



**Ravenna City Council**  
**Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 17, 2023**

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

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

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; Economic Development Director, Dennis West; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Cliff Soudil, Larry Silenius, John MacFarland, Richard Miller, Chris Knapp

**The Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:23 P.M. by Chairperson, Matt Harper.**

**The first item was for the 2023 Annual Paving Program contract and the second item was a contract for S. Prospect and N. Chestnut.**

Mr. Finney stated that both of the items are being tabled until next month.

- The items were tabled for next month

**The third item was to advertise for bids for the 2023 Annual Striping Program.**

Mr. Harper stated that the item is to agree to ODOT's terms in order to have Main St. paved from the west city limits to the east city limits.

Mayor Seman stated that close to 50% of the city has been paved since the paving levy was approved.

- The item was moved forward

**The fourth item was accepting Rayann Parkway as a City Street.**

Mr. Harper stated that the item is to accept Rayann Parkway as an official city street and an ordinance is required. The street will need to be codified in section 406.12 which lists the city streets.

- The item was moved forward

**The fifth item was a one-year license with Pegasus Software.**

Mr. Finney explained that the software will be able to help with reports in the Engineers office using excel spreadsheets, and they will be able to add pictures and the scope of work. He added

that it will also help with ODOT and reporting. The cost is approximately \$2,500 for one year with two licenses, which is approximately \$100 per month. Mr. Finney stated that the company is a subsidiary of QCI which the City uses.

- The item was moved forward

**The sixth item was to pursuit of an aerial easement.**

Mr. Finney explained that First Energy poles are planning to be moved with the widening of West Main St. from Madison St. to the west city limits. He said that due to the aerial space needed for the top of the electric poles, he would like to get an aerial easement from residents who would be affected by the poles being moved to accommodate the street widening. Mr. Finney stated that he does not want to purchase the aerial property and is hoping the prospect of new aprons and sidewalks will be sufficient. He stated that there are 24 properties in the request including two city owned properties, the school and a couple of vacant lots. Mr. Finney is requesting permission to approach the property owners to request the easements. He will be sending out letters, having a public meeting and eventually documents will be drawn up and notarized.

- The item was moved forward

**The seventh item was the elimination of Main Street Parking in front of Reed Memorial Library.**

Mr. Finney explained that there is a request from Reed Memorial Library to remove 11 parking spaces in front of the library to make space for a landscape plan. He stated that the library had introduced the project to Council last year and is currently asking for the City to pay for the project with the intention that the library will reimburse them since the City still owns the library.

Ms. Michael expressed her concern of how the renovation would affect people and businesses, and if more patrol would be needed in the area.

Ms. Wood asked where the property line was, and Mr. Finney stated that the City still owns the library and the property line is before the parking spots.

Mr. Silenius asked the Law Director if the property were to be renovated removing the existing parking spots, if it would then be considered library property, and the Law Director said yes. Mr. Silenius stated that parking is a major consideration and was concerned about losing additional city parking, in addition to the safety of children utilizing the front lawn.

Dr. Miller addressed Council to state he does not think it is a good plan and has concerns regarding incidents on Rt. 59, adding that he currently picks up papers and bottles around his property and is concerned there would be more if the renovation takes place. He believes the plan could be a liability for children's safety and recommends renovating the back of the building instead.

Mr. Finney explained that the library wants to do phase 1 at the front of the building and phase 2 at the back of the building.

Mr. MacFarland stated his concern that the increased frontage renovation would increase a play area for children and that he is against the plan.

Mr. Soudil expressed his concern about the removal of parking spaces and stated that the city needs it for businesses when they move in.

Mr. Harper asked the committee and no one was in favor of moving the item forward.

- The item was not moved forward

**The eighth item was to consider the closure of Day St. at the railroad crossing.**

Mr. Finney stated he has worked with PUCO and ABC Railroad discussing railroad crossings and increased train traffic. He said that ABC can upgrade crossings with lights and is asking if Day St. can be closed at the railroad since it is the least utilized street with a crossing along that rail line. Mr. Finney stated that upgrading the crosswalks with new lights and gates is approximately \$650,000 to \$700,000. He said that the north side of Day St. could be turned into a cul-de-sac and the south side would be a dead end with a street to the east.

Mr. Harper stated that a public hearing would be needed for the people in the area.

Mr. Moskun asked Chief Chapple how the road closure might affect response time to emergencies and Chief Chapple estimated an approximately 30 second delay.

Mr. Finney stated that ABC and PUCO can present next month and that it would benefit Council to hear from them directly.

Chief Chapple asked about the water line at the railroad crossing area and Mr. Finney stated that it needs to be replaced.

Mr. Harper asked for a letter to be sent out to the residents and businesses in the area, and that the item will be addressed at the next committee meeting.

- The item stayed in committee for further discussion.

**Management Update**

**There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.**

**ATTEST:**

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**Clerk of Council**

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**Matt Harper, Chairperson  
Streets & Sidewalks Committee**