



Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
March 15, 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=3-fnHI5Ydik>

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

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:22 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael.

The first discussion item was to apply for the 2021 Ohio EMS Training & Equipment grant.

Ms. Michael stated that the Fire Department would like to apply for the 2021 Ohio EMS Training and Equipment Grant, and it is unknown if there is a match needed at this time.

- The item was moved forward

The second item was to adopt the Portage County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mayor Seman stated that the item is a 5-year update for the mitigation plan to bring things into compliance. City personnel attended meetings over the winter at the Infirmary Rd. office and Mr. Kluge stated there were also meetings held that the public could attend. The County mitigation plan will help the City apply for FEMA funding if a disaster or issue were to happen.

- The item was moved forward

The third item was a Safety Committee meeting update.

Ms. Michael stated that she was eager to talk about the item. With spring and summer approaching she would like to get a survey out to residents to see how they feel and what they think about the downtown area, along with input from administration. She suggested picking the top three questions out of the five that she has and then put them on the City's water bill and website to see what is important to community members. Ms. Michael presented survey questions to Council for their consideration.

1. Do you feel safe downtown (If no, what do you feel we can do to improve safety (foot patrol, cameras etc.) YES/NO
2. Do you feel safe in the city as a whole? Y/N If no, what do you feel we can do to improve safety (foot patrol, cameras etc.)
3. Do you feel safe in our parks/hike and bike trail Y/N (If no, what do you feel we can do to improve safety (foot patrol, cameras etc.)
4. What do you think is working in regard to community safety?
5. What recommendation do you have to improve safety in our community?

In addition, Ms. Michael stated that she would like to get together a subcommittee for downtown outreach and to discuss issues with people who live, work or are invested in the City of Ravenna. Items for discussion would be homelessness, trash, crime, jail/courthouse and ensuring safety and cleanliness.

Other issues for the subcommittee could be traffic calming, ATV's, and sidewalk maintenance, which would include snow and tree limbs.

Ms. Wood suggested reaching out to high school students to hear what they have to say regarding their viewpoint of downtown.

Ms. West stated that the survey will help the City to be more proactive and to find out what is most important to the community.

Mr. Kairis liked the idea and suggested to put the survey in the water bill, but said that anyone could answer questions on the website. He said it may not get responses from residents or it may get responses from someone with a grudge. He also suggested separating questions for the downtown and parks into different surveys.

Ms. Wood suggested more foot patrol downtown at various times.

Ms. Michael stated that Council members can contact her with any suggestions and that she would like the input of not only residents, but those that work in the community.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Amy Michael, Chairperson
Public Health and Safety Committee**