



**Ravenna City Council
Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2023**

The public meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.

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

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Property Maintenance Officer, Don Rose; Cliff Soudil, Tammy Miracle, Barbara Witchey, Sherri Kotouc, Ralph Morehead, Bonnie Schubert, John Moore, Rachel Leiendecker, Dennis Watters, Larry Silenius, John MacFarland

The Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Matt Harper.

The first item was the Day St. railroad crossing proposal.

Mr. Harper stated that the item up for discussion is the possible closing of Day St. at the railroad tracks. He explained that Council reached out to residents in the area within the past month to see what they would want, versus what the railroad company wants. Mr. Harper stated that an overwhelming amount of residents were not in favor of the railroad company closing the crossing and then invited audience members to comment on the subject.

John Moore addressed Council to say that he spoke with residents and found that 99% were not in favor of closing the road at the crossing. He expressed concerns that included the proposed cul-de-sac and what that would entail to purchase, along with safety concerns with emergency personnel being re-routed and fire hydrant flushing.

Chief Chapple explained to Mr. Moore the procedure in which hydrants are flushed throughout the city and that they will be scheduled between April to October.

Mr. Moore told the Chief that EMS does a great job, but was concerned about the accessibility for Fire and EMS to get to the north side of Day St. if it were closed at the railroad crossing.

He also expressed additional concerns that the closure could affect which included taxes, home insurance, trash and recycling pick-up, and property values, adding that he does not want the street closed.

Mr. Finney stated that the first step is to see how people feel about the proposal.

Barbara Witchey addressed Council as a resident who would be directly impacted by a decision to close the street and that part of her property would be requested to be turned into a cul-de-sac. She explained that she would need to be bought out to use her property and that the City would

be asked to replace a drain to fix the drainage issues that she has. Ms. Witchey addressed additional considerations including rails placed to block cars and extra costs that may not have been considered.

Cliff Soudil addressed Council to state for the record that the railroad company has not been present to answer any questions and said that the railroad does not want to pay for upgrades which is why they would like to close the crossing. He stated that the City can tell PUCO about unsafe crossings and that the City does not pay for crossing upgrades.

Bonnie Schubert addressed Council to express her concern of where the land for a cul-de-sac would come from and where cars would park on the street. She said that lights from cars turning around would be an issue and that there would be increased noise and decreased privacy, adding that there is a special needs child within the proposed cul-de-sac area.

Mr. Moore stated that people have been jumping the railroad tracks and invited the Police Department to sit in his driveway to watch the tracks.

Dennis Watters addressed Council to express his concern for changes in elevation and storm drainage issues.

Mr. Harper stated that Council can have conversations regarding the concerns that were brought forth but he said as chairman of the committee he is not in favor of moving forward with the road closure and opened up the floor for Council and Administration to express their opinions.

Mr. Moskun stated that he spoke with residents regarding the proposal and that they were against the closure.

Ms. Michael stated that she grew up on Day St. and that she understands that the residents have a strong connection, that she sees the issues that they brought forth and that the City will not be moving forward with the proposal.

Ms. Wood stated that she received a lot of comments from residents against the proposal.

Ms. West stated that she also encountered residents who were not in favor of the closure.

Mr. Kluge stated that Councilmembers knocked on doors to get feedback from residents on the item and said that there were questions without answers regarding the proposed project. He thanked all the residents for coming to the meeting and speaking.

Mr. Kairis stated that it was clear that Council is not going to pursue the road closure and that if the railroad crossing needs an upgrade, he hopes the railroad company will continue to do so.

Mr. Harper stated that he will reach out to the railroad company to let them know that Council will not be moving forward with the proposal that was brought forward and that it is up to the railroad to upgrade unsafe crossings.

Ms. Michael stated that she hopes there will be tighter rules and more involvement with railroad safety.

- The item was for discussion only.

The second item was the 2023 annual paving contract.

Mr. Finney stated that he is on his second round of bidding the project out and that the Board of Control will meet Tuesday to choose between two bidders, Perrin Asphalt or Karvo Companies.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was Police Garage/Maple Grove Cemetery Paving.

Mr. Finney explained that there is a set amount of funds set aside to resurface the motor pool parking lot and that the cemetery board has approved an amount not to exceed.

Mr. Harper stated that the two projects are being grouped together in hopes of getting a better price for the projects.

- The item was moved forward.

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

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