



**Ravenna City Council
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2022 at 5:30 pm**

The public meeting was held in person in City Council Chambers.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Council President, Andrew Kluge

Roll Call

The following Council Members were present: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Tim Calfee, Cheryl Wood, Christina West, and Matt Harper.

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Benjamin Pagani, Arasin Hughes, Amy Adams, Sharon Spencer, John McFarland, Tim Thomas, Jim Node, Michelle Young, Kevin Young, Erik Zemejic, Brandon Bittney, Ryann Kuchenbecker and Gail Pavliga

The Ravenna City Council conducted a Public Hearing regarding proposed Ordinance No. 2022-045.

Ordinance No. 2022-045 was read by the Clerk.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-045 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE CREATION OF A DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA (DORA) FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IN SPECIFIED PUBLIC AREAS OF DOWNTOWN RAVENNA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kluge requested all in attendance to sign in and to keep comments to 2-3 minutes. He stated that information regarding the DORA is available on the City's website.

Tim Thomas addressed Council to express his opposition to the ordinance. He stated that he has respect for everyone on Council, along with the Mayor and Police Chief, and said that his opposition is not a personal criticism. He said that he has lived and worked in Ravenna for 36 years and that he is proud of his community and the number of people and organizations who are working for the betterment of it. Mr. Thomas stated that people move to communities because of health, safety, schools, medical, police and fire services, but not for a DORA. He said that he appreciates the fully compliant application, but added that he does not feel that alcohol betters any situation. He believes that it is not necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the community and will be back in 5 years to ask for a review of the DORA.

Mr. Kairis asked to clarify if Mr. Thomas was opposed to DORA's everywhere or just in Ravenna. Mr. Thomas stated that he is opposed to DORA's in any city.

Mr. Kairis said that if there are issues that the DORA can be repealed at any time.

Jim Wade from the West Main Street Winery addressed Council. He stated that his establishment is one of the three qualified permit holders that will be taking part in the DORA and that they take the responsibility very seriously. Mr. Wade said that patrons are vetted thoroughly and if there are any issues they will not be allow back to his establishment. He stated that the DORA is designed to be able to host events and concerts downtown. Mr. Wade has spoken to the other two permit holders and they have coordinated with each other to ensure that the rules are followed and patrons are not overserved.

Amy Adams, President of Main Street Ravenna, addressed Council. She stated that the point of a DORA is to get people downtown to listen to concerts, shop, move and enjoy the atmosphere downtown. Issues have been looked at and Main Street Ravenna will help support the DORA and look at it closely as it unfolds. Ms. Adams reiterated that the permit holders know that their liquor licenses are on the line and stated that she hopes the DORA will help the community and get people downtown.

Eric Zemejic, a local property owner within the proposed DORA boundaries, addressed Council. He stated that he is in support of the DORA because he has an empty retail space and is excited

for anything that will bring business downtown. Mr. Zemejic lives in Kent and stated that the DORA is working well over there and has been well populated.

Michelle Young, from Lugapha's Smoked BBQ, addressed Council. She stated that the DORA will help bring people downtown and it is a good opportunity to see all the small businesses downtown.

Ryann Kuchenbecker, Executive Director of the Ravenna Chamber of Commerce, addressed Council. She stated that the DORA will be good for downtown and events. She does not believe that there will be a lot of patrons passing from bar to bar, but that this is an opportunity to try and see how it works for Ravenna.

Mr. Kluge stated that Council is only taking input at this time and there will be no further action. The ordinance will have its final reading at the Regular Council meeting on June 6th where Council will be voting on the DORA.

There were no additional comments.

- Motion to adjourn at 5:48pm by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

President of Council