



**Ravenna City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday February 1st, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

The Regular Council Meeting was held via Zoom and was live streamed via YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YYr3B6BPr0&t=490s>

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. February 1st, 2021 by Council President, Andrew Kluge

Moment of Meditation & Silence

President Kluge called a moment of meditation and silence.

Pledge to Flag

President Kluge then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

The following Council Members were present: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Paul Moskun, Christina West, Matt Harper, Cheryl Wood, Rob Karis, and Tim Calfee.

Also in attendance were Mayor Frank Seman; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Acting Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky, and Council Clerk; Chelsea Gregor

- Motion to excuse Mr. Moskun by Ms. Wood, 2nd Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**
- Mr. Moskun joined the Council meeting during Ordinance 2021-0015 due to technical difficulties.

Approval of the Minutes:

- Motion to approve the January 4th, 2021 Regular Council meeting minutes by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**

Communications- A letter from residents on Beecher Ave. objecting to the barbed wire fence authorization at C & C Meats.

Mr. Cimino stated that he spoke to a resident about the matter. He stated that the only option to object to the barbed wire fence would be to file an appeal under Section 2506 of the Ohio Revised Code in the Court of Common Pleas but the time in which to file had already expired. Ms. Michael suggested to get BZA agendas and information forwarded to the Council Clerk so that she can make Council aware of future agenda issues. She also suggested in the future that Council members could then knock-on doors to make sure residents are aware of any issue that may be happening in their neighborhood.

Mr. Kluge stated that he spoke to the Gini and meeting information and agendas will be passed along to Council.

Delegations from the Public- None

Report of Officials: Council received the Report of Officials.

- Motion to approve the Report of Officials by Ms. West, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**

Report of Committees: Committee meetings start @ 5:30 PM 2/08/2021

Utilities: Mr. Moskun was unavailable.

Information Systems (IS): Ms. West stated that there was nothing on the agenda and nothing that she is aware of for next week.

Planning: Mr. Kairis stated that there were three items on the agenda for that evening and there will be a meeting on Monday.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Kluge stated that the next Committee of the Whole meeting is Tuesday February 16th, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

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Public Health & Safety: Ms. Michael stated that there were three items on the agenda, and she assumed that there will be a Committee meeting.

Streets & Sidewalks: There was nothing on the agenda for that evening.

Personnel: Mr. Calfee stated that there is nothing scheduled for Personnel.

Community & Economic Development: Ms. Wood stated that there is one item on the agenda and the Committee meeting is to be determined.

Cemetery: Mr. Harper stated that the board did not meet due to illnesses and quarantines. There were no updates except that the taxable property values will be used this year for the City and the Township calculations, which should help with the budget constraints.

First Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-010 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE FY2020 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) THROUGH THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA), FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW EMS EQUIPMENT, A NEW FIRE ENGINE AND THE REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael stated that the item was discussed, and it does require a 5% match, adding that it is not to exceed \$3,500 from the CI Fund.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Harper- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Kairis, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-010 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-010 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-011 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE 2021 GRANT THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DIVISION OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael stated that the item was discussed, and it is for turnout gear, helmets and boots. There is no match, and the cap is \$15,000.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. West, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-011 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-011 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-012 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE DONATION OF 20 AIR PACKS TO MACEDON CENTER FIRE DEPARTMENT, MACEDON, NEW YORK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael stated that the air packs will be expiring soon but that another Fire Dept. will be able to use the packs for training and in return the Ravenna Fire Dept. will receive a monetary donation. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-012 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-012 was adopted.

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ORDINANCE NO. 2021-013 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE PORTAGE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER TO DEFEND INDIGENT DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH CRIMES IN THE CITY OF RAVENNA FOR THE YEAR 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kairis stated that the ordinance is a yearly contract that the City sets up for people who are charged with municipal crimes in the City and cannot afford legal representation. The cost is \$150 per case, adding that it is the same exact contract that has been signed for several years.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-013 by Mr. Calfee, 2nd Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-013 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-014 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR A GRANT THROUGH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION'S CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND AND, IF AWARDED, TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR THE WAHOO WETLANDS/EMERALD LAKE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kairis explained that the item was discussed over the summer and the property is located off Diamond St. The property is owned by R.R. Wellington who owns other property in the area. Last year \$7,000 was appropriated to complete an appraisal of the property in order to apply for a grant which was not awarded. By applying for this grant, and upon its award, it will improve the odds of applying for and receiving the initial grant. There is no cost to the City to apply for the grants, or to then purchase the property. The grants will cover the cost of the property which will then be turned into a conservation type park.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-014 by Mr. Calfee, 2nd Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-014 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-015 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTION, INC. (QCI), TO PROVIDE INSPECTION SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kairis stated that the City has entered into contracts with QCI, Inc in the past and it is for inspections for construction projects in the City. He stated that the only change is a 3% percent differential and explained that the non-overtime hourly rate went up 3% and the overtime hourly rate went down 3%. The service is \$60 per hour.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Calfee- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Mr. Calfee- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-015 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-015 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-016 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY, AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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Ms. Wood stated there needed to be a correction with the ordinance. The ordinance is an Economic Development RLF instead of a Housing RLF. She stated that the agreement is a requirement by the Ohio Development Services Agency as long as the City administers the Community Block Grant Funds and Economic Development Program within those funds. It is a housekeeping ordinance that has been passed for years.

- Motion to accept and amend the title to replace 'Housing' with 'Economic Development' by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Harper- **All Ayes**
- Motion to accept and amend the first Whereas and Section I to replace 'Home' and 'Housing' with 'Economic Development' by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-016 by Ms. West, 2nd Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-016 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-017 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TRANSFERS AND ADVANCES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2020 LISTED ON EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kluge stated that there was only one item on the December transfers and advances list.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-017 by Mr. Kairis, 2nd Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-017 was adopted.

Second Reading of Ordinances: None

Third Reading of Ordinances: None

Old Business- None

New Business

Ms. Wood recommended putting together a subcommittee to start the zoning review and update process by working with Mr. Finney, the Mayor and anyone else that they would see fit.

Mr. Kluge stated that the topic has been discussed and he spoke with Mr. Finney about having a group get together to look at zoning map changes and zoning code changes but emphasized keeping it a small group.

Mr. Finney stated that there is so much that is involved with changing and rewriting zoning due to the different land uses that the City has along with the direction the City would like to go. He stated that he will be proposing an immediate change at the next Committee meeting to property that abuts the central business district.

Mr. Kairis stated that zoning changes are long overdue, and Ms. Michael stated the sooner the better to get started.

President of Council Remarks

Mr. Kluge thanked Mr. Finney who has been in contact with AMATS and has been working on a speed study around the City. There will be more information coming out about possible solutions.

Mr. Kluge addressed the Freedom St. project and stated that the homeowners will be contacted to engage them and get their thoughts on possible solutions for the brick.

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Ms. Michael stated that she spoke to a couple residents who stated that they were not in favor of removing the brick.

Mr. Kluge stated that it is not a project that is planned for this year, only to start the conversation about the possibilities.

Ms. Michael stated that she spoke to a resident who suggested removing the brick on Sycamore St. due to the water project that occurred there and salvage the bricks to be used elsewhere.

Mr. Finney was concerned about removing bricks and having them break.

Mr. Kluge stated that there is a blood drive on Thursday at Reed Memorial Library from 12:30pm- 6:30pm.

Council Member Remarks

Mr. Calfee- No Comment

Ms. West- stated that an appointment is needed for the blood drive. She has also heard a lot of talk about the Oak Rubber building and wanted to state that the building was not salvageable, but the historical society took pictures of the inside and outside of the building for historical records.

Mr. Moskun- No Comment

Ms. Michael- No Comment

Mr. Kairis- He thanked the Engineering Dept. who did a speed study on Highland Ave. the week prior which provided some data as the City starts thinking about traffic calming.

Ms. Wood- She addressed store front owners in the central businesses district and reminded them to make sure their doors are closed to their vacant units. It has been brought to her attention that some homeless people have found their way into some of the vacant and basement areas of buildings.

Mr. Harper- No Comment

Mayor's Remarks

The Mayor will be doing the State of the City address towards the end of February and is still looking for a venue where people can come and sit. City staff is getting information together for that.

He spoke with Bill Steiner from the County Recycling Program and costs will be going up. He will be made aware when and how much it will be, adding that the last time it was raised it was \$0.25.

He stated that the City works daily with the pandemic and that the vaccines are now being handed out in Ohio based upon the most vulnerable getting them first. He is hopeful for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to come out since it only requires one shot and less refrigeration.

He is still very concerned about an increase in cases with virus mutations happening. The numbers have come down, but they are predicting that they will go back up.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

- Motion to adjourn by Ms. Wood, 2nd Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday March 1st, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President