



Ravenna City Council
Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2026

The public meeting was held in person in 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: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Service Director, Tim Contant; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Interim Council Clerk, Cindy Kaderle; Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, Barbara Niemiller, Cynthia Miller, Peter Martin, Mike Boggo, Carlee Krause, Trisha Krause

The Streets & Sidewalks Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:31 P.M. by Matt Harper.

The first item was the purchase of a New Sewer Jet/Vactor.

Mr. Harper explained that the item was to purchase of a new sewer jet vactor truck. He explained that the City's current truck has been in service for 10 years, following a similar 10-year replacement cycle for the previous vehicle. Mr. Harper stated that the equipment is essential for addressing sewer issues and maintaining city infrastructure. The new truck has an estimated 10-month build time, requiring council approval to begin construction.

The purchase price of the vehicle is \$616,970, with a discounted sale price of \$605,330. The City expects approximately \$90,000 in trade-in value for the existing truck, leaving an estimated \$515,330 to finance or lease over five years.

Ms. Lorence reported that she is reviewing financing options and seeking favorable rates and terms.

Committee members discussed the importance of replacing the equipment before it becomes unreliable.

Mr. Calfee noted that the trade-in value of the existing truck was beneficial and asked whether funds had been set aside for the purchase.

Ms. Lorence confirmed that no dedicated funds had been reserved but stated she was reviewing financing options, including a potential 4.65% rate.

Mr. Moskun emphasized that sewer jet trucks are critical equipment and that not having one available could result in significantly higher costs from outside contractors and delays in addressing emergencies.

The committee agreed to move the purchase forward and discussed adding the item to an upcoming special meeting to secure the current pricing. The committee also discussed keeping the emergency clause in the legislation due to the timing of the purchase and the possibility of price increases.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was the East Main Traffic Survey.

Mr. Harper explained that residents had expressed concerns regarding speeding and requested reducing the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph. Because East Main Street is a state route, a traffic study is required to determine whether a speed reduction is warranted. The Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) agreed to conduct the study at no cost to the city, with Mr. Finney reviewing the results and determining whether further action is appropriate. Mr. Kairis clarified that the study would collect traffic data but would not necessarily replace an Ohio Department of Transportation-required study. He explained that the request originated from a formal letter submitted by resident Lou Dudek and that the City must follow proper procedures before making any changes. Mr. Kairis noted that other communities have adjusted speed limits under certain circumstances but questioned whether the area would qualify for similar treatment. Committee members discussed the importance of considering additional data, including traffic enforcement information, accidents, and overall traffic patterns, before making any decision. Ms. Michael expressed concern about establishing a process based solely on one resident's request and whether similar requests would need to be addressed throughout the City. Mr. Harper reiterated that the study would provide objective information and that no action was being taken at this time.

Residents and committee members discussed differing opinions regarding the potential speed reduction. Some expressed concerns that lowering the speed limit could create traffic congestion, while others supported reviewing the issue through the study process. The committee agreed to allow the study to proceed before considering any changes.

- The item was for discussion only.

Management Update

Mayor Seman discussed continued efforts to address downtown and community concerns involving individuals without housing or adequate resources. He reported that the City recently met with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and other partners and planned additional meetings to coordinate solutions. He also discussed the development of a location near Infirmary Road, established through NDS, to assist individuals who may otherwise be released from custody without transportation or resources. Mayor Seman stated that the City and partner organizations are working to improve coordination and support services.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Matt Harper, Chairperson
Streets & Sidewalks Committee**