



**Ravenna City Council
Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2026**

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

Council present: Council President Rob Kairis, Amy Michael, Paul Moskun, Tyler Marovich, 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; Larry Silenius, Barbara Niemiller, Cliff Soudil, Cynthia Miller, Mike Bogo

Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. by member, Tim Calfee

The first item was the consideration of a ballot initiative for November.

Ms. Laudato convened the Planning Committee with Mr. Moskun serving in place of Ms. West. The committee discussed placing the Safety Center income tax levy back on the November ballot following its defeat in May.

Mr. Kairis reported that the administrative committee recommended resubmitting the same proposal and noted there is no requirement for three readings or a public hearing for an income tax issue.

Ms. Lorence confirmed that guidance from legal counsel supported that interpretation.

Ms. Michael shared feedback from a resident who opposed the May levy, citing concerns about Ravenna's income tax rate, the city's ability to attract businesses, and the need for stronger promotion of the community and downtown. She suggested further discussion on messaging and potential alternatives.

Ms. Laudato acknowledged the need for new public safety facilities but emphasized the financial burden on residents and suggested demonstrating the City's commitment by dedicating available funding, including cannabis revenue or other capital funds, toward the project. She also encouraged exploring phased construction if necessary.

Mr. Kairis, Mr. Marovich, and Ms. Lorence noted that cannabis revenue and other non-guaranteed funding sources could not reliably reduce the levy amount or support bond financing but could potentially be used to pay down principal in the future.

Mr. Finney stated the previous campaign could have done a better job educating voters and stressed that a unified effort from Council, city administration, police, and fire personnel would be necessary if the levy returned to the ballot.

Chief Chapple described the Fire Department's outdated and overcrowded facility, inadequate storage, and operational challenges, emphasizing the urgent need for a new station while encouraging full community and Council support.

Committee members generally agreed to move the levy proposal forward for the November ballot while continuing discussions on funding strategies, public education, and campaign organization.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was the annual codified ordinance updates.

Ms. Laudato explained the annual codified ordinance update as a routine housekeeping measure that officially codifies the yearly ordinances.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was Data Centers.

The committee discussed the City's ongoing data center moratorium.

Ms. Laudato presented a list of zoning and regulatory issues for future consideration, including definitions, utility demands, environmental impacts, emergency response requirements, land use, and economic development impacts. She recommended referring the matter to the Planning Commission for additional review and emphasized that the discussion was required to support the City's moratorium, not to encourage development.

Ms. Michael supported taking a proactive approach to protect residents and the environment.

Mr. Kairis suggested inviting representatives from Team NEO or other organizations to present potential benefits of data centers so the City could develop a legally defensible regulatory framework.

Ms. Laudato, Ms. Michael, and Mr. Moskun expressed concerns that hosting such a presentation could be viewed as support for data centers and noted significant public opposition.

Mr. Marovich stated that while traditional data centers can provide legitimate services, large AI-focused facilities raise different concerns regarding energy use and land utilization.

During public comment, Larry Silenius questioned the need for additional data centers in Ohio, while Cynthia Miller encouraged Council to consider both supportive and opposing viewpoints before making policy decisions.

The committee agreed to continue the discussion at a future meeting and consider referring the issue to the Planning Commission for further review.

- The item was for discussion only.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Carmen Laudato, Chairperson
Planning Committee**