



**Ravenna City Council
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2024**

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

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

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Controller, Brian Huff; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Cliff Soudil, Larry Silenius,

Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:37 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis

The first item was temporary rentals.

Ms. West stated that there was a recent issue with an Airbnb and asked for any thoughts.

Ms. Michael shared that the Planning Commission discussed the item and had some good ideas. She said that they are different from rentals and are identified differently.

Ms. West asked where people stay when they visit town and said that temporary rentals can be a good thing if done the right way.

Ms. Wood said that there were over 1,000 House and Senate bills regarding temporary rentals and that approximately 800 were not moved forward, adding that the City needs to tread lightly about restricting the use of any owners property. She explained that the City can implement policies and procedures, lodging fees, enforcing owner and occupant emergency contacts and restricting how many people can stay. Ms. Wood added that it cannot be limited as to who can stay and that the City can come up with a regulatory process to rely on the safety forces to enforce any issues for the City.

Mr. Soudil stated that there are restrictions in other communities, taxes and permitting fees.

Mr. Kairis acknowledged that people are concerned for fear of the unknown with temporary rentals being next to their homes or potentially in their area.

Ms. West stated that the City wants to have policies and strategies and not target people. She said that if a rental is not in good condition, then people will not rent them.

Ms. Wood said that the City cannot encroach on property owner's rights, and suggested setting restrictions and not moratoriums.

Mr. Calfee asked about restrictions in residential zones and Mr. Finney stated there are not since they are considered rental properties.

Ms. Wood said that the City can look into bed tax fees.

Ms. Michael said that the rentals need to be monitored since this is an unknown territory.

Mr. Kairis said that Council can wait to see what the results are from the Planning Commission.

Ms. Laudato explained that the Planning Commission discussed the item and found examples from Columbus to help advise them on how to navigate temporary rentals.

- The item was for discussion only.

The second item was amending Section 220.01 of the Codified Ordinances.

Ms. West explained that there was not a quorum at the last City Council meeting and that the procedure for adjourning and rescheduling the meeting was not fully clarified. She said that a sentence was proposed to Section 220.01 to allow the Council President to adjourn the meeting to another day if there is a lack of quorum.

Mr. Calfee asked why the first sentence of the section does not cover the issue.

Mr. Kairis stated that the addition is to ensure that the process is fully clarified.

- The item was moved forward.

Management Update

Mayor Seman explained that the city has received approximately \$25,000 in opioid settlement money through 6 settlement payments and that he would like to support and work with local organizations who work with local people daily. He said that there are organizations of interest including Enough is Enough and programs through the Portage County courts. Mayor Seman said that it is necessary to bring the items to Council for approval and that the City will need to follow up to make sure the funds are spent appropriately.

Ms. Michael stated that she had two requests and that she was approached with a budget and shown how the money would be used, adding that the donated funds would be impacting the Ravenna area.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Christina West, Chairperson
Planning Committee**