



**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
June 21, 2021 at 7:00pm**

**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=cJ78nhYObXI&t=1756s>**

**The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Council President, Andrew Kluge.**

Council present via Zoom: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michaels, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Cheryl Wood, Tim Calfee, Christina West, and Matt Harper.

Also attending the meeting via Zoom: Mayor Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky, Economic Development Director, Dennis West; Tom Bellish; Gary Bishop and Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor

**The first item on the agenda was to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from May 24, 2021.**

- Motion to approve the May 24, 2021 Committee of the Whole minutes as amended by Mr. Calfee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**

**The second item was a discussion regarding the gas aggregation program.**

Tom Bellish from Buckeye Energy Group joined Council to explain the recent price increase due to the market. The current price is \$2.97 and the price requested was \$2.99 per mcf but the market has since gone up so the new price request is \$3.09 per mcf. The current market price is between \$3.15-\$3.18 per mcf. He stated that if it hits \$3.09 per mcf then they will lock it in, which will be for 24 months, but if it does not then they will go with the market price at the meeting in July.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that on the morning of July 19<sup>th</sup> Mr. Bellish will present Council with the current price per mcf which will then be addressed at the Committee of the Whole meeting that evening and then voted on at a special meeting immediately following, so that it is passed before the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Which he added will only be the case if the \$3.09 per mcf does not strike between now and then, adding that the gas market moves so quickly and changes almost daily. Mr. Bellish stated that other communities are in the same situation in having to lock down a renewal price for the gas aggregation program.

Mr. Kairis questioned the reason for a special meeting after the July Committee of the Whole meeting, instead of at the regular Council meeting, and Mr. Bellish explained that it would allow more time and chance to get a better gas rate.

- The item was for discussion only.

**The third item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contracts for the Hillcrest, Zeta and Spruce water line project.**

Mr. Moskun stated that the item is to replace the entire water lines on Zeta and Hillcrest, and a portion of Spruce St., including all of the fire hydrants in those areas. He said that there is a grant for approximately \$237,000 to help with the cost. Material costs have been going up so there will

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be a special meeting immediately following the Committee of the Whole to pass the ordinance so that the contractor can place an order for the materials.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

**The fourth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Quality IP.**

Ms. West stated that the item has been discussed the last couple of meetings and the administration took a look at the IT services and stated that they would like to continue with Quality IP, adding that they were happy with the services that they were providing.

Mr. Kairis addressed a concern with the new quoted agreement from Quality IP. He stated that the cost was stated to be \$650 a month more than the last agreement, but he found that there is a \$1,200 a month increase instead.

Mr. Huff explained that the cost difference from last year also includes the recent additions of email security, which explains why the cost difference is more than \$650 compare to last years agreement.

Mr. Kairis expressed his frustration that the quotes are not easier to read.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

**The fifth item was an ordinance amending Ordinance 2016-088 to expand the CRA.**

Ms. Wood stated that the item has been discussed many times. The CRA ordinance will be amended to create the title CRA-1 and it will encompass the Sycamore/Spruce St. property for the proposed economic development project that is coming.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

**The sixth item was an ordinance creating a new fund #202 for funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act.**

Mr. Huff stated that the Auditor States Office is requiring a separate fund for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. This was done for the CARES Act funds last year and they are requiring the same thing but it cannot be in the CARES Fund, so the city has to create a new fund. No funds have been received but the city is set to receive approximately \$1.1 million this year, and approximately \$1.1 million next year.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

**The seventh item was an ordinance to approve the 2022 Tax Budget.**

Mr. Huff stated that on June 8<sup>th</sup> he met with the Mayor, the Assistant Finance Director, and Council members Ms. Wood, Mr. Calfee and Mr. Kluge to discuss city income taxes. He said that the city is 3.7% up from last year which affects the General Fund, Street Fund, Parks Fund, Capital Fund and the Water Fund, adding that they all receive a portion of that money. He also stated that the Spring Clean-up was removed from the budget for 2022 since the city had the clean up in 2021.

Mr. Huff explained some items on the tax budget and stated that they simplified some of the line expenditures. When asked by Mr. Kluge, Mr. Huff stated that there is no increase in the fire

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hydrant budget, adding that he did check with Mr. Dowdy and Mr. Reynolds regarding that option.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

### **The eighth item was to discuss city wide recycling.**

Mr. Kluge stated that most of Council who he had spoken with said that they are in favor of going out for RFP (request for proposal) to see what other recycling providers are out there. He said that he spoke to Ms. Dubinsky to make her aware, and wanted talk through the issue with Council. Mr. Kluge stated that the main point is that Council and the city is trying to be fiscally responsible to get the best price for the residents while providing the service. He mentioned Mr. Calfee's ideal of having everyone's trash and recycling which would be either on the same day or a couple days. Mr. Kluge mentioned Streetsboro and Kent and stated that the next move is to be determined, but at this point it would be requesting Ms. Dubinsky to go out for RFP's to see what the prices are and then Council can discuss the options.

Mr. Kluge stated that there are some points that Council and the residents need to know. A longer contract will get a better price, and stated that Streetsboro has a 5 year contract. One hauler to do both trash and recycling is going to fetch a better price, adding that there is no option to opt out of recycling which has been made clear by the County and other communities. Mr. Kluge stated that the third point is that the price is going to go up no matter what is decided. He expressed his concern that the city could be having the same conversation next year and questioned whether the County recycling program will be around, adding that Streetsboro no longer has Portage County recycling.

Mr. Kluge reiterated that the popular opinion from Council is to go out for RFP.

Mr. Kairis addressed Mr. Kluge's comment about rising prices and stated that if the city received a combination trash/recycling hauler the residents would pay less than they are currently paying. He said that the reason he is in favor of looking at it would be reducing the overall cost for residents.

Mr. Kluge stated that some residents pay between \$20-\$30 in addition to the recycling fees, and to Mr. Kairis' point, it would bring everything under one umbrella and residents would pay one price for services. There would be no opt out, and a longer contract to get the best price. It would still be determined who would come in as that request for proposal might be put out by the Service Director. He stated again that Council is in favor of the request for proposal.

Mr. Kairis stated that the city has informally decided to go to an every other year spring clean-up and said that would be a way for the city to save money if a rubbish collection company could be a part of it, adding that would be a pretty good package for an RFP.

Ms. West agreed with Mr. Kairis' suggestion stating that the city struggles to find a trash hauler for the spring clean-up.

Ms. Wood agreed.

Mr. Kluge stated that no matter what Council is not going to make everyone happy, but a decision needs to be made and if it is Council doing it, he said that the city should at least put a request for proposal out there to see what other prices the city can get.

Ms. Wood stated that it's owed to the residents to explore and do the RFP's to see what the best pricing the city could get for the residents before a decision is made.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that Ms. Ring reached out to some of the companies and there are only 2 or 3 companies that will be able to respond to an RFP. Two companies are Waste Management and

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Kimble. Conrad's cannot because they do not have the equipment. She stated that she heard from a reliable source that Republic does not separate their trash and recycling, that it all goes to the landfill.

Mr. Kluge stated that as the information comes in, it will be distributed to Council so that a decision can be made.

There were no other comments.

- The item was for discussion only.

**There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm**

**ATTEST:**

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**Clerk of Council**

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**Council President**