



**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2026**

The public meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council President, Rob Kairis.

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

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman, Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Service Director, Tim Contant, Finance Director, Tami Lorence, City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Larry Silenius, Barb Niemiller, Cynthia Miller, Valerie Pantalone, Mark Pantalone

- Motion to excuse Amy Michael, Carmen Laudato and Tim Calfee by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Mr. Kairis called the meeting to order and acknowledged that long-time meeting attendee, Larry Silinius, was celebrating a birthday and all those in attendance offered well wishes.

The first item on the agenda was to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from January 20, 2026.

- Motion to approve the January 20, 2026, Committee of the Whole minutes by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**

The second item was an ordinance authorizing the 2026 Annual Paving Program.

Mr. Harper presented the 2026 Annual Paving Program, explaining that it had already been reviewed in committee and would outline which streets and sidewalks are scheduled for improvement. Council agreed to move the ordinance forward, with plans to post the paving map publicly once approved.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The third item was an ordinance authorizing the 2026-2029 fuel purchase agreement renewal.

Mr. Harper introduced the 2026–2029 Fuel Purchase Agreement Renewal, noting it is a routine multi-year agreement with the Ravenna School District and the Portage Park District to purchase fuel.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026
Page Two (2).**

The fourth item was an ordinance authorizing the 2026 City Wide Tree Planting.

Mr. Harper presented the 2026 Citywide Tree Planting Ordinance, explaining that tree locations are selected using the City's TreeKeeper software, which tracks existing trees and identifies planting opportunities. He explained that the City Arborist helps determine appropriate sites to ensure trees are distributed throughout the community.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The fifth item was an ordinance updating the C.O.L.A. increases for utility rates.

Mr. Moskun presented the ordinance updating cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for utility rates, explaining that water and wastewater rates would increase by 2.8% for the current year. He noted that adjustments will vary annually depending on the cost-of-living index.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The sixth item was an ordinance revising Chapters 1046.08, 1046.09 and 1049.10.

Mr. Kairis introduced an ordinance proposing revisions to Chapters 1046.08, 1046.09, and 10.49.10, noting that the item was related to the previous agenda item.

Mr. Moskun confirmed that the revisions primarily pertained to wastewater, though they also applied more broadly, and were connected to the prior discussion.

Mr. Kairis explained that the proposed changes were intended to simplify the ordinance's language, while Mr. Contant clarified that the focus was specifically on simplifying the calculations within the ordinance.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The seventh item was an ordinance revising Chapter 1046.11.

Mr. Kairis addressed a separate ordinance revising Chapter 10.46.11, questioning why it was listed independently but indicating it appeared to address a similar matter.

Mr. Moskun confirmed that it also related to wastewater.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The eighth item was an ordinance amending Chapter 1044.55-Permitted & Prohibited Discharges.

Mr. Moskun addressed the wastewater related ordinance to update permitted and prohibited discharge language to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026
Page Three (3).**

The ninth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for water & wastewater chemicals for 2027.

Council discussed an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for water and wastewater treatment chemicals for 2027. The item is a yearly housekeeping ordinance and the chemicals are required by the EPA.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The tenth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a MOU with the City of Kent.

Mr. Moskun presented an MOU with the City of Kent, explaining that existing water lines allow either community to assist the other in emergencies by adjusting valves to allow water flow in either direction. The agreement formalizes cooperation with each other while reviewing the current infrastructure and determining if any repairs or replacements to the waterline are needed.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The eleventh item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an electric aggregation agreement.

Mr. Contant explained that the current contract with Dynegy expires May 31, 2026, and new pricing would begin June 2026. Several term options were presented, including a 25-month option that appeared favorable.

Council members discussed market volatility, contract length, and the importance of not delaying a decision. Ultimately, Council agreed not to select a term during the meeting. The ordinance was moved forward without the consent agenda designation so that Council could decide at the next meeting.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The twelfth item was an ordinance authorizing an increase to the consulting contract for the HR Director.

Mr. Kairis addressed an ordinance authorizing a salary increase for the HR Director, who serves under a consultant contract. The proposed increase would raise compensation from \$95,000 to \$100,000. Council acknowledged the contract renews annually but that it typically spans multiple years. Council decided not to place the ordinance on the consent agenda.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The thirteen item was an ordinance authorizing the execution of Then and Now Certificates.

Ms. Lorence presented the Then and Now Certificates and explained that the list was larger due to year-end processing delays and early-year purchase orders. Several items included emergency repairs, including water main work, and a smart shopper medical cost-reduction program through Medical Mutual.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026
Page Four (4).**

The fourteenth item was an ordinance authorizing the purchase of a Kubota tractor for the Parks Department.

Ms. West presented an item to purchase a Kubota tractor for approximately \$37,494.91, to replace a 26-year-old unit. The equipment would primarily serve the Sunbeau Valley Farm property but may also be used elsewhere. Ms. West stated that since additional funding is needed, part of the purchase will require an appropriation of funds.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The fifteenth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to submit an offer for the purchase of a parking lot.

Ms. West addressed an ordinance requesting authorization for the Mayor to offer \$20,000 to purchase a parking lot adjacent to City Hall from First National Bank and Trust. She explained the property appraised at approximately \$30,000, but significant improvements would be required, including pole removal, electrical repairs, asphalt resurfacing, drainage adjustments, and removal of safety hazards. The property would help address limited parking behind city buildings and could support City Hall, police, fire, and training needs.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The sixteen item was an ordinance placing a temporary moratorium not to exceed 6 months on cannabis dispensaries.

Ms. West introduced an ordinance establishing a six-month temporary moratorium on new adult-use cannabis dispensaries, continuing existing restrictions while the City reviews and updates its zoning and regulatory framework. The moratorium does not affect existing operations.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.
- Motion to adjourn at 6:25 pm by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President