



Ravenna City Council
Streets & Sidewalks 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, Portage Co. Recycling Director, Bill Steiner and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

The Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:31 P.M. by Chairperson, Matt Harper.

The first discussion item was the recycling program with Bill Steiner.

Portage County Solid Waste Management Director, Bill Steiner, addressed Council to discuss the recycling fee increase that will go into effect July 1, 2021. The cost will go from \$2.50 per unit to an estimated \$5.50 per unit. He stated that the cost of processing has gone up, adding that it had gone from \$57 per ton, to \$77 per ton and now up to \$93 per ton. It was decided to increase the recycling fee across the County to be the same for everyone. Another issue is the addition of contamination fees which he explained are charged when inappropriate items, such as plastic bags, are put into the recycling which then need to be sorted out and disposed of.

The current recycling fee that residents are charge is \$5.50 which includes leaf bags, leaf pickup, brush chipping and recycling pickup.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that she will let Council know the final recycling rate after the County Commissioners make their decision.

- The item was for discussion only.

The second discussion item was the City Spring Clean-up program.

Mr. Harper stated that the cost will be \$240 per ton and the funds have been appropriated out of the General Fund. Mr. Huff stated that \$40,000 has been appropriated out of the Recycling Fund and \$25,000 out of the General Fund. Mr. Harper stated that it proves that the City does not received enough monthly income from recycling fees to cover the cost of the Spring Clean-up.

He said that additional funds have been taken out of the General Fund the last few years and that the recycling fee needs to be reconsidered. Mayor Seman stated that the City changed the clean-up to every other year to help build funds, but with the cost of recycling and pick-up rising it is not working out. The dates for the Spring Clean-up for Wards 1 and 2 are May 8th, Ward 3 is May 15th and Ward 4 is May 22nd.

Mr. Kluge stated that there will be a Special Council meeting next week to pass the clean-up.

- The item was moved forward.

The third discussion item was Diamond/Mill St. resurfacing.

Mr. Finney stated that the bids for the project were opened and Perrin Asphalt was the low bidder with a price of just under \$280,000, adding that the cost is an 80/20 split with AMATS money. Perrin Asphalt was \$32,000 lower than the next bidder. Ms. Wood asked if the cost savings could be used for curbing and he stated that ODOT will not pay for curbs on this project and that it is solely for resurfacing. The City’s portion of the project will be approximately \$50,000. The paving depth will be a minimum of an inch and a half.

Mr. Finney stated that AMATS asked if the City would like to move their 2024 paving projects up to 2022 and he said yes. Paving will be South Chestnut St. from Main St. to Lake, and then Riddle Ave. from Liberty to Meridian, which will be done at the same time.

- The item was moved forward

The fourth discussion item was ‘No Parking’ signs.

Mr. Harper stated that there are a lot of ‘No Parking’ signs in the City and there is no ordinance or law backing those signs on many city streets. He has had residents over the years contact him that have been warned or ticketed when there in fact is no ordinance in the books not allowing them. Mr. Harper has talked to Ms. Dubinsky and Chief Wallis regarding the issue. He stated that a possible option would be to look at the areas where the ‘No Parking’ signs are, and if they are needed then Council can put an ordinance in the books prohibiting parking. If the signs are in areas where they are not needed, then the signs can be removed so that residents are not receiving mixed messages. Mr. Harper stated that he is putting the item out for consideration to Council and is open to suggestions regarding the handling of the issue.

Mr. Calfee asked Mr. Harper if he had any examples of locations, and Mr. Harper stated almost all of Diamond Hills, but there are other places such as King and Madison St.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that some of the signs were placed because they were requested by residents.

Council members concurred that it was worth looking into.

Chief Wallis stated that he spoke with Mr. Harper regarding the issue and stated that the parking authority in the ordinances is the Mayor. A possible solution is to offer limited parking hours in certain areas versus no parking at all. Considerations for parking would also be mailboxes and narrow roads.

- The item was for discussion only

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

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