



Ravenna City Council
Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes
November 10, 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, Christina West

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, Greg Francis, Eve Francis, Cynthia Miller, Carmen Laudato, Peter Martin, Matt Ferrell, Mike Reynolds, Alan Frygier, Julie Herold

The Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Matt Harper.

The first item was parking issues on Meridian Street.

Mr. Harper explained that there were concerns about street parking on South Meridian Street near the Portage County Administration building.

Portage County Treasurer, Joe Bica, summarized a letter he had submitted to Council, explaining that increased traffic to the administration building and license bureau, combined with unfamiliar drivers and frequent bus traffic, created congestion and safety issues. He suggested limiting parking on the east side of the street during business hours.

Mr. Harper asked whether the issue was worse at certain times, and Mr. Bica confirmed that lunchtime brought the heaviest congestion. Mr. Harper noted that he had monitored the area since receiving the letter and typically observed two cars parked on the east side.

Mr. Bica added that his increased travel on the street due to his new job had made him more aware of the problem, and that parking between Riddle and Harris was most concerning.

Mr. Moskun reported observing the same parking pattern and noted that nearby driveways often appeared underused.

Ms. Michael said similar issues were emerging on other streets and emphasized the need to review citywide ordinances, consider safety impacts, and potentially designate additional no-parking areas.

Mr. Harper thanked Mr. Bica and said that no action would be taken immediately. He planned to consult the police department regarding any related complaints and revisit the issue next month with more information.

- The item was for discussion only.

The second item was to accepting the Ohio/USDF Grant.

Mr. Harper presented the next agenda item regarding acceptance of the Ohio USDF grant, noting that the city's shade tree program was awarded another grant from the Urban Forestry Department. He credited the city arborist, Tim Jenkins, and Mr. Contant for compiling the application, explaining that Ravenna was one of 27 grant recipients this year. The grant will support continued planting of shade trees to replace those removed in recent years due to disease or safety concerns.

Ms. Michael asked whether staff would review streets that currently lack ordinances or have inconsistencies with signage, suggesting these issues be brought to committee for public discussion and formal resolution to ensure neighborhood safety. She emphasized that such matters should remain in committee until fully addressed.

Mr. Harper responded that staff would continue working with the Ravenna Police Department and residents who raise concerns to review affected streets and proceed as appropriate.

- The item was moved forward.

Management Update

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

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