



**Ravenna City Council
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 13, 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: Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer; Bob Finney; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Cynthia Miller, William Barber, Eve Francis, Dirk Remley, Cliff Soudil, Cheryl Wood, Amy Young, Ramy Mansour, Barb Niemiller, Joni Halloway, Ryann Cline, Susie Kohl, Larry Selinius, Mark Pantalone, Valerie Pantalone, Peter Martin, Greg Francis

Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:09 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis.

The first item was a discussion about Cannabis Tax Revenue.

The committee discussed the future use of municipal cannabis tax revenue.

Mr. Kairis noted that the City is receiving approximately \$32,000 per month in revenue and asked Council members to consider potential uses for the funds. He suggested dedicating a portion of the revenue to economic development initiatives, including support for Main Street Ravenna and the Ravenna Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Laudato recommended allocating funds based on a percentage of revenue rather than a fixed dollar amount due to fluctuations in monthly collections.

Mr. Calfee advised allowing the revenue to accumulate while Council develops a long-term spending strategy rather than making immediate commitments.

Mr. Kairis referenced guidance from the Ohio Auditor of State indicating that cannabis tax revenue has no statutory spending restrictions. He expressed interest in creating a separate fund or line item to improve transparency and track future expenditures.

Mr. Lorence explained that the revenue is currently accounted for as a separate line item within the General Fund. She noted that designating funds for a specific purpose within the General Fund could be accomplished by resolution, while establishing a separate fund may require an ordinance and approval from the Auditor of State.

Councilmembers discussed several potential uses for the revenue, including economic development initiatives, street and sidewalk improvements, water infrastructure projects, capital improvements, accessibility enhancements, Sunbeau Valley Park improvements, and public safety facilities.

Ms. Laudato emphasized the importance of identifying clear uses for the funds to demonstrate value to residents, particularly in light of concerns surrounding the cannabis dispensary and the upcoming public safety levy.

Mr. Moskun suggested dedicating a portion of the revenue to water infrastructure projects to help offset rising construction costs and accelerate project timelines.

Ms. Michael proposed considering future investments in Sunbeau Valley Park, while Ms. West suggested allocating funds toward the proposed public safety facility.

Resident Cynthia Miller recommended dedicating the revenue to public safety initiatives, including fire department capital needs.

Resident Cliff Soudil supported allowing the funds to accumulate until Council identifies long-term priorities and suggested exploring future investments in parking enforcement and administrative staffing.

Mr. Kairis proposed developing a spreadsheet outlining projected annual revenue and potential expenditures for future discussion.

Mr. Marovich requested additional information regarding the City's outstanding debt obligations to evaluate whether using the revenue to reduce debt could provide long-term financial benefits.

- The item was for discussion only.

Management

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Rob Kairis, Chairperson
Finance Committee**