



Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety 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, CAC Executive Director, David Shea and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael.

The first discussion item was Covid relief information from David Shea from the CAC.

Ms. Michael stated that she wanted to share information about Covid relief funds with Council, adding that she personally knows people affected financially because of the virus.

Mr. Shea from the Community Action Council addressed Council to explain the assistance program. The CAC has received \$1.3 million in funds for financial assistance and has given out approximately \$200,000 in the last two and a half months. Funding includes rent and mortgage assistance, along with assistance for utilities. There is an application on their website that needs to be filled out that can either be scanned and sent back electronically, or the CAC will send out an application and then applicants can use the CAC drop box at 1036 W. Main St., Ravenna.

- The item was for discussion only

The second item was an appropriation of \$8,000 for the Police Department.

Ms. Michael stated that there is \$8,000 from seizures and forfeitures that was not transferred over to line 237 and this would be completing that action.

- The item was moved forward

The third item was a discussion regarding tornado sirens.

Ms. Michael stated that Acting Chief Chapple wanted Council to start discussions about the City's tornado sirens. The siren batteries have been replaced but it is estimated that in about 5 years the sirens will need to be replaced. The cost of replacing the sirens would be approximately \$200,000 and Chief Chapple is unsure if it would be best to replace the sirens or to switch to different technology in lieu of sirens. Ms. Michael stated that communities are fading out from using sirens and a possible suggestion would be cell phone notifications.

Mayor Seman suggested that the item go through the Information Systems Committee.

Mr. Kluge is interested in seeing what the County is doing and will look into that.

Ms. Michael stated that she is concerned about relaying information to people who may not have their phone on them when there is an alert. Research will have to be done to see what other communities are doing and what options are out there in lieu of replacing the expensive sirens. Mr. Kairis inquired if there were any other uses for the siren other than tornado notifications.

- The item was for discussion only

Mr. Kluge wanted to acknowledge National Public Safety Telecommunications Week and requested for Chief Wallis and Acting Chief Chapple to pass it along.

Ms. Michael wanted to commend the Police and Fire Department for their hard work over the weekend, along with both department dispatchers.

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

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