



**Ravenna City Council
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2023**

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

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

Also attending the meeting: Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Cliff Soudil, Larry Silenius, Lou Dudek, Carmen Laudato

Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:45 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis

The first item was a dog ordinance.

Mr. Kairis addressed the item and stated that a resident had spoken to Council and was concerned about a property that had multiple dogs in the front yard and that the area being adjacent to the sidewalk posed a safety concern for pedestrians, along with the limited space for the number of dogs it was housing. He stated that he did some research and found that some cities limit the number of dogs but that none of them are in Portage County, adding that courts have overruled ordinances related to it. Mr. Kairis explained that cities can't measure nuisance complaints by the number of dogs, but that courts have limited them for public health reasons. He said such an ordinance is hard to enforce and that he does not want for it to seem that the City is targeting a specific person.

Ms. Michael stated that the particular issue was the property size and the position of the dogs in relation to the general public walking past the fence. She said that the dogs are a menace to the area and the neighbors. Ms. Michael stated that she spoke with the Dog Warden and Humane Officer and that she is not in favor of limiting the number of dogs, adding that animal rescues within the city would be unfavorably affected.

Ms. Wood suggested that a leash law could be implemented to help with the situation.

Mr. Moskun noted that the gentleman did not file a police report after he was bitten.

Mr. Kluge addressed codified ordinance section 618.01 which addresses animals running at large and stated that the Dog Warden does investigations into issues and said that Council members are welcome to call him with questions or issues.

Mr. Finney stated that he reached out to the renter of the property, and they will be moving the fence back two feet in July. He noted that the property does not have a backyard for the dogs to be housed in.

Ms. Wood asked if the property owner had been contacted and Mr. Finney stated that it is a property management company in Pittsburg who manages the property.

Mr. Calfee asked if there was a nuisance covering the health and safety of the property since the gentleman stumbled onto the fence and was subsequently bitten by a dog.

Ms. Laudato addressed Council to explain that there is language in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) that explains that the issue could be enforced by a misdemeanor or dog obedience training. She stated that reporting issues to the police help to identify a pattern to help in matters

relating to issues with dogs. Ms. Laudato requested that the City does not limit the number of dogs a resident can have.

Mr. Kairis asked Council if the City should limit the number of dogs and they were not in support of it.

- The item was for discussion only.

Management Update

Mr. Huff noted that the 2024 Tax Budget was discussed on Friday, and it will be addressed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday, June 20th.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Rob Kairis, Chairperson
Planning Committee**