

**Ravenna City Council Public Health and Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2020**

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:40 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael. Present were: Rob Kairis, Matt Harper, Paul Moskun, Christina West, Tim Calfee and Andrew Kluge. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland; Finance Director-elect, Brian Huff; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio and Deena Tannert of 784 East Main Street, Ravenna, Ohio

Ms. Michael said the first item on the agenda is 645 South Chestnut Street.

Mr. Finney explained this is a request to appropriate \$12,000.00 to secure the building located at 645 Chestnut Street. The estimate is from a local company that is \$9,966.00. The company is located on Romito, NBD International. The price is to secure the building. Fire Chief and Police Chief have been after the Administration to get something done. They thought there would be a bank involved but the bank walked away from its lien. This building is in limbo and there is no ownership. This is the building where the old flea market was, the Oak Rubber building. The request to board up the first floor, secure all of the doors and ways into the building. He believes last week the police just arrested somebody trespassing in the building. He's not sure what the City will do with it.

Ms. Michael asked if there are still brownfield grants available. Is that a possibility for a location like that to clean up?

Mr. Finney said that it isn't dirty. For the city to step forward, they would have to fork out the money to do cleanup like asbestos, etc. He talked with the county treasurer and land bank. They are going to continue to work on a solution. Chemicals were removed in 2018. He's sure there might be something in there but it comes down to ownership and who wants to be responsible for it? He was given a price for the second floor but he doesn't think it's necessary at this time. This is just for Phase I of the project, the first floor.

Mr. Harper asked if the fire exits will be sealed off at the bottom so nobody can go up.

Mr. Finney responded there are three buildings. The original office building, which is nearest to the bridge does have a fire escape so they will secure it, cut it off, whatever they have to do.

Mayor Seman said that a resident who was moving out of the area said there was someone driving a car, there is a little opening off the highway, under the bridge and they were driving out with his whole car full of stuff.

Mr. Finney said they can take whatever they want. None of it has any value.

Mayor Seman said there are concerns about people living there and could create a fire hazard when they try to keep warm.

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Mr. Finney said when they walked through it, they saw no signs of someone living there. They saw that people had been through there but no bedding, food, etc.

Chief Cleveland said the fire department had not really gotten any calls but the police have. They didn't really go in there until they heard there were hazardous substances. Those were cleaned up by order of the EPA. It was paid for by Bridgestone Tires. He doesn't know what the relationship is. He believes they owned another facility in Charlestown. He doesn't know if they are somehow involved in the ownership of the building. He just doesn't know. Basically they haven't been there other than checking on those hazardous substances.

Mr. Finney said Mr. Cimino found that there was a lien on the property with Huntington Bank. After Mr. Cimino reached out to the bank, he received notice that they waived the lien, which means they are not interested and will not move forward with foreclosure.

Mr. Finney asked if there would be any issues if he authorized the contractor to start tomorrow rather than wait for the legislation.

Ms. Michael said that she thinks it is important to act on this sooner rather than later.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

Ms. Michael said the next item on the agenda was from Chief Wallis who requested to replace unrepairable heaters at the motor pool by Beckwith Heating and Cooling. The old heaters were removed and two heaters will be installed and one heater in each of the two small garages for the cost of \$15,408.00. This will come out of capital improvement fund. He did get three bids and this was the lowest by \$3,000.00. These will be radiant heaters which are more efficient by heating objects in the room rather than the air. There is a lot of evidence in there and the officers are in there quite a bit. It's important to regulate the temperature. This is the old street garage on Spruce.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 P.M.

**ATTEST:**

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Clerk of Council

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Amy Michael, Chairman  
Public Health and Safety Committee