



**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
August 17th, 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=k3-m7Joi4P4>

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Council President, Andrew Kluge.

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

Also attending the meeting via Zoom: Mayor Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Acting Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Portage County Regional Planning Commission Director, Todd Peetz and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

The first item on the agenda was to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from July 20th, 2020.

- Motion to approve the July 20th, 2020 Committee of the Whole minutes by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**

The second item was a Fair Housing Presentation by Todd Peetz.

Mr. Peetz stated that Portage County Regional Planning Commission (PCRPC) funded the Vine Street Project in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, along with a critical infrastructure study of the City therefore he is required to talk about fair housing. He explained that the Portage County Commissioners are the ones who receive HUD money from the State. The Commissioners then have the Regional Planning Commission administrate the CDBG Program, along with the Fair Housing Program. Mr. Peetz explained the history of fair housing, when it was acknowledged that people were being discriminated against due to their ethnicity and nationality. In 1968 the Civil Rights Act was passed and it stated that segregation and discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin was illegal. In 1988 an amendment was undertaken that family status and handicapped were also two new protected classes. In 2008 there was a military status that was added to Ohio's protected class. Ohio allows no exceptions to fair housing requirements and Portage County provides this information about fair housing to many groups to ensure that all County residents understand that they have the right to live where they want to live and where they can afford to live. Lisa Reeves is the Fair Housing Coordinator who is a CDBG specialist. Mr. Peetz described a local fair housing situation where a landlord refused to rent a second-floor apartment to a family with children. The family then filed a fair housing discrimination claim, won, and the landlord was fined \$110,000.00. Mr. Peetz stated that they also assist with landlord issues such as leaks, plumbing, electrical, mold and bedbugs to make sure they are addressed.

Mr. Kluge inquired about the ruling that rescinded the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule. Mr. Peetz stated that they are not limiting or reducing anything as far as they can tell, but something may evolve in the near future. Ms. Wood explained that it would bring back to the original Analysis of Impediments.

Council thanked Mr. Peetz for his update.

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The third item was a discussion about the Ravenna School District Resource Officer (SRO).

Ms. Michael stated that the School Resource Officer (SRO) is a 50% split cost with the City. The Mayor stated that the item may have to be passed at a special Council meeting or it may be added to the regular Council meeting. He stated that the City does not know what the unit cost will be, or the situation with children going back to school, but said that it looks like the SRO will be needed on opening day.

Ms. Michael asked Mayor Seman if there has been talk of the Township contributing a percentage towards the SRO, since Township students attend the school, and the Mayor stated that the City will be meeting with the Township soon.

The fourth item was an ordinance to increase the vehicle maintenance account by \$15,000.

Ms. Michael said that the item was talked about with Acting Chief Chapple. She stated that it is something that is needed for repairs and to keep the vehicles safe.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The fifth item was an ordinance to appropriate an additional \$1,500 to the front foyer roof repair account.

Acting Chief Chapple is waiting on a quote to replace the decking on the Fire Station roof. In the meantime, he said he had another company come out to do an evaluation of the roof, where they did say that the repair that was just done was good work. The issue that the company did find was the height of the flashing that goes up into the decking roof. The company also recommended coating the decking in a 30-year guaranteed material and is getting a quote together. Chief Chapple stated that the coating is the same thing that was just done on the Quicken Loans arena roof.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The sixth item was an ordinance to appropriate an additional \$70,000 for the purchase of 20 new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

Ms. Michael stated that Acting Chief Chapple had explained the item rather well and it is an item that is needed. She stated that hopefully the Fire Dept. can get some grant money down the road to offset the cost of the SCBA purchase.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The seventh item was an ordinance to appropriate a \$5,000 contribution to a stormwater education grant for Ravenna High School.

Mr. Moskun stated that it is part of an EPA requirement where they require a portion of storm water fees to go to storm water educational purposes and this was the project that was chosen. He stated that the high school will maintain the project area when it is finished. There is also a possibility that the Parks and Recreation Department could use the area for summer camp.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

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The eighth item was an ordinance to replace “shall request” with “may request” in Chapter 1070.01, change “Building Official” to “City Engineer” throughout and repeal 1070.99 Penalty.

Mr. Kairis stated that the chapter has to do with point of sale inspections and that the explanation is clear.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The ninth item was an ordinance to bring Chapter 1448: Metal Siding into code compliance with the National Electric Code and repeal 1448.99 Penalty

Mr. Finney stated that the code has changed since the ordinance was written in the mid 1970's and he wants it to be updated to state that it needs to meet the National Electric Code.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The tenth item was an ordinance to appropriate \$3,750.00 to pay Main Street Ravenna for the amount the City of Ravenna Agreed to pay for the Landscape Project.

Ms. West stated that Jason Kentner has been working on the Landscape Project and was downtown showing the plans on Friday. Mr. Kentner and Main Street Ravenna are working together to see what changes can be made in the City and are asking the community for feedback. The Mayor stated that it will be funded with RLF funds that are designed for this type of project.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The eleventh item was an ordinance to appropriate \$1,500 for the purchase of a Capital Asset Program

Ms. Wood stated that it is a program for Mr. Huff to track the City's capital assets. Mr. Huff stated that the program will help retain the proper records for audits.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The twelfth item was an ordinance to re-finance the Library Bonds

Mr. Huff stated that this is the next step in the procedures that the Bond Counsel has recommended. This re-finance has no effect on the City, but it will help the Library save money on interest and the City acts as the agent for their bonds.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The thirteenth item was an ordinance to appropriate the sum of \$2,585.48 for the City's June 2020 unemployment benefits.

Mr. Huff stated that the City is continuing to pay small amounts of unemployment benefits and will probably continue to do so for a few more months.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

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The fourteenth item was an ordinance to appropriate the sum of \$1,132.84 for the City's July 2020 unemployment benefits

Mr. Huff stated that the list of unemployment recipients is getting smaller, adding that the goal is to use some of the CARES Act money to pay for some of the unemployment benefits.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The sixteenth item was approval of July 2020 accounting transactions (Advances and Transfers)

There was no activity for the month of July.

- No Action Required

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President