



**Ravenna City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 1, 2024, at 6:00 pm**

**The Regular Council Meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.**

**The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. July 1, 2024, by Council President, Rob Kairis**

**Moment of Meditation & Silence**

President Kairis called a moment of meditation and silence.

**Pledge to Flag**

President Kairis then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

The following Council Members were present: Council President, Rob Kairis, Amy Michael, Matt Harper, Paul Moskun, Christina West, Cheryl Wood, Tim Calfee, Tyler Marovich.

**Also in attendance:** Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Service Director, Tim Contant; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Controller, Brian Huff; Council Clerk; Chelsea Gregor, Larry Silenius, Richard Miller, Cliff Soudil, Cynthia Miller, Richard Miller, Carolyn Chambers, Suzanne Moskun, Cody Oros, Amy Young, Lou Dudek,

**Approval of the Minutes:**

- Motion to approve the June 3, 2024, Regular Council meeting minutes by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

**Communications:** A letter from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a permit approval for Par Mar Oil Co. on Lake Ave.

**Delegations from the Public:**

Carolyn Chambers addressed Council regarding her concern for hazardous parking on Park Avenue. She explained that utilities are unable to get through the street due to cars parking on both sides of the street and that the garbage truck had to drive in reverse to get leave the street. Ms. Chambers said she is asking for either no parking or parking on only one side of the street.

Suzanne Moskun addressed Council to express her concerns for the situation as well and explained that one of the individuals who has been creating the issue has enough room in their driveway to park, but chooses not to. She said that the result is cars blocking the flow of traffic and that they pick and choose where they want to park. Ms. Moskun explained that when the cars park in front of houses they can be a hinderance where they can stay in place all weekend and make it difficult to mow the lawn due to being partially on the tree lawn. She stated that the cars create an obstruction and blind spots, and said that there should be no parking permitted on both sides of the street.

Cody Oros addressed Council to state his concern regarding the parking on Park Avenue and said that as of last year it has become an issue. He explained that there is a huge rut in his yard that has been caused by the street parking and that he is unable to fix it until parking is banned on the street. He explained that he tried to plant bushes to curb damage to the yard and requested for Council to have no permitted parking on the street.

Mr. Kairis noted that any changes to parking on Park Avenue would require Council action. Mr. Harper stated that he will place the item for discussion at the next committee meeting.

Cynthia Miller addressed Council to express her continued concerns regarding the library renovation project. She read through multiple sections from the city's codified ordinances relating to her complaints of the project.

Jim M. of 418 Oak Manor Dr. explained that he worked in Ravenna in the late 1980's and questioned the city's procedures regarding the library renovation project. He explained that he

## **Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**

**July 1, 2024**

**Page Two (2).**

could not start the project in the 1980's without the proper procedures that he feels were not upheld currently.

Lou Dudek complimented the paving project on Main St. but explained that people are speeding now due to the smoothness of the road. He suggested that the City consider changing the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph.

Mr. Kairis stated that Main St. is a state route and that they designate it 35 mph.

Mr. Dudek noted that not all the brick was returned to the sidewalk corners on Main St. and it was stated that the company was required to do so to be ADA compliant.

### **Report of Officials:**

- Motion to approve the Report of Officials by Ms. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun **All Ayes**

### **Report of Committees: Committee meetings start at 6:00 PM 7/8/2024.**

**Utilities:** Mr. Moskun stated that there will be nothing for next week.

**Information Systems:** Mr. Marovich stated that there will not be a meeting next week but he is open to it.

**Planning:** Ms. West stated that there will be a meeting next week.

**Committee of the Whole:** Mr. Kairis stated that the next Committee of the Whole meeting is Monday, July 22, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

**Public Health & Safety:** Ms. Michael stated that there are a couple of items on the agenda, and she will have a meeting.

**Streets & Sidewalks:** Mr. Harper stated that there is one item on the agenda and there will be a meeting next week.

**Personnel:** Mr. Calfee stated that there will not be a committee meeting.

**Community & Economic Development:** Ms. Wood stated that there is one item on the agenda and a meeting is to be determined.

**Cemetery:** Mr. Harper explained that a storm came through and destroyed 5 major trees. He said that employees were able to handle the devastation and clean up and remove the debris. Mr. Moskun added that a few more trees may need to come down.

**Parks & Recreation:** Ms. West shared that the summer camp program is underway and there are more people this year. She said that approximately 2,800 attended the June 7<sup>th</sup> Summer Celebration and it was a success. Ms. West stated that Safety Town has started and that they are short-staffed in the department.

### **First Reading of Ordinances:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-080** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR THE AMBULANCE 2 OHIO AMBULANCE IMPACTED INDUSTRY PROGRAM GRANT IN THE SUM OF \$51,500 AND TO ACCEPT THE GRANT IF AWARDED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael explained that out of the \$51,500 grant, \$31,500 will be given to firefighters who worked during the pandemic. There is a \$7,560 pension match that the City will be required to pay but it will be taken out of the remaining \$20,000.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-080 by Mr. Harper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. West-**All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-080 was adopted.

**Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**

**July 1, 2024**

**Page Three (3).**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-081** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HALL PUBLIC SAFETY UPFITTERS TO UPFIT SIX POLICE CRUISERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael explained that the item is to upfit the new police cruisers.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-081 by Ms. Michael, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. West-**All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-081 was adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-082** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A TWO-YEAR CONTRACT WITH GARLAND COMPANY TO REMOVE AND REPLACE THE STREET DEPARTMENT ROOF, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Harper stated that it is a 2-year contract due to the cost. He said that it is in bad disrepair and needs to be replaced, adding that he is not sure of the start date.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-082 by Mr. Harper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Wood-**All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-082 was adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-083** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, TANK INDUSTRY CONSULTANTS AND CALDWELL TANKS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW ELEVATED WATER TANK AND APPROPRIATING \$326,650.00 FROM THE WATER FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Moskun stated that the new water tank will be 750 gallons and that they are still negotiating the project. It was noted that Caldwell Tanks is from Kentucky.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-083 by Mr. Harper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. West-**All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-083 was adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-084** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) GRANT OF \$250,000.00 AND LOAN OF \$50,000.00, TO ENTER INTO THE NECESSARY CONTRACTS, INCLUDING THE CONTRACT WITH FIORITTO CONSTRUCTION LLC FOR THE SPRUCE AND JEFFERSON WATERLINE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Moskun explained that the project would span from Maplewood to Diamond on Spruce Ave., and from Spruce to Main on Jefferson St. He said that the project will include the replacement of hydrants, valves and curb boxes.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Marovich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Marovich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-084 by Mr. Marovich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Moskun-**All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-084 was adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-085** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR A CDBG CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS GRANT FOR THE JONES AVENUE STORM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

## **Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**

**July 1, 2024**

**Page Four (4).**

Mr. Moskun stated the ordinance is to apply for a grant that would help mitigate flooding issues from West Park School to Oakwood School. He said that the project would increase the pipe size and would hopefully be started in the spring.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-085 by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Moskun-**All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-085 was adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-086** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EASTERN POWER AND GAS FOR THE CITY OF RAVENNA NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Contant stated that the contract is for 24 months and the current locked in price is \$3.95/mcf.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-086 by Mr. Harper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Wood-**All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-086 was adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-087** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2025 TAX BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF RAVENNA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Lorence stated that the ordinance is a yearly item that the County requires by July 20<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Calfee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Calfee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-087 by Mr. Calfee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Wood-**All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-087 was adopted.

**Second Reading of Ordinances: None**

**Third Reading of Ordinances:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-133** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Wood explained that the agreement is a housekeeping item to maintain and hold RLF funds. She added that the agreement is six months late and that it needs to be signed as soon as possible.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2023-133 by Ms. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Wood-**All Ayes**

Ordinance 2023-133 was adopted.

**Second Reading of Ordinances: None**

**Third Reading of Ordinances: None**

**Old Business- None**

## **Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**

**July 1, 2024**

**Page Five (5).**

**New Business-** Mr. Calfee addressed Council from the floor to talk about city sidewalks and the need for repairs. He explained that he had walked around looking at sidewalks, talked to constituents and they are in serious need of repair. Mr. Calfee stated that Ravenna is a great place to work, live, shop and play, and sidewalk repairs will still be on the backburner if not addressed. He showed pictures of various dangerous sidewalks due to various circumstances, and offered solutions depending on the severity. Mr. Calfee proposed utilizing some of the Paving Levy funds to repair sidewalks and suggested allocating \$50,000 out of the \$1.3 million dollar per year revenue to help fix drastic problems.

Ms. Wood suggested seeking out grants that focus on school route sidewalk repairs.

Mr. Calfee stated that the City can help supplement funds with grants, but it will require more money than what a grant can provide.

Ms. Michael stated that she understands that sidewalks are important and that owners struggle with repairs since it is usually a last thought. She said that she likes the idea of allocating funds per ward.

Mr. Calfee stated that unless the undertaking is a big effort, then it may not go anywhere and said that the City may need to use street funds.

Mr. Moskun opposed the idea and said that the Pavy Fund should be used for streets.

Ms. West noted that people were opposed when City Council approved Freedom St. to be re-bricked due to the high cost.

Cliff Soudil stated that he was involved with getting the Paving Levy passed and that the money should only go towards streets.

Council decided to continue the conversation another time.

**President of Council Remarks-** Mr. Kairis thanked the steering committee involved in working on the City's comprehensive plan that is being created by the Portage County Regional Planning Commission. He shared that JW Photography has lent their services to the project and the comprehensive plan will be presented to Council in the future.

Mr. Kairis stated that he hopes to continue to have work sessions on Council off nights to discuss ways that Council can improve meeting procedures and is open to hearing everyone's suggestions.

### **Council Member Remarks**

**Mr. Moskun-** Mr. Moskun stated that he is familiar with the city's sidewalks and their condition, which is why he spoke on the topic. He explained that it is important to hear from residents and their opinions so that Council as a whole can hear them.

**Mr. Calfee-** No Comment

**Ms. West-** Ms. West stated that she had an amazing time at the city's 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. She explained that the City will have a tent to promote the continuation of the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Ravenna Rocks Concert Series and the Balloon A-Fair and encouraged City employees to volunteer in shifts.

**Ms. Wood-** Ms. Wood thanked the Akron Cleveland Association of Realtors for the small grant that was received to install boxwood bushes and mulch at the pocket park next to Guidos. She said that a pergola and arches will be in place and thanked everyone who was a part of it.

**Mr. Harper-** No Comment

**Ms. Michael-** No Comment

**Mr. Marovich-** Mr. Marovich read Section 1022.01 of the codified ordinances and the involvement of the Service Director assessing sidewalks for repair. He emphasized the need for safe sidewalks with people with mobility issues and encouraged the idea of inventorying and prioritizing sidewalks for residents and visitors. Mr. Marovich stated that ODOT may be able to provide assistance in offsetting the cost of sidewalk repairs to the City.

**Mayor's Remarks-** Mayor Seman stated that Mr. Finney has been working on the recreational marijuana side for Supergood and said that the city does not have a lot of control over it. They are communicating with various government agencies prior to opening.

- Motion to adjourn at 7:26 pm by Ms. Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

**Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes  
July 1, 2024  
Page Six (6).**

**ATTEST:**

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Clerk of Council

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Council President