



**Ravenna City Council  
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2024**

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

Council present: Rob Kairis, Amy Michael, Paul Moskun, Tyler Marovich, Tim Calfee, Christina West, Matt Harper

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Service Director, Tim Contant; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Assistant Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Cliff Soudil, John Sferra, Mike Bogo, Amy Young, Cynthia Miller, Richard Miller, Larry Silenius

**Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis**

**The first item was Old Forge Ditch.**

- The item was tabled.

**The second item was the Parks and Recreation building.**

Ms. West explained that the Parks and Recreation Department conceptual design was unveiled and that it would not fit on the Clinton St. property along with the Safety and City Hall buildings. She said that other possible locations include Havre's Woods, Osborn Park, City Park and Chestnut Hills Park. Ms. West stated that the estimated cost would be \$8 million dollars and that they would like to utilize outdoor space at the new facility. She said that the department is planning on how to raise funds and that a one or two-story building is an option.

- The item was for discussion only.

**The third item was safety and City Hall buildings.**

Mr. Contant gave updated figures to Council for the proposed police and fire buildings. He said that the cost of the buildings would be approximately \$14,900,000 and that furniture would cost approximately \$1,500,000 for a total of approximately \$16,510,000.

Ms. Michael asked about state funding or grant options, along with suggesting a project manager instead of using in-house staff to manage the project.

Mayor Seman agreed that someone should manage the project and referred to issues that the high school had when doing their project. He said that the street garage had just paid off their building but that a new roof is needed. Mayor Seman said that building new city facilities is a big step and that it will have to be done in phases, adding that the County will help the City to figure out what levy it needs to raise the proper amount of funds.

Ms. Michael suggested seeing who other municipalities have used for their new buildings.

Ms. Lorence stated that 2025 tax budget discussions are coming up and the building funds can be addressed then.

- The item was for discussion only.

**The fourth item was a Council Retreat discussion.**

Mr. Kairis introduced the idea of a Council retreat to discuss how Council conducts business and if things can be done in a better or more efficient way. He said that things have always been done a certain way and that there are new ideas that can be generated from lengthy discussions. Mr. Kairis said that department heads can provide input and encouraged Council to think about what initiatives it would like to follow through on, adding that he would prefer input and buy in for a retreat.

Ms. West recommended that City Council to use the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities to host the retreat.

Mr. Marovich agreed with the retreat idea and noted that it is a good idea that is seen in other job fields.

- The item was for discussion only.

**The fifth item was the 2025 Tax Budget.**

Ms. Lorence explained that the tax budget will be discussed with department heads in May and that it will then be passed at the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting before it needs to be taken to the County.

- The item was for discussion only.

**Management Update**

**There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.**

**ATTEST:**

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**Clerk of Council**

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**Christina West, Chairperson  
Planning Committee**