



**Ravenna City Council  
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 8th, 2021**

**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=x6DReUKpaIA>**

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

**Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis  
Item number four was added from the Community & Economic Development agenda.**

**The first item was a Fruit Tree Orchard Grant.**

Mr. Kairis stated that the Parks & Recreation Department is looking to obtain the grant to plant 15 apple/pear trees in Chestnut Hill Park. The grant would be for the trees and then the City would be responsible for planting and maintaining them. There are no matching funds required.

- The item was moved forward

**The second item on the agenda was Zoning Map Modifications.**

Mr. Finney explained that a section of buildings along Sycamore St. is under review for zoning map modifications. He stated that the majority of the property is in I1 Zoning (Industrial One). There is a developer that is interested in purchasing the property that is located on the corner of Spruce and Sycamore which has been vacant for many years. Mr. Finney stated that the property is not conducive to an industrial use being so close to the downtown area. He wants to change it from a I1 to a C1 zoning and to square off the corner by moving the church property to C1. Ms. Michael asked if the change would affect the houses near by and Ms. Wood stated that it would improve the neighborhood so that an industrial business could not go in, which could include loud manufacturing.

The entire process will take a few months and require a public hearing.

- The item was moved forward

**The third item on the agenda was Fence Code Modifications.**

Mr. Finney explained that he changed that barbed wire fence shall not be placed in the central business district, adding that everything else is the same as he had submitted the month prior. He explained some of the changes which included that a front yard fence shrub head should be no higher than three feet, a set back is two feet from the property line, to allow four-foot-tall see-through fencing in the front yard, a six-foot-high fence from the front corner to the rear of the property, and that corner lots are considered having two front yards.

Mr. Finney explained maintenance changes which included that shrubs and hedges shall not overhang or block sidewalks, and trees shall be maintained to allow eight foot of clearance from the sidewalk to the lowest branch.

Mr. Finney stated that he is proposing that barbed wire fencing will not be permitted in a

residentially zoned district or central business district, adding that barbed wire shall be slanted inward with no more than three strands where it is permitted. He also stated that barbed wire in a C1, C2 and I1 zoning district that abuts a residentially zoned district is required to receive board of zoning appeals approval to install barbed wire along an abutting property line.

Mr. Moskun inquired as to why barbed wire would be allow any place within the City limits, and Mr. Kairis and Mr. Finney responded that it would be for safety and security. Mr. Finney added that Council can review it and take it out if they would like.

Council discussed barbed wire within the City, its use and its visual aesthetic.

Mr. Finney stated that the code could be written to say, “the barbed wire in the C1, C2 and I1 zoning district that abuts a residentially zoned district is not permitted and is not appealable.”

Council members were in agreement with the wording.

- The item was moved forward

**The fourth item was to accept title of 3 Express Vans for donation.**

The Mayor explained that the item is an accommodation for Family and Community Services. Stark County can only donate to another public entity and so the City is being used as a pass-through service at no cost to the City, to then donate the vehicles to Family and Community Services for veteran services in northeast Ohio.

- The item was moved forward

**Management Update**

Mayor Seman stated that Dennis West has been very busy with a number of potential things and some currently underway. There was a ribbon cutting earlier that day for a new wellness center in the building previously occupied by the Portage County Regional Planning Commission on North Prospect St. He also stated that the City will be talking with another group of people that want to do some work with the old balloon factory at Sycamore and Spruce behind the church. Other properties are receiving inquiries and people are working with the Riddle Block 9 owners to find tenants as they begin remodeling.

**There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 P.M.**

**ATTEST:**

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**Clerk of Council**

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**Rob Kairis, Chairperson  
Planning Committee**