

Wickliffe City Council Meeting
November 10, 2014

A regular meeting of Wickliffe City Council was called to order by Council President David Krych at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2014. The following were present at roll call:

MAYOR:	William Margalis
COUNCIL PRESIDENT:	David Krych
COUNCIL :	Bala, Ely, Jaworski, Koski, Levon, Matyja
LAW DIRECTOR:	William Gargiulo
FINANCE DIRECTOR:	Martin Germ
SERVICE DIRECTOR:	Don Kerniskey
ENGINEER:	Peter J. Formica
BUILDING COMMISSIONER:	Raymond F. Sack
RECREATION DIRECTOR:	Timothy E. Stopp
POLICE CHIEF:	Randy E. Ice
FIRE CHIEF:	James G. Powers
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:	Jason Laver

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Bala seconded by Mr. Ely that the minutes of the council meeting held on October 27, 2014 be approved as presented.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Bala, Ely, Jaworski, Koski, Krych, Levon, Matyja
No: None

Motion carried.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR/SAFETY DIRECTOR - Mayor Margalis reported that last week he received a letter from the Lake County Board of Commissioners regarding the 2015 Senior Center Levy held in the election. We had asked for \$95,000 for 2015 and they responded back when they did their distributions that we should be receiving somewhere between \$86,310 and \$95,900, this all depends on how the property tax collections come in next year. This past year we received \$86,000 for 2014, they also sent a list of all the other senior centers in Lake County and their distribution, we are getting the third highest amount of senior center allocations. These go through a senior center advisory panel and they review our budgets, how much the community itself puts into the senior center and that give a point system, so if a community does not contribute to the senior center they will not give you as much money, they like to see a monetary amount or in kind contributions. This year a new bus for the senior center was bought out of this money and we are carrying over amounts of money.

He further stated that on that same topic he met with County Treasurer Lorraine Fende last week about the delinquent property taxes for various properties. She will be trying something new starting in January, apparently County Treasurers are allowed to sell these delinquent taxes to collection companies that buy delinquencies. She will hone into not only private homes but on commercial property owners that have been delinquent and we have one in our city that has a delinquency of about \$600,000. She has told me that this is one that this company will purchase when this contract is entered into. He explained how this will be accomplished. This property also has a delinquent amount to the schools.

Lastly the Mayor thanked all the voters for the passage of Issue 4 last week. The unfortunate thing was that the vote only represented about 42% of the registered voters on election day. Our Issue 4 passed by a higher percentage of about 75% passage and it was pretty wide spread about the city.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE LAW DIRECTOR: Mr. Gargiulo reported that he is in the process of preparing an easement dealing with the golf course property and the guard rail, the easement would be from the city to the property owner and they will maintain the space between the guard rail and the property owner. This is about four feet to 200 feet long. They will be required to maintain that property which will be probably be grass or concrete for their own driveway.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Mr. Krych had no communications.

ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Jaworski added item (a) under New Business: Mutual aid and Mr. Matyja added item (b) under Old Business rain barrels.

ADMINISTRATORS:

A. Police Chief – Chief Ice had nothing to add to his written report which is attached.

B. Fire Chief – Chief Powers added to his written report the Knox Box Program which is funded through the senior center, this is growing in popularity with the seniors.

C. Finance Director – Financial report attached. Mr. Germ requested that in addition to the agenda for the Finance Committee meeting of November 17 that we also discuss the 2015 temporary budget. Mr. Krych placed the 2015 temporary budget into the FINANCE COMMITTEE and this will be discussed with the health care proposals scheduled for November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

D. Engineer – Report attached. Mr. Formica added that the OPWC applications for Grand Blvd. Phase II were officially due last Friday and everything has been received and sent to the Finance Department. Mr. Matyja requested that Mr. Formica put out the letter again that was done for Worden and Lloyd to which Mr. Formica said once he knows the start date and he will put this in the letter to notify the residents of the date. Mr. Bala inquired about the Nehls Park flooding situation, Mr. Formica informed him he would start that during the winter months.

E. Service Director – Mr. Kerniskey stated that the holiday lights are up in city hall and he explained how they will work. He commented on the leaf collection which is in process. The Mayor added that if a resident wants to know about the pick up of leaves they can look it up on face book or call the office or the service department, we can give them a ball park figure.

F. Building Commissioner – Report attached. Mr. Sack added that he received a memo about funds for property maintenance, this will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting to be held on November 17 at 7:30.

G. Recreation Director – Report attached. Mr. Stopp announced the annual turkey hunt on Saturday, November 22nd.

H. Economic Development Director – Mr. Laver had no report.

THERE WAS NO AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

COMMITTEE REPORTS - Mr. Levon called a Legislation and Welfare Committee meeting to discuss emergency and clean-up of nuisances for 8:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2014.

THERE WERE NO COMMISSION REPORTSOLD BUSINESS

a) Bid Opening- City Hall step replacement – November 21, 2014 – Mr. Formica reported that bids were supposed to be opened last Friday but after speaking to two land holders that had an interest in bidding on this and both chose not to bid because their cost would be higher than the engineer's estimate by quite a bit so he extended the bid opening until November 21 so we can put some addendums into the contract regarding materials and other adjustments to bring the price down. Mr. Jaworski asked if this would affect the quality of the work. Mr. Formica explained that this would not affect the quality of the material.

b) Rain barrels - Mr. Matyja stated that recently an ordinance was passed dealing with rain barrels and he asked for an update because there is some confusion and he requested that a committee meeting regarding this be held to get an update on it. He believes the rain barrels are just a temporary release so the water does not go into the sewers but this is not a permanent thing to bypass our dye testing program, is that correct? Mr. Krych commented that even if a house were to sell the drains would still be subject to testing, they would be tapped but this does not pertain to rain barrels, this is just a temporary way to water a garden, this is correct. Mr. Matyja added that when this house or any house goes for resale they would have to have all their gutters and downspouts pass our sewer dye tests, Mr. Krych replied this is correct.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Mutual Aid – Mr. Jaworski said that he has some concern about mutual aid with the cuts that will be coming through Eastlake. He is worried that if we have to fill in for other departments who are giving mutual aid as well maybe this can be placed into the Safety Committee to discuss this. Chief Powers commented on the Eastlake situation but we receive mutual aid and give mutual aid almost every day. Mr. Krych placed mutual aid into the SAFETY COMMITTEE. A Safety Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 17 at 8:15 p.m.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-41 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 961-GARBAGE RUBBISH AND REFUSE COLLECTION, SECTION 961.02-COLLECTION SUPERVISED BY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE, BY ADDING SUBSECTION (b) TO SECTION 961.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WICKLIFFE, OHIO. THIRD READING Read by title.

Moved by Mr. Bala seconded by Mr. Ely that Ordinance No. 2014-41 be adopted as presented,

ROLL CALL: Yes: Bala, Ely, Koski, Krych
No: Jaworski, Levon, Matyja

Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2014-41 adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-42 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WICKLIFFE, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED CONTRACT WITH AN OPTIONAL EXTENSION WITH J&J REFUSE, INC., A KIMBLE COMPANY, FOR THE COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE AND YARD WASTE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 961-GARBAGE, RUBBISH AND REFUSE COLLECTION OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WICKLIFFE, OHIO THIRD READING Read by title.

Moved by Mr. Ely seconded by Ms. Koski that Ordinance No. 2014-42 be adopted as presented.

Mr. Bala commented that there is one thing he does not like about this contract is that every year it's going to go up in price and he wishes that somehow we can lock it in for five or seven years, it will cost the residents more money every year. He wishes this could be held for another meeting so it could be discussed more but he is concerned about the future of the city. Mr. Levon added that he sees some pros and cons about this in talking with some seniors and they are against paying for garbage, some are on fixed income and it is tough for them. Many people his age with children do recycling. He does not think this is the right time for this. Mr. Jaworski added that he would have liked the city to have more discussion on alternative ways to raise revenue. Cost to residents for the new trash and recycling is \$15.29 per month with bills collected quarterly. This includes a 96 gallon trash container, 64 gallon recycling bin and 64 gallon yard waste container which will be collected by curbside pick up each week. Mr. Jaworski also added that we have nothing to compare this to, we don't know if this is the best option or not, he has spoken to several residents about this and some were for and some against, one question was is this the best option right now and what kind of cuts is the city willing to make.

Mr. Matyja also will vote no and explained his vote that it has something to do with what everyone else has said but he is strong in this that we have a carry over balance of over three million dollars and we are getting another \$500,000 with the charter change. If the need is there then you make an intelligent decision on what you have to do, it's always increase more revenue to the residents, the benefit of this city is to provide the best service possible for the least amount of taxes, but if we charge them for garbage we have no say so of what we will do with the extra money that came in except we want to keep our balance on high. He has a very tough time understanding this, this is punishing our residents. He does not agree with that philosophy. Mr. Krych added that at the Finance Committee meeting it was determined that this would only take care of part of our deficit, we will be down in addition to this, that's another \$600,000 going into next year so by the end of next year we could be down to a million or less. Mr. Matyja added but there is a surplus of over three million dollars so we will still have a surplus why raise taxes on the people without their votes or their input, this is wrong.

The Mayor added that this is not a new topic, we have been talking about this whole issue of trash collection now for a couple of years and we had some preliminary discussions the early part of this year when we were doing our budget. We looked at our budget and we were running almost a million dollar deficit at the beginning of the year, and I agree, that beginning in January of this year with council and they said we still have money in the bank why are we charging our residents and I guess I agree let's go another year and see how this year goes. We are running anywhere between a 1.5 and a two million dollar deficit right now this year that we are in. So, if nothing changes, if we do everything the same, we will run that same deficit if not more in 2015 which means that at the end of, a year from now, we will be sitting here and maybe we will have a million dollars in the bank and that maybe we will make the move at that time to consider charging for trash pickup. I don't look at this that we are taking money from the residents and putting it into our savings account, that is not what we are trying to do, we are just trying to continue to provide as council has said of a very high level of benefits at a very low tax rate and I think we still do that, you look at any other community around us and see how much they pay for their taxes and their property taxes. I don't know if there is another community other than us that does not have a levy that they're paying for, they have a fire levy, a police levy, a road levy, a wreck levy, every community has those extra levies that they have on their ballot that those residents are paying for. We have been fortunate enough all these years to be able to provide that service out of our General Fund budget, well, things have changed and if anybody hasn't noticed it I am sure you have noticed in your own budget that things have changed. I want to continue to provide the highest level of benefits as we can but the numbers just don't match, we won't be able to continue to provide those benefits, some of those will have to go away and probably they will go away and go away maybe a little bit unnoticed but I don't want to have to go to the

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voters and there has been some talk about let's put a levy on the ballot and have the voters vote for a safety levy, they will all vote for a safety levy because they like our police and our fire departments. Well, I don't know if that is true because if you look at this past week I saw that number and out of the 57 levies that were passed in northeast Ohio there was only 19 that were passed that were new levies, not renewals not school levies, but new levies. Our neighbor the city of Eastlake is running a deficit and right now they have nothing to carry over, so they waited until this election to go to the ballot and ask for more money, well it failed, so now they are running a deficit. So they had to lay off and give notice to 15 employees to run that city, now they are running that city which is two or three times the size of ours in area, probably another 10,000 population and they have about 30 less employees than us. They are not picking up leaves and will not plow any streets other than their main streets, I don't want to get to that and we can head that off by just making this move, not to say that we won't have to cut in the future, there is no guarantee of that, but when the state cuts a million and a half dollars out of your budget and go along, I forgot to mention, we operate under income tax here, which we have two main businesses, Lubrizol and ABB. Now we know Lubrizol is here and ABB is still a question mark, if they decide to give us notice sometime next week saying you know what, we have decided to have looked somewhere else, that's about \$700,000 less so add that, if things looked brighter down the future, I would say yes, we can wait another year, let's not put that on our residents, but again the residents that I have talked to, and I have put this out in the town hall meeting, I have put this out in the Wickliffe Connection, I have put this out in the Mayor's Court on TV, everybody that I have talked to, yes there are some people that said boy, I have to start paying for trash, but I am telling you more than a few have said okay we understand, how much is it going to be and when is it going to start and will it include recycling, will it include yard waste. I think our residents understand it and I think today they would rather see us trying to maintain this level of services than to cut it back because of we didn't do something early enough and I think we need to be ahead of the game because we have always been ahead of the game, so I just wish council would look for the future, let's not just try to get down to the bare minimum on that last day and say, oh, now we have to do something because I think that's where we are headed.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Bala, Ely, Koski, Krych,
No: Jaworski, Levon, Matyja

Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2014-42 adopted,

There being no further business, it was moved by Ms. Koski seconded by Mr. Ely that the council meeting of November 10, 2014 be adjourned.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Bala, Ely, Jaworski, Koski, Krych, Levon, Matyja
No: None

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President and Presiding Officer