



Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety 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

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael.

The first item was a Firehouse Subs Grant.

Ms. Michael stated the Fire Department has applied for the grant previously and that there are no matching funds required.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was a 3-year maintenance agreement with generator systems.

Ms. Michael stated that the Clerk looked into the item, and it is done administratively, it is in the budget and so it does not need to come before Council.

- The item was for discussion only.

The third item was to implement uniform motor vehicle towing charges.

Ms. Michael stated that the item that has been proposed will help people from being taken advantage of with the different costs of towing and related expenses from different companies. Chief Wallis explained that in the Council packet there are various towing companies who all have different costs associated with their services. He stated there have been complaints on the cost of services that the tow companies have provided and that he would like to implement something similar to what Kent has, and have negotiated service costs with the towing companies.

Ms. Michael concurred and said that some people are unable to afford the costs to get their cars back after they were towed.

Chief Wallis stated that he wanted to address the item to Council first to get feedback and that he will come back with a policy on costs. He explained that the Police Department will set a price for various services and then enter into a contract with the towing companies who will then have the option to opt out of the contract if they choose.

Mr. Calfee inquired about the prices being listed in the ordinance and it was stated that they would be separate in a contract, but that the prices can eventually be listed on the City's website.

Chief Wallis said that the Police Department does not tow cars on private property and that they makes every effort to contact vehicle owners before towing it.

Mr. Silenius addressed the issue and suggested that they also set storage prices for vehicles that have been towed.

- The item was for discussion only.

Ms. Michael added that she is excited about the cutting-edge technology the Ravenna Police Department just announced in The Portager.

Chief Wallis explained that the new 911 feature is called Prepared Live which allows dispatchers to send a link to a 911 caller to allow the dispatcher to utilize the camera and the microphone to see and hear what is happening. He stated that the feature is helpful if the person is unable to speak and that texting is also an available option for the 911 user. Chief Wallis stated that the feature can help to see the crisis or where an incident is occurring if the caller is unfamiliar with their location, adding that the feature can be recorded and used for evidence. He said that the Dispatch Coordinator learned about the feature and stated that it sounded like a great way to enhance operations, especially if the caller is unable to talk.

The fourth item was accepting a State of Ohio EMS Grant.

Ms. Michael stated that the item is to accept a grant in the sum of \$731.33 and that there is no match required.

- The item was moved forward.

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Amy Michael, Chairperson
Public Health and Safety Committee**