



**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
September 18, 2023, at 6:00pm**

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

**The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:05 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.

**Also in attendance:** Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Kay Dubinsky; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Randy Parsons, Bill Parsons, John Sferra, Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil

Mr. Kluge explained that before Council gets to the agenda, they have two individuals whose property on Hartville Rd. was discussed at the previous Committee meeting and they would like to address the topic.

Randy Parsons addressed Council to explain some backstory on his family's property. He stated that his father, Bill Parsons, grew up on the farm which was originally started in 1812 on a Connecticut land grant by his ancestors. He presented an aerial map from the Portage County Auditors website to help Council understand the layout of the farm property. Mr. Parsons explained that the City of Ravenna owns a ditch that runs down the middle of the property which still has a wooden pipeline that was used to feed the City of Ravenna water supply. He stated that his father, who is 75 years old, remembers growing up on the farm and when a cow wandered off into the ditch area it would fall through the wood pipe. Mr. Parson said that in that circumstance they would either have to put the animal down or it would drown. He stated that in the past 5 years his father would go hunting on the property and that he had fallen in the wooden pipe with one leg and was lucky that he did not completely fall in or else he may have drowned. Mr. Parsons stated that the parcel of land that the City owns with a rotten wooden pipe full of water screams a lawsuit to him. He stated that he and his father are present because they are in the process of going through the details of putting their land up for auction to sell and they need to solve what they are going to do. Mr. Parsons explained that if the City were to grant an easement across the farm property people don't necessarily use that access but tend to take the easiest path that is most convenient for them and his concern is that people are going to fall in the pipe and drown, and then the City of Ravenna is going to be sued. He stated that he wanted to make Council aware of the ramifications of the situation and that they would be happy to take or buy the land from the City, but that the City needs to come up with a resolution on the strip of property.

Mr. Kluge addressed the idea of surveyors coming out to the property and that multiple easements were a possibility.

Mr. Parsons stated that even if there were multiple easements across the property people will still choose human nature and said that kids could still wander onto the property or cut across with bikes where someone is bound to get hurt. He explained that he is not telling Council things to scare them but to properly inform them of what the situation has

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**September 18, 2023**  
**Page Two (2).**

been on the property and what ramifications could happen if the City continues to hold onto the piece of property.

Ms. Michael asked if the law director had been approached regarding the topic and Mr. Parsons stated that he has not spoken to him yet.

Responding to Ms. West's question, Mr. Parsons stated that their farm is 140.38 acres and that originally his ancestors had 1,000 acres from the original Connecticut land grant.

The topic was heard and will be addressed at the next Committee meeting.

**The first item on the agenda was to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from August 21, 2023**

- Motion to approve the August 21, 2023, Committee of the Whole minutes by Mr. Kairis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

**The second item was an ordinance to enter into a contract with Motorola Solutions for a dispatch console system.**

Mr. Kairis stated that the police department would like to replace their radios because they are reaching their end of life. He stated that the cost is approximately \$300,000 and they will be utilized for the police and fire departments.

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

**The third item was an ordinance to apply for and accept the Quadretec Care "Energize the Environment" grant program.**

Mr. Kairis stated that the grant is to help develop trails at the new Emerald Lake preservation which the City recently purchased. He said that there are no matching funds required and the grant is for \$3,500.

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

**The fourth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign an easement for LG Chem electrical services.**

Ms. Wood stated that it is an electrical easement to run electricity up the west side of the property near the City's water tower near Rt. 14. She said that Mr. Finney has been working with the electrical provider for months in order to get a solution established for services.

Mayor Seman requested that Council move the item forward and that Mr. Finney has been working on the agreement.

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

**The fifth item was an ordinance reinstating the IT Manager position.**

Mr. Calfee stated that the ordinance will re-establish the position of IT manager that the City had up until 2017 and that it will be established at the same level it was previously held at.

Mayor Seman stated that he would like to see the position established officially so that the money can be allocated. He informed Council that the contract with Quality IP runs through July of 2024 and that the re-instated position may not be filled until after Christmas. Mayor Seman explained that Council has requested hybrid IT services and that after the position is established

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**September 18, 2023**  
**Page Three (3).**

the City can talk to Quality IP about what the City needs from them which will help outline the IT Manager position description.

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

Mr. Kluge stated that he spoke with Mr. Finney who explained that Chestnut St. was paved from the railroad tracks down to Rt. 14 and that the remainder should be finished on Wednesday. He said that they will then begin paving on Prospect St. and the regular bus routes will be back in service.

- Motion to adjourn at 6:14 pm by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. West- **All Ayes**

**There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm**

**ATTEST:**

---

**Clerk of Council**

---

**Council President**