



**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 2024, at 6:00pm**

The public meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council President, Rob Kairis.

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

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Finance Controller, Brian Huff; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Cliff Soudil, Larry Silenius, Cynthia Miller, Joe Bica

The first item on the agenda was to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from June 17, 2024

- Motion to approve the June 17, 2024, Committee of the Whole minutes by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**

The second item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept an anonymous \$1,000 donation to the Fire Department.

Ms. Michael stated that the item is a generous donation from a resident whose spouse received good care from the Fire Department.

- 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 the 2024-2025 salt consortium contracts.

Mr. Harper stated that the item is a yearly ordinance to provide salt to participating entities throughout the winter.

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

The fourth item was an ordinance authorizing the purchase of a new lift system in the Street Department.

Mr. Harper stated that the money for the lift system has already been appropriated out of the 553 Capital Fund, and the water, sewer and storm sewer funds, adding that the lift is much needed.

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

The fifth item was an ordinance to amend the codified ordinances to restrict parking on Park Avenue.

Mr. Harper stated that the item has been discussed over the past few months and that no parking on both sides of Park Avenue have been suggested. He said that there will be a public hearing prior to finalizing a decision.

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2024
Page Two (2).

Mr. Calfee asked if no parking on one side of the road would remedy the situation and if residents would like parking on one side.

Mr. Harper stated that one side parking was discussed but it was decided to move forward with no parking on both sides, adding that he has not heard opposing remarks.

Ms. Michael recommended reaching out to all the effected residents and knocking on doors to ensure they are made aware.

Mr. Kairis stated that residents may also submit comments in writing to Council.

Mr. Harper noted that public input was important to get feedback regarding Freedom and Day St.

Ms. West asked about tree lawn permits and Mr. Finney was unsure if there had been applicants.

Ms. Wood stated that residents will be able to contact the Police Department if they need extra street parking for the day.

Cynthia Miller addressed Council to state her observations of the street and parking situation, and said that it is for the betterment of the whole neighborhood and street to omit street parking.

Mr. Harper affirmed that the ordinance would be read for three readings.

Joe Bica addressed Council to state that he was only recently made aware of the situation and that the resident has been a 20-year tenant, adding that he supports no parking on both sides.

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

The sixth item was an ordinance authorizing the purchase of a pedestrian signal at King and Main St.

Mr. Harper explained that the item has been discussed and different options were looked at to find the best fit for the situation. He said that adjustments can be made, and that the engineer's cost estimate is \$23,000, adding that the sign will have LED lights connected to the push button.

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

The seventh item was an ordinance authorizing the certification of 2024 tax assessments.

Mr. Moskun explained that the item is an annual ordinance to assess delinquency's due to tall grass, water billing and building department violations.

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

The eighth item was an ordinance amending Section 208.04 to reflect the correct start time of Council meetings.

Ms. West stated that the item was discussed and that it is a housekeeping item to correct the Council meeting time from 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm that was previously amended in the codified ordinances.

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

The ninth item was an ordinance amending Section 220.09 to update Order of Business for regular Council meetings.

Ms. West stated that the item is to change the order of business to bundle items into a consent agenda, and reordering the agenda structure to accommodate the inclusion of a consent agenda.

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

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2024

Page Three (3).

The tenth item was an ordinance amending Section 220.10 to add consent agenda to regular Council meetings.

Ms. West stated that the item is to include a consent agenda to Council meeting agendas.

Mr. Kairis addressed language that identifies a 24-hour notice that items should be in the clerk's hands prior to the agenda being sent out. It was noted that the statement includes a reference to the Ohio Revised Code and after discussion it was decided to keep the language as it.

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

The eleven item was approval of a TREX liquor permit transfer application for 623 W. Main St.

Ms. Wood explained that there was a liquor license transfer request for a new convenient store but there is a concern that it may be too close to the school. The clerk is permitted to sign the transfer but if it is not approved and filled out then the State won't process the permit.

Ms. West stated that it is up to the State to decide.

Mr. Kairis read language from the TREX application and noted that the business can still request a hearing for a permit approval.

Ms. Wood explained that other businesses sell alcohol near schools and that the item is considered an economic development tool that the city does not need to restrict, adding that it would be different if it were a bar.

Ms. Michael stated that she does not want to discriminate but is concerned it may cause issues for the Police Department. She said it is a frustrating eye opener regarding the businesses that are operating on the west end of town.

Mr. Kairis noted that the city has run out of available liquor licenses and that any additional ones can be transferred into the city as an economic development tool.

Mr. Soudil addressed Council and noted that cigarettes and beer are sold at Valero near the preschool. He said that the addition of the liquor license will not make a difference with income taxes and asked when requests will stop to bring in more alcohol availability.

Mr. Marovich noted that the liquor permit would be transferred from Sandusky.

Mr. Harper stated that the denial of a liquor permit would not affect their ability to still open the convenience store.

Mr. Soudil raised his concern for the safety of children near the school and the proximity of people able to purchase alcohol so close, and considered the potential impairment of drivers.

Mr. Marovich stated that if the city does not sign the transfer, it would stop the process.

Mr. Kairis noted that the company could always come back and try to apply again.

Council decided to table the item until they could discuss it with the Law Director.

- The item was tabled.
- Motion to adjourn at 7:43 pm by Mr. Marovich, 2nd Ms. West- **All Ayes**

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President