Ravenna City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:00 pm

The Regular Council Meeting was held in person in Council Chambers.

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. October 5, 2026, by Council President, Rob Kairis

Moment of Meditation & Silence
President Kairis called a moment of meditation and silence.

Pledge to Flag
President Kairis then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call
The following Council Members were present: President Rob Kairis, Amy Michael, Paul Moskun, Tim Calfee, Carmen Laudato, Matt Harper, Tyler Marovich, Christina West

Also in attendance: Mayor Frank Seman; Law Director, Frank Cimino; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Service Director, Tim Contant; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Finance Director, Tami Lorence; Council Clerk; Chelsea Gregor; Dennis West, Cythia Miller, Larry Selinius, Greg Francis, Eve Francis, Amy Young, William Barber, Trish Schum, Christine Untrauer, Rich Edmiston, Rod Flauhaus, Joni Holloway, Heidi Timmons, Kim Duvall, Brian Breiding

Delegations from the Public:
Amy Young, Vice President of Main Street Ravenna, provided an update on the organization's downtown revitalization, preservation, and economic development efforts. She introduced Executive Director Tricia Shum, who has experience in nonprofit management, fundraising, and grant writing.
Ms. Young reported that Main Street Ravenna is working with Economic Development Director Dennis West and the Chamber of Commerce on downtown wayfinding, business recruitment, façade improvements, and restoration of historic ghost murals. Fourth Friday events continue to encourage shopping and dining downtown through extended business hours, specials, music, demonstrations, and activities.
Ms. Young highlighted the expanded Art on Main festival, which featured more than 30 new vendors and retailers in 2026, and discussed plans to revise the Patron Party and introduce a new online fundraiser, Prize of Palooza. She also reported that Main Street completed its annual Heritage Ohio certification and continues to work with local businesses, property owners, the City, and community organizations.
Ms. Young and Mr. Barber explained that ghost murals are historic advertisements representing Ravenna businesses from past decades.
Mr. Barber identified several downtown murals being considered for restoration and noted that the intent is to preserve their historic appearance.
Mr. Marovich stated that the Historical Society has photographs that could assist with the restoration efforts.
Mr. Kairis thanked Main Street Ravenna for the presentation and expressed support for continued communication and regular updates from Main Street Ravenna and the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Eve Francis referenced the upcoming Council workshop on ethics and shared several concerns and observations. She stated that Council members are public servants who are compensated with taxpayer funds to serve residents and should uphold high standards of ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability during meetings, when interacting with the public, and on social media. Ms. Francis asked Council members to refrain from discussing personal matters during meetings, including medical emergencies, financial hardships, leisure activities, and personal greetings. She also encouraged members to avoid inflammatory or unverified statements and inappropriate postings on social media. Ms. Francis emphasized the importance of objectivity and avoiding the use of public office for personal gain. She suggested that Council members recuse themselves from matters involving themselves or their property. Ms. Francis also encouraged members to maintain a mature and professional demeanor during meetings, including refraining from passing notes, rolling their eyes, or exchanging expressions

that could be perceived as disrespectful or divisive. She stated that residents observe the conduct of Council members and thanked Council for its attention.

Ms. Christine Untrauer of the Veterans Grave Marker Project provided an update on the organization's efforts. She reported that 169 veterans without markers have been identified at Maple Grove Cemetery, with 61 additional graves under research. Thirty-nine markers have been installed, with 14 more scheduled for installation the following day.
Ms. Untrauer credited the Sheriff's Department work crew for assisting with the installation and cemetery maintenance, noting that staffing shortages had delayed some markers since the spring. She stated that the project has also identified and marked numerous Civil War veterans who previously had no marker or flag recognizing their service.
Ms. Untrauer reported that the project is also working at Grandview and St. Mary's cemeteries and has surveyed 18 of the 53 cemeteries in the county. She emphasized the project's commitment to ensuring local veterans are not forgotten and thanked the City and community for their continued support.
Ms. West and Mr. Marovich thanked Ms. Untrauer and recognized the work being done by the cemetery staff and Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Kairis requested amendments to the agenda to remove Ordinances 2026-137 and 2026-139 from the Consent Agenda and place them as the first two items on first reading to allow necessary adjustments.

Mr. Kairis then introduced the Consent Agenda, which included prior meeting minutes, officials' reports, and various ordinances.

Approval of the Agenda:

- Motion to approve the agenda by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Consent Agenda:

Communications: None

Approval of the Minutes:

- Regular City Council Meeting of September 8, 2026
- Public Hearing of September 21, 2026

Report of Officials:

Ordinances:
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-133 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BECOMING AN AARP AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-134 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE DONATION OF TWO (2) LIFE PAK 15'S, ONE TO THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL PORTAGE MEDICAL CENTER AND ONE TO THE HIRAM TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-135 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A NEW VERMEER BRUSH CHIPPER FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $81,229.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-136 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF RAVENNA TO BECOME A MEMBER OF OHIO 811 AND APPROPRIATING $1,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-138 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING TWO (2) $500 DONATIONS IN THE SUM OF $1,000.00 FROM MILLER GARAGE DOOR AND TIMOTHY HACK AND RECORDING ESTIMATED REVENUES IN THE SUM OF $1,000.00 FOR CONCRETE TEE PADS FOR THE CHESTNUT HILLS PARK DISC GOLF COURSE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-142 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CONTRIBUTION OF $200.00 TO THE PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THE BENJAMIN TAPPIN HISTORICAL SIGN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-143 AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING THE 2026 ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS AS DETAILED IN SCHEDULE "A", AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-144 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, UPON THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, TO PAY CERTAIN PURCHASE ORDERS MADE THAT EXCEED $3,000.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- Motion to dispense with the requirements of the City Charter in the Revised Code of Ohio with reference to reading on three separate days and adopting emergency clauses and approving the consent agenda by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Ms. Laudato- **All Ayes**

Invited City Officials: Dennis West, Economic Development Director

Mr. Kairis introduced Mr. Dennis West, Economic Development Director, who provided an update on the City's economic development activities and plans.

Mr. West reported that in 2025, the City partnered with the Portage Development Board to complete 28 business retention visits and assist 29 businesses with workforce development, funding, building renovations, equipment purchases, and expansion opportunities. These efforts utilized resources from JobsOhio, the Ohio Department of Development, banks, and federal programs. He noted that businesses receiving assistance were expected to increase employment within three years and that those assisted had met that goal.

Mr. West reported that approximately $1.1 million in Ohio EPA funding was used to clean up the former industrial site on South Chestnut Street. The City also secured nearly $300,000 for a Phase II environmental assessment, which will help prepare the property for future redevelopment. Additional efforts include pursuing brownfield funding to assess and remediate the former nursing home on New Milford Road and a property on Hazen Street.

Mr. West discussed efforts to help LG Chem address tariffs on imported materials through discussions with company representatives and Congressman Joyce's office. He also reported that local wages had increased approximately 6% over the previous four quarters, partly due to demand for higher-skilled positions. Nearly all large commercial buildings in Ravenna were occupied, with one remaining space expected to be leased.

Downtown revitalization efforts included supporting property owners who are renovating buildings and pursuing additional investments. Mr. West reported renewed interest from a potential bakery tenant for the former Deluxe Bakery building, although repairs remain necessary. Other prospective businesses have faced challenges involving building conditions, rental costs, and available financial incentives.

For 2026, Mr. West reported that 22 business retention visits had been completed, with more scheduled. He was also pursuing a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program to help businesses finance improvements such as roofs, windows, and HVAC systems.

Mr. West explained that outdated demographic information had contributed to misconceptions about Ravenna's ability to support new businesses. Working with a marketing intern and Main Street Ravenna, he developed an inventory of downtown properties identifying available space, rental rates, building conditions, and ownership information. The City plans to meet with property owners and commercial real estate brokers to discuss improvements and targeted marketing efforts.

The marketing package uses updated demographic and consumer spending data to identify opportunities for restaurants, coffee shops, clothing stores, and other retailers. Mr. West reported approximately $493 million in local food and beverage demand compared with $355

million in supply, leaving an estimated $137 million gap. The City intends to use this information to attract businesses and highlight Ravenna's location, workforce, schools, and regional accessibility. He also noted that consistent branding across City departments was being considered.
In response to Mr. Moskun's question about Dunkin' and Circle K, Mr. West explained that proposed locations near State Routes 59 and 14 faced access restrictions from ODOT. Circle K wanted a larger facility, while Dunkin' explored alternative locations. ODOT's anticipated timeline and access limitations contributed to Dunkin' pursuing a location outside the immediate area. Mr. West suggested that a roundabout at State Routes 14 and 44 could improve access to nearby properties.
Ms. Michael encouraged the City to educate downtown property owners about selecting businesses that would contribute positively to revitalization. She also raised concerns about transportation barriers preventing residents from reaching available jobs, particularly second- and third-shift positions.
Mr. West agreed that transportation was a significant obstacle. He reported that some employers struggled to recruit workers because PARTA routes did not adequately serve their locations. Discussions had taken place regarding additional stops, but funding and driver shortages remained challenges.
Ms. Michael added that Dial-A-Ride was not always reliable for employees because rides could be canceled due to limited availability.
Mr. West emphasized that improved transportation would help residents access employment and improve their economic circumstances.
Mr. Calfee asked whether Mr. West worked on business development associated with the City's Joint Economic Development District agreement with Rootstown. Mr. West clarified that his primary focus was Ravenna City and Ravenna Township.
Mr. Calfee also asked about the deteriorating former nursing home on New Milford Road.
Mr. West explained that the property contained asbestos and was subject to unauthorized entry. The City was pursuing brownfield funding to remove the asbestos and determine whether part or all of the building required demolition. He noted that two prospective buyers had expressed interest in redeveloping the property if demolition became necessary.
Ms. Laudato asked whether the City's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) could help businesses with asbestos removal or downtown renovations if other funding was unavailable.
Mr. West explained that the fund had limited resources and that restrictions made some existing economic development funds difficult to use. He suggested exploring whether a portion of Joint Economic Development District revenue could support a more flexible economic development fund for building improvements and business recruitment.
Ms. Laudato offered to work with Mr. West on potential funding options and suggested that cannabis revenue could be invested in economic development.
Ms. Michael also recommended reviewing the City's beautification fund for eligible façade improvements.
Mr. West proposed working with Main Street Ravenna and the Chamber of Commerce to display local products in vacant store-front windows to make downtown more attractive and promote local businesses.
Mr. Moskun asked when the City would meet with downtown property owners regarding the marketing initiative.
Mr. West stated that the materials were being printed and that he hoped to hold the meeting by December.
Ms. Michael suggested the Yellow House near the post office as a possible location and offered to provide contact information.
Mr. Kairis thanked Mr. West for the presentation and update on the City's economic development efforts.

Report of Committees: Committee meetings start at 6:00 PM 10/13/2026.

Utilities: Mr. Moskun stated that there were no items at this time for next week.

Information Systems: Mr. Marovich stated that a meeting is to be determined.

Planning: Ms. Laudato announced that Planning Committee would discuss the Bitcoin operation in the City, including how it was permitted and whether similar operations should require review by the Planning Commission or a conditional use certificate.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Kairis stated that the next Committee of the Whole meeting is Monday, October 19, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

Public Health & Safety: Ms. Michael reported that there were items on the evening's consent agenda and planned to meet the following month to continue discussions regarding becoming a senior-friendly community.

Streets & Sidewalks: Mr. Harper stated that a meeting is to be determined.

Personnel: Mr. Calfee stated that there are two items on the agenda.

Community & Economic Development: Ms. West announced plans for a Community and Economic Development Committee meeting to discuss signage and updates from the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Ravenna.

Finance: Ms. Lorence stated that she would have a few items.

Cemetery: Ms. West reported that the Cemetery Board had purchased a new utility vehicle equipped with a cab, plow, and hydraulic lift, using funds from the equipment budget.
She also provided an update on the cemetery chapel renovation. Approximately $23,500 would be needed to repair the foundation. A local company would clean and fill the basement so the flooring could be removed and replaced with a concrete slab. Ms. West explained that additional renovations would be delayed until the foundation work was completed.
Mr. Finney added that environmental samples had been collected from the chapel's plaster and paint to help determine the requirements for renovation.
Ms. West also proposed exploring columbarium’s for cremated remains as a potential cemetery improvement and revenue source.
Council members discussed the benefits, including lower maintenance costs, efficient use of space, and potentially lower costs for families. The project would be phased in rather than installed all at once. Mr. Marovich and Mr. Calfee supported exploring the option, while Mr. Kairis recommended obtaining cost and revenue information from other cemeteries before proceeding.

Parks & Recreation: Mr. Marovich reported that the City's disc golf course had recorded more than 1,000 rounds through the UDisc application, representing approximately 802 recreational hours. He noted that the actual usage was likely higher because the application tracks only users who report their rounds. Mr. Marovich announced that the Sunbeau Fall Fest would take place October 17 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., featuring vendors distributing candy, a child-friendly scare walk, a costume contest, and games. He also reported that the final archery clinic and fishing club sessions for the year were concluding. The fishing club held its final session at Lake Hodgson, where six members participated and prepared their catch for attendees to sample. The Recreation Department also partnered with Ravenna High School to allow youth soccer participants to run onto the field and receive high-fives from high school players during introductions before a recent game, and thanked the high school for their participation.
Mr. Marovich stated that the restrooms at City Park and Chestnut Hills would close for maintenance beginning in October, with portable toilets provided during the initial closures. All park restrooms would close beginning in November, and visitors were encouraged to plan accordingly. The next Parks and Recreation Board meeting was scheduled for the following day at 5:00 p.m. in the Annex Building conference room.

Main Street Ravenna Report: Mr. Kairis stated that he would forgo the Main Street Ravenna report because a comprehensive presentation had already been provided.

First Reading of Ordinances:
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-137 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) OR WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT (WSRLA) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER or WATER FACILITIES; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN, AND DECLARING AND EMERGENCY.

Mr. Finney explained that the City had not yet negotiated a contract with Burgess & Niple and did not have a cost estimate to include in the ordinance.
Mr. Kairis recommended proceeding with a second reading in November, when the necessary information might be available.
There being no further comments or questions.

Ordinance 2026-137 was moved on to second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-139 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF $22,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR A FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REVIEW AND REPORT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Ms. Laudato requested an amendment to increase the appropriation for the facilities assessment from $22,000 to $25,000 to include an additional option involving the former TOPS grocery store property. She explained that the assessment would evaluate nine configurations, including renovating existing facilities and constructing new buildings, providing Council with updated information to make informed decisions regardless of the outcome of the safety-building levy, adding that the existing cost estimates were nearly three years old.
Mr. Finney reported that representatives of TOPS had recently contacted the City and expressed interest in working together. He supported evaluating the property again, noting that it had been considered approximately 10 years earlier.
Ms. West emphasized that the assessment would include options for renovating the existing fire station, relocating police operations, and constructing new facilities. She explained that updated cost comparisons would help Council determine whether renovation or new construction was the more practical option.
Mr. Calfee explained that he opposed the amendment while the levy was still on the ballot.
Council then voted to suspend the three-reading requirement and adopt the emergency clause.

- Motion to amend the ordinance's title, third whereas clause, and Section 1 to increase the appropriation from $22,000 to $25,000 by Ms. Laudato, 2nd by Ms. West- Ms. Laudato, Ms. West, Mr. Moskun, Ms. Michael, Mr. Marovich, Mr. Harper- **All Ayes,** Mr. Calfee- **No**

There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- Ms. Michael, Mr. Moskun, Ms. West, Mr. Marovich, Ms. Laudato, Mr. Harper- **All Ayes,** Mr. Calfee- **No**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. Laudato- Ms. Michael, Ms. Laudato, Mr. Moskun, Mr. Marovich, Mr. Harper- **All Ayes,** Mr. Calfee, Ms. West- **No**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-139 by Mr. Harper, 2nd by Ms. Michael- Mr. Harper, Ms. Michael, Ms. West, Mr. Moskun, Mr. Marovich, Ms. Laudato- **All Ayes,** Mr. Calfee- **No**

Ordinance 2026-139 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-140 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXHIBIT "A" OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-130 SECTION VI– PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT, SUBSECTION (b)(3) BY AMENDING THE POSITION OF PROGRAM SUPERVISOR TO RECREATION MANAGER AND AMENDING THE PAY RANGE FROM 14 TO PAY RANGE 16.
Council considered an ordinance eliminating the Program Supervisor position in the Parks and Recreation Department, creating a Recreation Manager position, and establishing pay range 16.
Mr. Calfee confirmed that the ordinance reflected these changes and that the item had been previously discussed in an executive session.
There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Marovich, 2nd by Mr. Moskun- Mr. Marovich, Mr. Moskun, Mr. Calfee, Ms. West, Ms. Michael, Mr. Harper- **All Ayes,** Ms. Laudato- **No**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-140 by Mr. Marovich, 2nd by Ms. West- Mr. Marovich, Ms. West, Mr. Calfee, Ms. Michael, Mr. Harper- **All Ayes,** Ms. Laudato- **No**

- Mr. Moskun was unavailable to vote to pass the ordinance

Ordinance 2026-140 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-141 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXHIBIT "A" OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-130 SECTION VI– PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT, SUBSECTION (b)(4) BY AMENDING THE PAY RANGE OF POSITION OF PROGRAM COORDINATOR FROM 11 TO PAY RANGE 12.
Council considered an ordinance increasing the Parks and Recreation Program Coordinator position from pay range 11 to pay range 12.
Mr. Calfee confirmed that the ordinance addressed the proposed pay-range adjustment and the item had been previously discussed in an executive session.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Marovich, 2nd by Ms. Michael- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-141 by Mr. Marovich, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

- Mr. Moskun was unavailable to vote

Ordinance 2026-141 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-145 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2002-042 BY AMENDING THE COMPENSATION FEE FOR THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION SECRETARY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Mr. Kairis explained that the was to establish a compensation fee for the Charter Review Commission Secretary before the November deadline. He stated that the Charter bases the secretary's compensation on the Clerk of Council's compensation and proposed a flat fee of $7,000 for work performed from January through part of July. The ordinance establishes the fee but does not appoint the secretary. The Clerk of Council has the first right of refusal.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-145 by Mr. Calfee, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-145 was adopted.

Second Reading of Ordinances:
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-126 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, SECTION TWELVE – PLANNING AND ZONING CODE; TITLE SIX – ZONING; CHAPTER 1268 – USE, AREA AND HEIGHT REGULATIONS, BY AMENDING THE MINIMUM LIVING FLOOR AREA PER DWELLING UNIT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Ms. Laudato asked whether Ordinance 2026-126, which amends the minimum living floor area requirements in the Zoning Code, needed to be reviewed by the Planning Commission before Council could proceed.
Mr. Kairis explained that Ohio Revised Code Section 713.12 requires zoning text amendments initiated by Council to be referred to the Planning Commission for review for at least 30 days, followed by a public hearing before Council takes final action. He noted that if the Commission's recommendations differ from Council's eventual action, approval may require a three-fourths vote. Mr. Kairis acknowledged that the required process had not been followed and accepted responsibility for the oversight. He also noted that the self-storage facility legislation would need to be repealed and reintroduced because it had been subject to the same procedural issue. Mr. Kairis emphasized the importance of correcting mistakes and improving procedures to ensure compliance with state law. He recommended referring Ordinance 2026-126 to the Planning Commission while leaving it pending before Council until the review and public hearing process could be completed.
Ms. Laudato moved to refer the ordinance to the Planning Commission and stated that she would attend the commission meeting to explain the proposed requirements and supporting evidence.
Ms. Michael praised the Planning Commission for its recent work and thanked its members.
The ordinance will remain pending until the review process is completed.

- Motion to refer the ordinance to the Planning and Zoning Commission by Ms. Laudato, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-126 was kept on for third reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-127 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART FOURTEEN- BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE; TITLE SIX – MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING REGULATIONS; CHAPTER 1434 – DESIGN REVIEW DISTRICT, SECTION 1434.03- RAVENNA DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION, SECTION 1434.04 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Ms. Laudato explained that the item amends the Design Review Commission guidelines regarding abstentions and conflicts of interest, incorporating guidance from the Ohio Ethics Commission. She noted that Mr. Calfee had revised the original language to clarify that applicants are not required to recuse themselves from discussion of their own applications.
Mr. Kairis also explained that if a second meeting does not occur, the applicant may appeal.
There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to waive three separate readings by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**
- Motion to adopt emergency clause by Ms. Michael, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**
- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-127 by Ms. West, 2nd by Mr. Marovich- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-127 was adopted.

Third Reading of Ordinances:
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-114 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RAVENNA, PART 12 – PLANNING AND ZONING CODE – TITLE SIX – ZONING; CHAPTER 1266 – DISTRICTS GENERALLY AND ZONING MAP, SECTION 1266.03 – ZONING MAP BY REZONING PORTAGE COUNTY PARCEL NUMBERS 31-349-04-00-250-000, 31-349-04-00-251-000, 31-349-04-00-252-000, 31-349-04-00-258-000, 31-349-04-00-260-000, AND 31-349-04-00-261-000 FROM R-4 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-1 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AND PARCEL NUMBERS 31-349-04-00-223-000 AND 31-349-04-00-224-000 FROM CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, TO C-1 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AS DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A".
Ms. Laudato explained that Ordinance 2026-114 rezones the Ravenna Library parking lot from R-4 Residential and Central Business District zoning to C-1 Commercial zoning. The change consolidates the zoning designation to reflect the property's longstanding use as a parking lot. She noted that the rezoning should have occurred when the library addition was completed around 2003.
Mr. Kairis confirmed that the request originated with the Planning and Zoning Commission and had completed the required process, including a public hearing.
Ms. Michael clarified that the ordinance applies to the parking lot, as other portions of the property had already been rezoned C-1.
There being no further comments or questions.

- Motion to pass Ordinance No. 2026-114 by Ms. Laudato, 2nd by Ms. West- **All Ayes**

Ordinance 2026-114 was adopted.

Old Business- None

New Business- Ms. Laudato provided an update on efforts to develop zoning regulations for data centers before the current moratorium expires. She said the City had consulted with its law firm, which was preparing proposed zoning text amendments. Potential regulations could identify appropriate locations, establish conditional-use requirements within the existing I-1 district, or consider creating a new I-2 district. An evaluation could also determine that no suitable locations exist within the City.

Mr. Kairis explained that the process begins with a formal request to initiate a zoning text amendment. Following discussion, Council agreed that the matter should first go to the Planning Committee so members could review the proposed language before referring it to the Planning Commission.
Mr. Calfee emphasized that data center regulations involve significant considerations, including definitions, water and electricity consumption, and facility size. He cautioned against rushing the process through a single committee meeting and suggested extending the moratorium if additional review time was needed.

Mr. Kairis agreed that the City should thoroughly study the issue rather than make decisions solely to meet the moratorium deadline.
Ms. Laudato emphasized that the existing moratorium includes Bitcoin mining and prohibits expansion of any existing operation while it remains in effect. She referenced a business article indicating that an existing operation with approximately 500 servers had discussed potentially expanding to 4,000 servers. Ms. Laudato stressed the importance of clearly defining data centers and related operations in the City's regulations.
Mr. Kairis confirmed that the matter would proceed through the Planning Committee, with further action dependent on the proposed language and subsequent review.

President of Council Remarks-
Mr. Kairis congratulated Ms. Gregor on receiving the Employee of the Year award at the annual Celebrate Portage Awards dinner. He also reminded Council that a workshop with attorneys from Bricker, Graydon and Wyatt was scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, at 6:00 p.m., and encouraged members to attend and ask questions.

Council Member Remarks
Mr. Harper- No Comment
Ms. Michael- Ms. Michael reported that the administration had identified LG Chem as the source of high-pitched noise reported near Chestnut Street and Freedom Street. Mr. West had met with LG Chem representatives, who had been unaware of the extent of the noise and were working to address the problem. Ms. Michael apologized to affected residents and encouraged them to report any continued disturbances.
Ms. Michael also congratulated the Fire Chief on receiving a $58,000 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant for firefighter health and fitness physicals. She noted that this was the third consecutive year the department had secured the grant, helping reduce expenses from the City's insurance fund while supporting firefighter safety.
Mr. Marovich- No Comment
Mr. Moskun- Mr. Moskun reported that he had observed the Fire Department using its new LifePak 35 cardiac monitor, which replaced the previous Model 15. He expressed appreciation that the equipment was purchased.
Mr. Calfee- No Comment
Ms. West- No Comment
Ms. Laudato- Ms. Laudato thanked the Planning Commission for its recent review of a multifamily housing proposal. She praised the Commission for considering residents' concerns and rejecting housing conditions she described as unsuitable for families. Ms. Laudato emphasized that Ravenna should not tolerate living spaces that fail to provide safe and appropriate conditions.
Ms. Michael added that residents had raised numerous complaints about poorly maintained multifamily properties and their effects on surrounding neighborhoods. She thanked the Building and Police Departments for their work on properties that had recently been condemned and criticized absentee landlords who allow substandard housing conditions.

Mayor's Remarks- Mayor Seman reported that the Record-Courier was expected to publish a ranking placing Ravenna 11th among approximately 25 communities evaluated for livability in the area. He also shared a positive comment from a wedding guest who had complimented Ravenna's appearance and charm. Mayor Seman stated that the Portage County Historical Society would hold a rededication ceremony on October 17th for the Benjamin Tappan sign.

Adjourn to Monday, November 2, 2026

- Motion to adjourn at 7:38 pm by Ms. West, 2nd Mr. Moskun- **All Ayes**

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Council Council President