



**Ravenna City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 5, 2026, at 6:00 pm**

**The Regular Council Meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.**

**The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. January 5, 2026, by Council President, Rob Kairis**

**Moment of Meditation & Silence**

President Kairis called a moment of meditation and silence.

**Pledge to Flag**

President Kairis then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

The following Council Members were present: President Rob Kairis, Amy Michael, Paul Moskun, Christina West, Tyler Marovich, Tim Calfee, Matt Harper, Carmen Laudato

**Also in attendance:** Mayor Frank Seman; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Council Clerk; Chelsea Gregor; Water Plant Supervisor, Amy Wilson; Cliff Soudil, Greg Francis, Eve Francis, Barbara Niemiller, Donna Knockle, Joni Holloway, William Marovich, Monica Marovich, Larry Selinius, Peter Martin, Brian Breidias, Heidi Workman, Chad Young, Nathaniel Adams

**Swearing-in Ceremony:**      **Officiant:**      Law Director Frank Cimino  
**Swearing in:**      Council President, Rob Kairis  
                            Ward I Council Paul Moskun  
                            Ward II Council Tyler Marovich

**Moment of Meditation & Silence**

**Pledge to Flag**

**Roll Call**

**Election of President Pro Tem:**

Mr. Kairis announced the first agenda item: the election of a President Pro Tem, who would assume the President's duties if the President were unavailable. He opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Calfee nominated Amy Michaels for President Pro Tem, and no additional nominations were offered. Nominations were closed, and a roll call vote was conducted with the nomination passing unanimously.

Mr. Kairis thanked Amy Michaels for agreeing to serve and noted that she was the longest-serving council member on the dais, marking 16 years of service.

Ms. Michael acknowledged the milestone and accepted the responsibility.

- Motion to appoint Amy Michael Pro Tem by Mr. Calfee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

**Delegations from the Public:** Eve Francis addressed Council to propose implementing a timekeeper at all City Council meetings for both Council members and members of the public. She stated that time limits are frequently exceeded and that a formal timekeeping system would promote fairness, efficiency, and adherence to the agenda. Ms. Eve's proposal included a five-minute maximum speaking time, typically managed by the council clerk, with a clear signal when time expires. She also recommended the use of a visible timer to help speakers manage their time. Ms. Francis explained that a timekeeper would ensure equal speaking opportunities, keep meetings on schedule, provide structure, reduce the burden on the meeting chair, and improve overall order and professionalism. She emphasized that predictable time limits would help the public prepare concise comments and ensure a wider range of viewpoints is heard.

**Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2026**  
**Page Two (2).**

Mr. Kairis thanked Ms. Francis and asked if she would submit her written remarks to Council, which she agreed to do. He noted that Council would review the suggestion as part of broader discussions on meeting procedures and public comment practices and emphasized Council's desire to receive public input before making any changes.

Nathaniel Adams addressed Council and reintroduced himself as a candidate for State House District 72, which includes most of Portage County and the Ravenna community. He shared his background, noting that he has lived in Portage County for approximately 18 years, graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School, earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Hiram College, and a master's degree in communication studies from Kent State University. Mr. Adams outlined his professional experience, including service as an AmeriCorps VISTA at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank during 2021–2022, addressing food insecurity during a period of high inflation, and three years of work as a research assistant in state and federal communications focusing on lobbying, campaign finance, and procurement laws. He stated that although he ran for the same State House district in 2024 and was unsuccessful, he believes there is an opportunity for new leadership and representation in Portage County. Adams expressed his intent to advocate for issues affecting residents, including property taxes, healthcare, education funding, and other challenges facing families. He concluded by offering to meet with interested individuals, making business cards available, and requesting signatures on his petition to appear on the May 5 primary ballot.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Mr. Kairis proposed two adjustments to the agenda. First, he removed Ordinance 2026-01, related to the cold storage expansion, from the consent agenda so it could be discussed. Second, he requested a formal agenda change to move Ordinance 2026-03 to the end of the agenda, after Ordinance 2025-112, which was on third reading and concerned the proposed income tax increase to support new police, fire, and City Hall facilities. He explained that it would be more appropriate to consider the income tax ordinance before voting on a related consultant.

Ms. West made a motion to approve the agenda with the change or taking out Ordinance 2026-001 to be put into the regular agenda and moving Ordinance 2026-03 to be discussed after Ordinance 2025-112.

- Motion to approve the agenda with the change moving Ordinance 2026-03 to be discussed after Ordinance 2025-112 by Ms. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

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**Consent Agenda:**

**2026 Council Meeting Schedule**

**Communications:** A Christmas card from the Engineering Department.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

- Regular City Council Meeting of December 1, 2025
- Special City Council Meeting of December 29, 2025

**Report of Officials:**

**Ordinances:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-004** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP TO PERFORM A SAFETY STUDY AND ANALYSIS, AND APPROPRIATING \$37,100.00 FROM FUND 553, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-007** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, TO PAY CERTAIN PURCHASE ORDERS MADE THAT EXCEED \$3,000.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

## Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026

Page Three (3).

- Motion to dispense with the requirements of the City Charter in the Revised Code of Ohio with reference to reading on three separate days and adopting emergency clauses and approving the consent agenda by Mr. Calfee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

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**Invited City Officials:** Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Amy Wilson, presented an overview of recent accomplishments and upcoming needs at the Water Treatment Plant, explaining that much of the facility's equipment dated back more than 40 years and exceeded its intended lifespan. She stated that her goal for 2025 was to begin systematically replacing aging equipment and highlighted several completed and ongoing projects. Ms. Wilson reported that the plant's laboratory equipment for required daily microbial testing had been upgraded, including the purchase of a new autoclave for sterilization and an incubator to ensure consistent testing conditions. She also described an unexpected major project involving the gravity thickener truss arms, which are used to collect and concentrate solids removed during the treatment process. After discovering significant deterioration, the plant worked with the original manufacturer, Amwell, to fabricate replacement arms based on original drawings. The new truss arms were installed with the assistance of cranes and contractors, restoring proper sludge processing. Ms. Wilson next discussed a planned project to replace a long-out-of-service conditioning tank sludge pump. She explained that the existing pump was unsafe and nonfunctional, and that a new pump and controller had been purchased after significant delivery delays. Ms. Wilson noted that a contractor is still needed to complete plumbing and structural work so the pump can be installed. Once operational, the pump will provide greater operational control and serve as a critical backup if the sludge press fails. Ms. Wilson updated Council on the replacement of outdated MCC electrical panels, a project first brought forward in 2024 due to safety concerns and lack of manufacturer support. One critical set of panels was replaced in November 2025 with new panels featuring modern safety protections against arc flash hazards. She stated that five additional panels still need replacement and outlined plans to prioritize the chemical room and raw water building next, requesting funding consistent with the prior phase, adding that updated cost estimates were still pending from Schneider Electric.

Mr. Calfee asked about the status of the SCADA system.

Ms. Wilson clarified that the major SCADA upgrade applied to the wastewater plant, while the water plant completed a smaller computer and system upgrade under \$25,000. She concluded by offering Council members the opportunity to tour the plant.

Ms. West thanked her for the detailed and valuable information, and Mr. Kairis expressed appreciation for her efforts and encouraged continued communication regarding departmental needs.

### **Report of Committees: Committee meetings start at 6:00 PM 1/12/2026.**

**Utilities:** Mr. Moskun stated that there will not be a meeting but that the SKADA project will be coming.

**Information Systems:** Mr. Marovich stated that there are a few pending items and a meeting is to be determined.

**Planning:** Ms. West stated that there will be a meeting.

**Committee of the Whole:** Mr. Kairis stated that the next Committee of the Whole meeting is Tuesday, January 20, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

**Public Health & Safety:** Ms. Michael stated that there are several items on the agenda and a meeting with most likely be held.

**Streets & Sidewalks:** Mr. Harper stated that there will be a meeting.

**Personnel:** Mr. Calfee stated that no meeting is scheduled.

**Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2026**  
**Page Four (4).**

**Community & Economic Development:** A meeting will be determined.

**Cemetery:** Mr. Moskun reported that donations had been received for the renovation of the cemetery chapel. He stated that the initial work would focus on the roof, and that more detailed information would be provided at the January meeting, including whether any supporting structures beneath the roof would need replacement. Further steps would be determined after that assessment.

Mr. Calfee asked whether the donation covered only the roof or a broader renovation of the chapel.

Mr. Moskun clarified that the donation currently supports a partial renovation, specifically the roof, and would serve as a starting point rather than funding the full renovation project.

**Parks & Recreation:** Mr. Marovich reported that the security camera system had been installed at Sunbeau Valley Farm. He noted that Little Dribblers basketball registration remained open and that Parks and Recreation had launched new Facebook pages for both Parks and Recreation and the Recreation Advisory Committee. Mr. Marovich explained that winter and spring program registrations were open, including offerings such as soccer, archery, gymnastics, youth drama and acting classes, and the Marlene Watts fundraiser. He also shared that staff were developing a seasonal program guide to better organize and promote both youth and adult programming throughout the year.

**First Reading of Ordinances:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-001** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPROPRIATE \$140,000.00 FROM FUND 533 AND TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE COLD STORAGE EXPANSION , AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kairis introduced the item which would authorize the Mayor to appropriate \$140,000 from Fund 533 and advertise for bids for the design and construction of a cold storage expansion. Ms. Michael explained that the project was necessary due to insufficient storage space for both the Police and Fire Departments, particularly with the arrival of a new fire truck. She noted that the added storage would remain useful even if a new station were built in the future.

Mr. Kairis explained that he removed the ordinance from the consent agenda to clarify procedural concerns, specifically regarding the need for architectural design work prior to bidding. He questioned whether an additional ordinance was required to authorize approximately \$10,000 in architectural services, which had not yet been appropriated.

Mr. Finney confirmed that the \$10,000 design cost was included within the \$140,000 total but acknowledged that no funds had yet been appropriated for the architectural work.

Mr. Kairis suggested delaying further action in order to first authorize the architectural services and then adjust the construction authorization accordingly at a special meeting the following week.

Mr. Finney agreed, noting that he had already contacted three local architects and received one proposal. He explained that the final design and cost would depend on construction type, with the intent to pursue a cost-effective cold storage structure rather than a more expensive facility.

Ms. West agreed with the approach, and Council reached consensus to leave the ordinance on first reading, with the expectation of revisiting both the design authorization and construction bidding at a Special Council meeting the following week.

There being no further comments or questions.

Ordinance 2026-001 was left of for second reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-002** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, TITLE EIGHT - PARKING; CHAPTER 452 - PARKING GENERALLY; SECTION 452.21 - PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED PARKING AREAS; SUBSECTION (A) BY PROHIBITING PARKING ON THE EAST AND WEST SIDE OF SOUTH MERIDIAN STREET, BETWEEN RIDDLE AVENUE AND HARRIS AVENUE, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 AM AND 5:00 PM. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

## Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026

Page Five (5).

Mr. Harper explained that the purpose of the ordinance was to reduce traffic hazards caused by vehicles swerving into oncoming lanes during peak hours when the administration building and Bureau of Motor Vehicles are open. The proposal would prohibit parking on both the east and west sides of South Meridian Street from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., while leaving existing designated parking south of the administration building unaffected.

Mr. Kairis asked whether there was interest in expanding the parking restriction beyond the proposed hours.

Mr. Harper stated that the intent was to adopt the ordinance as written and later evaluate parking restrictions citywide if adjustments were needed.

Ms. West asked whether the ordinance would impact a nearby apartment complex, and Mr. Harper confirmed it would not, as the street is wider in that area and includes dedicated parking spaces. He requested that a public hearing be scheduled, preferably on January 20, prior to or in conjunction with a special council meeting, to allow for public input before final action. Mr. Harper confirmed that the ordinance would proceed through three readings and that no action was requested that evening. Discussion followed regarding timing of the public hearing and future committee discussions on broader citywide parking issues, with Mr. Harper agreed to leave the ordinance on first reading and to schedule the public hearing for January 20.

There being no further comments or questions.

Ordinance 2026-002 was moved on for second reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-003** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPROPRIATE \$50,000.00 FROM FUND 101 AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRIAD COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. West explained that the Safety Building Committee had reviewed multiple marketing firms and recommended Triad, noting that questions and concerns had been raised and inviting further discussion.

Mr. Kairis stated that the primary concern was the vagueness of the proposed contract and suggested returning to Triad to draft a more concrete agreement, potentially bringing the matter back at a Special Council meeting.

Ms. Laudato summarized issues identified in the contract, including ambiguity in contract terms and duration, lack of clarity that the \$135 hourly rate was included within the \$50,000 cap, insufficiently defined deliverables and timelines, and confidentiality language that conflicted with Ohio public records law. She also raised concern over ownership of “native files,” noting that under the current contract the city would not own materials paid for by taxpayers and might have to pay additional, unspecified fees to reuse them if the levy failed. Ms. Laudato explained that Triad had responded positively to feedback and that a proposed solution was to split the work into two contracts—one solely for conducting a survey, with a second contract later defining deliverables based on survey results.

Ms. West agreed that more detailed deliverables could follow the survey.

Mr. Kairis noted that most concerns were resolvable and asked whether Council and the Law Director were comfortable pursuing a survey-only contract first.

Mr. Cimino stated that Triad appeared open and cooperative, and he believed a revised contract could be drafted quickly, potentially allowing Council action at the following week’s meeting. He also suggested beginning work on the second contract concurrently to save time.

Mr. Moskun questioned whether Triad could realistically complete the work within the limited timeframe.

Mr. Cimino responded that initiating the survey promptly would be critical and that the scope of a second contract would depend heavily on survey results.

Ms. Michael asked for clarification on the purpose of the survey.

Mr. Finney explained that the survey would be conducted among city residents and voters to guide how information would be communicated regarding the income tax issue.

Mr. Marovich added that the goal was to understand which messages would resonate most effectively.

Ms. Michael expressed some concern about survey participation, particularly among seniors, and Mr. Kairis responded that the survey would be scientifically conducted, likely using voter data.

**Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2026**  
**Page Six (6).**

Mr. Kairis then proposed procedurally removing Ordinance 2026-03 from consideration, noting it would not be effective in its current form.

- Motion to table indefinitely Ordinance No. 2026-003 by Mr. Marovich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-003 was tabled indefinitely.

Mr. Kairis then called for a motion to authorize the Law Director to work with Triad Communications to draft an ordinance and contract limited solely to conducting a survey to inform Council regarding the income tax increase for police, fire, and City Hall facilities.

- Motion to authorize the Law Director to work with Triad to draft an ordinance and contract limited solely to conducting a survey to inform Council regarding the income tax increase for police, fire and city hall facilities by Ms. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-005 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART FOURTEEN- BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE; TITLE SIX – MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING REGULATIONS; CHAPTER 1434 – DESIGN REVIEW DISTRICT, SECTION 1434.03- RAVENNA DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION.**

Mr. Kairis introduced Ordinance No. 2026-05, which proposed amendments to the City's Building and Housing Code related to the Ravenna Design Review Commission. He reported that the Design Review Commission had held a special meeting earlier that day and unanimously approved a revised set of recommendations that differed from the version currently before Council.

Council discussed procedural options, including suspending the three-reading rule, leaving the ordinance on first reading, or returning it to committee to reconcile the differing proposals.

Mr. Moskun recommended proceeding by incorporating the Design Review Commission's changes, while Mr. Calfee noted that multiple code sections were involved and that some proposed changes were accepted, modified, or rejected by the commission, creating the need to synchronize the documents.

Mr. Finney described the Design Review Commission meeting as productive, explaining that members reviewed administrative changes, timelines, membership requirements, and appeal procedures, with only one proposal failing to pass. He highlighted that the Commission supported a process allowing two hearings within 30 days, followed by an appeal to Council if necessary, while also retaining flexibility for special meetings.

Additional discussion focused on application timelines, the role of the Mayor or Service Director in calling special meetings, potential impacts on businesses, and the definition of "specialist" members who may reside outside the city.

Mr. Silenius urged Council to retain the optional two-week meeting timeline, noting it had rarely been used and had not been abused.

Ms. West concluded that, given the volume of revisions and the existence of multiple versions, the ordinance should return to committee for further review. She moved to refer the ordinance to the Planning Committee. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to send back to the item back to the Planning Committee for further review by Ms. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-005 was sent back to the Planning Committee.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-006 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL TO APPOINT PETER MARTIN AND GAIL JONES-NEMETH TO THE BOARD OF TAX REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 881.21 BOARD OF TAX REVIEW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Kairis introduced the ordinance which authorizes Ravenna City Council to appoint Peter Martin and Gail Jones Nemeth to the Board of Tax Review in accordance with Chapter 880.1.21.

Ms. Lorence explained that the Board of Tax Review is a state-required body that had existed in city ordinances but had not been populated because it is only convened as

**Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2026**  
**Page Seven (7).**

needed. She stated that the board typically meets infrequently and only when tax matters return to the city from the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) after completing the RITA review process.

Mr. Calfee asked for clarification regarding the board's responsibilities and how cases would come before it.

Ms. Lorence explained that cases generally involve tax disputes or refund issues, often related to statute-of-limitations constraints at RITA, and may involve residents or nonresidents with Ravenna tax concerns.

Ms. West sought clarification on why matters would return from RITA, and Ms. Lorence explained that RITA's legal limitations can require city-level review.

Mr. Kairis clarified that the board consists of three members, with two appointed by City Council and one appointed by the Mayor. He confirmed that the Mayor had appointed the third member.

Ms. Michael acknowledged Peter Martin's presence and thanked him for volunteering to serve. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-006 by Mr. Harper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-006 was adopted.

**Second Reading of Ordinances:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-127 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING THE CITY OF RAVENNA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Kairis announced that the ordinance was sponsored by the Planning Committee and that a special meeting for public comment would be held on January 20. He explained that the plan would remain on second reading, with a vote anticipated in February, and that discussion could continue in the meantime.

Ms. Laudato expressed concerns based on her experience on the Planning Commission, stating that the document functioned more as a descriptive reference of existing conditions rather than a true master plan with forward-looking proposals. She noted a lack of clear regulatory guidance, particularly regarding affordable housing, and said the plan did not adequately support future land-use decisions or conformity reviews required of the Planning Commission. Ms. Laudato emphasized the importance of strengthening the document, given its long-term impact.

Mr. Kairis responded that some of Ms. Laudato's concerns had been raised during earlier presentations and noted that the strategic and planning components were primarily located near the end of the document. He agreed that the comprehensive plan is an important document and expressed openness to continued discussion and improvement. Mr. Kairis also stated that Council would ensure that Ms. Laudato received the official version under consideration and encouraged her to submit comments by email or during the public comment meeting.

Mr. Moskun added that portions of the plan seemed vague and suggested the need for clearer short-term and long-term planning distinctions.

Mr. Kairis replied that the plan included goals with varying timelines and emphasized that Council's responsibility would be to actively use the plan to prioritize and implement initiatives rather than simply adopt it.

Mr. Kairis concluded by stating that Ordinance No. 2025-127 would remain on second reading and that discussion would continue as needed to ensure the plan was finalized correctly.

There being no further comments or questions.

Ordinance 2025-127 was moved on to third reading.

**Third Reading of Ordinances:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-112 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY-FIVE HUNDREDTHS OF ONE PERCENT INCOME TAX TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING AND BUILDING A NEW FIRE STATION, POLICE STATION AND CITY HALL IN THE CITY OF RAVENNA, OHIO , AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Ms. West explained that the resolution has been discussed extensively, including a special meeting for public comment, and emphasized the need to move forward to provide safe facilities for public safety personnel.

## Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2026

Page Eight (8).

Ms. Michael highlighted that the ultimate decision rests with voters and addressed misinformation surrounding the Sunbeau Valley Farm property, clarifying that funds from Sunbeau came from a separate source and emphasizing the potential for economic development and improved community amenities.

Mr. Kairis stressed that Council is proposing the measure for voter consideration and noted the importance of providing accurate information to the public as the process moves forward.

Ms. West agreed, underscoring that Council is initiating the process, not concluding it.

Mr. Marovich compared the resolution to a “check engine light,” signaling the city’s infrastructure needs and leaving the funding decision to the electorate.

Ms. Laudato cautioned that passing the resolution would likely prompt detailed public questions and stressed the importance of framing inquiries respectfully, reaffirming that advancing the measure puts the decision in voters’ hands and aligns with long-term planning goals.

Mr. Marovich and Ms. Michael added context regarding recreational and community facilities, noting that property like Sunbeau Valley Farm allows for expanded programming and amenities, positioning Ravenna ahead of neighboring communities that lack available land for similar development. The discussion emphasized balancing public safety needs, responsible planning, and community development.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Laudato, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2025-112 by Ms. Michael, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2025-112 was adopted.

### **Old Business- None**

### **New Business- Committee Assignments**

Mr. Kairis explained that the new business item was approval of council committee assignments, which had been distributed in the meeting packet. He noted that the primary changes included Ms. West moving from the Planning Committee to Community and Economic Development, and Ms. Laudato being appointed to chair the Planning Commission, along with several minor membership adjustments.

Mr. Kairis stated that no concerns had been raised about the proposed assignments.

- Motion to accept the Council Committee assignments as presented by Ms. Laudato, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**

**President of Council Remarks-** Mr. Kairis delivered his remarks by welcoming Ms. Laudato to her first meeting and congratulating her on her election, noting her active participation. He also congratulated Amy Michael, Mr. Marovich, and Mr. Moskun on their re-elections and thanked them for their continued service to Council. Mr. Kairis announced plans to call a special meeting on January 20, either at 6:30 p.m. or following the Committee of the Whole meeting, to solicit public comment on the comprehensive plan and the Meridian Street parking ordinance. He also indicated he would request another special meeting the following week to consider a potential Triad contract and ordinances related to the cold storage facility. Mr. Kairis outlined several priorities for the coming year, noting it would be a busy period as Council organizes and welcomes new members. He raised concerns about existing moratoriums, including those related to recreational marijuana and self-storage facilities, stating he is generally not in favor of moratoriums because they can delay substantive work and effectively function as bans. Mr. Kairis emphasized the need for Council to craft clear ordinances addressing recreational marijuana and self-storage facilities rather than repeatedly extending moratoriums.

Ms. Michael asked whether Mr. Kairis opposed the current self-storage moratorium.

Mr. Kairis clarified that while another moratorium might be necessary, his primary concern was ensuring Council takes concrete action before existing moratoriums expire. He also identified other issues requiring attention, including short-term rentals, the structure and use of public comment, and the responsibilities that will arise once the comprehensive plan is adopted. Mr. Kairis encouraged Council to take a more strategic approach to implementing the plan rather than reacting to issues as they arise. He then discussed legislative process concerns, including the use of tracking sheets, adherence to the City Code, and the need for clearer committee procedures. Mr. Kairis suggested committee

**Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2026**  
**Page Nine (9).**

chairs should have greater authority over agendas and agenda approval. He also raised questions about determining the appropriate committee for agenda items, concern about the frequent use of emergency clauses in ordinances and cautioning that overuse can limit the public's ability to challenge legislation. He recommended establishing clearer standards and justification for when emergency clauses are appropriate. Finally, he noted ongoing confusion about where financial matters should be assigned and proposed considering the creation of a separate finance committee, distinct from the Committee of the Whole, to allow for more focused discussion. Mr. Kairis concluded by welcoming everyone to the new year, acknowledging the significant work ahead, and expressing enthusiasm for the year's agenda.

**Council Member Remarks**

**Mr. Harper-** Mr. Harper wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also welcomed Ms. Laudato to Council, and expressed that he looked forward to working with her.

**Ms. Michael-** Ms. Michael reported an incident involving possible solicitation fraud and identity misuse. She stated that she received a phone call from a resident whose 91-year-old mother had answered the door to two men who used Ms. Michael's name to gain trust and requested to see the resident's utility bill. The individuals allegedly claimed Ms. Michael had sent them, which prompted the senior resident to comply initially. The woman ultimately refused further interaction and closed the door, preventing further harm. Ms. Michael said she immediately reported the incident to the police department and emphasized that neither she nor any other council member would ever send individuals door-to-door. She urged residents not to open doors to unknown individuals and to contact the police or City Hall if there is any question regarding legitimacy. She also reminded the public that solicitors are required to be properly registered and to display permits, and that unregistered solicitation should be reported. Ms. Michael added that a suggestion had been raised about publishing a list of permitted solicitors on the city's website, noting that some communities do this, though she expressed uncertainty about the benefits and risks of such a practice.

Ms. West added to the earlier discussion on solicitation safety, noting that individuals soliciting door-to-door often leave immediately when asked to show a permit. She encouraged residents to request permits from anyone soliciting.

Ms. Michael reiterated the importance of public awareness regarding solicitation permit requirements and encouraged residents to share the information with others. She also announced that at the February meeting she would be hosting a special guest, Abby Morgan, Director of the Akron-Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disability. Ms. Michael explained that Ms. Morgan oversees programs and review committees that evaluate how communities serve seniors and individuals with disabilities. She noted that the discussion would explore whether Ravenna could be considered a senior-friendly community and identify potential improvements to quality of life, particularly given the city's growing senior population and multiple downtown senior housing complexes. Ms. Michael also raised concerns about two chronic nuisance properties owned by individuals who are negatively impacting surrounding neighborhoods. She said residents are frustrated by ongoing issues such as trash, condemned conditions, and unauthorized living arrangements, including occupancy of an RV on a condemned property. Ms. Michael noted that the building department has invested significant time addressing these cases, but enforcement challenges remain. She suggested that Council consider whether stronger nuisance ordinances, fines, or other legal tools could be developed to better address habitual problem properties and protect neighborhood quality of life.

**Mr. Marovich-** Mr. Marovich commented on the importance of preventing trash accumulation, noting that unmanaged waste attracts vermin and creates unhealthy conditions. He then referenced Section 812 of the City Code, explaining that canvassers and solicitors are required to have a solicitor's badge issued by the Mayor's office. Mr. Marovich advised residents that individuals soliciting without proper credentials are acting unlawfully and should be reported to the police department's non-emergency line. He emphasized that businesses should not solicit residents without paying the required fee and obtaining permission, and concluded his remarks by expressing concern about unlicensed solicitation.

Mr. Kairis added that the Girl Scouts and other non-profit organizations are permitted to solicit without a permit.

**Ravenna City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2026**  
**Page Ten (10).**

**Mr. Moskun-** Mr. Moskun offered several comments during the meeting. He noted that fines are often dismissed by the public as trivial due to their low amounts. He also emphasized the value of timing and organization in municipal operations, citing examples from his past experience. Moskun shared a positive outcome regarding a stormwater issue on Diamond Street, where residents were pleased with the street department's prompt response. He further praised the recent snow plowing efforts over New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, noting that the work was more efficient and of higher quality compared to previous storms, with only minor improvements needed around some street corners. Moskun concluded by stressing that even small improvements in city services make a meaningful difference.

**Mr. Calfee-** Mr. Calfee wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Ms. West-** Ms. West gave a brief commendation to the Parks and Recreation department, sharing that she had used the Tower Lodge for a birthday party in December. She praised the facility for being clean and well-maintained and encouraged residents to take advantage of the spaces offered by Parks and Rec, expressing appreciation for the staff's efforts in keeping the facility in excellent condition.

**Ms. Laudato-** Ms. Laudato expressed honor in serving on Council, noting that although she did not grow up in Ravenna—having lived in Mentor, other parts of Ohio, and Germany—Ravenna is the first place she has truly considered home. She highlighted her six years of experience on the Planning Commission and her desire to continue addressing issues she feels strongly about. Laudato specifically mentioned nuisance lighting, short-term rentals, and the city's previous approval allowing firearms sales from homes, emphasizing her concern for neighborhood safety while affirming her support for the Second Amendment. She also reflected on the ongoing recreational marijuana moratorium and the unreceived state excise tax revenue, noting the potential to use those funds for community benefits. Laudato concluded by expressing excitement for her role and wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

**Mayor's Remarks-** Mayor Seman Council, noting the variety of discussions during the meeting and expressing some difficulty reconciling conflicting viewpoints, such as the pace needed for design review. He explained new rules regarding funding requests, emphasizing that officials cannot solicit votes directly and must follow proper legal procedures. Mayor Seman welcomed volunteers serving on committees and reiterated his open-door policy, sharing that he makes time to meet with anyone who wishes to speak with him.

**Adjourn to Monday, February 2, 2026**

- Motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm by Mr. Marovich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

**ATTEST:**

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Clerk of Council

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Council President