



Ravenna City Council
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 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, Matt Harper, Carmen Laudato

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer; Bob Finney; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Larry Silenius, Barbara Niemiller, Mark Hartburg, Trevor Martin, Amy Young, Eric Schlaubach, Barb Springer, William Barber, Justin Barber, Joseph Osborne, Iris Meltzer, Cheryl Wood, Todd Peetz, Ryann Cline, Kristy Huhn, Cynthia Miller, Lou Dudek, Alexander Zaventink, Susie Kohl, David Fosnight, Jen Kinney, Cliff Soudil, Tiffany Jones, Cathy Klein, Molly Halliday, Chester Halliday

Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:33 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis.

The first item was a discussion about Cannabis Tax Revenue.

Mr. Kairis introduced a discussion on how to allocate new tax revenue from adult-use cannabis sales, reporting that monthly revenues have been increasing, averaging around \$27,000, with \$29,000 received in January and approximately \$30,000–\$32,000 in February.

Ms. Lorence clarified that a previously referenced estimate included a one-time payment of \$441,000, and Mr. Kairis estimated ongoing annual revenue would likely fall between \$300,000 and \$400,000 per year.

Mr. Kairis emphasized the opportunity to strategically allocate the funds rather than placing them entirely in the General Fund. He suggested options such as reserving funds for future capital needs like a Parks and Recreation facility, supporting one-time projects identified by department heads, or dividing the revenue among multiple purposes.

Ms. West proposed allocating a portion of the funds to support organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Ravenna.

Mr. Kairis agreed that funding could be distributed across multiple priorities and suggested seeking public input.

Ms. Michael highlighted the importance of investing in projects like Sunbeau Valley Farm, which could generate economic activity, as well as maintaining a beautification fund for downtown improvements and supporting property maintenance efforts.

Ms. Laudato raised the possibility of using the funds to improve the City's bond rating, asking the Finance Director what steps would be required to reach a higher rating.

Ms. Lorence agreed to research the criteria and Ms. Laudato emphasized the importance of using the funds for visible, long-term improvements rather than ongoing operational costs.

Mr. Marovich suggested a hybrid approach, allocating a fixed portion of the revenue to designated priorities while directing any excess into a flexible "waterfall" fund for strategic projects.

Mr. Kairis concluded that no immediate decisions would be made and encouraged Council members and residents to submit ideas as the discussion continues in future meetings.

- The item was for discussion only.

The second item was the 2026 permanent budget.

Council reviewed the proposed 2026 permanent budget.

Ms. Lorence provided an overview, reporting projected revenues of approximately \$33.1 million, an increase driven in part by cannabis tax revenue and stable income tax collections. Projected expenditures total approximately \$36.3 million, largely due to personnel costs and planned capital projects, including the King Street and Cotton Corners projects, a \$300,000 capital reserve, and \$200,000 for street garage renovations. Ms. Lorence noted the reallocation of Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) funds required for audit compliance and encouraged Council members to review detailed budget documents and submit questions.

Mr. Finney added that recent grant applications had been submitted, including funding requests for a new safety building, a \$1.25 million wastewater treatment plant planning grant, and a \$100,000 planning grant for improvements at Sunbeau Valley Farm. He noted these funds would support future project development and positioning for additional grants.

- The item was moved forward.

Management

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Rob Kairis, Chairperson
Finance Committee**