RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2026

The public meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council President, Rob Kairis.

Council present: Council President Rob Kairis, Amy Michael, Christina West, Paul Moskun, Matt Harper, Tim Calfee, Carmen Laudato

Also in attendance: Police Chief, Jake Smallfield; Service Director, Tim Contant; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Larry Silenius, Barb Neimiller, Rich Edmiston, Cheryl Wood, Heidi Timmons, Brian Breiding, Steven Farhat, Jennifer Mapes

The first item on the agenda was to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes from September 21, 2026.

- Motion to approve the September 21, 2026, Committee of the Whole minutes by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**

The second item was an ordinance authorizing the donation of Opioid Funds to the Police Dept. in the sum of $300.
Ms. Michael explained that the $300 allocation of opioid funds to the Police Department should be identified as an allocation rather than a donation, since the funds are being transferred within the City's accounts.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The third item was an ordinance authorizing the donation of Opioid Funds to Axcess Point.
Ms. Michael clarified that the organization is now officially named Access Family Services and that the initial allocation would be $3,000. She was awaiting additional information from the executive director and would forward it to the Council Clerk for the Council meeting.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The fourth item was an ordinance authorizing the purchase of a new Vehicle for the Service Director/City Hall.
Mr. Harper explained that the proposed $37,589 vehicle would replace the City's existing vehicle, which would be reassigned to the Engineering Department.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The fifth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to participate in the City's share of ODOT paving.
Mr. Harper reported that the City's share of the ODOT paving project would total $200,000, including $55,000 for repairs and $145,000 toward resurfacing, representing 20% of the resurfacing costs for State Route 14 within Ravenna.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The sixth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Fiorrito Construction.
Mr. Moskun explained that the contract would address stormwater infrastructure improvements.
Mr. Finney identified the project locations as North Scranton Avenue, north of Main Street, a portion of Jones Avenue, and the ditch along North Freedom Street, north of the bike trail.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The seventh item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with MS Consultants.
Mr. Finney explained that the contract would provide modeling of the City's sanitary sewer system to assist with grant applications and evaluate future system improvements, including potential flooding concerns. The modeling would allow the City to assess proposed improvements and determine where they would be most beneficial.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The eighth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for OPWC funding for the North & Cedar Ave. project.
Mr. Moskun explained that the ordinance would authorize the Mayor to apply for Ohio Public Works Commission funding for waterline improvements on North and Cedar Avenues.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The ninth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Burgess & Niple consultants & appropriating $550,000.
Mr. Moskun explained that Burgess & Niple would provide consulting services for the wastewater treatment plant, helping identify necessary improvements, establish priorities, and determine the appropriate order for completing projects over the coming years.
Mr. Calfee asked whether the final contract had been negotiated and accepted.
Mr. Kairis confirmed that the finalized contract had been included in a previous committee packet.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The tenth item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for an ODNR grant for Emerald Lake Land Preservation.
Ms. Laudato explained that the ordinance would authorize the Mayor to apply for an Ohio Department of Natural Resources grant for Emerald Lake. She noted that the proposed low-impact parking improvements would provide greater accessibility and make the property more attractive for grant consideration.
Mr. Kairis explained that the previous grant had restrictions on the property's use, while the new grant would provide greater flexibility for parking and other improvements.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The eleventh item was an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a dual agent agreement for Emerald Lake Preservation.
Ms. Laudato explained that the agreement would disclose that the buyer and seller were represented by the same entity.
Mr. Kairis noted that the arrangement was similar to the agreement used for the original grant. Both Emerald Lake ordinances would be considered at the special meeting immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting due to the October 30th grant deadline.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The twelfth item was an ordinance redistricting two Wards within the City of Ravenna.
Ms. Laudato explained that the City would need to redistrict all four Wards and that five proposed maps were available for consideration. She emphasized the importance of selecting a map in time for the January election petition process so candidates would know which ward they reside in before pulling petitions.
Mr. Kairis suggested placing the ordinance on the November agenda, holding a public hearing, and completing the remaining readings before the end of December.
Ms. Laudato noted that the redistricting process began in May and included public feedback opportunities with assistance from the League of Women Voters and Professor Mapes. She explained that Maps A and D had received interest from residents, although both would be adjusted to keep a small area containing the former stadium within Ward Two without affecting the population deviation requirements. Map C had been developed as a discussion piece to explore creating a separate downtown ward but was not intended as a preferred option.
Mr. Calfee expressed support for Map E, explaining that it would move the fewest census blocks, maintain existing neighborhood boundaries as much as possible, and make relatively small geographic changes. He noted that Map B was similar but differed slightly in the boundaries of Ward One.
Ms. Laudato expressed a preference for Map D because it kept areas with similar characteristics and interests together, particularly downtown and neighborhoods with multifamily housing.
During the discussion, members considered the amount of boundary changes, neighborhood similarities, population distribution, and public feedback.

Mr. Calfee cautioned against placing too much weight on the limited number of residents who provided feedback at the public
meetings.
Ms. Michael emphasized the importance of continuing to notify residents, particularly those considering running for Ward Three or Ward Four, that their ward boundaries could change.
Mr. Kairis encouraged residents to verify their Ward with the Board of Elections before pulling petitions.
The committee began narrowing the five proposed maps through discussion and Maps A and C were eliminated, leaving Maps B, D, and E for further consideration.
Mr. Moskun and Mr. Marovich expressed support for Map E, while Ms. Laudato, Ms. Michael and Mr. Harper favored Map D.
Mr. Calfee continued to favor Map E, citing its limited disruption to existing boundaries.
The discussion continued as members worked toward identifying a preferred map.
Mr. Kairis noted that the initial preferences showed support for Map E from four members and Map D from three members.
Mr. Calfee made a motion to recommend Map E for inclusion in the redistricting ordinance. The motion failed on a 2–5 vote, with Mr. Calfee and Ms. Michael voting in favor.
Ms. West explained that the discussion among Council members was valuable because hearing different perspectives had caused her to reconsider some of her initial thoughts.
Ms. Michael emphasized the importance of reaching a decision promptly so residents considering running for office would have adequate notice of any ward changes. She then made a motion to recommend Map D for inclusion in the redistricting ordinance.
During discussion, Ms. Laudato clarified that the triangular area near the former stadium would be moved into Ward Two to maintain appropriate population deviations and cleaner boundaries.
Mr. Calfee noted that Map D would create more disruption by moving portions of three existing wards into Ward One and placing nearly all of downtown within that ward.
Ms. Michael and Ms. Laudato supported keeping downtown residents and businesses together, while Mr. Harper noted that Map D provided cleaner, easier-to-understand boundaries.

- Motion to recommend Map E for inclusion in the Ward redistricting ordinance by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- Mr. Calfee, Mr. Marovich - **All Ayes,** Ms. West, Ms. Laudato, Ms. Michael, Mr. Harper – **No**

    - Mr. Moskun was unavailable to vote

The motion to move forward Map E failed.

- Motion to recommend Map D for inclusion in the Ward redistricting ordinance with the triangle moved by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- Ms. Michael, Mr. Moskun, Ms. West, Ms. Laudato, Mr. Marovich, Mr. Harper- **All Ayes,** Mr. Calfee- **No**

The motion to move forward Map D passed.

Mr. Kairis clarified that Council would ultimately amend Chapter 206.1 of the Codified Ordinances to establish the new ward boundaries rather than simply adopt the map graphic. He also reviewed the history of the existing boundaries, noting that they were established in 1972 and evaluated following the 1990 census, with no subsequent changes.
Ms. Laudato agreed to consult with the League of Women Voters regarding any additional technical requirements for establishing the boundaries. The committee recommended the ordinance for the regular agenda, outside the consent agenda, to allow for multiple readings and a public hearing in November.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The thirteenth item was an ordinance to repeal the new code chapter on Self-Storage Facilities.
Ms. West explained that the ordinance repealing the recently adopted self-storage regulations was necessary to correct a procedural issue involving the Planning and Zoning Commission's review.
Mr. Kairis explained that the ordinance would be referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission for its required review, with the matter expected to return to the Committee of the Whole in December. The motion to refer the ordinance to the commission passed unanimously.

- Motion to send the item to the Planning Commission for review by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. Laudato- **All Ayes**

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item to the Planning Commission.

The fourteenth item was an ordinance to amend the JEDD contract with Rootstown Township.
Ms. West explained that the proposed amendment to the Joint Economic Development District agreement included additional parcels and businesses identified in Exhibits A and B. She noted that a public hearing would be required because the agreement was being amended.
Mr. Kairis indicated that the hearing would be scheduled for November.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The fifteenth item was an ordinance authorizing financing for the Fire Sutphen Ladder Truck.
Mr. Kairis reported that the Finance Committee recommended financing the Sutphen ladder truck with a $450,000 down payment over seven years at an interest rate of 5.14%.
Ms. West agreed that this option provided the best balance between reducing interest costs and maintaining financing.
Mr. Kairis noted that the truck had already been ordered and was expected to arrive around Thanksgiving.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The sixteenth item was an ordinance authorizing the execution of Then and Now Certificates.

Mr. Kairis reviewed the seven Then-and-Now Certificates included in the meeting packet.
Ms. West explained that several were related to the same project, while another involved an outdated invoice that had not been submitted previously.

- All Council present responded in favor to move the item forward for legislation.

The seventeenth item was Liquor Permit Requests.
Mr. Kairis reviewed two liquor permit requests for 247 S. Chestnut Street and 527 Freedom Street.
The Police Chief reported that the three individuals associated with the new business entity had no criminal records, and had identified no concerns with either application.
Ms. West clarified that the permits were for beer and wine.
Mr. Moskun asked whether the applications involved transfers, and Mr. Kairis indicated they appeared to involve changes in ownership at the existing locations.

The committee unanimously approved directing the Clerk of Council to notify the State that the City would not request hearings on either application.

- The item was for discussion only

- Motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm by Ms. Laudato, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

ATTEST:

_____ _____

Clerk of Council **Council President**