



**Ravenna City Council  
Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2025**

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

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

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Police Sergeant, Craig Wilmington; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, Cynthia Miller, Barbara Niemiller, Carmen Laudato

**The Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:14 P.M. by Matt Harper.**

**The first item was a to apply for the 2025 Urban Forestry Grant.**

Mr. Harper noted he had three items on the agenda, including a new item that arose earlier that day during the Shade Tree Commission meeting. He explained that the commission is applying for an IRA grant administered by the ODNR, and the application requires a resolution of support from Council. Last year, the city received \$50,000 from this grant, and this year's application is for \$60,000.

- The item was moved forward.

**The second item was the purchase of a large wheel loader in the Street Department.**

Mr. Harper explained that the next agenda item was the purchase of a large wheel loader for the Street Department. Mr. Lovejoy had previously discussed the equipment during his update. The heavy-duty machine is essential for loading salt trucks and moving dirt, mulch, and debris at the Lake St site. Funding for the loader has already been appropriated and included in the budget. Council members inquired about the size of the equipment compared to the current one, with no clear confirmation on exact specifications, though it was confirmed to be sufficient for the city's needs.

- The item was moved forward.

**The third item was a discussion regarding off road vehicles on public roadways.**

Mr. Harper held a discussion regarding the growing presence of electric and gas-powered recreational vehicles—such as scooters, go-karts, mini bikes, and ATVs—being operated on city streets and sidewalks. Concerns were raised about safety, visibility, speed, lack of registration, and the difficulty of enforcement. Several Council members and residents shared personal observations of young children and adults operating these vehicles in dangerous ways, including weaving through traffic, ignoring traffic laws, and riding on sidewalks. There were also concerns

about the liability for accidents and the potential for injury or death, particularly involving low-profile vehicles like go-karts that are difficult to see and hear.

Police input confirmed that some vehicles fall under current bicycle or moped ordinances, but many, such as go-karts and certain mini bikes, fall into regulatory gray areas. Existing city codes partially address age limits, helmet requirements, and definitions for bicycles, mopeds, and other vehicles, but may need updates to account for new technologies and safety concerns.

Council discussed potential next steps, including researching how other communities are addressing these issues, reviewing and updating ordinances for clarity and relevance, possibly posting signage in high-traffic areas, and increasing public education—especially for youth—on safe and lawful vehicle use. The discussion will remain ongoing as Council considers regulatory options.

Mr. Harper raised the issue, noting a significant rise in these vehicles, many of which are being operated by children and teens in unsafe and illegal ways. He emphasized the safety hazards posed by low-profile and nearly silent vehicles, which are difficult for drivers and pedestrians to detect.

Multiple council members and residents shared observations of unsafe use, including riders weaving through traffic, running stop signs, and using sidewalks.

Ms. Wood reported seeing very young children riding scooters in the street, while Ms. West noted that she has witnessed go-karts driving alongside cars on Main Street.

Resident Peggy Morgan expressed concern about liability if someone is seriously injured or killed due to a collision.

The Law Director explained that while some vehicles, such as electric bicycles, are addressed under ordinance 444.12, and others fall under bicycle and moped laws (Chapters 402 and 446), many of the newer vehicles—especially electric ones—fall into regulatory gaps. Enforcement is also challenging, as many vehicles are unregistered and difficult for police to track or pursue.

Council discussed potential actions, including reviewing and updating existing ordinances, prohibiting motorized vehicles on sidewalks, and placing signage in high-traffic areas.

Suggestions also included working with the Police Department and local schools to increase public education around safe operation and legal requirements.

Mayor Seman supported the need to clarify regulations and explore solutions, while Mr. Kairis recommended further research into how other cities are managing similar issues.

Council agreed the matter requires ongoing attention, with staff tasked to review ordinances and continue the conversation in upcoming meetings.

- The item was for discussion.

## **Management Update**

**There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 P.M.**

**ATTEST:**

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**Clerk of Council**

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**Matt Harper, Chairperson  
Streets & Sidewalks Committee**