



**Ravenna City Council
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026**

The public meeting was held in Ravenna City Council Chambers.

Council present: Council President Rob Kairis, Amy Michael, 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; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, Barbara Niemiller, Cynthia Miller, Cheryl Wood, Rich Edmiston, L.A.K. Dank, B. Walebraufe

Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:46 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis.

The first item was to accept the Annual Amounts and Rates.

Ms. Lorence explained that the item was a routine housekeeping requirement following the City's submission of its annual tax budget. The information is provided to the City each year and identifies the amount of property tax revenue the City will receive from the County.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was the Then and Now Certificates.

Mr. Kairis then asked about Then-and-Now certificates.

Ms. Lorence said she was waiting to gather additional information and planned to provide the data at the next Committee of the Whole meeting, which would give her approximately two more weeks to collect the necessary information.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was the Annual Renewal of Love Insurance.

The committee next discussed the City's annual Love Insurance renewal, which covers the City's property and casualty insurance.

Ms. Lorence said she was working to obtain the renewal quote before the next Committee of the Whole meeting. She explained that the annual renewal involves a comprehensive review of the City's vehicles, equipment, assets, and leases before the insurance is shopped to agencies for competitive pricing. Ms. Lorence noted that the City has experienced moderate increases in recent years and hoped the renewal would remain favorable compared with the previous year's cost.

Mr. Calfee confirmed that Love Insurance has handled the City's insurance shopping process for several years and asked whether the renewal information would be available before the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Lorence said she expected to have it available.

Mr. Calfee also asked about the expiration date, and Ms. Lorence confirmed that the current policy expires on September 14, when the new policy is expected to take effect.

- The item was moved forward.

The fourth item was Safety Building/City Hall Building Estimates.

The committee then discussed proposals from Horn and King regarding updated estimates for the proposed safety building and City Hall project.

Mr. Finney explained that the existing design was completed two years ago and questioned whether the current estimated budget would remain adequate in 2027 or 2028. The company offered a \$7,000 proposal for a suggested total budget and a \$14,000 proposal for a more extensive review of needs, design refinements, and budgeting.

Mr. Kairis questioned whether the City should spend \$14,000 on the study before voters decide on the proposed income tax increase in November.

Ms. Michael agreed that spending the money now could be wasteful if the ballot issue fails.

Mr. Finney said his goal was ultimately to have the company serve as the primary designer for a design-build project that would produce a facility within the approved budget.

Ms. Laudato noted that the County may have an interest in using the existing City Hall for court expansion, which could provide some future financial benefit.

Mr. Finney estimated that potential revenue would likely not exceed \$1 million and would be several years away.

Ms. Michael added that grants or other funding opportunities could emerge in the future, further supporting the decision not to spend the \$14,000 at this time.

Ms. Laudato also emphasized that the City had pursued grant funding for the safety facilities through David Joyce and Heidi Workman, but those efforts were unsuccessful. She said residents should know that the City had attempted to secure outside funding.

Ms. Michael agreed, noting her disappointment that Ravenna had received no such funding despite the condition of its police and fire facilities.

Mr. Kairis concluded that the November election results would determine the City's next steps.

The committee decided not to move forward with the Horn and King proposal at this time.

- The item was for discussion only.

Management

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Rob Kairis, Chairperson
Finance Committee**