



**Ravenna City Council
Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2025**

The public meeting was held in Ravenna City 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

Utility Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:44 P.M. by Chairperson, Paul Moskun.

The first item was an addendum to the current gas aggregation.

Mr. Moskun explained that the final gas price wouldn't be known until fall, with a tracking sheet showing a not-to-exceed price of \$4.75 per MCF.

Mr. Kairis clarified the purpose of the ordinance was to allow flexibility for the Mayor to sign a contract once a fixed rate was negotiated, without requiring further council approval, as long as the price did not exceed the cap.

Mr. Contant explained that the tracking sheet was requested by Mr. Bellish to allow early negotiation of a fixed rate capped at \$4.75, to avoid delays. Currently, the rate is variable at \$3.761 and expected to rise during heating season. The choice remained whether to keep a variable rate or lock in a fixed rate.

Mr. Soudil advised that natural gas prices generally rise in the fall, recommending immediate action since prices are unlikely to get cheaper. He noted that many residents may not realize they are part of the aggregation program and could save money by shopping independently.

Mr. Kairis raised legal concerns, asking the Law Director if it was typical or advisable for Council to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract without specific terms, only a maximum price.

Mr. Cimino responded that contracts generally require specific terms and that approving a contract without set terms challenges the definition of a contract. He noted the risk involved if the contract allows price changes up to the cap.

Mr. Marovich expressed moral concerns about authorizing the Mayor to sign an unspecified contract, preferring to wait for a final fixed contract and hold special meetings if needed to approve it.

Ms. Laudato urged the Council to consider switching from an opt-out to an opt-in aggregation program, noting many cities pay less for gas and that the current system might primarily benefit Mr. Bellish.

Mr. Cimino noted that residents are not obligated to join the aggregation and can seek their own contracts if they prefer.

City Council discussed concerns about the open-ended nature of the ordinance, emphasizing the unusual step of approving a contract with unknown specifics. Consensus formed around waiting to receive a fixed rate and term from Mr. Bellish before approving a new aggregation.

Mr. Contant agreed to negotiate a fixed rate, and the group discussed the need for a possible special meeting to accommodate the timing.

- The item was not moved forward.

The second item was the 2025 Tax Assessments.

Mr. Moskun explained that the 2025 tax assessments include delinquent charges such as unpaid lawn maintenance billed to property taxes.

Ms. Wood raised questions about delinquent utility accounts, including why some large balances don't appear on the annual assessment list, and concerns about multiple delinquent properties owned by single individuals.

Mr. Contant explained the process for delinquent accounts, disconnections, and how billing accumulates.

Mr. Moskun said water billing and disconnection timing generally follow a maximum of three months delinquency.

Mr. Marovich requested an aging report of delinquent accounts to better understand the breakdown.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was a new SCADA system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Moskun introduced the SCADA project for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, noting the critical need to replace obsolete equipment, with bids expected around \$1.3 to \$1.5 million.

Mr. Kairis clarified the project had been approved previously by the committee but missed the regular Council agenda due to timing issues.

- The item was moved forward.

Management

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Paul Moskun, Chairperson
Utility Committee**