



**Ravenna City Council
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 8th, 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=B3fhCPw7woY>

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:32 P.M. September 8th, 2020 by Council President, Andrew Kluge

Roll Call

The following Council Members were present: 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, Law Director, Frank Cimino; Acting Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; Chip Cipriano and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

The Ravenna City Council conducted a Public Hearing regarding proposed Ordinance No. 2020-065.

Ordinance No. 2020-065 was read by the Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-065 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, TITLE EIGHT - PARKING; CHAPTER 452 - PARKING GENERALLY; SECTION 452.21 - PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED PARKING AREAS; SUBSECTION (a) BY PROHIBITING PARKING ON BOTH SIDES OF HIGHLAND AVE. BETWEEN VINE STREET AND DIAMOND STREET AT ALL TIMES.

Mr. Kluge asked Mr. Finney for an overview of his thoughts on the ordinance.

Mr. Finney stated that a resident on Highland Ave. was concerned with parking from the neighborhood bar that had been parked on the tree lawn for many years. Mr. Finney brought it to Council to see if Council would like to make a change. He stated that there is parking down the road at the old Smith and Cowan Osborne park for the patrons of Spano's. There is also a house on the corner that is part of that property that can be utilized for parking in the driveway which is off of Vine St. Mr. Finney stated that if City Council decides to place no parking signs then it needs to be memorialized as an ordinance, and then the signs can be placed along that stretch of road.

Mr. Kluge inquired as to why that stretch of Highland was left out of becoming no parking stating that Highland in each opposite direction was no parking. Mr. Finney did not know why but that it has come to focus due to residential complaints. Ms. Michael inquired if it was one resident or multiple, along with clarifying property ownership of photos that were given to Council. Mr. Finney stated that due to the triangular property line, Ms. Taylor does own the whole frontage in question.

Mr. Kairis stated that he frequently sees cars parked on the tree lawn across from Spano's which should not happen because a permit is needed to be allowed to park on a tree lawn, adding that as far as the City is aware no one has ever applied for such a permit. He stated that Council is trying to, through the ordinance, restrict parking in the anticipation that people do not park on the street in lieu of parking on the tree lawn.

Mr. Finney stated that parking on the tree lawn is not permitted without a permit, adding that he has not approved a permit since the ordinance was put in place. Mr. Kairis stated that even if the ordinance passes to have no parking on the street, it has still been illegal to park on tree lawns prior to the ordinance, but then questioned whether it would be enforced. Mr. Finney stated that the police would be the enforcement for illegal parking.

Mr. Kluge stated that tree lawn parking is a separate issue and the topic is street parking. He said that he did talk to Ms. Dubinsky and Chief Wallis on the topic of tree lawn parking enforcement and the thought process was that there should be a timeline coming from Council on when Ravenna Police might look out for that and how that might unfold, with warnings or actual tickets.

Mr. Kluge stated that there are three public comment submissions that he will read and then Kim Cipriano, possibly Chip, will be joining the meeting via phone call to make a statement.

"Hello Chelsea, I am emailing in regards to the parking situation on w. Highland Ave. My husband and I own the duplex directly across the street from Spano's where cars have been parking on our tree lawn. We would like the city to put up a no parking sign to prevent bar patrons from continuing to park on our tree lawn. I attached photos in this email showing the wear and tear on our tree lawn and our two driveways from cars driving across it daily. It's also becoming a huge safety concern for us. Our view of the street is blocked when cars park on the tree lawn, it is very difficult to get in and out of our driveway. You can see in the photos attached that just one truck parked on the tree lawn blocks most of the road view to where we can't see on coming traffic. We have also had scares with cars almost backing up into our house and our cars. Our driveways have also been blocked on several occasions. We are really hoping the city can do something about this. There is already a no parking sign on our side of the road just 3-4 houses down. There is also additional parking for the bar's overflow a few hundred feet away at the city park behind McDonald's and across from the big dog.

Thank you for time! Sorry for the long email. I am just really hoping to get this issue resolved!

Sincerely,
Nikki Taylor"

"Hello, My name is Bonnie Wright. I live on 450 West Highland Ave and I am in favor no street parking on the street.

Thank you!"

"Hello. My name is Nichole Prater. I am sending this email in regards to parking on W. Highland Ave between Vine and Diamond. I own the property on the corner of W. Highland and Gill, on

the opposite side of the street as Spano's. In the couple years I have owned the house, I have almost pulled out in front of someone coming down Highland towards Diamond at least a dozen times. Every time it happened, there was a car in the tree lawn. The thing that worries me is this has happened so many times already and I'm not even living in the house yet full time! Once that happens how many times is it going to have to hit brakes because I can't see? Then what happens when it is winter, and I hit my brakes and slide and can't stop? Or what happens when I have my children in the car and I can't stop? All because I can't see around a car that has other places to park and close by at that. I feel for everyone's safety, not just mine or my kids but for all my neighbors and their kids, it would be best to ban parking on the street and tree lawn. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Have a good day.

Sincerely,

Nichole Prater

Property owner 602 W. Highland"

Chip Cipriano from Spano's Bar introduced himself to Council via phone via Zoom. Mr. Cipriano stated that Council wants no parking from Vine St. on down, why not start it at Cleveland Rd. on down. He stated that there are devil strips being parked on by three different businesses. Mr. Cipriano stated that no one has parked on Ms. Taylors tree lawn and that the grass just does not grow good there due to the slanted terrain, adding that after all these years how many real accidents have there been. He said that he has no parking at the bar and the only thing he can do is park around the house. He expressed his concern about parking down at the Big Dog and that he wouldn't want his wife and daughter walking down there at closing time when it's really dark to get in the car to drive away or when it's rainy, snowy and getting dark at 5 o'clock in the winter. He stated that it would be terrible towards his little business that he has and felt that it was directed at his bar.

Ms. Michael asked Council why the no parking was not extended to the whole road since it is narrow. Ms. Wood stated that she thought that there was no parking all the way down on Highland.

Mr. Cipriano stated that the businesses toward Cleveland Rd. park in front of their stores and it was clarified that they have their own right-of-way. Tree lawn parking was again discussed briefly, and Mr. Kairis stated that it is a moot point and that the City owns the tree lawn. He stated that the only time it comes into play is if the tree lawn wants to be converted into parking and then there is a process, but currently parking on the tree lawn anywhere in the City is illegal.

Mr. Cipriano addressed parking in front of the Big Dog and Council tried to clarify what kind of parking and where he was talking about. He stated that if they are allowed to park where they park then he should be allowed to do it on his side of the street. Mr. Moskun stated that they could be ticketed unless they have a permit to do so. Mr. Cipriano asked if they did and he was told no they do not have a permit. He stated that he doesn't want to make things difficult for other businesses, that he gets along with everyone down there, but he felt he was being cut out without any place to park except for the backyard and the house next door. Ms. Wood expressed that no one was trying to cut him out of parking, but the City cannot allow him to park on someone else's property. It was clarified again that it is the City's property and that parking is not allowed on the devil strip.

The Mayor stated that the zoning is different down towards Cleveland Rd. and it is zoned industrial. Mr. Kluge asked Mr. Finney if that was the reason why the no parking was not taken down to Cleveland Rd. Mr. Finney stated that the industrial land does start along that rail corridor but the other issue is that the parking that is being worked on at the Big Dog and the other businesses are on their property. He also stated that there is a difference with parking on site of the business versus parking on a tree lawn off site.

Mr. Finney stated that if Mr. Cipriano would like to apply for tree lawn parking then the City's ordinance spells out the things that need to be done and how he would have to improve it to get a permit. If Mr. Finney approves it then it goes to the Police Department who issues a permit for that.

Mr. Cipriano stated that he would have to talk to someone with more input like an attorney to see what they would say about it. Mr. Kluge stated that he appreciated Mr. Cipriano's input and that street parking is what will be voted on that evening at the regular City Council meeting. He stated that there should be a larger conversation about tree lawn parking and how that is going to be enforced or rewritten, adding that as of now it should be enforced without a permit.

Mr. Cipriano thanked everyone for their time.

Mr. Kluge asked if anyone had any other comments. Mr. Finney stated that he always tries to work with the residents to widen their driveway instead of issuing tree lawn permits. He said that there were homes in Ravenna that were built without driveways and so historically they have parked on tree lawns. He said that there was one letter that was produced many years ago at the corner of Central and Walnut that allowed the property owner to park on his tree lawn, which is the only time he has seen anyone come up with a permit to park on the tree lawn.

Ms. Wood stated that there is a big difference between tree lawn parking and street parking in the discussion. She wanted to make sure everyone understood that the public hearing is strictly on street parking

Ms. Dubinsky stated that it was her feeling that she did not think it is the City's responsibility to provide parking for businesses. She does not believe in tree lawn parking but believes there cannot be a double standard and that it should be straight across the board city-wide. Mr. Moskun stated that he felt it should be enforced across the board.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council