



Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
July 10, 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, Christina West, Matt Harper

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Seman; Finance Director, Brian Huff; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Cliff Soudil, Larry Silenius, Darlenee Young, Melissa Morris, Melynda Rhodes, Claire Moore, Dave McIntire, Robert Rhodes, Sherri Kotouc, Ralph Morehead, Destiney Hayes-Knife, Mike Bogo, Jason and Mrs. Bates, Amber Stepic, Diane Smith

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael.

The first item was an ISO Discussion.

Ms. Michael stated that the item for discussion was regarding the International Organization of Standardization (ISO) which is a fire rating score provided to fire departments and insurance companies that reflect how prepared a community is for fires and that it can impact residential and business insurance rates. She explained a recent ISO interview with the Fire Department that addressed an issue with a need for additional personnel to ensure that the city's ISO rating does not go down, which is currently holding at a number three. Ms. Michael stated that the ISO looks at things like staffing of an engine, where an ideal number of fire fighters is four, but stated that sometimes only two are available and the others may be on the ambulance or they are short staffed. She stated that with additional personnel, fire fighters will be able to attend more training sessions but there are currently not enough staff to do so. Ms. Michael stated that the City has applied for a SAFER grant which would provide funding for three additional personnel which would also save money on overtime costs. She explained that a study was conducted in 2009 indicating that extra staffing is needed in the Fire Department and that since then the call volume has significantly increased, along with the number of businesses. Ms. Michael noted that a neighboring municipality had their ISO rating recently go lower than a three and that she does not want insurance rates to increase within the city.

- The item was for discussion only.

Management Update

Mayor Seman explained that the ISO is concerned that there are enough fire personnel for structure fires and not the EMT ambulance. He stated that there were staff cuts in 2013 and personnel dropped to 4 fire fighters per shift opposed to the current number of 6 per shift. Mayor Seman said that the evaluations take place every five years and stated that the City is committed to improving the ISO rating.

Mayor Seman stated that they are in the process of planning the Octane Nights which will be held on August 2nd and he estimates approximately 15,000 people will attend.

Ms. Michael addressed a police press release and commended the Ravenna Police Department on a successful traffic stop which was a joint effort and stated that she likes to see everyone working together.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

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