



**Ravenna City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday July 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

The Regular Council Meeting was held in person and was live streamed via YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8VZiO5PML4&t=4097s>

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. July 6, 2021 by Council President, Andrew Kluge

Moment of Meditation & Silence

President Kluge called a moment of meditation and silence.

Pledge to Flag

President Kluge then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

The following Council Members were present: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Matt Harper, Cheryl Wood, Rob Karis, and Tim Calfee.

Also in attendance were Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Acting Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky, Finance Director, Brian Huff; Council Clerk; Chelsea Gregor, Nancy Jones, Carolyn Chambers, Judy Hillis, Bill Turner Sr., Regina Masters, Greg and Eve Francis, Steven Farhat, Kali Roberts, Josh Howard, Ryan Bachman, Mark Hairston, Randy Dean Jr, Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil and Debbie Mullier

- Motion to excuse Mr. Moskun and Ms. West by Mr. Kairis, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

Mr. Kairis stated that he had a point of order request regarding Ord. 2021-062. He questioned the amount of required signatures to put the last-minute item on the agenda. The Clerk produced an additional sheet that Mr. Kairis had not seen with Ms. Wood's signature which met the required number of signatures.

Approval of the Minutes:

- Motion to approve the June 7, 2021 Public Hearing and Regular Council meeting, the June 21, 2021 Special Council meeting, and the June 28, 2021 Special Council meeting minutes by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

Communications- None

Delegations from the Public-

Mr. Kluge stated that he wanted to read a couple of comments from the public that have been received, adding that the single hauler/recycling concern has been on the top of his list. He wanted to clarify that the single hauler is not on the agenda and will not be anytime soon. The recycling is on the agenda, and the goal is to look at other recycling haulers since the County announced the fee increase.

Mr. Kluge encouraged comments from the public, requested a speaking time of two minutes and to be polite and respectful. He stated that he first wanted to read two comments.

Mr. Kluge read a public comment from Barbara Grubaugh – 330 Linden St., Ravenna, OH 44266 “We want to have our choice of who we want for trash service. We do not think that Ravenna should be the ones to tell us who we can have for trash service.”

He then read a comment from Russell Grubaugh- 330 Linden St., “I do not want the change in my trash service, and I think that Ravenna needs to let that alone and let the individual homeowners choose who they want.”

Mr. Kluge read one more comment from Cathy Rufener- 585 Collins Pond Dr. “When something is running perfectly, that is not the time for a change. I am enjoying the competent, efficient, kind, helpful service of Conrad's Disposal and do not wish to change. If you would include them in your plan to cover Ravenna, I would be ever so grateful. In all my years of employing garbage disposal companies, Conrad's comes in as the very best. They are small, but mighty. Please save them.”

Mr. Soudil stated that he has no problem keeping things the way they are. He did state that in the last 4-5 years of his 31 years living in Ravenna, he now gets awakened between the hours of

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2am-4am every day by different trash haulers. His suggestion was to have same day pick up so that companies aren't coming every day.

Ms. Jones addressed Council and agreed with Mr. Soudil regarding same day trash pick-ups and stated that the trucks drive too fast down the street.

Mr. Kluge stated that there have been suggestions to streamline days for trash pick-up.

Ms. Jones stated that Conrad's is the most reliable trash hauler in her opinion. She expressed her concern for raising rates for people who financially struggle.

Mr. Kluge stated that the recycling rate increase was passed on from the County.

Ms. Jones expressed her concern that the recycling goes to a facility and not a landfill.

Ms. Michael stated that it was difficult to find a hauler that would only pick up recycling and stated that they were interested in bundling the trash pick-up with the recycling.

Mr. Tuner Sr. stated that Conrad's is the best trash service that he has had in over 50 years of having trash service.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that if Conrad's were to go out of business, that would affect the community clean and stated that it might go away.

Mr. Kairis stated that by going with a single trash hauler it could lower costs for residents.

Mr. Dean Jr. stated his support for Conrad's Disposal and has had family work for the company.

Mr. Bachman stated that he is able to shop around to get the best price for trash but not recycling. He added that he has not been able to get a recycling bin since he moved to Ravenna four years ago and is paying for a service that he is not utilizing. He stated that he has called the City to get a bin and has not received one. Ms. Dubinsky stated that the bins are through Portage County and that she will help to get him one. Mr. Bachman encouraged free enterprise so that citizens can make their own choice when choosing a hauler.

Mr. Howard stated that he wanted to reiterate what people have been saying, adding that Conrad's is a great service and would hate to see a monopoly. He stated that he has heard kind stories about Conrad's going above and beyond to provide good service to their customers.

Report of Officials: Council received the Report of Officials.

- Motion to approve the Report of Officials by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**

Report of Committees: Committee meetings start @ 5:30 PM 7/12/2021

Utilities: Mr. Moskun was not in attendance.

Information Systems (IS): Ms. West was not in attendance.

Planning: Mr. Kairis stated that there were no items on the agenda and there will be a meeting next week.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Kluge stated that the next Committee of the Whole meeting is Monday July 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm and there will be a special meeting immediately following.

Public Health & Safety: Ms. Michael stated that a meeting is to be determined.

Streets & Sidewalks: Mr. Harper stated that there is nothing on the agenda and a meeting to be determined.

Personnel: Mr. Calfee stated that there is nothing planned.

Community & Economic Development: Ms. Wood stated that there are no items on the agenda but there will be two or three items for the committee meeting.

Cemetery: Mr. Harper stated that it has been business as usual. They have extended an internship and the person will come back for the fall leaf clean up.

Parks & Recreation: Mr. Calfee stated that the Parks and Rec. Dept. has started using QR Codes for registration. The summer camp is up and running with a total of 137 kids at the City Park. The Wizard of Oz will be playing Friday July 9th which is part of Movies on the Square throughout the summer. The Young Marines, which are a youth group organization in town,

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have been volunteering to help the Parks and Rec. Dept. on events. As a thank you for their help, Parks and Rec. sponsored a one-day archery clinic where 18 participants took part.

First Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-058 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RENEW A CONTRACT WITH QUALITY IP FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kluge stated that the item has been talked about and it is a 3-year contract.

Mr. Kairis stated that he has been asking for competitive rates and that the City should be aware of how it spends its money. He stated that he wanted to explain his vote, adding that he will vote yes to suspend the three readings because he does not feel delaying it is a good idea, but he will be voting against the ordinance.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Calfee- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-058 by Ms. Wood, 2nd Ms. Michael- **Ms. Wood, Ms. Michael, Mr. Calfee, Mr. Harper- All Ayes, Mr. Kairis- No**

Ordinance 2021-058 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-059 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW FUND TO BE NAMED “202-AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND”, AS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

The item is required by the State Auditors Office for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds. The City has not received the funds yet but will be getting a portion this year and next year.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-059 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-059 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-060 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2021 TAX BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF RAVENNA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Huff stated that there was a Budget Commission meeting with a few members from administration and Council. The item is a requirement that needs to be filed with the County by July 20th, 2021.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2021-060 by Ms. Wood, 2nd Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2021-060 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-062 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PORTAGE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, FOR THE COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS WITHIN THE CITY OF RAVENNA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kluge stated that the item has been discussed and that Council should have received the MOU on Friday from Bill Steiner.

Mr. Kairis stated his feeling that the item has been rushed and he does not feel that it belongs on the agenda, adding that there are people in attendance and people who do not know about the issue who have an opinion on the subject that want to be heard. He said that he feels it should go through the Utilities Committee and then Committee of the Whole so that Council has a chance to think about and decide what they want to do, adding the suggestion of having a public hearing so that residents can voice their opinion.

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Ms. Wood stated, in response to Mr. Kairis' comment, that she did an interview with Fox 8 News on St. Patrick's Day and gave her phone number out encouraging Ravenna residents to call her, adding that she had received approximately 100 phone calls, text messages and emails within a few weeks. She stated that the information has been out there, and the public has been informed. The Memorandum of Understanding agreement with Portage County Solid Waste is for 6 months. Council members expressed concern for disrupted service.

Mayor Seman stated that if Council decided to change direction and go with a different hauler, that transition would take 4-5 months, adding that while Streetsboro changes haulers, the County has agreed to continue to pick up their recycling until the transition occurs.

Mr. Kairis stated that the City has an agreement with the County and that a 90-day notice is needed from either party to remove themselves, adding that the City has time to decide.

Ms. Wood and Ms. Michael expressed their concern that a certain hauler choice could jeopardize the welfare of local trash and recycling companies.

Mr. Harper stated that he took two phone calls that day from residents that stated that they were unaware of the recycling discussion and concerns that were being discussed that evening, adding that the City does need to do a better job of getting information out to residents. He said that there has been no talk about financials, agreeing on a price rate increase or knowing if the price will go up in the next 5 years.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that the price increase is determined by the County Commissioner and not Portage County Solid Waste.

Ravenna resident Nancy Jones stated that not everyone gets Fox 8 and that there needs to be more ways to get information out to the public, such as the water bill.

Mr. Kluge stated that Council members will be setting up different meetings in the community to talk to residents. He said that if the ordinance does not pass there are other meeting dates to have a special meeting to vote on the ordinance.

Mr. Calfee stated that there are multiple items being spoken about, and the item on the table is a six-month agreement for the \$5.50 increase for recycling.

Mr. Kairis stated his concern that the Law Director was not in attendance to give direction and disputed the statement from Ms. Dubinsky that the City is no longer under a contract as of July 6th, 2019.

Mr. Kluge stated that he is going to ask for a vote on the item and stated that the City will engage residents regarding recycling prior to the next Council meeting on July 19th.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. Michael

Mr. Calfee asked for a discussion immediately after the motion where only Ms. Wood and Ms. Michael responded with a first and second to the motion. Mr. Calfee asked what would happen if the ordinance did not pass and Mayor Seman stated that Council can leave it on first reading. The Law Director was not in attendance to give a definitive answer to if the ordinance would then have to go three readings.

- Motion to withdraw the motion by Ms. Wood, 2nd Ms. Michael

The motion was rescinded by both motioning Council members before any other Council members voted.

Mr. Kairis made a motion to consider waving the three readings, but he did not get a second.

- Motion to table Ordinance No. 2021-062 by Ms. Wood, 2nd Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-063 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART 10 – STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES; TITLE SIX – OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES; CHAPTER 1062 – COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS; SECTION 1062.11 – COLLECTION RATES; BY ADJUSTING THE MONTHLY RECYCLING COLLECTION RATE TO \$8.50, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kluge stated that the ordinance subject has been heard in conjunction with the previous ordinance.

- Motion to table ordinance 2021-063 by Mr. Kairis, 2nd by Mr. Harper- **All Ayes**

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Second Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-049 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2020-142 BY AMENDING EXHIBIT "A" SECTION II – FIRE DEPARTMENT, SUBSECTIONS (b) BY ADDING ONE (1) FULL-TIME FIRE MARSHAL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael stated that the item has been discussed and the information is out there. She said that anyone on Council who would like to know more information has plenty of time to do so from the Mayor, the Finance Director or the Fire Chief.

The ordinance is moved on to third reading.

Third Reading of Ordinances: None

Old Business- None

New Business- None

President of Council Remarks- Mr. Kluge stated that he appreciated hearing from residents regarding a single hauler and Council will continue to have discussions about recycling and recycling rates with the County. He said that he appreciated everyone that called City Hall and himself.

Council Member Remarks

Ms. Michael- Ms. Michael thanked everyone who took the time to reach out and said that she was able to get back with everyone that reached out to her. She stated that she appreciates it and will do everything to do what's right.

Mr. Harper- No Comment

Mr. Kairis- Mr. Kairis stated that Saturday August 7th is the Art on Main Festival in downtown Ravenna. The event will be held from 11am-7pm and will include craft beer, a band on the courthouse lawn, musicians and artists.

Mr. Calfee- No Comment

Ms. Wood- Ms. Wood thanked everyone for voicing their opinions and encourage people to call and pass the word along to their neighbors.

Mayor's Remarks- Mayor Seman stated that he is grateful that the City is in the relief period of the pandemic and for the most part the City is completely open again.

There are events that will be happening such as Art of Main, the car show on August 4th and Main Street Ravenna will be hosting an event on July 16th to recognize the grant for Riddle Block 9.

The Street Dept. has just hired 3 new employees, but they have been doing a good job keeping up with everything even though they were short staffed.

Mayor Seman stated that the recycling and trash decision is not an easy one to navigate.

He stated that he is happy to be back in person and that Ravenna has been receiving a lot of interest from companies that were not familiar with the city. The work done by Ray Harner at the GE plant has attracted a number of people and there are a lot of good things happening with potential. The pandemic had things on hold but now things are moving forward.

A resident from the west side of town thanked Council for paving her road.

Mr. Kluge stated that there will be a Special Council meeting on July 19th, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

- Motion to adjourn by Ms. Michael, 2nd Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday August 2, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President