



Ravenna City Council
Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes
October 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=78o06gbQNhQ&t=4064s>

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; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

The Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:11 P.M. by Chairperson, Matt Harper.

The first discussion item was tree lawn parking.

Mr. Kluge stated that he has been getting text messages and pictures of people parking at 450 West Highland Ave. who do not live at the property. He spoke to the Chief asking that it be enforced, stating that there should at least be a written warning that they should not be doing that. Mr. Kluge addressed Codified Ordinance 452.13 stating that as it is written now, there should be a permit given to park on your tree lawn. He added that this is a discussion item for that evening and to stay on for the next meeting to identify if Council wants to keep the ordinance or rewrite it. Mr. Kluge posed a question to Council asking if the ordinance was something that they wanted to enforce or an ordinance that they would like to rewrite.

Mr. Harper asked if it were to be rewritten, would it be to totally ban tree lawn parking or would there be additional exceptions.

Mr. Kluge stated that as it stands now one would need to apply for a permit. He spoke to Mr. Finney who stated that as of 2014 nobody has applied for a permit, adding that if it is a City ordinance then all residents should be subject to it, which Mr. Harper agreed with.

Mr. Kluge stated that some of the houses are older and that is where the primary parking was.

Mr. Moskun stated that the ordinance has been around for close to 10 years and it has not been enforced like it should be, such as with either a warning or a ticket. He said that he was aware of the houses that Mr. Kluge had addressed which are over 100 years old with no place beside the house to park a vehicle, adding that it should be enforced completely or not at all.

Ms. Wood agreed that the ordinance needs to be enforced City-wide.

Mr. Kluge said that he spoke to the Police Chief on the subject stating that there could be an initial warning and then the resident is able to talk with the Mayor or Mr. Finney on getting a permit or discussing their parking situation.

Mr. Finney reiterated that he has not given a single permit since the ordinance was passed in 2014. He stated that most people can widen their driveway, and he has worked with them to do

so, but that they want to park on their tree lawn because it is convenient for them and that it is not out of necessity. He said that, generally speaking, they do not want to spend the money and would rather just dump a load of gravel in the tree lawn but that is not the way our ordinance is written. The ordinance is written that if utility is in the way they need to relocate it and there's additional expenses, adding that he does not accept convenience excuses if the resident can widen their driveway. Mr. Finney stated that years ago there used to be a meter attendant and said that maybe the Police Dept. needs to look back into it which would also provide revenue. Ms. West posed a question asking if the City was able to communicate to the citizens about the enforcement of no tree lawn parking.

Mr. Kluge concurred that perhaps something could be put on the City's website or the water bill, but then proposed setting a date when tickets would be given out to enforce the ordinance.

The Mayor stated that he believes that the topic needs more investigation and discussion because it is not just a handful of residents, adding that some people have been parking on their tree lawn for 30 years or more.

Ms. Wood stated that there are some exceptions and Mr. Finney can help identify those, but where there is not exception there needs to be enforcement.

Mr. Kairis stated that tree lawn parking has always been prohibited but in 2014 Council passed an ordinance to allow residents to apply for a permit to do so, but no one has done that so it is back to square one. He said that it's up to the Police to enforce it but he's concerned because it's going to be a shock to a lot of people and he's not sure what the public relations for the City will be.

Mr. Kluge reiterated what the Mayor had said by figuring out what the issue is and how many homes this could be impacting first and then Council can figure out how to resolve things. He stated that there is an ordinance in the books, and it is not being enforced, and repeated what other Council members have stated, either enforce it or rewrite it.

Mr. Harper asked if Council would like to set up a work group to discuss things with a couple of administrators and the Mayor said that it would be fine with him if they would like to put something together. Mr. Harper then said that he would send an email out to his committee members, Mr. Kluge and Mr. Finney to get together to discuss things.

- The item was tabled

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Matt Harper, Chairperson
Streets & Sidewalks Committee**