



**Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety 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,

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:14 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael.

The first item was a 2024-2025 Ohio EMS Grant.

Ms. Michael stated that the item is to accept a grant in the sum of \$3,392.36 and there is no match required.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was a \$75 annual Fire Safety Inspection Permit.

Ms. Michael explained that the proposed permit would be a once-a-year cost and said that there were notable fire hazards at the Balloon A-Fair that needed to be addressed. She said that she was not sold on the \$75 fee and that the high cost could detour food vendors.

Chief Chapple stated that every food truck coming into the city should be inspected by the county health district, but they do not inspect fire hazards. He explained that the Fire Department checks the vendors annually at no charge and that the proposed fee would go into the General Fund to then offset their fire prevention and education program. Chief Chapple said that the department is collaborating with Dominio's Pizza to deliver smoke detectors to those who need them. He stated that the inspection would be for food trucks that do cooking and that it could go into effect in 2025.

Mr. Kairis stated that Council would need language and enforcement details to put into the codified ordinances.

Chief Chapple stated that inspections take approximately 15-20 minutes.

Mr. Finney added that there is additional work done by administration behind the scenes and that he does not foresee asking for a permit fee increase for 5 years.

Ms. Michael was concerned if \$75 was too much money for a permit if a vendor only sells in the city once a year.

Ms. West stated that the permit is to make sure everything is safe.

Chief Chapple explained that it boils down to value versus the money.

Mr. Soudil stated an example of concern could be a grease fire or a propane tank that explodes during an event.

Mr. Harper stated that he does not see the State or County implementing fire inspections and expressed a reason for the City to implement the permits.

Mr. Calfee asked if anyone has failed the inspections.

Chief Chapple stated he has not had anyone fail and if they did it was an easy fix.

Mr. Kairis stated the permit fee is equity since brick-and-mortar stores are subject to inspections and mobile food vendors should have the same level of safety.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was to extend and modify the Charlestown Township contract.

Ms. Michael explained that there was a lot of discussions in the past regarding payment of services. She stated that the City has negotiated a fair rate increase that is fair for the City and community.

Chief Chapple explained the billing process and the money that is guaranteed back to the City at a total of \$84,000, adding that no one else would entertain services to Charlestown Township. He stated the City would receive \$6,000 the first year and then \$7,000 each year thereafter for a total of 5 years, which will help offset the cost of personnel and equipment expenses. Chief Chapple explained that they do not have any mutual aid or EMS services and that they need the City to provide those services for them.

- The item was moved forward.

The fourth item was a \$6,223 donation from the Ravenna Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Ms. Michael stated the item was a generous donation from the Ravenna Eagles Club to the Ravenna Police Department, which is appreciated. She said that they had also donated \$10,000 two years ago.

- The item was moved forward.

The fifth item was a \$20 donation from Beta Sorosis.

Ms. Michael explained that the Ravenna Police Department spoke at an event and so Beta Sorosis donated \$20 to them.

- The item was moved forward.

The sixth item was a donation of a K-9 vehicle to the City of Struthers.

Ms. Michael explained that the item is to donate an out of service vehicle to the Struthers Police Department for their K-9 unit program.

Chief Wallis explained that the 2016 Ford Explorer has approximately 78,000 hard miles on it and is worth between \$6,500 to \$13,000. He said that the Ravenna Police Department has been the beneficiary of donations and that donating the vehicle is a great way to pay it forward. Chief Wallis said that Struthers Police Department would fix up the vehicle and that he is looking for approval from Council to donate the car.

Mr. Calfee asked if it is within policy.

Mr. Kairis said the State allows for donations to be given from municipalities.

- The item was moved forward.

Management Update

Ms. Michael stated there is a program through Judge Patricia Smith for assisted outpatient treatment. She explained that they work with the police department to get people mental health assistance.

Chief Wallis explained that the goal is to keep people in the program and out of jail to get the services that they need and reduce criminal records. He said it has been a success in other communities.

Ms. Michael stated that she will get the community survey results from Ms. West to start a dialogue for a future committee meeting.

Ms. Michael stated that she has been receiving emails and phone calls regarding the Portage County Sherriffs' comments regarding political signage and keeping a list of people's addresses. She said that people are scared at the county level and are afraid of being targeted or harassed, but the Ravenna Police Department is there to assist if needed.

Mayor Seman stated that things can get out of hand in a small town and that the concerns will be going to the prosecutor's office for review.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Amy Michael, Chairperson
Public Health and Safety Committee**