



**Ravenna City Council
Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025**

The public meeting was held in Ravenna City Council Chambers.

Council present: Council President Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Matt Harper, Christina West, Tim Calfee, Tyler Marovich

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Finance Director, Tami Lorence, Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Jonathan Bender, Mike Reynolds, Larry Selinius, Cliff Soudil, Barbara Niemiller, Eve Francis, Greg Francis, Christine Craycroft, Michelle Walczak, Antonio Walczak

Utility Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:26 P.M. by Chairperson, Paul Moskun.

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

Mr. Moskun stated that the first item was not listed on the agenda—the SCADA system for the wastewater treatment plant. He turned the discussion over to Mr. Finney, who explained recent developments and said that after several bid delays, bids were opened the previous week. The city initially intended to award the project to the lowest bidder after extensive review and meetings; however, that contractor withdrew just hours later due to a no-compete clause conflict with their current employer. As a result, the City will now move forward with the second-lowest bidder, who already serves as the integrator for the city’s water plant and maintains a positive working relationship there. Although this bid is higher at approximately \$750,000 compared to the original \$600,000, it remains well below the \$1.3 million allocated. Council agreed the matter should be expedited for operational needs, with the revised tracking sheet to be presented at an upcoming meeting.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was the Portage Council Solid Waste District Plan.

The committee then addressed the Portage County Solid Waste District plan, which is revised every five years.

Mr. Marovich explained the plan had been submitted for Council review, spanning over 100 pages, and required local approval by ordinance.

Mr. Kairis noted it would also need review by the City’s legal counsel, but members generally found the plan straightforward and saw no major issues.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was the City’s Gas Aggregation Program.

Mr. Moskun addressed the next item and noted the current fixed-rate offer of 4.95 cents per unit through March 2027. In contrast, the September variable rate was lower at 3.317 cents, but the risk of significant winter increases made the decision complex. Council acknowledged that while fixed rates provide stability for residents, variable rates could offer short-term savings.

Mr. Soudil shared his own experience securing a lower fixed rate independently, raising questions about whether the city’s aggregation program truly provided the best value. Concerns were also expressed that many residents do not fully understand aggregation or their options. Council acknowledged that the City is contractually tied to its broker, Archer Energy, limiting flexibility. They also discussed the challenge that if the City were to end its aggregation program, reinstating it would require a ballot measure. With roughly 2,000 accounts currently enrolled—close to half of city households—Council stressed the importance of communication, particularly informing residents about their right to opt out and seek their own rates. Ultimately, the Committee agreed to advance the issue for full Council consideration, recognizing it as a difficult decision with no clear best option.

- The item was moved forward.

The fourth item was an application for OPWC Funding for the King St. project.

Mr. Moskun addressed the King Street Project, which includes upgrades to water lines, hydrants, valves, sanitary sewer, and potentially some sidewalk work.

Mr. Finney outlined the \$800,000 funding breakdown: \$250,000 in grant funds, a \$150,000 loan, and approximately \$400,000 in local funds split across water, sewer, stormwater, and capital improvement accounts. He reported that the project had received the highest preliminary score at the county level and would now advance to district-level review

- The item was moved forward.

Management

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

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Paul Moskun, Chairperson
Utility Committee**