



**Ravenna City Council
Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes
July 13th, 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=3fLvZLQIdCs>

Council 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: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Assistant City Engineer, Patrick Jeffers; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; Utility Billing Supervisor, Mike Reynolds; and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

Utility Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:55 P.M. by Chairperson, Paul Moskun.

Mr. Moskun stated that the first discussion item was to authorize to advertise to bid the system wide water meter replacement.

Mr. Reynolds addressed Council and explained the water meter replacement project which had to be pushed up 3 years due to batteries in the meters failing sooner than anticipated. The last system wide meter replacement was in 2008 which were guaranteed for 10 years but were anticipated to last closer to 15 years. There are currently around 992 meters with failed batteries, which is about 18% of the City's meters. The type of metering technology the City has now is considered outdated and Mr. Reynolds has chosen to bid out a new type of metering technology. He has chosen to bid out an AMI system (Advance Metering Infrastructure) which will allow 2 signals a day to be sent via permanent antennas to the Utility Billing Dept. The new process will eliminate the need for an employee to drive the streets once a month to collect the data, and will alert Utility Billing of any leaks, tampering or low batteries. It is a turnkey project in which the contractor will handle all the details such as installation, contacting residents and creating update files to interface with the billing system. The cost estimate is \$2.5 million, of which 1 million has already been saved in anticipation of the project.

It was asked if just replacing the batteries on the current meters was an option. Mr. Reynolds stated that the difference between replacing batteries and installing a new system would only be a cost difference of \$180,000. Mr. Reynolds created the bid specs with the help of the former Service Director who did the previous water meter replacement. He also stated that one of his big specs is that he does not want plastic water meters which he sees as unreliable and would prefer metal meters.

- The item was moved forward

Mr. Moskun stated that the second discussion item was 2020 tax assessments for delinquent utilities and property maintenance.

The item is a yearly ordinance to assess property taxes for delinquent utility and property maintenance. Council had the property maintenance list and Mr. Reynolds stated that he likes to be exact with his assessments and will get them in before the Council meeting August 3rd.

- The item was moved forward

Mr. Moskun stated that the third discussion item was hydrant replacement and repairs.

The request is to increase the current line by \$20,000 to purchase and install three more hydrants which need repaired or replaced. Two of the hydrant locations are Riddle and Zeta, and Riddle and Pratt, the other would be an extra hydrant to use as needed. Mr. Kluge stated to clarify that the hydrants were not for the Lawrence St. Project. and asked how hydrant replacement was determined. Mr. Jeffers stated that the hydrants are being tested by the Fire and Street Departments, and then it is determined if there is a water line issue or a hydrant issue, along with pressure testing. Mr. Kluge asked Mr. Jeffers to explain the hydrant replacement project and how they will be replaced. Mr. Jeffers stated that the majority of the hydrants are being identified and replaced as part of the water line projects.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that the hydrant testing is set to start by the Fire Department in August and finished up in September. She also stated that the Riddle and Zeta, and the Riddle and Pratt hydrants are a new additional and are not part of the 3 hydrants being requested but she will find out the locations.

- The item was moved forward

Mayor Seman stated that a project that the City applied for is similar to the Lawrence and Hazen St. Projects to replace water lines and hydrants. He has not heard back if the City was successful in receiving the grant but stated that replacing the hydrants is a concern and the City is monitoring them regularly.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Paul Moskun, Chairperson
Utility Committee**