



Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2022

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

Council present: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Tim Calfee, Cheryl Wood and Matt Harper.

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Property Maintenance Officer, Don Rose; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Cliff Soudil, Larry Silenius, John McFarland and Diane Smith

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

The first item was Trash Ordinance.

Ms. Michael stated that trash has been an ongoing issue and discussion at Council. She stated that she spoke with Mr. Finney and is looking into what the Property Maintenance Department can do to help the issue. Ms. Michael read the current trash ordinance and referred to a residence that is in violation with trash overflowing.

Ms. Wood stated that the current ordinance covers the violation.

Ms. Michael stated she invited Don Rose to come to Council to discuss the issue.

Mr. Kluge asked if there is anything that needs to be addressed to make issues more enforceable.

Mr. Rose stated that the ordinance needs more teeth and that it is hard to document with chronic nuisances.

Mr. Finney stated that chronic nuisance cases are eventually charged \$250 but that they would prefer to have action instead of having to charge the resident a fee. He explained that his department does not know when certain houses have their pickup days and stated that the locations of empty trash cans is an issue in certain areas.

Ms. Wood asked if the lack of trash containment is more of an issue, and that she is okay with seeing trash cans but not littered trash.

Mr. Kairis broke down the conversation with different issues, including trash, the placement of trash containers and residents that have more than one receptacle. He asked how the issues could be resolved.

Mr. Rose walked Council through the process of a nuisance complaints which included sending a letter to the resident, and landlord if applicable, then a certified letter, adding that record keeping and follow through are important steps with a nuisance issue.

Mr. Finney stated that they try to communicate to get the residents' attention to the problem in order to fix it. He said that a whole city garbage collection would help to streamline the process of figuring out which locations are in violation.

Mr. Harper asked if he wanted to address the placement of receptacles in the yard or driveway.

Mr. Calfee stated that having the trash closed in a can is the most important thing. He said that putting the receptacle behind the front of the building might not solve all the issues, but suggested a trash pickup day for each ward as a way to help locate issue areas.

Mr. Finney stated that the chronic nuisance process takes a while.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that it might be successful to fix issues with the help of the Police Department.

Ms. Michael addressed a section of the codified ordinance which includes the placement of trash receptacles in a place that is “practical and convenient” as being wording that could be amended to be more specific. She said that she will meet with Don to come up with more specific language to bring back to Council.

- The item was for discussion only.

The second item was Enforcement of Property Maintenance Tickets.

Mr. Rose stated that he and Mr. Finney discussed the matter and other municipalities can, and do, give warnings and tickets.

Mr. Finney explained that he has discussed the subject and the Police Department will be proving them with a ticket book.

Ms. Michael asked if Property Maintenance could do anything about cars with expired tags.

Mr. Rose explained that some of the cars are not running and that they have trouble getting information or responses from the owners.

Mr. Finney stated that working with private property is different than if vehicles are in the city’s right of way.

Mr. Kairis and Ms. Michael inquired about hiring a person to write tickets or adding the duty to an existing employee.

Mr. Rose stated that it is hard to enforce some issues but said that a warning letter and a follow-up ticket has more teeth to enforce.

- The item was for discussion only.

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

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