

Ravenna City Council Regular Meeting Minutes Monday March 6, 2023, at 6:00 pm

The Regular Council Meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. March 6, 2023, 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, Paul Moskun, Rob Kairis, Christina West, Cheryl Wood, and Tim Calfee.

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Service Director; Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk; Chelsea Gregor, Lou Dudek, Carmen Laudato, Moe Smith, Ryann Kuchenbecker, Cliff Soudil, Larry Silenius, and Diane Smith

Approval of the Minutes:

• Motion to approve the February 6, 2023, Regular Council meeting minutes by Mr. Kairis, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

Communications- Council received a letter from Amy Young at Reed Memorial Library.

Delegations from the Public- Ravenna Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Ryann Kuchenbecker, addressed Council to update them on upcoming events. She stated that the Chamber will be working on a charity fundraiser, and explained that past fundraisers included Raven Packs, Rise Up Ravenna and Healthcare Hero's. Ms. Kuchenbecker stated Jonathan Floyd is the new Honorary Way recipient and the unveiling ceremony will take place March 11th at 10am. She said that the Chamber has been hosting Lunch and Learn sessions and that the latest speaker was County Treasurer, Brad Cromes. Ms. Kuchenbecker explained the years list of events that includes the Raven Awards on June 7th, Only in Ravenna on July 15th, the Chamber golf outing on August 25th, the Ravenna Rocks Concert Series June 17th, August 12th and October 7th, the Halloween Walk on October 28th and Midnight Madness on November 24th. She stated that the high school day of service will be held on May 13th where the students will paint spring inspired themes on business windows in preparation for the senior parade. She informed Council that Ravenna Nutrition has new owners, Rich and Ashley Wolford, and that there was a ribbon cutting that morning.

Mark "Moe" Smith addressed Council to explain his concern for education of black history and ensuring that the correct history is spoken. He stated that incorrect black history education angers people, divides the country and creates a disparity which can create black and white hate. He does not believe the schools are teaching accurate history and is asking to help change the narrative of black history which he believes to be incorrect. He left his literature for Council members to look over.

Carmen Laudato addressed Council to endorse Ordinance 2023-001 and stated that she lives next to a person who consistently keeps their garbage can in their front yard. She encouraged Council members to pass the ordinance and stated that it would help Ravenna with the image that it wants to project. Ms. Laudato stated that the Planning Commission grills businesses about their image quality but is lax about residences.

Ms. Laudato responded to Mr. Smith's previous remark stating that she is a social studies teacher and to ask educators before seeking to change historical narratives.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023 Page Two (2).

Report of Officials:

• Motion to approve the Report of Officials by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- All Ayes

Report of Committees: Committee meetings start at 6:00 PM 3/13/2023

Utilities: Mr. Moskun stated that there will be nothing.

Information Systems: Ms. West stated that there will be some items for a meeting.

Planning: Mr. Kairis stated that there are four items on the agenda, and there will be a meeting.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Kluge stated that the next Committee of the Whole meeting is Monday, March 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Public Health & Safety: Ms. Michael stated she has several items and is unsure whether she will have a meeting.

Streets & Sidewalks: Mr. Harper stated that he has one item and will most likely have a meeting.

Personnel: Mr. Calfee stated that there will be a committee meeting.

Community & Economic Development: Ms. Wood stated that there are a couple of items, and a meeting is to be determined.

Cemetery: Mr. Moskun stated that \$31,000 has been appropriated to have a portion of the cemetery road repaved.

Mr. Kluge inquired about Jason Kentner's cemetery landscape plan that suggested a boulevard with trees.

Mr. Harper stated that the roads have been surveyed and staked to start road construction. He said that trees are set to be planted between the cemetery and the railroad, adding that there will be an oval that will mirror the front roadway oval.

Mr. Moskun stated that the original landscape suggestion has been condensed.

Parks & Recreation: Mr. Calfee stated that the annual Marlene Watt 5K walk/run will be March 11th and it has 70 participants signed up with 23 corporate sponsors. He said that the funds will go to a scholarship fund to help youths to attend Park and Recreation sports.

First Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-032 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT TO FUND THREE (3) FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS, AND ACCEPTING THE GRANT IF AWARDED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael stated that the item is to apply for the SAFER grant again, which the Fire Department has done several times. The number of service calls has increased so the Fire Department is hoping to receive the grant for additional fire fighters, or to continue the conversation of adding additional personnel if the grant is not awarded.

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 Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Kairis- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-032 by Mr. Harper, 2nd Ms. West- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-032 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-033 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE 2023-2024 OHIO EMS GRANT FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael stated that it is to apply for a grant for the Fire Department and that there is no match. There being no further comments or questions.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023 Page Three (3).

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Kairis, 2nd by Ms. West- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-033 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Mr. Kairis- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-033 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-034 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE SAFETY INTERVENTION GRANT THROUGH THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION (BWC), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Ms. Michael stated that the item was talked about in committee, and it is for stair chairs and a Lucas device. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Ms. Wood- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. West- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-034 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Mr. Kairis- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-034 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-035 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE EXPOSURE TO ELEMENTS GRANT THROUGH THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION (BWC), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Chief Chapple stated that the grant is to request the remainder of funds received from a \$15,000 grant in the sum of \$1,700. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Kairis, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. West, 2nd by Ms. Wood- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-035 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Mr. Kairis- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-035 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-036 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING A DONATION OF ONE (1) LUCAS DEVICE AND ONE (1) LIFEPAK 15 CARDIAC MONITOR FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael stated that the Lucas device and LifePak is from an anonymous donor which had been promised a while ago, and that it is a wonderful gift to the Fire Department. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-036 by Ms. Wood, 2nd Mr. Kairis- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-036 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-037 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT THE 2023 OCJS STATE OF OHIO BODY-WORN CAMERA GRANT PROGRAM IN THE SUM OF \$7,347.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael stated that the item is for additional body cameras for the Police Department and that there is no match required. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-037 by Ms. Wood, 2nd Ms. West- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-037 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-038 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ACCEPTING REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH FEDERAL FUNDING FOR RESURFACING N. CHESTNUT ST. AND S. PROSPECT ST., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023 Page Four (4).

Mr. Harper stated that the item is to agree to ODOT's requirements to resurface N. Chestnut and S. Prospect St. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Kairis- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-038 by Mr. Harper, 2nd Ms. Wood- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-038 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-039 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, ACCORDING TO LAW, FOR THE MERIDIAN STREET AND MURRAY AVENUE WATER LINE PROJECT, ACCORDING TO SPECIFICATIONS NOW ON FILE IN THE MAYORS OFFICE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Moskun stated that the project will be to replace the waterlines and hydrants on Meridian St. and Murray Ave. He explained that the contract will be signed in July and that the project will begin in August or as soon as possible.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-039 by Mr. Kairis, 2nd Ms. Wood- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-039 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-040 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN CONTRACT WITH C. T. CONSULTANTS, INC., FOR A WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ASSESSMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Moskun stated that there were four consultants who bid for the project and that CT Consultants was the best quality provider for the assessment. He explained that they will be looking at what needs to be replaced at the plant and when, adding that they hope to start next month and that they are good with grants.

Mr. Finney stated that they will be helping to anticipate future EPA needs and the cost of replacing equipment.

Mr. Kairis asked where the contract was.

Mr. Finney stated that it will be coming.

Mr. Kairis explained that he is not in favor of passing the ordinance without the contract to view. There being no further comments or questions.

Ordinance 2023-040 was moved on for second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-041 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) GRANT THROUGH THE OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kairis stated that the grant is contingent on the next ordinance and that it is to help pay for 60% of a \$30,000 Design Review Consultant. He explained that the grant would provide \$18,000 and the City would cover the remaining \$12,000.

Ms. Michael asked what would happen if the City did not get the grant.

Mr. Kairis stated that the City would not enter into the consultant contract, or it would adjust the scoop of work to reduce the cost to \$12,000.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. Michael- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. West- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-041 by Mr. Calfee, 2nd Mr. Moskun- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-041 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-042 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH PERSPECTUS FOR DESIGN REVIEW CONSULTING CONTINGENT ON THE AWARD OF THE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) GRANT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023 Page Five (5).

Mr. Kairis stated that the item was brought to the Design Review Commission where the majority of members, at a vote of 4 to 1, choose to go with Perspectus as their consultant choice. He explained that the item was passed on to the Committee of the Whole meeting where the vice chairperson explained the reason for their decision.

After discovering miscommunication, Mr. Kairis discovered that the Perspectus contract was not included in the ordinance and so the item was moved on for second reading. There being no further comments or questions.

Ordinance 2023-042 was moved on for second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-043 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000 FROM THE HOME RLF FUND FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF PORTAGE COUNTY TO RENOVATE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 413 LINCOLN STREET, RAVENNA, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Wood stated that the ordinance is an opportunity to help fund renovations to help create a home for a family in need, adding that the house will need to be renovated down to the studs. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Kairis- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-043 by Mr. Harper, 2nd Ms. Wood- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-043 was adopted.

Second Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-019 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, OHIO, PART FOURTEEN – BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE; TITLE EIGHT – <u>HOUSING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE;</u> CHAPTER 1462 – <u>SMOKE DETECTION AND ALARM DEVICES</u>.

Mr. Kairis stated that the ordinance is the final version of amendments to make carbon monoxide detectors mandatory in rental units. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Kairis, 2nd by Mr. Calfee- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-019 by Mr. Calfee, 2nd Mr. Moskun- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-019 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-020 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, OHIO, PART FOURTEEN – BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE; TITLE EIGHT – HOUSING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE; CHAPTER 1478 – BASIC EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES; BY ADDING SECTION 1478.10 – CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS.

Mr. Kairis stated that the ordinance amends the second part of the code to clearly define the amendment and explain that rental units now require carbon monoxide detectors.

Mr. Finney stated that Don Rose will give two years to landlords to update their units and comply with the new code amendment, adding that they will be fully required to comply by the next inspection cycle.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-020 by Ms. Wood, 2nd Ms. West- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-020 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-024 AN ORDINANCE PLACING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM, NOT TO EXCEED ONE YEAR, ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS THROUGH THE PLANNING, ZONING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF STORAGE UNITS, STORAGE FACILATIES, STORAGE PODS AND SELF STORAGE ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CITY OF RAVENNA, OH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023 Page Six (6).

Ms. Wood stated that the item was brought to the Community and Economic Development Committee and then to Committee of the Whole for discussion. She explained that the City is considering a Comprehensive Plan and the implementation of it would help set up the city, adding that a temporary moratorium is a benefit while considerations of land use are being made. Mayor Seman stated that the City does not have a lot of economic development land available and storage units take marketable land that can be utilized for businesses with job opportunities. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Kairis- All Ayes
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- All Ayes
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-024 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Mr. Kairis- All Ayes

Ordinance 2023-024 was adopted.

Third Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-001 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART TEN – <u>STREETS, UTILITIES AND</u> <u>PUBLIC SERVICES CODE</u>; TITLE SIX – <u>OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES</u>; CHAPTER 1060 – <u>SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL</u>; SECTION 1060.10 – <u>MAINTENANCE OF</u> <u>CONTAINERS</u>, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Ms. Michael stated that the issue has been an ongoing battle and it is meant to assist in putting neighborhood matters first.

Mr. Moskun stated that he was not against the ordinance but was concerned on how to enforce it.

Mr. Finney explained that it is going to make a lot of residents angry who keep their properties tidy but have their trash cans in front of their property line, adding that an estimated 80% of residents would be in violation.

Mr. Harper stated that those who keep their property clean and tidy would not get a violation.

Ms. Wood expressed her concern that different Council members and administration down the road would enforce the ordinance across the board no matter what.

Mr. Finney stated that it is not realistic to pick and choose who to enforce with the same violation.

Ms. Wood stated that she believes the issue is trash, not the placement of the trash cans. She added that there is an issue with corner properties and that a rule is across the board. Ms. Michael stated that the ordinance is meant to help the Building Department and that it is also a health issue.

Ms. Wood stated that loose trash is an eyesore, not the location of the trash cans. Ms. Kairis added that additional locations can be determined by the Service Director. Mayor Seman addressed the issue with corner lots and that the \$250 fine needs to be looked at. He said that the goal is to make the city look better, but even with his behind his house line you can see his trash cans.

Mr. Kluge stated that if Council does not want the ordinance, then they can vote it down. Ms. Michael expressed her disappointment with the administration's response to the ordinance and stated that her main goal was to help residents and to help clean up the community.

Mr. Calfee stated that he is in favor of the trash cans being behind the property line but stated his concern for corner lot protocol and how that would be handled.

Ms. Laudato addressed Council to state that she felt trash cans in front of residential property was trashy and that wealth should not be a determining factor to making a city look good. She stated that the City tells businesses to keep their trash receptacles hidden away and that the city needs to keep in mind the aesthetics of residential properties. Mr. Kairis stated that he looked at other cities and they don't have language stating where to place trash receptacles. Ms. Wood stated that trash is more of an issue than where trash cans are placed. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Kairis, 2nd by Ms. Michael- Mr. Kairis, Ms. Michael, Mr. Moskun, Mr. Harper- **All Ayes**, Mr. Calfee, Ms. West, Ms. Wood- **No**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-001 by Mr. Kairis, 2nd Mr. Harper- Mr. Kairis, Mr. Harper, Mr. Moskun, Ms. Michael-All Ayes, Mr. Calfee, Ms. West, Ms. Wood- No

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023 Page Seven (7).

Ordinance 2023-001 was adopted.

Old Business- Mr. Kluge addressed the need for all public meetings to be placed on the City Website and that training can be addressed and scheduled if necessary.

New Business- None

President of Council Remarks- Mr. Kluge stated that looking back, Council has had a lot of accomplishments in the last year and there is a lot to be proud of. He explained that there have been upgrades to Council Chambers and the DORA was created in the downtown business district. He said that he is committed to moving the city forward and is grateful to work with everyone, adding that he is looking forward to working with the administration moving forward.

Council Member Remarks

Mr. Harper- No Comment

Ms. Michael- Ms. Michael stated that she is still seeing an issue with homelessness and that she isn't seeing the results she wanted with the shelters and is looking for solutions. She explained that the Sherriff is dropping off people downtown and it can be during inhumane weather conditions . Ms. Michael stated that she is frustrated as a City Council member and that the community is stronger together. She commended the Police and Fire Departments who helped a person in need and would like to see a line item to help individuals get to where they need to go to get assistance.

Mr. Kairis- No Comment

Mr. Moskun – Mr. Moskun stated that part of the audio does not go through for meetings and encouraged Council members to listen to a meeting to see what they think of the audio. **Mr. Calfee-** No Comment

Ms. West- Ms. West stated that March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month. She said that there will be a cardio drumming event and a rally on March 24th at the courthouse lawn.

Ms. Wood- No Comment

Mayor's Remarks- Mayor Seman commended Council on working with openness of different points of view and not getting upset about it.

He referred to a painting hanging on the wall belonging to a local artist named Ed Harris and stated his church, Upper Room Ministries, is celebrating their 20th anniversary.

Mayor Seman and his wife were invited to Carlin Elementary School, and they brought books for the students.

He stated that there was a ribbon cutting for the new owners of Ravenna Nutrition and they need support to be successful.

Mayor Seman informed Council that the Phoenix Building is for sale and that Coleman moved out to their Kent location.

Mr. Kluge asked Mr. Kairis if codified ordinance Section 1060.99 can be added to his committee agenda to discuss as it relates to ordinance 2023-001. He added that there was a request for an executive session.

Mr. Cimino stated that the executive session is to discuss pending litigation and existing court matters. He added that in reference to elected official petitions, there is a section on the top portion of the petition that only the City of Ravenna currently still has and suggested revising the petition to avoid future confusion or oversights.

Ms. West made a motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation and existing court matters.

• Motion to go into executive session at 7:14pm to discuss pending litigation and existing court matters by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Kairis- All Ayes

Council went into executive session with the Law Director to discuss pending litigation and existing court matters.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023 Page Eight (8).

- Motion to come out of executive session at 8:38pm by Mr. Kairis, 2nd by Ms. Wood- All Ayes
- Motion to adjourn at 8:38 pm by Ms. Wood, 2nd Ms. West- All Ayes

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President