



**Ravenna City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 5, 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. August 5, 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; Law Director, Frank Cimino; 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, Cliff Soudil, Cynthia Miller, Heather C. Sepelak

Approval of the Minutes:

- Motion to approve the July 1, 2024, Regular Council meeting minutes by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**

Communications: A notice from the Ohio Department of Commerce- Division of Liquor Control stating liquor permits will expire in October, a CD- ROM with a Staff Report of Investigation from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and an invitation to the Mental Health & Addition Advocacy Coalition's Annual Public Officials Breakfast Reception.

Delegations from the Public:

Heather Sepelak addressed Council to suggest a solution to fixing the Maple Grove Cemetery bridge by placing a large culvert pipe under the bridge to lift it up.

Mr. Harper explained that the Cemetery Board has been working with Mr. Finney to come up with a bridge design and explained that previous bridge designs had been turned down leaving the board back to creating a design from scratch. He said that they discussed the culvert pipe option and that they will work with the City Engineer to make sure the right bridge option is stable and safe.

Report of Officials:

Chief Chapple informed Council that there are two new firefighters and that there are now 7 firefighters across the board for each shift.

- Motion to approve the Report of Officials by Mr. Marovich, 2nd by Mr. Moskun **All Ayes**

Report of Committees: Committee meetings start at 6:00 PM 8/12/2024.

Utilities: Mr. Moskun stated that there is nothing for next week.

Information Systems: Mr. Marovich stated that there will be one item next week regarding an equipment disposal policy according to state law.

Planning: Ms. West stated that there are three items and there will be a meeting next week.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Kairis stated that the next Committee of the Whole meeting is Monday, August 19, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2024

Page Two (2).

Public Health & Safety: Ms. Michael stated that there is one item on the agenda and she is unsure about a meeting next week.

Streets & Sidewalks: Mr. Harper stated that there are four items on the agenda and there will be a meeting next week.

Personnel: Mr. Calfee stated that there will not be a committee meeting but there will be a special personnel meeting to discuss a conflict between the payroll ordinance and codified ordinance section. He said a tentative meeting date is September 9th at 6:00 pm.

Community & Economic Development: Ms. Wood stated that there is nothing on the agenda and a meeting is to be determined.

Cemetery: Mr. Moskun stated that a big limb came down in the cemetery and they were able to get an outside contractor to take care of the mess.

Parks & Recreation: Ms. West stated that the Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with a few different entities for a wellness event targeting opioid additions on July 18th at Chestnut Hills Park. They also had two bus trips that were well attended. Ms. West shared that the Parks and Recreation Department and the Engineering Department will be reviewing the preliminary design concepts for Osborn Park at the next Parks Board meeting.

First Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-088 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AN ANONYMOUS DONATION TO THE RAVENNA FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE SUM OF \$1,000.00 AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,000.00, IN THE RAVENNA FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Michael stated that the item is a generous donation from a resident and there is no match required. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-088 by Ms. Michael, 2nd Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-088 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-089 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH RAVENNA TOWNSHIP, RAVENNA SCHOOL DISTRICT, VILLAGE OF MANTUA, PMHA AND MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER TO DEVELOP A SALT CONSORTIUM TO PURCHASE SALT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Harper explained that the item is to provide salt to the five entities at \$46.45 per ton with an additional 10% surcharge at the end of the season. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-089 by Mr. Harper, 2nd Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-089 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-090 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE LIFT SYSTEM IN THE SUM OF \$54,436.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Harper explained that the item is to purchase a lift system that will be able to be utilized by city vehicles, including the fire truck, and will be housed at the Service Department garage.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Marovich, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-090 by Mr. Harper, 2nd Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-090 was adopted.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2024

Page Three (3).

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-091 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, TITLE EIGHT - PARKING; CHAPTER 452 - PARKING GENERALLY; SECTION 452.21 - PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED PARKING AREAS; SUBSECTION (A) BY PROHIBITING PARKING ON BOTH SIDES OF PARK AVENUE, AT ALL TIMES.

Mr. Kairis stated that there will be a public hearing regarding the item possibly in September. He explained that he was concerned about restricting parking on both sides of the street and added that it is Council's decision to choose.

Police Chief Wallis explained that Park Avenue is not a main road and that he didn't feel that restricting parking on both sides was the answer to the issue.

Mr. Kairis noted that the houses and lots are not very big on that street and that Council can wait for the public hearing for more residents to weigh in before making a decision.

Mr. Harper stated that he is okay with leaving the item as is and would like to hear additional input at the public hearing.

Ms. Michael stated that the landlord of the tenant was planning to speak with them about the issue. She said that she is in favor of parking on one side and thinks that restricting parking on both sides could create an issue. There being no further comments or questions.

Ordinance 2024-091 was left on for second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-092 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT THE INTERSECTION OF KING ST. AND MAIN ST. AND APPROPRIATING \$23,000 FROM FUND 224, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Harper explained that the ordinance is to place a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Main St. and King St. to help aid in crossing pedestrians where the current traffic signal will be removed. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Mr. Calfee- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-092 by Mr. Calfee, 2nd Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-092 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-093 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CERTIFICATION OF DELINQUENT NUISANCE MOWING, NUISANCE GARBAGE REMOVAL, RENTAL INSPECTIONS, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE, AND WATER AND SEWER COLLECTION BILLS TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR THE PLACEMENT OF THE CERTIFIED AMOUNT ON THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LIST AND DUPLICATE AGAINST THE PROPERTY SERVED BY THE MOWING, GARBAGE REMOVAL, RENTAL INSPECTIONS, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND/OR WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION COLLECTION SERVICES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Moskun explained that delinquent debts that are not paid in full go to the County to be placed on the owners taxes and a list is in the Council packet.

Ms. West asked if anyone has talked to residents who have repeat nuisance mowing fees.

Mr. Moskun stated that they are given letters addressing the mowing and then before the fees are assessed.

Council discussed concerns with repeat offenders and if there was a better way to track or help the residents. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-093 by Mr. Harper, 2nd Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-093 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-094 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, OHIO, PART TWO – ADMINISTRATION CODE; TITLE TWO – GENERAL PROVISIONS; CHAPTER 208 – OPEN MEETINGS; SECTION 208.04 MEETINGS OF COUNCIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2024

Page Four (4).

Ms. West stated that the item was discussed in length to change the Council meeting start time in one section of the codified ordinances to match the other section that was amended.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Mr. Calfee- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2024-094 by Ms. West, 2nd Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2024-094 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-095 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, OHIO, PART TWO – ADMINISTRATION CODE; TITLE FOUR – LEGISLATION; CHAPTER 220 – COUNCIL BY AMENDING SECTION 220.09 ORDER OF BUSINESS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. West stated that the ordinance is to change the order of business in the codified ordinances.

Mr. Kairis explained that the amendment would change what agenda items would be discussed and that it was discussed in the special Council workshop meeting. He said that the ordinance will be left on for three readings and a public hearing will be held in October.

There being no further comments or questions.

Ordinance 2024-095 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-096 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, OHIO, PART TWO – ADMINISTRATION CODE; TITLE TWO – GENERAL PROVISIONS; CHAPTER 220 – COUNCIL; SECTION 220.10 AGENDA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. West stated that the item is to add a consent agenda to the order of business and that the addition into the codified ordinances would outline what that means. The item will be on for three readings and a public hearing will be held.

There being no further comments or questions.

Ordinance 2024-096 was left on for second reading.

Second Reading of Ordinances: None

Third Reading of Ordinances: None

Old Business- None

New Business- Ms. Michael asked about text notifications to residents to inform them about storm-related information.

Mr. Contant explained that the City placed a reminder in the water bill for residents to sign up to get notifications regarding city services and issues.

Ms. Michael addressed the topic of a better way for notifications to be sent out after hours.

Mr. Calfee addressed the huge downpour on Saturday that left residents with flooding and sewage issues throughout the city, but more specifically Ward IV.

Ms. Michael agreed and said that some residents experienced severe hip level flooding. She addressed the city's infrastructure and said that larger pipes need to be looked into.

Mr. Moskun agreed that the storm water pipes need to be increased to improve drainage.

Ms. Michael asked if there was FEMA money available to help residents and the Service Director stated that there unfortunately was not.

President of Council Remarks- Mr. Kairis stated that City Council received a wonderful tour of LG Chem whose facility is top notch and said that he was grateful to be able to visit the facilities. He said that he was impressed with the safety and cleanliness, and that it was an eye-opening experience. Mr. Kairis noted that Mr. West deserves accolades for all his hard work to bring the company to Ravenna.

Mr. Kairis stated that Octane Nights is on Wednesday and that on Saturday there will be an all-day concert downtown.

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2024

Page Five (5).

Council Member Remarks

Ms. Wood- Ms. Wood stated that there will be fireworks on Saturday and that the new pocket park next to Guido's looks beautiful.

Ms. West- Ms. West stated that there will be a meeting to support the school levy on August 13th at 6:00pm. She said that the City will have a table at the Ravenna Rocks Concert to help celebrate the city's 225th anniversary where they will set up a table from 11am-4pm to give out snow cones and anniversary swag.

Mr. Calfee- Mr. Calfee stated that he was super impressed with the LG Chem building where \$89 million dollars was put into the construction project where there will be 100 well-paying jobs available. He said that manufacturing will be 24/7 and that it is a wonderful addition to Ravenna. Mr. Calfee noted that this is the first LG Chem manufacturing plant in America.

Mr. Moskun- Mr. Moskun stated that the wastewater treatment plant employees were busy on Saturday due to the storm and that they are a huge asset. He said that there was an EPA luncheon that was held at the plant with 35 employees in attendance to tour the grounds and see how they treat lake and surface water. Mr. Moskun stated that they could not find any issues at the plant inside or outside. He commended the Street Department on their efforts following the storm and noted some drainage issues with ditches.

Mr. Marovich- Mr. Marovich stated that the tour of LG Chem was wonderful and that he was impressed that they had an electron microscope. He said that LG Chem is an incredible investment to the community and that they care for the wellbeing of their employees.

Ms. Michael- Ms. Michael said that it was amazing to finally see the finished project during the tour of LG Chem and that there was a lot of hard work behind the scenes. She explained that it is a wonderful company with high standards and high paying positions.

Mr. Harper- Mr. Harper stated that he unfortunately had to miss the LG Chem tour. He shared that he met with business owners and residents to address the aftermath of the storm from Saturday. Mr. Harper explained that the city's infrastructure was built a long time ago and that storms are happening more often. He said that the infrastructure needs an audit to address multiple areas of concern and that the current storm sewer system is not adequate.

Mayor's Remarks- Mayor Seman explained that the City employees were out taking care of things after the storm and that the City needs to take a look at issues, especially why storm water and sewer are mixing. He shared that he also endured water issues with water that leak through his roof. Mayor Seman said that he drove around to assess the areas after the storm and that fixing the issues will cost the City serious money.

Mayor Seman stated that the City helped LG Chem get to Ravenna and that when there was an issue the City reached out to the Governor to get assistance to ensure continued progress. He explained that since the City has their own Engineering Department they deserve credit for all they've done to help expedite the project. Mayor Seman added that Ray Harner was also a driving force behind the project.

Mayor Seman stated that Supergood will be able to start selling recreational marijuana beginning tomorrow morning.

Ms. Michael shared that she spoke with Portage County recycling and that they have offered to provide pick up of recyclable appliances and electronics due to the storm.

Mayor Seman stated that he was concerned that trash would be placed in with the recycling and would need to discuss the idea.

Mayor Seman shared that there is not much land left within the city to develop and said that they need to develop a JEDD with Ravenna Township to help create economic development.

Mayor Seman said that the car show will be on Wednesday and that the Chamber of Commerce needs people to create a safety ring around the fireworks perimeter.

- Motion to adjourn at 6:48 pm by Mr. Marovich, 2nd Ms. Wood- **All Ayes**

Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2024
Page Six (6).

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President