



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

The public meeting was held in person in 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

Planning Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:46 P.M. by member, Tim Calfee

The first item was to amend ordinance 2010-075 under code section 1458.09 section (d).

Ms. Laudato and introduced a proposed amendment to Ordinance 2010-075, Section 1458.09(D), concerning political signs. She explained that the current ordinance restricts political signs to being displayed no earlier than 30 days before an election and requires their removal within three days after the election. Ms. Laudato expressed concern that specifying political signs could constitute a content-based restriction on speech and referenced decisions by the Ohio Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court addressing First Amendment protections. She recommended reviewing the ordinance to ensure it complies with constitutional requirements while retaining reasonable regulations regarding sign size, location, and placement.

Mr. Finney, Mr. Kairis, and others discussed the history and purpose of the ordinance, including concerns about excessive signage and clutter throughout the City during previous election periods.

Mr. Kairis agreed that the language concerning political signs could be problematic but recommended obtaining legal guidance before making changes.

Ms. Michael noted that the ordinance was originally adopted after significant problems with excessive signs throughout the City and stated that residents continue to appreciate reasonable restrictions on the timing and placement of signs.

Ms. Laudato maintained that the political-sign language should be reviewed in light of First Amendment protections and stated that she would seek guidance from the ACLU. She also questioned whether the three-day removal period provided sufficient time for candidates to collect their signs following an election.

Mr. Calfee stated that, based on the information currently provided, he was not comfortable recommending an amendment because the proposed changes and their full scope were unclear. He stated that he was comfortable with the existing 30-day-before and three-day-after restrictions, as well as regulations concerning sign size, location, and placement.

The Committee agreed that additional legal guidance was needed.

Ms. Laudato agreed to keep the matter on the agenda for the following month and seek guidance from the Law Director and the ACLU.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was to accept two donation checks in the sum of \$1,000.

The Committee then considered acceptance of two \$500 donations, totaling \$1,000, to support the installation of concrete tee pads at the City's disc golf course. The donations were from Mr. Timothy Hack and Miller Garage.

Ms. Michael highlighted Mr. Hack's additional contributions to the City's youth and recreation programs, including donated discs and BMX bicycles. She noted that Mr. Hack, a former Ravenna resident and graduate, continues to support the community despite living in Washington State.

Mr. Calfee and other Committee members expressed appreciation for his continued connection to Ravenna and support for local youth.

- The item was moved forward.

Management Update

During the management update, Mr. Finney presented a proposal from Horne and King to continue evaluating options for future police, fire, and City Hall facilities. He explained that the grocery store property previously being considered was no longer a viable option because the property representatives were not communicating with the City. Horne and King could instead evaluate options involving the existing fire station apparatus bay, construction of a new police facility, potential relocation of City Hall, a standalone fire station at the former high school site, and expansion over the alley. Mr. Finney recommended spending approximately \$20,000 to \$22,000 for additional feasibility, schematic, and cost analysis. He stated that the work would provide more accurate information for budgeting and help demonstrate to voters that the City had thoroughly evaluated its options.

Ms. Laudato supported the proposal, stating that the cost was reasonable and that the additional analysis would demonstrate due diligence and potentially prevent significantly higher costs later. She recommended also obtaining an appraisal of the existing City facilities to establish their potential value if sold.

Mr. Finney estimated the appraisal at approximately \$3,000, subject to receiving a final quote.

Ms. Michael supported the additional analysis and noted that the information would help the City determine whether the proposed project would need to be scaled back if actual construction costs exceeded the estimates used for the levy.

Mr. Marovich noted that once the analysis was completed, updated construction costs could be incorporated into future financial planning without necessarily requiring another full study if the overall project remained unchanged.

Mr. Moskun also expressed support for Mr. Finney's recommendations.

Ms. Lorence stated that the approximately \$22,000 could be paid from the capital fund designated for planning capital projects. The Committee agreed to move the proposal forward.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Carmen Laudato, Chairperson
Planning Committee**