



**Ravenna City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 2, 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. March 2, 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, 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; Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, Bill Bregant; Eve Francis, Greg Francis, Larry Selinius, Joseph Osborne, Dan Ellenberger, Kathrina Consing, Joni Holloway, Logan Alexander, Barb Niemiller, Cliff Soudil, Cynthia Miller, Fire and Police Department staff

Police Swearing Ceremony

Mr. Kairis welcomed attendees and noted it was uncommon to have a full room. He introduced ceremonial business, beginning with the swearing-in of a new full-time police officer.

Mayor Seman administered the oath to Logan Brine, emphasizing that this step was part of the City's plan to maintain staffing levels and stay current. Officer Brine pledged to uphold the U.S. and Ohio constitutions, follow city laws and ordinances, and faithfully discharge his duties as a full-time patrol officer for Ravenna.

After the oath, the Chief Smallfield completed the signing, and Officer Brine briefly addressed the assembly, expressing gratitude.

Council members welcomed him and noted the positive impact he would have on both the Police Department and the community.

Fire Department Proclamation

Mr. Kairis introduced a proclamation honoring the Ravenna Fire Department and invited Chief Chapple to speak about a recent emergency response.

Chief Chapple described an incident on February 12, 2026, when firefighters responded to a call at West Main Elementary School for a 34-year-old unresponsive female. The team arrived in under two minutes, performed advanced cardiac life support—including defibrillation, intubation, and medications—and successfully restored the patient's pulse and breathing before transport to the hospital. Chief Chapple shared a note of gratitude from the patient's family and acknowledged the crew's efforts.

Mayor Frank Seman then read the proclamation, formally recognizing Firefighters Tomeko, Bryant, Samaco, Harper, Morris, and Captain Duluth for their swift and diligent actions in saving the woman's life.

Dr. Kathrina Consing, EMS Medical Director and ER physician at Portage, highlighted the rarity of such successful pre-hospital cardiac arrest outcomes, noting the patient's full neurological recovery after a cardiac event and subsequent treatment.

Dan Ellenberger emphasized the importance of first responders and initial CPR, praising Chief Chapple's leadership and the department's teamwork.

Mr. Kairis concluded by expressing that celebrating and recognizing first responders is one of the most meaningful uses of Council time.

Delegations from the Public:

Cynthia Miller recognized her husband, Dr. Richard Miller, for celebrating 50 years of practice at 309 East Main Street.

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Logan Alexander raised concerns about the City Park restrooms on Oakwood Street, asking why they were closed and suggested that they be heated and accessible year-round.

Ms. Michael explained that the restrooms are winterized to prevent pipes from freezing, as they are unheated.

Mr. Marovich suggested Mr. Alexander attend the Parks and Recreation Board meeting the next day to discuss potential improvements, including heated facilities, which could be funded through the Capital Investment Fund.

Ms. Laudato added that seasonal closures of park restrooms are common across public facilities.

Mr. Alexander also inquired about obtaining a physical petition to abolish property taxes but was advised that City Council could not provide it, and he would need to pursue other sources.

Approval of the Agenda:

- Motion to approve the agenda by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
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Consent Agenda:

Communications: A letter from the Board of Elections notifying the City that they will be receiving gallery proofs for the Levy ballot.

Approval of the Minutes:

- Special City Council Meeting of January 12, 2026
- Special City Council Meeting of January 20, 2026
- Regular City Council Meeting of February 2, 2026
- Special City Council Meeting of February 9, 2026
- Special City Council Meeting of February 17, 2026

Report of Officials:

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-037 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, ACCORDING TO LAW, FOR THE 2026 PAVING PROGRAM, TO INCLUDE ASPHALT, CONCRETE STREETS, CRACK SEALING, AND SIDEWALKS, PURSUANT TO SPECIFICATIONS NOW ON FILE IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-038 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PORTAGE PARK DISTRICT AND THE RAVENNA SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FUEL FROM THE REFUELING STATION AT 701 OAKWOOD STREET, RAVENNA, OHIO, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2026 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2029, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-039 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SEND OUT REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR THE 2026 STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-040 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART TEN- STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE FOUR – UTILITIES; CHAPTER 1040 – WATER GENERALLY; SECTION 1040.02 – RATES AND CHARGES; DISPOSITION OF FUNDS; NO FREE SERVICE; BILLING AND PAYMENT, SUBSECTION (a) (2) C.O.L.A., UPDATING THE RATE ESTABLISHED FOR THE YEAR 2026, SUBSECTION (9) DECLINING BLOCK RATE, SPECIAL., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-041 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART TEN- STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE FOUR – UTILITIES; CHAPTER 1046 – SEWER CHARGES; SECTION 1046.08 BASIS FOR USER CHARGE COMPUTATIONS, REPEALING SECTION (c), (d) and (e) AND AMENDING SUBSECTION (f), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-042 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART TEN- STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE FOUR – UTILITIES; CHAPTER 1046 – SEWER CHARGES; SECTION 1046.09 – ANNUAL AUDIT AND ADJUSTMENT OF CHARGES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-043 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART TEN- STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE FOUR – UTILITIES; CHAPTER 1046 – SEWER CHARGES; SECTION 1046.10 – ADDITIONAL SURCHARGE FOR EXTRA-STRENGTH WASTES, SUBSECTION (a) and (b), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-044 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART TEN- STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, TITLE FOUR – UTILITIES; CHAPTER 1046 – SEWER CHARGES; SECTION 1046.11 – BILLING RATES; DISCOUNT; LATE PAYMENT PENALTY; SUBSECTION (a) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-045 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA-PART TEN- STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE; TITLE FOUR- UTILITIES; CHAPTER 1044 – SEWERS GENERALLY; SECTION 1044.05 – PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED DISCHARGES; PRETREATMENT, SUBSECTION (D) (2), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-047 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, ACCORDING TO LAW, FOR CHEMICALS REQUIRED FOR THE WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2027, PURSUANT TO SPECIFICATIONS NOW ON FILE IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-048 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN MOU WITH THE CITY OF KENT TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2002 KENT-RAVENNA EMERGENCY WATERLINE CONTRACTED AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-049 AN ORDINANCE PLACING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM, NOT TO EXCEED SIX MONTHS, ON THE ISSUANCE OF NEW ADULT USE CANNABIS DISPENSARIES, EXCLUDING EXISTING MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES, AND PROHIBITING ALL ADULT USE CANNABIS DISPENSARIES (EXISTING AND NEW) FROM ESTABLISHING IN THE CITY'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF RAVENNA, OH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-050 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A NEW KUBOTA TRACTOR AND APPROPRIATING \$37,494.91 FROM FUND 550 FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-053 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.

- 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, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Invited City Officials: Bill Bregant, Wastewater Superintendent

Mr. Bregant reported that the SCADA project is on schedule: all parts have been ordered and approved, with panel work beginning offsite this week. Panels will be installed at the plant starting with less critical areas in about a month. Mr. Bregant also reviewed the recent plant assessment and accompanying rate study, noting that ordinances to increase rates will fund plant improvements over the next 30 years. He explained that he and Mr. Finney plan to issue RFQs for design engineers in two phases: a planning phase to define project scope, followed by a design phase addressing specifics like tank sizes. Mr. Bregant mentioned the preliminary design for the Chestnut Street line, which is costly but will resolve long-standing issues in that area; timing is critical as the projects are interdependent. He explained that the new line will capture all sewage and prevent overflows, requiring plant upgrades to handle increased flow. Mr. Bregant recounted a recent major winter water line break at the plant that required a private contractor due to its difficult location and ongoing workload. He plans to provide a tracking sheet on the incident to city officials soon.

Mr. Kairis raised the possibility of submitting a wastewater-related project for upcoming federal community-based funding.

Mr. Bregant indicated he has ideas for funding, and discussion of proposals will occur under new business.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for Mr. Bregant and his crew for maintaining smooth wastewater operations.

Report of Committees: Committee meetings start at 6:00 PM 3/9/2026.

Utilities: Mr. Moskun stated that there will be two items next week.

Information Systems: Mr. Marovich stated that there will be a meeting.

Planning: Ms. Laudato reported that she was organizing upcoming meeting items. She noted that the City Manager would be placed on the Planning Committee agenda and proposed a discussion on the possibility of having an appointed versus elected Law Director, considering potential future charter amendments. Ms. Laudato also mentioned that Todd Peetz was expected to attend to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and confirmed that a representative from the League of Women Voters would be present.

Mr. Kairis noted the League of Women Voters should be scheduled first.

Ms. Laudato indicated the meeting would be lengthy and promised to provide updates if additional items arose.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Kairis stated that the next Committee of the Whole meeting is Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

Public Health & Safety: Ms. Michael stated that there are no items on the agenda and a meeting will most likely be held.

Streets & Sidewalks: Mr. Harper stated that there is one item for consideration and a meeting is to be determined.

Personnel: Mr. Calfee stated that there is one item on the agenda and there are no plans for a meeting next week.

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Community & Economic Development: Ms. West stated that there will be a meeting next week.

Cemetery: Mr. Moskun reported that trees were recently removed and trimmed due to safety concerns, ensuring they would not fall on visitors, vehicles or tombstones.

Parks & Recreation: Mr. Marovich provided an update on Recreation Department activities. The Marlene Watts Walk is approaching its final stretch with 63 participants and registration is still open. The Easter event is scheduled for April 4 from 10 am to noon, featuring a meet-and-greet with the Easter Bunny, games, prizes, a “Touch-a-Truck” activity, and age-specific Easter egg hunts. Mr. Marovich shared that a new drama class has 16 participants registered, dance classes continue on Monday evenings and Sunday mornings at the RAC, and spring program registrations are strong, particularly for soccer and Tiny Tykes programs.

First Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-046 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGGREGATION RENEWAL AGREEMENT WITH DYNEGY TO SUPPLY ELECTRICITY TO RAVENNA CITY RESIDENTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM MAY 2026 THRU MAY 2027, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Moskun raised concerns regarding the upcoming electric aggregation program set to begin in May, noting that recently distributed rate options should be addressed promptly rather than waiting until a later meeting.

Mr. Contant confirmed that the broker recommended a 25-month contract at approximately 9.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, slightly higher than the current rate but still competitive.

Mr. Calfee and Mr. Marovich supported the proposal, emphasizing the value of price stability and noting that rates remain favorable compared to other parts of the state.

Ms. Laudato expressed concern about contract terms, particularly whether providers could withdraw without penalty, referencing issues experienced with the gas aggregation program. The Law Director indicated that previous agreements allowed providers to exit under certain conditions and would need to review the current contract for clarity.

Council discussed amending the ordinance to reflect a 25-month term through May 2028 at a fixed rate of approximately 9.5 cents per kilowatt-hour before proceeding.

Mr. Moskun made a motion to amend the ordinance for a term starting from May 2026 through June 2028, aligning with a 25-month period.

- Motion to amend the ordinance title to read May 2026 thru May 2028 by Mr. Moskun, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Mr. Kairis acknowledged the need to correct the rate within the ordinance language to reflect the accurate electric rate to 9.50 cents per kilowatt hour.

- Motion to amend the ordinance to change the price in the first Whereas clause to 9.50 cents kWh by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Moskun, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Marovich, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-046 by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-046 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-051 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY ON THE CORNER OF RIDDLE AVENUE AND MERIDIAN STREET WITH FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kairis introduced an ordinance regarding the potential purchase of a parking lot.

Ms. West explained that the ordinance authorizes the Mayor to negotiate a purchase price for the parking lot near the IC Hall, with final approval to come later if negotiations are successful.

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During discussion, it was noted that the street intersection in the ordinance was incorrect. Council agreed to amend the language to reflect the correct location at the corner of Spruce Avenue and Meridian Street. A motion to update the address in both the title and Section One of the ordinance was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

- Motion to amend the ordinance to replace Riddle Ave. with Spruce Ave. by Ms. West, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-051 by Ms. West, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-051 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-052 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HEATHER RICHKOWSKI TO PERFORM HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES AND PROVIDING AN INCREASE TO THE CONSULTING CONTRACT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Calfee presented a contract renewal for Human Resource Director, Heather Richkowski, noting that the agreement automatically renews annually unless modified. This year includes a compensation increase from \$95,000 to \$100,000, representing a 5.48% raise. Mr. Calfee explained that compensation had previously been \$90,000 in 2021, 2022 and 2023, and increasing to \$95,000 in 2024 and 2025.

Mr. Marovich inquired about the history of compensation adjustments, while Ms. Laudato questioned the size of the increase and whether it was appropriate given differences in job responsibilities compared to other director roles.

Mr. Calfee responded that although the increase is notable, it remains lower than recent union-negotiated raises and increases for non-union supervisors, making it reasonable in his view. Additional discussion addressed the nature of the position as a contracted role rather than a full-time employee. He noted that this structure has been in place for several years, carries cost savings for the City by avoiding benefits such as insurance and retirement, and remains preferred by both the contractor and administration.

Ms. Laudato suggested that Council consider reviewing all director compensation collectively in the future for budget consistency and raised questions about the flexibility of the contract arrangement.

Mr. Kairis expressed support for the increase, citing the individual's performance and contributions, including work on union agreements and payroll changes.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-052 by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-052 was adopted.

Second Reading of Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-021 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MOTOR CONTROL CONTRACTORS WITHIN THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND APPROPRIATING \$200,000 FROM FUND 677, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Moskun explained that the motor control center (MCC) at the water treatment plant dates back to the early 1980's and has exceeded its expected lifespan, emphasizing the importance of replacing it to ensure long-term reliability.

Mr. Kairis noted ongoing concerns from a prior meeting regarding the lack of a clear contract, stating that Council still did not have sufficient documentation to proceed with a vote.

The Law Director confirmed that no formal contract had been provided and that the most recent materials consisted of a lengthy proposal still under review.

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Mr. Contant stressed the urgency of the project, citing safety concerns and the risk of system failure, while acknowledging that only a scope of work, not a full contract, had been received. Council members expressed discomfort with approving the project without complete documentation, including legal terms and protections.

Discussion revealed confusion about the status of proposals and communication between parties, with Mr. Cimino reiterating the need for proper documentation to accompany any ordinance.

Ms. Michael suggested coordinating further review among staff and legal counsel to resolve outstanding issues.

Mr. Kairis concluded that the matter would remain on hold until all necessary information was available, with the possibility of addressing it at a future or special meeting once documentation is complete.

Ordinance 2026-021 was left on for third reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-022 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH STANLEY MILLER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW SLUDGE PUMP IN THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Kairis explained that the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent had identified a way to complete the project under the \$25,000 threshold, eliminating the need for Council approval. Mr. Cimino noted that the revised cost now falls at or below the threshold, and confirmation was given that funds had already been allocated.

Moskun added that the pump being replaced is original to the facility and has never been replaced since the plant was built.

Ms. West then made a motion to remove the ordinance from consideration.

- Motion to remove Ordinance No. 2026-022 from consideration by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-022 was removed from consideration.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-023 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, SECTION 1434.04 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL, AND SECTION 1434.99 PENALTY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Laudato presented an ordinance aimed at improving the efficiency of the Design Review Commission (DRC) while balancing historic preservation with the needs of local businesses. She emphasized that the changes were not intended to diminish the City's appreciation for its history, but rather to streamline processes and help businesses resolve issues more quickly. Ms. Laudato also clarified that the residency requirement was modified—not eliminated—to align with other city boards by requiring members to either reside in Ravenna or own property there. Mr. Kairis noted that the ordinance had been under discussion for several years and included input from Design Review Commission members, residents, and business owners.

Ms. Michael thanked those who contributed feedback, acknowledging the lengthy process and describing the ordinance as a strong starting point that could be adjusted in the future if needed. Mr. Moskun suggested moving the ordinance forward without further delay.

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Marovich, 2nd by Ms. Laudato- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-023 by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-023 was adopted.

Third Reading of Ordinances:

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

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Ms. Laudato noted that some elements, such as Sunbeau Valley Farm, were missing and expressed a desire to ensure the plan fully reflects current conditions before adoption.

Mr. Kairis explained that, as a living document, the plan could be amended after approval but allowed Council the option to postpone the vote.

Mr. Marovich moved to postpone the ordinance to the next Regular Council meeting to allow Todd Peetz to address outstanding items. The ordinance will remain on the agenda for future consideration.

Ms. West made a motion to postpone the vote until the March regular meeting, which was seconded.

- Motion to postpone the vote for Ordinance No. 2025-127 until April 6, 2026 by Ms. West, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2025-127 was postponed until April 6, 2026.

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.

Mr. Harper explained that the restricted parking measures had been discussed previously and a Special Council meeting to hear public comment had taken place with no objections. There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-002 by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-002 was adopted.

Old Business- Mr. Calfee raised concerns about recent increases in gas bills for residents in his ward. He explained that the City had previously chosen a variable rate for the gas aggregation program instead of locking into a fixed rate, which initially provided lower costs through October. However, rates rose sharply in December and again the following month, leading some residents to switch providers. Mr. Calfee noted that many residents may be unaware that their rates can fluctuate significantly under the variable plan.

Mr. Kairis and Mr. Contant reviewed past fixed-rate options, noting that a previously quoted fixed rate would have been around \$4.74–\$4.94.

Mr. Calfee acknowledged that the variable rate gamble initially saved money but caused recent spikes.

Ms. Laudato and Mr. Calfee added context regarding unusually cold weather contributing to higher bills and the need for patience when switching providers due to billing cycles.

Mr. Marovich suggested monitoring current fixed-rate offers and emphasized that locking in at a high rate benefits the provider, not residents.

Mr. Kairis noted that the City had traditionally used fixed rates, but with the current data, Council could evaluate outcomes at the end of the term in May 2027 to decide future strategies.

Mr. Calfee volunteered to test switching to another provider for firsthand experience.

Discussion also touched on attempts to include other communities in the City's aggregation program, which were complicated by verification requirements.

New Business- Mr. Kairis opened discussion on new business by asking Mr. Finney to recommend potential projects for the City of Ravenna to submit for federal funding through the Fiscal Year 2027 Community Project Fund via Congressman David Joyce's office.

Mr. Finney explained that there are two grant opportunities with imminent deadlines: the federal Community Project Fund (FY27) and the Ohio 136th General Assembly Capital Budget program. He noted that the federal program primarily supports infrastructure and does not allow new building construction, while the state program permits new construction projects. Mr. Finney identified water and wastewater infrastructure—particularly planning and engineering for a wastewater treatment project—as a strong candidate for the federal grant, given the significant projected costs. He also mentioned that parks projects, including potential improvements at Osborne Park, could be considered, though direction from Council and the

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Park Board was unclear. For the state capital budget grant, Mr. Finney suggested submitting a proposal for new safety buildings.

Ms. Michael raised concerns about publicly discussing competitive grant applications before submission, but Mr. Kairis responded that the applications would soon become public record and emphasized the urgency due to the tight deadlines.

Mr. Kairis stressed the importance of applying, noting that while funding is not guaranteed, failure to apply guarantees no award.

Mr. Finney added that some application details for the federal grant remained unclear due to unanswered questions, while the state grant application process appeared more straightforward. Council members acknowledged that the City has grant-ready and fundable projects, and that including matching funds could strengthen applications.

Mr. Kairis requested Council authorization for Mr. Finney to proceed with submitting applications.

Ms. West made a motion to allow Mr. Finney to apply for both the FY27 federal grant and the 136th General Assembly capital budget grant, which was seconded and approved unanimously. Finney was formally authorized to move forward with the submissions.

- Motion to give an endorsement for Mr. Finney to apply for the FY27 federal grant and the 136th General Assembly capital budget grant by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

President of Council Remarks- Mr. Kairis stated that a Special Council meeting is planned for March 23rd, 2026, the same evening as the Committee of the Whole meeting. He explained that one purpose of the meeting will be to approve the permanent budget and noted that a Budget Commission meeting is scheduled for later that week. Mr. Kairis also discussed his ongoing efforts to improve the City's legislative process, particularly the tracking system. He explained that the current procedures are not fully aligned with existing ordinances and could benefit from greater efficiency. Mr. Kairis has developed potential solutions to streamline the process, including reducing reliance on paper and moving toward more electronic systems, though he has not yet consulted with technology staff on implementation. He plans to present these ideas at the March 23 meeting as an informational discussion, with no formal action required, focusing on improving internal processes before legislation reaches the voting stage. Mr. Kairis added that he intends to consult with Mr. Marovich and Mr. Bender, recognizing their technical expertise.

Council Member Remarks

Mr. Harper- No Comment

Ms. Michael- Ms. Michael reported that she recently met with the Parks Department to stay informed on the Sunbeau Valley Farm property project. She explained that she regularly visits departments to better understand ongoing initiatives and had an in-depth discussion with Chris Bundy and a new staff member. During the meeting, she reviewed blueprints, plans, and future ideas for the project, expressing optimism about its potential return on investment and encouraging other Council members to meet with staff as well. Mr. Michael also shared that an outside contact had inquired about renting the facility to host a 1990's country artist, which further highlighted community interest in the project. She commended the Property Maintenance and Police Departments for addressing ongoing issues with a problematic landlord. Ms. Michael noted that, after reviewing records compiled by Mr. Finney, the landlord had generated approximately 3,100 calls over six years, placing a significant burden on residents. She emphasized the need for stronger enforcement of the chronic nuisance ordinance and improved communication between departments, suggesting that earlier awareness could have resulted in substantial penalties. Ms. Michael expressed willingness to work with the Law Director and Mr. Finney to strengthen the ordinance and improve coordination. She then raised concerns about the effectiveness of a recent city survey, explaining that several residents contacted her after receiving text messages they believed to be scams and subsequently deleted. Ms. Michael questioned whether enough participation was achieved to make the survey meaningful and suggested that better communication and outreach strategies are needed. She mentioned discussing the possibility with Mr. Kairis of involving a Kent State intern to help improve council communications and public engagement. Finally, Ms. Michael recognized a local milestone and congratulated Dr. Miller on celebrating 50 years in business in downtown Ravenna. She praised his long-standing contributions to the city's tax base and community support, expressing appreciation for his continued commitment to Ravenna.

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Mr. Moskun- Mr. Moskun commented on a well-attended event held on February 14th in a hall beneath the Horseshoe Diner, noting that over 100 people were present and highly engaged throughout the program. He explained that the hall is available for rent, highlighted the presence of nearby businesses and accessible parking on Main Street, and shared that organizers are considering hosting additional events in the future. Mr. Moskun compared the strong turnout to past attractions, such as when the Carousel operated in the city, emphasizing the value of events that draw large crowds and serve as community assets. He encouraged officials to visit City departments in person to gain a deeper understanding of operations beyond formal reports. Mr. Moskun emphasized that first-hand experience, particularly in departments like police and fire, which operate continuously, provides valuable insight and learning that cannot be replaced by presentations alone.

Mr. Calfee- No Comment

Ms. West- No Comment

Ms. Laudato- Ms. Laudato reported that on February 19th she attended a Black History Month STEM event at Brown Middle School, held in collaboration with Reed Memorial Library and the Portage County Historical Society. She described the event as well attended and engaging, featuring student artwork and interactive stations for the community. Ms. Laudato commended the Brown Middle School student Council for their dedication in organizing, setting up, and taking down the event. She also reminded residents that the voter registration deadline for the upcoming primary is April 6th, noting that Ohio has strict voter registration requirements and encouraged those planning to vote to ensure that they are registered. Ms. Laudato shared that she recently experienced an unforeseen medical emergency requiring surgery at UH Portage, where she received exceptional care. She expressed gratitude to the staff, noting both her positive experience and her mother's admiration, given her 33-year nursing career at the Cleveland Clinic. Ms. Laudato thanked Council colleagues for their support during her absence, including assistance with planning responsibilities and responding to her urgent concerns. She added that she looks forward to rescheduling the WWE event that had been disrupted and noted her plans to attend Friday Night SmackDown in Pittsburgh on the 27th.

Mr. Marovich- No Comment

Mayor's Remarks- Mayor Seman reported that the Sunbeau Valley Farm planning is ongoing, with no specific actions yet, but property use is being evaluated. He shared long-term considerations, including revisiting the city manager position, potential city-township consolidation, and exploring a fire district, emphasizing future planning beyond the current comprehensive plan. Mayor Seman also noted that Neighborhood Development Services' warming center had been delayed due to construction issues. He explained that NDS opened an alternate location to assist people over the weekend, and local groups such as the Center of Hope contributed food and supplies. Mayor Seman praised community collaboration and Street Department efforts during recent snow events and he highlighted Ms. Gregor's efforts toward planning America's 250th Anniversary.

Ms. Gregor reported that donations for hot dogs, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, tables, chairs, and a tent from the Health District were secured for a picnic on the courthouse lawn scheduled for July 11th, 2026.

Mayor Seman encouraged the public to make plans to be there if you can because it will be quite an event. He then noted that the previous fireworks downtown were well received but costly.

The Law Director then requested to go into executive session to consider the compensation of public employees, to consider the purchase of property for public purposes since the premature disclosure of information regarding the purchase would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal private interest is adverse to the general public interest and to discuss pending and eminent court action.

- Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:56 pm by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Mr. Moskun - All Ayes

Council went into Executive Session to consider the compensation of public employees, to consider the purchase of property for public purposes since the premature disclosure of information regarding the purchase would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal private interest is adverse to the general public interest and to discuss pending and eminent court action.

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- Motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:35 pm by Ms. Wood, 2nd by Ms. Michael-
All Ayes

Adjourn to Monday, April 6, 2026

- Motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm by Ms. West, 2nd Mr. Tyler- **All Ayes**

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

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President