



**Ravenna City Council
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
June 15th, 2020**

The public meeting was held via Zoom and live streamed via YouTube. A video recording of the meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks4bEqhijs>

The Public Hearing was called to order at 5:17 P.M. June 15th, 2020 by Council President, Andrew Kluge stating there were two items on the agenda.

Council members present via Zoom: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Cheryl Wood, Tim Calfee, Christina West and Matt Harper.

Also attending the meeting via Zoom: Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Acting Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; Water Superintendent, Tim Stephens, Quality IP, Katie Mazanek and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

The Ravenna City Council conducted a Public Hearing regarding proposed Ordinance No. 2020-012 and Ordinance No. 2020-022.

Ordinance No. 2020-012 was read by the Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-012: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART 12 – PLANNING AND ZONING CODE – TITLE SIX – ZONING; CHAPTER 1278 – SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS; SECTION 1278.23 – DONATION BOXES, BY ALLOWING THE DISPOSAL OF BOXES AFTER SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER IMPOUNDMENT.

Mr. Kluge asked Mr. Finney to give a brief overview before he read the public comment.

Mr. Finney stated that the donation boxes were popular a few years ago, usually showing up on vacant lots without the owner's permission, one example being Planet Aid. The City was able to get one box removed, but then a year later two more showed up. He said that the ordinance at the time required 12 months before the boxes could be disposed which meant that the City had to store the boxes and try to get ahold of the owners of the boxes. There was a non-working phone number for one box, and then Planet Aid was given sufficient notice via phone and email but refused to remove their two boxes. Mr. Finney said he felt it was logical to give the donation box owners 60 days notice to remove the boxes versus 12 months, and to make it legal the ordinance must be changed. Mr. Kluge asked if anyone had heard any other public comment and they did not. Ms. Michael stated that she was part of Council that put a stop to the donation boxes, adding that it needed to be done because it was a health issue and it was misleading to the residents who thought their donations would be helping those in need. She explained that the donations are shipped in mass quantities, usually to China, and sold as textile. They are a million-dollar company which makes money off the donations and the City receives no compensation.

Mr. Finney stated that people also leave more than just clothes at the donation boxes. They leave furniture, trash and miscellaneous items that cannot fit in the box.

Mr. Kluge then read Cliff Soudil's public comment "My only thought on the donation boxes is that as I remember Bob stated that we were going to take the boxes, or have them taken back to the owners, which were located quite a distance away from our town. Since they have been notified, why wouldn't we just take them to the scrap yard on Wall St. for disposal? Save a lot of money that way, it's but a couple of miles to there. It should not be our responsibility to "return" their property to them."

Ms. Michael and Ms. Wood agreed with Mr. Soudil's comment. Mr. Finney stated that it was the City's understanding that Wall St. will not take the boxes unless they are cut up into pieces. He said that he wants to avoid the City's staff cleaning out the boxes with concerns for any mold, decay, bedbugs, or odor that may be in the clothing in the boxes. Two of the boxes will be returned, while the third box will probably be cut open and turned into scrap since the owner cannot be reached. Ms. Michael expressed her concern for places and organizations who did not ask for donation boxes that were put on their property and who wanted to get rid of them. Mr. Finney stated that it would quicken the reaction time that the City can dispose of the boxes. Mr. Calfee inquired about the location of the two boxes to be returned and Mr. Finney stated that the Planet Aid headquarters are in Solon.

There being no more comment the Clerk read Ordinance No. 2020-022.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-022: AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY A MUNICIPAL MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEE PURSUANT TO SECTION 4504.173 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AS AUTHORIZED BY HOUSE BILL 62 AND TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 1997-114 OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, OHIO.

Mr. Kluge explained that the bill was passed by the Ohio House and Senate that allows municipalities to increase the local fee, which Mr. Harper added will increase by \$5.00 to a total of \$10.00. Mr. Kluge then read Cliff Soudil's public comment which was to make sure that the City "explains the situation to the residents".

Mr. Kluge added that the County Engineer has the ability to raise that \$5.00 fee and stated that Ms. Michael has spoken on the subject saying that if the City does not increase the fee the county has the ability to, and at least the money will stay in the City of Ravenna. The rough estimate in revenue would be about \$40,000.

Mr. Kluge asked if there was any other public comment, there was none.

Ms. West asked when the last increase was, and Ms. Wood and Mr. Harper believed that it was in 1997, which, Mr. Huff added, is the year that the ordinance that the City is amending is from.

Ms. Wood stated that she felt that Council needed to do this so that it will be utilized to help the City's residents.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council