



**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2023,
Immediately following the Public Hearing at 6:00pm**

The public meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:16 P.M. by Council President, Andrew Kluge.

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

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Sherri Kotouc, John Moore, Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, Lou Dudek

The first item on the agenda was to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from July 24, 2023

- Motion to approve the July 24, 2023, Committee of the Whole minutes by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

The second item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept the Ohio Ambulance Program grant.

Ms. Michael stated that the grant was applied for and that \$20,000 was awarded to the Fire Department for personnel who worked during the pandemic. She said that there is no match required.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The third item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for the 2023-2024 salt contracts.

Mr. Harper stated that the contract entities include Ravenna Township, Maplewood Career Center, Village of Mantua, Ravenna School District and PMHA.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The fourth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept RFP's for the 2023 fall tree planting.

Mr. Harper stated that the item is straightforward and that it is to plant \$15,000 worth of trees.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The fifth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a MOU with Guido's for patio expansion.

Mr. Kairis stated that the item is regarding the demolition of 218 W. Main St. and the subsequent repair necessary to fix the adjoining wall in the sum of approximately \$180,000. He stated that

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there will be a stakeholder meeting to clarify the vague wording of the MOU draft which will allow Guido's to lease a portion of the new civic space for a patio expansion.

Mr. Kluge clarified that there was a typo, and the request is for a 15-year lease.

Mr. Kairis stated that there will need to be a consensus on the lease amount and the details of a breach in the lease or if the lease were not to be renewed.

Mike Bogo from Neighborhood Development Services (NDS) clarified that NDS currently owns the property and explained that they will be giving a foot of property adjacent to the wall to Guido's since the brick repair is expected to extend approximately a foot out from the current wall. He stated that the proposal will be going in front of the Planning Commission for approval. Mr. Kairis stated that the City will work with the Law Director and that they should have a MOU available for the September meeting.

Ms. Michael suggested that the lease money received from Guido's could be used for a small business fund to help downtown businesses.

Ms. Wood reminded Council that with the expansion of Guido's there will be an increase in employees, customers, and income tax revenue to the city.

Mr. Kairis acknowledged that without adequate compensation he thinks that Guido's would have an advantage over other downtown restaurants and as a Council member he needs to represent the people since the civic space will be carved out to accommodate Guido's.

Mr. Kluge stated that he is asking for a joint meeting to clarify and determine the lease details.

Mr. Kairis stated that the City could wait for the wall to be repaired first and then to determine the lease details.

Mr. Moskun stated that he heard that Guido's is excited for the opportunity to expand and that it will be an asset.

Mr. Kluge stated that he was in support of creating a fund to help other businesses.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The sixth item was an ordinance to allow the Mayor to enter in to a contract with Perspectus Architecture.

Mr. Kairis stated that Perspectus has given the City the contract and that he has updated the ordinance due to the grant award.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The seventh item was an ordinance to update the payroll ordinance to add an additional week of vacation after 25 years of service.

Mr. Calfee stated that the item is a proposed week of vacation increase for non-union employees after 25 years of service and that it would equalize what the union employees received. He said that the item is supported by the Mayor and Human Resources.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The eighth item was a resolution accepting the amounts and rates for the 2024 budget cycle.

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Mr. Huff stated that the item is a housekeeping item and that it is required by the Ohio Revised Code. He said that the amount changed from \$704,522 in 2023 up to \$710,067 for 2024, and that the item is to approve the county tax rates as required.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The ninth item was an ordinance approving adjustments to the estimated revenues and appropriation.

Mr. Huff stated that the item was a housekeeping item and that he has met with department heads to review any needs, adding that there have not been any big adjustments. He said that the Finance Department will take and adjust fund lines to cover the remainder of the year.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The tenth item was an ordinance approving the insurance renewal for Love Insurance.

Mr. Huff stated that the item is the annual insurance renewal which includes items such as cyber insurance, auto, building, grounds, and liability insurance. He said that he does not have the final cost yet, but that cyber insurance and drone coverage will go up, and that he will send it out when he gets the final quote. Mr. Calfee inquired about coverage and stated that the City has encountered situations where insurance did not cover the costs. Mr. Huff agreed and stated that he has been exchanging emails on the topic and that some items depend on how coverage is interpreted.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.
- Motion to adjourn at 6:44 pm by Ms. Michael, 2nd Mr. Kairis- **All Ayes**

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President