



**Ravenna City Council
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2026**

The public meeting was held in person in City Council Chambers.

Council present: Council President Rob Kairis, Amy Michael, Paul Moskun, Tyler Marovich, Tim Calfee, Christina West, 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, Cynthia Miller, David Fosnight, Pam Schlegel-Fosnight, Cliff Soudil

Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chair, Carmen Laudato

The first item was a appropriation of \$6,500 for the July 11th Sunbeau concert.

Ms. Laudato opened discussion on a proposed \$6,500 appropriation for the July 11 Sunbeau concert, covering expenses such as portable restrooms, sound and lighting equipment, and band fees.

Ms. Michael explained that organizers expect to recoup the investment through sponsorships and ticket sales, potentially generating several times the city's contribution, adding that tickets are priced at \$15 per person, regardless of age. Ms. Laudato added that the featured performer appeared on *The Voice* and that organizers have secured sponsorships while continuing to seek additional support.

Mr. Kairis raised concerns about the timing of Council action, noting the item had not met the required timeline for Committee of the Whole consideration. He suggested using an endorsement process signed by at least three council members to allow a June Council vote.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was an additional appropriation of \$3,073.28 for a Kubota tractor.

The committee discussed an additional \$3,073.28 appropriation for the purchase of a Kubota tractor.

Mr. Marovich explained that the increase resulted from a lower-than-expected trade-in value and a slight increase in the tractor's cost since the original quote.

Ms. Michael supported the request, noting the equipment would receive extensive use. She then asked whether the Sunbeau property receives treatment for ticks, citing reports of increasing tick populations and health concerns in Ohio.

Mr. Marovich said the committee could follow up with the Parks and Recreation Director for additional information.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was a property request fronting Woodbend Drive.

The committee revisited David Fosnight's request to purchase a small city-owned parcel adjacent to his property on Wood Bend Drive.

Ms. Laudato explained that Ohio law requires a formal process before the City can dispose of public property, including a determination that the City has no future use for the land and a public auction process. After visiting the site, she stated she personally had no objection to a property owner improving his property but emphasized that all legal requirements must be followed.

Mr. Fosnight clarified that the parcel is approximately 50 feet wide by 120 feet deep, is not part of Highland Avenue as previously believed, and is not located within designated wetlands. He presented maps and supporting documentation showing the nearest wetlands are roughly 800 feet away.

Mr. Kairis outlined several potential public uses for the property, including existing utility infrastructure, drainage concerns, and the possibility of extending Highland Avenue in the future. He stated that these considerations could justify retaining City ownership.

Ms. Laudato maintained that the process should begin with a determination from the Law Director before Council discusses the property's future use.

Ms. Michael expressed concern that Fosnight had been given mixed messages throughout the process.

Mr. Fosnight stated that his primary motivation was protecting the character of the neighborhood and preventing a future road connection that could increase traffic. He also argued that development of the parcel could generate additional property tax revenue.

Ms. Laudato thanked Mr. Fosnight for his patience and emphasized the importance of ensuring residents feel heard and receive a thorough review of their requests.

- The item was for discussion only.

The fourth item was the purchase of the parking lot at Spruce and Meridian St.

The committee briefly discussed the proposed purchase of a parking lot at Spruce and Meridian Streets.

Ms. Laudato reported that the City's offer had been accepted. However, because the committee did not yet have the necessary tracking sheet documentation, no formal action could be taken.

Mr. Kairis indicated the item could still advance through an endorsement process and be considered by the Committee of the Whole.

- The item was moved forward.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:51 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Carmen Laudato, Chairperson
Planning Committee**