

**MINUTES OF RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
October 15, 2018**

The Meeting of the Ravenna City Community & Economic Development Committee was called to order at 5:32 P.M. by Chairman Bruce Ribelin. Present were Scott Rainone, Andrew Kluge, Rob Kairis, Matt Harper, Amy Michael and Paul Moskun. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky, City Engineer, Bob Finney; Police Chief Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Geoff Cleveland; and Peggy DiPaola.

Mr. Ribelin said there were two items on the agenda for this evening, the Center of Hope building and the addendum to the Community Plan which will need legislation.

Peggy DiPaola was present to discuss the addendum. Ms. DiPaola stated that the Mayor asked for an update on the Community Plan since 2015 to the present. An exhibit was presented to Council and is attached. She stated that it shows that things are moving along and it is a lot more positive than what the community plan survey looked like. Stated that this has been reviewed by the CIC and accepted. This has also been accepted by the core team. The update is now before Council to be approved and accepted. Stated that once it is approved and accepted, the committee will attach it to the Community Plan.

Ms. Michael commended the Administration for the all positive things that everyone has put together in bringing all these good things.

Mr. Ribelin also added the people from the private sector have worked so hard in order to make this public/private partnership work. Stated he was impressed with the way it is moving along. Mr. Ribelin pointed out that they raised funds for the hiring of an economic development director. Funds have been put aside to be used during a three year period to help pay for the economic development director.

Ms. DiPaola said if Council had any additions or comments to contact her. She further stated that the committee is ready to advertise for the economic development director's position as soon as the City and Township have the contracts ready.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be forwarded to Committee of the Whole for further action.

Mr. Ribelin stated the next item on the agenda is the Old Center of Hope building. Mr. Ribelin stated that this has been discussed extensively at the CIC meetings. Stated that the price of the building has been lowered.

Mayor Seman stated that there is one group that is interested in the building. The feeling of the CIC is if this group does not move on this, we should consider the demolition of the building.

Mr. Ribelin stated that those are the two choices; sell it to this group or demolish it.

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Ms. Michael stated that she was hoping that down the road that the City could start land locking that area.

Mr. Ribelin stated that they will need legislation.

Mayor Seman stated that if the City demolishes the building, they will use UDAG funds. Which is permissible for this project.

Mr. Kluge inquired if there was a time line. Mayor Semen stated that they are pressing the group that is interested to make a commitment. Ms. DiPaola stated that they want it finished by the end of the year.

Ms. DiPaola asked if Mr. Finney would get some estimates for demolition.

Mr. Kluge inquired if they do go forward with the demolition if they would ask the chiefs if this could be used for training.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be forwarded to Committee of the Whole for further action.

Ms. Michael stated that with the old Tops building being vacant, it has been worrisome about rumors she has heard over nonprofits and possibly government agencies that could move into that building. Inquired if there is any way the city could in a code or anyway of stopping that, since the city does not own the building. Stated she is very cautioned that the west end of town deserves more than that. That is an entrance way into the city. Hoping that something else can come there. Stated she is concerned about property values and the image coming from Kent and the possibility of what could happen.

Mayor Seman stated that Giant Eagle has a lease on the property until next summer. Further stated that the Center of Hope intends to use it as a distribution center.

Mr. Finney stated that he has heard that the price has dropped considerably from the original asking price.

Management Updates:

Mayor Seman stated that he wanted to make people aware that Mr. Schaffer established a trust fund. The City of Ravenna and the Township have both been picked to work together on projects. There are two separate projects; one is the cemetery, they are going to provide \$100,000.00 bequest to work on landscaping and trees in the newer part of the cemetery. The City and Township have been given \$100,000.00 to work on signage for the historical area. Also to be used for historically research and historically printing and documentation. They have to establish a committee, submit a plan to the executors to the estate. Stated that they are in the process of putting the committee together . This needs to get started quickly. This will be a five

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person committee. So far, Peggy DiPaola will be on the committee, the Township will have Vince Coia, and himself for the City. The city is considering Wayne Anders as the other city representative. Stated that there a number of things before them that needs to get done.

Mr. Ribelin stated that regarding the cemetery, they do not need to set up a committee. Stated that they need to put a plan together and confer with the trustees of the estate for approval before they can move forward. Stated that he will confer with Mr. Rugman regarding this project.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Bruce Ribelin, Chairman
Community & Economic Development Committee