



**Ravenna City Council
Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes
July 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, 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

Utility Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:20 P.M. by Chairperson, Paul Moskun.

The first item was 2023 Tax Assessments.

Mr. Moskun stated that the item is to place unpaid nuisance mowing and delinquent water bills on county taxes.

Mr. Kluge stated that he had asked for a nuisance mowing contract and after discussion he stated that he would like for Council to review a contract for nuisance mowing and requested the details of the process that leads up to nuisance mowing.

Ms. Dubinsky explained that each applicable resident is given one violation notice per season to inform them that their grass is 8" inches or higher and is given three days to come into compliance. She stated that after the initial warning, if the resident is found in violation again, the grass is measured by a City employee, a third party is called out to cut the grass and then the resident is charged \$100.

Ms. Michael inquired as to how the third party was hired to nuisance mow without a contract.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that the third party has been mowing for the City since 2008.

Mr. Kluge stated that since Don Rose was hired, property maintenance violations have increased which is why Council is hearing more about nuisance mowing. He requested a nuisance mowing contract be in place and he asked Mr. Finney if there is an itemized list of violations for Council to review.

Mr. Finney stated that his department refers to the applicable ordinances and then they look up the violation timeline listed.

Mr. Kluge stated that the issue is not a City money maker but to help raise a standard of living for people across the city. He then went through the sequence of steps related to nuisance mowing violation to gain clarification from administration.

Ms. West stated to clarify that after the initial warning, if a resident has their grass reach 8" inches or higher, the resident is not given notice and their lawn is cut.

Ms. Wood asked the Service Director what happens if a person is on vacation and their grass is in violation.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that the City will work with a resident if a situation arises and clarified that the mower charges the City \$40 to mow and then the City charges the resident \$100.

Mr. Finney explained that the current mower is the only one who was willing to take on the sporadic mowing and that only \$3,500 has been budgeted for the expense.

Mr. Kairis expressed his concern that the nuisance mower has confirmation to mow prior to and does not take it into his own hands to pick a property to mow.

Ms. Dubinsky stated that it is procedure for the mower to take before and after pictures to provide proof that the lawn was in violation.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was a contract with Agri-Sludge.

Mr. Moskun stated that the item is to approve a 2-year contract for sludge removal at the wastewater treatment plant. He explained that the City has utilized their services for several years and that the cost has increased from \$16.99 to \$17.34 per wet ton.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was accepting a grant for the water tank.

Mr. Moskun stated that the City was awarded a grant in the sum of \$1,438,000 towards a new water tank and that it has a total of \$3.2 million towards the project.

- The item was moved forward.

The fourth item was amending section 283.03- Settlement of Small Claims.

Mr. Moskun stated that the current moral claim amount is \$1,000 and the Service Director relayed the recommendation that it be increased to \$2,000.

Ms. Michael requested that the verbiage of “and up to” be included.

Ms. Wood stated that the history of moral claims does not give reason to increase the amount to \$3,000 and stated \$2,000 is more reasonable.

Ms. West stated that she is good with an increase between \$2,000 to \$2,500.

Mr. Moskun acknowledged that the cost of everything has increased in the past years.

- The item was moved forward.

Management

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Paul Moskun, Chairperson
Utility Committee**