



**Ravenna City Council
Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2023**

The public meeting was held in Ravenna City 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; Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, John McFarland

Utility Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:34 P.M. by Chairperson, Paul Moskun.

The first item was the gas aggregation agreement.

Mr. Moskun stated that the item is to renew the city's gas aggregation agreement and explained that the cost for one year is \$4.09 per mcf, two years is \$4.48 per mcf, and three years is \$4.72 per mcf. He said that the recommendation from the Service Director is to renew a one-year agreement which would begin October 1, 2023, and that the suggestion is to lock the price in early. Mr. Moskun stated that the current agreement is \$3.70 per mcf.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was a sewer lateral issue.

Mr. Moskun stated that there is a sewer lateral on Diamond St. that has three properties connected together that then go to the city's sewer main. He explained that a property has had the sewer back up into their basement multiple times and it was discovered that it is due to a root ball located in the adjacent sewer connection from the property next door.

Ms. Wood explained that the middle property has a root ball which causes the last property to have repeating issues and that the neighbor is not accommodating to the issue. She acknowledged that the three-way tie-in is an inherited problem from 80-100 years ago but that it is something that Council should be made aware of, adding that she would abstain from any vote on the topic since she was the realtor that sold the property.

Mr. Finney stated that the sewer back up is not the City's responsibility and the property owners will have to solve the issue amongst themselves.

Ms. Wood stated that the City has helped residents in other situations.

Mr. Finney stated that he has a gag order on a residential issue that Ms. Wood addressed and stated that the previous owner had not disclosed a previous issue.

Ms. Wood addressed a section in the codified ordinances that states that the City offers point of sale inspections and that she was unaware as a realtor.

Mr. Finney stated that no one utilizes the point of sale option and said that he would like to remove it, adding that some general tests are dye and smoke testing.

Mr. Kairis asked if there was a request being made.

Mr. Moskun stated that it is a request to have the City help pay to resolve the issue.

Mr. Calfee asked who is requesting it?

Ms. Wood stated that she is asking for the City to help and notify others who are experiencing the same issue. She suggested that the City waive the tap in fees and explained that the neighbors do not see eye to eye and that she is seeking guidance to try to help the situation. Ms. Wood stated that the issue is a root ball in the adjacent sewer lateral and that the tree causing it was taken down by the City last week.

Mr. Kairis stated that if the City steps in, it could set a bad precedence because other similar situations may exist throughout the city.

Ms. Wood explained that she was contacted by the management company about the property having the sewer issue and discovered that the three properties were tied in together when a camera was used to find the problem.

Mr. Calfee stated that a solution would be for the property owner to tie into the City sewer main with a new lateral.

Ms. Wood stated that since three properties are sharing one sewer lateral going to the main, that she is trying to get some of the tie in fees removed.

Mr. Kairis asked if the issue would be covered under a moral claim that could be authorized by the Service Director between \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Ms. Wood expressed her concern for any additional properties that could have the same type of infrastructure.

Mr. Finney cited codified ordinance section 1044.04 (n) explaining that ownership and all maintenance of the "building sewer" are the responsibility of the property owner from the building to the Public Sanitary Sewer including the connection.

Mr. Calfee stated that he does not agree with providing financial help to the property owner.

Mr. Kluge questioned why the tree was removed and stated that point of sale inspections can be reviewed next month.

Ms. Michael stated that she relies on Mr. Finney as an authority on sewer issues.

Mayor Seman explained a sewer issue that he experienced on his property and that he was held responsible for the portion from his home to the street.

- The item was for discussion only.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Paul Moskun, Chairperson
Utility Committee**