



**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
June 22, 2026**

The public meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council President, Rob Kairis.

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

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman, Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Service Director, Tim Contant, Finance Director, Tami Lorence, City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Larry Silenius, Cynthia Miller, Cliff Soudil

The first item on the agenda was to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from May 18, 2026.

- Motion to approve the May 18, 2026, Committee of the Whole minutes by Mr. Marovich, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

The second item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for Public Health & Safety the Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

Ms. Michael presented an ordinance authorizing the Fire Department to apply for a grant for the purchase of fire department equipment totaling approximately \$58,000, noting it had been forwarded by the Public Health and Safety Committee. There were no further comments.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The third item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Axon Enterprise Inc for Tasers.

Ms. Michael explained that the item is to authorize a five-year lease agreement with Axon Enterprise Inc. for 15 new-generation tasers totaling approximately \$114,000.

Chief Smallfield explained that the new tasers include enhanced accountability features, automatic deployment records, unlimited training and replacement cartridges, VR training equipment, and cloud-based evidence storage.

Mr. Calfee asked how the new system differed from the current tasers, and Chief Smallfield explained that while past taser use was documented in reports, the new devices automatically record deployment data.

Mr. Marovich asked how data was transmitted, and Chief Smallfield said the information uploads to the cloud when the devices are docked.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

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The fourth item was an ordinance authorizing the purchase of a vehicle for the Police Department.

Ms. Michael introduced an item authorizing the purchase of a \$47,175 unmarked Kia minivan for the Detective Bureau.

Chief Smallfield explained the purchase was time-sensitive because the dealership could not hold the vehicle through the normal legislative process. He noted the minivan provides additional cargo space and a practical setting for interviews with witnesses or suspects. The cost of outfitting the vehicle will be covered under an existing budget allocation.

Mr. Calfee asked about adding a Kia to the city's fleet, and Chief Smallfield explained that unmarked detective vehicles are purchased based on operational needs rather than manufacturer consistency.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The fifth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contracts for the 2026-2027 salt consortium.

Mr. Harper presented an ordinance authorizing the 2026-2027 salt consortium with multiple other entities. He explained the pricing includes a 10% surcharge to offset wear and tear on city property and equipment.

Mr. Calfee asked whether the surcharge was new, and Mr. Harper confirmed it has been the city's practice.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The sixth item was an ordinance authorizing the purchase of a Clearwell aerator motor at the Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Moskun presented an ordinance appropriating \$69,771.25 for the replacement of the Clear Well Aerator Motor at the Water Treatment Plant. He explained the original motor had been rebuilt several times, was required by the EPA, and should be replaced before failure. Because the ordinance required immediate action, it was scheduled for consideration at the Special Council meeting following the Committee of the Whole.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The seventh item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for the King St. waterline project.

Mr. Moskun introduced an ordinance authorizing a contract for the King Street Waterline Project, which includes new waterlines, service connections, sanitary improvements, curb boxes, fire hydrants, and sidewalk restoration where necessary.

Mr. Finney noted that failing sanitary infrastructure has contributed to roadway deterioration and that the project is partially funded through an OPWC grant and loan.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

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The eighth item was an ordinance accepting the annual Codified Ordinance updates.

Ms. Laudato presented the annual codified ordinance updates, describing the legislation as a routine housekeeping measure to incorporate previously adopted ordinances into the city's codified code.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The ninth item was a resolution of necessity to place an income tax levy on the ballot.

Ms. Laudato presented a resolution to place the 0.25% income tax levy for the proposed Safety Forces and City Hall project back on the November ballot using the same language approved for the May election. She emphasized the need for a community-wide effort to educate voters during the higher-turnout gubernatorial election.

Mr. Finney reported that an architectural firm reviewed the preliminary estimates and believed the overall budget remained achievable, although some adjustments to the project scope may be necessary. He noted construction costs have stabilized compared to previous years. At Mr. Kairis' request, the resolution was not placed on the consent agenda to allow for full discussion at the Regular Council meeting.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The tenth item was an ordinance accepting a donation of various donations for America's 250th Anniversary.

Ms. Laudato presented an ordinance accepting cash and in-kind donations for Ravenna's America 250 celebration, including financial contributions from Walmart and Celebrate Portage, food donations from Woody Goodnight, Giant Eagle, Sunshine Cupcakes, and popcorn from Ravenna 7 Movie Theater.

Mr. Kairis announced that Portage Community Bank also donated a hot dog roller and volunteer support. Both commended the Clerk of Council for coordinating the donations and organizing the celebration.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The eleventh item was an ordinance authorizing the 2027 permanent budget.

Ms. Lorence presented the 2027 Tax Budget, clarifying it was the annual tax budget rather than the permanent budget. She reported projected revenues of \$32.45 million and estimated expenditures of \$35.09 million, explaining the difference reflects multi-year capital projects. Ms. Lorence said the General Fund is trending downward and will continue to be monitored closely, while other funds, including water, sewer, and street funds, remain financially healthy.

Ms. Laudato asked about increases in health insurance costs, and Ms. Lorence explained they reflect rising claims and healthcare expenses while the insurance fund remains balanced.

Ms. Kairis suggested considering adopting the permanent budget earlier in future years.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

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The twelfth item was an ordinance authorizing the execution of Then and Now Certificates.

Ms. Lorence presented a Then and Now Certificate for an Eventide voice recording maintenance contract after a purchase order was not issued before the invoice.

During discussion, Ms. Laudato raised concerns about City Hall phone calls being recorded.

Chief Smallfield explained that the Eventide recording system is used primarily by the Police Department and records designated phone lines and radio traffic, while the City's Webex phone system operates separately.

Mr. Kairis noted he had been unaware City Hall callers were hearing recording notifications but viewed it as an administrative matter.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.
- Motion to adjourn at 6:32 pm by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Council President