

Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
March 16th, 2020

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael.

Council present were: Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Tim Calfee and Matt Harper.

Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland; Finance Director-elect, Brian Huff; Clerk of Council, Kathy Hann; Maple Grove Superintendent Mark Gabriel; Tessa Gabriel, Record Courier, Diane Smith; Ravenna Firefighter, Ryan Hall; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio

Ms. Michael called the meeting to order and thanked Bob Walker from the Portage County Health Department for coming in to speak and share information on the COVID-19 virus. He passed out a PowerPoint presentation that he had printed out and explained how to take precautions, how it spreads and the incubation period. The virus can be symptomatic between 2 to 14 days, with the average time being 5½ days and can be contagious days before symptoms show. The virus has the potential to cause severe respiratory illness in the second week of illness, with the first week showing flu like symptoms. The second week of the illness is when about 20% of cases have to go to the hospital and about 2% will have to go to the Intensive Care Unit most likely on a ventilator. There is no vaccine and the virus is rapidly spread, with the virus being about 20 times more contagious than the flu. Symptoms can be ranging from mild to severe, with children being low risk. Adults over 60 years old, those with a compromised immune system and those with underlying health concerns are at high risk of getting the virus. The pandemic is a new disease, which has three criteria. COVID-19 has caused illness along with death caused by the illness, it is sustained with person to person contact and is worldwide spread, which is also called Community Spread, meaning it is being spread by people who are not yet symptomatic. There have been 26 confirmed cases in Ohio, with the age range from 31-86 years old. Symptoms include fever, cough and difficulty breathing. The virus can spread easily from person to person by sneezing or coughing, and can be transferred by touching a surface or objects that have the virus and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes. The public can protect themselves by washing their hands for 20 seconds, avoiding touching the mouth, nose or eyes, and coughing or sneezing into your elbow or a tissue. Others ways to protect yourself and others is to clean and disinfect "high touch" objects or areas, avoid people who are sick and to stay home if feeling ill. The number of test kits for the virus is limited and people are encouraged to stay home, avoid gatherings of 50 or more people and keep a distance of 6 feet from others if they must go out in public. Self-isolating and self-quarantining are suggested to avoid the virus, and to avoid spreading it to others.

Ms. Michael thanked Bob White and the staff at the Portage County Health Department for working hard to help and inform the public and City Council.

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The second discussion item was 645 South Chestnut St. Mr. Finney said that the contractor that boarded up the building submitted an additional invoice which would necessitate an additional appropriation in the amount of \$7,016.62 which was not discussed from the initial quote. There was \$12,000 appropriated and the initial quote was for \$10,000, which made it able to pay for some additional work such as re-keying the locks. After the work was completed, the contractor met with Mr. Finney and submitted the additional invoice. The tracking sheet Mr. Finney submitted is appropriating an additional \$7,016.62 to secure the first floor of the building. The contractor underestimated some items, such as taking down some stairs that were in the building.

Ms. Michael asked if Mr. Harper had any questions and Mr. Harper said that he drove by the other day and that everything he saw on the ground level looked good. The item is being moved to Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Michael asked if there were any additional Management Updates. Mayor Seman said that Dennis West, from Economic Development, has been showing people the building. The City has not taken possession of the building but Dennis believes he can find a buyer for the building which would be nice if he were able to, adding that it would be problematic for the City unless it is able to be used.

Ms. Michael added that she was glad to get the COVID-19 information to the public and Council. If the public has any questions the information will be posted on the City's website.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Amy Michael, Chairperson
Public Health and Safety Committee