



**Ravenna City Council
Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2026**

The public meeting was held in Ravenna City Council Chambers.

Council present: Council President Rob Kairis, Amy Michael, Paul Moskun, Tyler Marovich, Tim Calfee, Christina West

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Police Chief, Jason Smallfield; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple, Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Larry Silenius, Cynthia Miller, Barbara Niemiller, Cheryl Wood

Utility Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:49 P.M. by Chairperson, Paul Moskun.

The first item was updating C.O.L.A. increases for utility rates.

Mr. Moskun introduced a proposal for an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to increase utility rates for both potable water and wastewater. He explained that the intent is for the adjustment to occur automatically each year rather than requiring Council approval annually.

Mr. Marovich noted that, based on his understanding from discussions with Utility Billing staff, Council would still retain the final authority to either accept the CPI-based increase or make a discretionary decision.

Mr. Moskun confirmed that the proposal would streamline the process and make operations more efficient.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was revising Chapters 1046.08, 1046.09, and 1046.10

Mr. Moskun then introduced revisions to Chapters 1046.08, 1046.09, and 1046.10, which primarily address wastewater treatment regulations.

Ms. West asked for clarification regarding what specific changes were being made.

Mr. Contant explained that the revisions were largely housekeeping updates intended to simplify the ordinance language and align it more closely with the water rate calculation process. He noted that the changes remove overly complex engineering-style calculations and make the formula easier for staff and residents to understand.

The committee agreed to move the revisions forward.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was revising Chapter 1046.11.

Mr. Contant explained that the revision adds a \$1.50 user charge as recommended in the rate study, which would be applied to the updated 2026 rates over a five-year period.

Mr. Moskun noted that this recommendation had previously been presented and explained by Mr. Reynolds during an earlier meeting. The committee agreed to advance the measure.

- The item was moved forward.

The fourth item was to amend Section 1044.55- Permitted & Prohibited Discharges.

Mr. Contant also clarified revisions to Section 1104.55, which addresses permitted and prohibited discharges at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The amendment updates the ordinance to reflect current EPA pretreatment standards, specifically adjusting limits to 35 milligrams and 100 milligrams for certain discharge levels.

- The item was moved forward.

The fifth item was the 2027 Chemicals for the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Mr. Moskun discussed an annual ordinance concerning the chemicals required to treat potable water and wastewater, explaining that the chemicals are mandated by the EPA and must be maintained in compliance. The committee acknowledged that the ordinance is a routine yearly update.

- The item was moved forward.

The sixth item was the 2026 Kent-Ravenna Waterline MOU.

Mr. Moskun addressed the Kent-Ravenna water line agreement, which governs the emergency water connection running along Summit Road between the two municipalities.

Ms. West asked whether any changes were being proposed.

Mr. Finney explained that the original agreement had expired due to its term and that a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) would allow both cities to review and potentially update the arrangement.

Mr. Contant added that Ravenna officials had already met with representatives from the City of Kent to discuss possible revisions, particularly regarding valve maintenance responsibilities. He emphasized that the connection serves as an important emergency water supply for both communities.

Mr. Kairis clarified that the current MOU simply authorizes the cities to work toward updating the original 2002 contract, and any changes would return to Council for approval.

- The item was moved forward.

Management

Mayor Seman addressed the recent surge in water main breaks, noting that crews had been working in extremely difficult winter conditions. He reported that the city experienced six water main breaks in a single day, requiring outside assistance, and praised the Street and Water Department employees for their dedication in repairing the lines despite severe cold.

Ms. Michael echoed the Mayor's comments and shared that she had spoken with Dan Mounts regarding concerns about water quality. She said that Mr. Mounts reassured her that the system remained safe and provided technical insight into the issue. Ms. Michael commended the water distribution crew, noting that some employees worked 36 to 44 consecutive hours during the emergency repairs to ensure residents did not lose water service.

Mr. Marovich asked whether the City could identify patterns or risk factors that might help predict future water main breaks.

Mr. Contant responded that it is difficult to forecast such failures, especially during extreme cold weather.

Ms. West added that the unusually harsh winter likely contributed to the increase in breaks.

Mr. Marovich revisited an idea discussed at a previous committee meeting regarding a group purchasing option for residential water and sewer line insurance, similar to programs offered by the City of Akron. The concept would allow residents to opt into a discounted warranty program covering private service lines.

Ms. Michael compared the concept to a supplemental insurance program, explaining that residents—not the City—would pay for the coverage but could receive a lower rate through group participation.

Mr. Contant agreed the idea could be explored further.

Mr. Moskun concluded by reiterating his appreciation for the knowledge and dedication of the City's water distribution and treatment staff, emphasizing the difficult conditions they work under to maintain service for residents.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Paul Moskun, Chairperson
Utility Committee**