



**Ravenna City Council
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2026**

The public meeting was held in Ravenna 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; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer; Bob Finney; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor; Captain Dustin Svab; Administrative Assistant, Ron Fields; Larry Silenius, Barbara Niemiller, Cynthia Miller, Larry Selinius, Rod Flauhaus, William Barber, Trisha Schun, Steven Farhat, Heidi Timmers, Cathy Klein

Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:12 P.M. by Chairperson, Rob Kairis.

The first item was a Donation Request from the Portage County Historical

Mr. Kairis explained that the first item was a donation request from the Portage County Historical Society for the Benjamin Tappan historical sign. The Committee discussed the available \$200 Founders Sponsor and \$100 Heritage Sponsor options.

Mr. Calfee and Ms. Laudato supported the \$200 sponsorship, and the Committee agreed to move the request forward.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was to create a line item for cannabis revenue for the safety center project

Mr. Kairis then revisited a previous discussion regarding the creation of a separate line item for cannabis tax revenue and whether 100% of the revenue should be dedicated to the Safety Center project. He stated that he remained opposed to designating all of the revenue for the project at this time, noting that the City already has a funding plan through the approved levy and should first evaluate its results before making additional financial commitments. Mr. Kairis also noted that cannabis revenue may not be a reliable long-term revenue source because the business could relocate or the State could change how the revenue is distributed.

Ms. West expressed support for demonstrating a financial commitment to the Safety Center.

Mr. Kairis noted that the City had already committed approximately \$600,000 toward the project through existing financial planning.

Ms. Carmen Laudato stated that she believed the Safety Center was one of the most important projects the City would undertake in a century and suggested that cannabis revenue could be one component of its financing. She requested that the issue be placed back on the Finance Committee agenda in November, particularly if the levy results indicated a need for an additional financing component.

The Committee discussed estimated cannabis revenue of approximately \$360,000 annually, with the potential for a similar or slightly higher amount in future years.

Mr. Kairis noted that even dedicating \$600,000 annually would not be sufficient to finance a project currently estimated at approximately \$25 million and stated that using the revenue as a significant component of the financing plan would require developing a new plan after the election.

Mr. Calfee stated that he believed the previous approach of placing the cannabis revenue into an account and allowing it to accumulate without a specific designation was appropriate at this time. He noted that the revenue stream was not guaranteed and cautioned against making it an integral part of the Safety Center financing plan if the revenue could later disappear.

The Committee agreed to defer further consideration of the cannabis revenue designation until at least November.

- The item was for discussion only.

The third item was Annual Adjustments to Estimated Revenue & Appropriations.

The Committee then discussed the annual adjustment of estimated revenues and appropriations.

Ms. Lorence explained that the information was still being prepared and was part of the City's annual review to ensure the budget remained in compliance and that fund balances were appropriately monitored. She expected to have the information available the following week. The Committee agreed to move the item forward and review the additional information when available.

- The item was moved forward.

The fourth item was the Then and Now Certificates.

Ms. Lorence stated that additional certificates would be available the following week. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the certificates until the Committee of the Whole meeting, as they are typically received later in the month.

- The item was moved forward.

Mr. Kairis also discussed a proposed workshop with the Bricker, Graydon and Wyatt Law Firm and suggested Tuesday, October 20, with a tentative 6:00 p.m. start time. No conflicts were identified, and the date was established as the target date.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Rob Kairis, Chairperson
Finance Committee