | <u>BALL</u> , Thielman, Levon, Koski                               |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/<br>EUCLID AVE RE-DEVELOPMENT: | <u>THIELMAN</u> , Jaworski, Bala, Gerhardstein                     |

(note: capitalized and underlined name denotes committee chairperson)

## Items to be Placed in Committee

The City Council Committee Task Assignments document, latest version updated December 15th, 2025, was distributed to all members of Council. Led by Council President Gerhardstein, each item on the document was reviewed to determine whether it could be removed or needed to remain. Following the initial review, Council President Gerhardstein invited additions to the Task list. At this time, new items were added. (The document has been updated and attached for reference.)

## Mayor's Comments

Mayor Sakacs read his comments (attached).

## Council President's Comments

Council President Gerhardstein noted he is looking forward to working with everyone. He thanked Councilperson Levon for his assistance with the transition.

He reminded Council that members must complete their financial disclosure information and their Sunshine Law training.

He noted he is looking forward to working on the budget, and stated he will be calling for a budget meeting at the January 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council. The Finance Committee meeting to discuss the 2026 Budget will be held Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. He asked all to consider if they would prefer a 6:00PM or a 7:00PM start time. The consensus was that 6:00 PM was preferred. The Council President noted he will officially call for this meeting at the Regular Council Meeting January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Councilperson Bala asked if the administration planned to continue the Storefront Program, noting it was not in committee. It was noted this can be discussed during the budget meeting, as there is a line item for this topic in the budget.

## Adjournment

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

Discussion: None

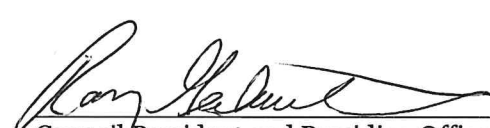
Roll Call:

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

No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Council President and Presiding Officer