



**Ravenna City Council
Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes
April 12, 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=iLJ_zfzaeA8

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; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; Jen Davis, Erica Sadaj, Mike Bogo, Eric Schlaubach, David Shea and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

The Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:31 P.M. by Chairperson, Cheryl Wood.

The first item was a CAC application in partnership with the Ravenna Kiwanis.

Ms. Wood stated that the CAC and the Ravenna Kiwanis are requesting financial assistance from the City to help renovate the CAC Youth and Family Center playground to make it ADA compliant. So far there has been \$39,435 raised towards the project and \$50,000 is being requested from the City. The CAC is hoping for a grant, but they are open to utilizing RLF funds. The estimated cost of the project is \$100,000.

Mayor Seman stated that there were two grants that were overlooked when the property transferred that were supposed to be repaid upon sale, totaling approximately \$35,000. He said that nothing has been pursued legally, but he would like to draw up and sign an agreement that states that upon the sale of the property the money will be repaid to the City.

Ms. Wood stated that the funds for the playground would come from the CDBG RLF since the center serves mainly low to moderate income children.

The playground will initially be closed off to the public, but the CAC intends to open it up.

Ms. Wood suggested a 50/50 match with the CAC and Kiwanis partnership, and the City for funds for the playground.

Mr. Calfee stated to clarify that the money will be coming from the Community Development Block Grant in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, which will then be repaid with 0% interest and due upon sale or transfer of the building. There is currently approximately \$400,000 in the City's RLF fund.

Ms. Michael expressed her concern for the limited private access to the playground, and then a concern for the safety of the playground if it were to be opened to the public.

Mr. Shea stated that the current fencing around the playground will be updated and fixed as necessary to ensure the playground stays secure. The playground would be open for after-school programs and during the summer every day, with approximately 95% of the children from Ravenna.

- The item was moved forward

The second item was a 2021 CHIP application.

Ms. Wood stated that the 2021 CHIP application is due June 23, 2021 and the maximum amount for the application is \$1,050,000 which is the total aggregate for partnership with Portage

County, the City of Ravenna and the City of Streetsboro. NDS is proposing that Ravenna continue to be the lead administrator for the partnership. The maximum amount for Ravenna is \$300,000, Portage County will get \$400,000 and Streetsboro will get \$350,000. Prior to June 23 approval is needed to apply for the application and there will be two public hearings that are required to be held.

- The item was moved forward

The third item was approval of TIRC minutes

Mr. Huff stated that Mr. West was unavailable, so he assumed his roll during the Tax Incentive Review Council meeting. He said that it is a housekeeping item, and that Council has to accept the recommendations of the committee within 60 days. There are five different agreements, including Menards which is not active yet. The agreements give the companies property tax relief, and the schools will receive approximately \$39,000. Mr. Huff stated that he is not on the committee but will look at the possibility of joining.

- The item was moved forward

Management Update

Mayor Seman stated that there are a lot of things going on. There is an offer on a piece of property that has previously been talked about and a CRA has been discussed, but it is not in the present CRA district.

The Mayor stated that the CRA Housing Council has not met yet to approve the continuation of the movie theater CRA. The CRA Housing Council was created to approve such items and the members of the committee are mostly comprised of in-house personnel and Council members for easy formation. Mayor Seman stated that he is proposing to meet at 6:45pm prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss and move on necessary items, adding that items will then move on to Council for approval.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Cheryl Wood, Chairperson
Community & Economic Development**