

STREETS & SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2020

The February 10, 2020 meeting of the Ravenna City Streets & Sidewalks Committee was called to order at 5:45 P.M. by Amy Michael in Mr. Harper's absence. Present were: Paul Moskun, Rob Kairis, Christina West, Tim Calfee, Cheryl Wood and Andrew Kluge. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland; Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, Tim Stephens; Finance Director-elect, Brian Huff; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Clifford Soudil of 464 Woodlawn Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio and Mark Hairston of 828 Mechanic Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio.

Ms. Michael said the first item on the agenda is the municipal motor vehicle license fee. This is about a \$5.00 increase in the fee. This legislation needs to be in place before July 1. It's her understanding that if the City doesn't put this increase into place, the County will have the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Cecora said based on last year, the \$5.00 would yield approximately \$40,000.00 in additional revenue.

Ms. Michael noted this money would be used to go back into the streets.

Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative noting it's used in the Street Fund. He spoke with a representative at the Ohio Department of Public Safety who walked him through the numbers and gave him a good way to ballpark what the revenue might be. One of the questions was about the usage. It goes straight into the Street repairs and maintenance fund. The special revenue fund would be for all things street, operations, capital, paving. Typically downed trees is not a function of the street fund.

Ms. Michael said if the City doesn't go after these funds, the County will be able to. That is additional revenue that could be put back into the Street Fund. Is there any reason not to go after these funds?

Mr. Cecora said that it is available. It's up to Council what they choose to do.

Ms. Michael said no matter what, it sounds like the residents could end up with an additional \$5.00 tax.

Mr. Cecora said that his understanding is that if the City doesn't pursue the tax, then it may be pursued by another public entity and that public entity would probably pursue it.

Mr. Calfee asked who is allowing it to be increased by \$5.00.

Mr. Cecora said that the State of Ohio is allowing it.

Mr. Kluge asked if the City increases the tax, can the County do one as well?

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The clerk noted that they could increase it but not for the City residents.

Ms. Wood said she thinks they should move it forward, especially if the City doesn't, the County will anyway. It's not like the residents are going to save anything but the City not taking it.

The clerk said that they will need to move forward quickly if they want this to go three readings.

Mr. Cecora said that was the advice he was given by the State, to go three readings.

Mr. Moskun said he wants to enact on it right now and move it forward.

Mr. Soudil said he thinks it should be someone's job to educate the public that it isn't Council doing that so they don't get the bad rap because they've already taxed for the streets. They need to be educated that it's going to happen we're just taking it before someone else does it.

Ms. Michael said that the public definitely needs to know that if the County takes that tax, it won't come back into this community. It will go wherever they choose to put it.

It was decided by those present the issue would be moved forward for further discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Michael said the next item is a discussion of the traffic signals.

Mr. Finney said he spoke with AMATS and asked if they would assist in a study of the Riddle and Myrtle Street signal as well as the turn lane at Chestnut and Main. They said they would when the weather changes.

Ms. Michael said there have been complaints on Riddle and Myrtle. She brought up at Chestnut and Main Street; when trying to turn left at that signal, it's nearly impossible. One car is lucky to get through there and it's dangerous. There has been a pedestrian who was injured as a result of that area. She questioned what it would take to get a left turn arrow for the two directions. She thinks it would help with the safety in that area.

Mr. Finney noted that it will also slow the traffic down on all of the downtown on Main Street. It will induce a delay of probably at least 10-12 seconds.

Ms. Michael said that it will promote safety and people can barely turn there. A lot of people do go through the red light to turn on that street. She's anxious to see what the study says.

Mr. Finney said he doesn't think they are going to be happy with what it says.

Mr. Kairis said when they discussed this the last time, there was some suggestion that because State Route 59 is a state road, you can't turn right on red. Did anyone look into that?

Mayor Seman responded that they are looking into it.

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Chief Wallis said he looked at the ORC and spoke with the post leader at the Highway Patrol barracks. There are no laws or ordinances stating they can't turn right on red, unless there is a sign. They are still looking into it.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Matt Harper, Chairman
Streets & Sidewalks Committee