

THE RAVENNA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGULAR MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: February 20, 2024
TIME OF MEETING: 7:00 PM
LOCATION OF MEETING: Ravenna City Hall 103 N. Main St. Ravenna
TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting Agenda

Called to order at 7:01 PM

Minutes Transcribed on February 27, 2024

Mayor Joe Passanisi-Present
Mayor Pro-Tem Claude Lewis, Jr.-Present
City Commissioner Chad Goode-Present
City Secretary Pat Patterson-Present

1. Citizens Opportunity to Speak: Christina New: Had a picture of drugs that were found on Red Bud Street. It is now at the Sheriff's office. This is not the first time, but this is the first time that I called the Sheriff. The reason that I called the Sheriff is because the roads are absolutely awful. I can only speak for the road behind my house. People camp out there and that is what they are doing. You can look it up. It was last week that I filed. He came out and looked at it. He didn't pick it up I picked it up, but he was aware of it. You can just park on Red Bud Street and nobody sees you. My husband is only off 6 days a month and he took 3 of those days to clean up there even though it is not his job our safety is his greatest concern.
(Claude) Just for clarification: are they parking on the street or just where that old house is?
(Christina) Yes, where the abandoned trailer is. A little further up right where Willow Street is. I have pictures of the area. It was pretty deep you had to look. My kids can't walk down the road safely now because of all the debris and unsavory people parking there.
2. Statutory Consent Agenda-The Statutory Consent Agenda includes non-controversial and routine Items that may be acted upon with one single vote. An item may be pulled from the Consent Agenda In order that it be discussed and acted upon individually as part of the Regular Agenda.
 - A. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting held on January 16, 2024-Pat Patterson, City Secretary.
 - B. Consideration and possible action to accept financial report for month ending January, 2024.
(Claude) I make a motion that we approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2024 and accept the financial report for the month ending January 2024.
(Joe) Do I have a second?
(Chad) I'll second that.
(Joe) Any opposed? Passes unanimously at 7:05 PM.

3. Consider and take action regarding burn ban. (Currently deactivated).

Commissioners did not see any action needing to be taken regarding the burn ban so, no action was taken.

4. Reports from Commissioners and City Staff (No Action to Be Taken)

A. Mayor-Joe Passanisi no business at this time will be addressed on the Secretary's agenda.

We did have a conversation with a gentleman who is interested in joining the P&Z. When we get to that we will address it then.

B. Mayor Pro Tem-Claude Lewis, Jr.: Everything on mine will be addressed on 9, 12, 13.

C. City Commissioner-Chad Goode: I reached out to Brian Dudley and I know that they have a motor grater and that he would charge the city \$150 an hour for his motor grater. To come and blade our roads. He recommended two to three passes. I am not an expert on that. He said that the travel speed on that is about 2 to 3 miles an hour. I Google Earth and we are right at 3 miles. That is something that I wanted to bring to everyone's attention and maybe put it under next month's agenda.

(Joe) Could deal with it under the road section this month.

D. City Secretary-Pat Patterson (activities and information): Okay, I have been looking into insurance, one guy who got back with me said that he couldn't find anything. I called Jennie Poe who has our bond insurance. She said that in 2018 to 2020 there was insurance on this building for Property and Liability. The cost for that was \$1500. She is checking into it to see if it has gone up or what it would take to get that renewed. I also found some else who is also looking into it and he feels that it could be between \$2500 and \$3500 a year.

I also purchased a 25 ft round 15-amp extension cord to plug in to that battery and to plug into this plug here so that it won't squeal and ruin our computer system in that office. I talked to James about it and he is the one that gave the recommendation for it.

(Joe) So until we can get that electric done.

(Pat) Ya'll saw the finances and there was a check from Granite, but I haven't deposited it yet. Also, a deposit from the property tax. Good things.

(Joe) Have we paid for the gravel?

(Pat) Yes, we have. I did that as soon as I got it.

(Joe) We also need to talk about the election.

(Pat) Okay, I was here Friday on the 16th to receive applications for the elections. We are having a Mayoral election, because that is what I posted for this year. I did find in 2021 where you (Joe) and Ronnie received the oath for Mayor and Mayor-Pro Tem respectively. There were unopposed candidates for that election so they voted on it for that election and it passed so that is why those two were sworn in.

(Joe) There is an ordinance that calls for the mayor to be elected one year and the commissioners 1 and 2 to be elected the alternating year. The mayor pro-Tem is recommitted annually. Cause Ronnie and I switched each year for mayor pro-Tem when Claude was Mayor. So according to the ordinance the commissioners were opposite years of the mayor. So, when that particular election happened, we did not have a third council member yet. We were still waiting for Claude (Jr.) to join us after his father passed away, because I took over as mayor at that point.

Then after Ronnie passed Chad joined us, then Claude was put on as pro Tem.

(Pat) So we are having the election on May 4th. The early voting will be from April 22 to April 30th. I will be here those days. I'm required to be here those days during that time.

(Joe) There are some things we need to talk about on this subject. You had three applications turned in.

(Pat) I had four turned in counting yours.

(Joe) Sorry, four. Two for mayor and one for commissioner #1 and one for commissioner #2.

(Pat) Yes.

(Joe) Commissioner #1 and #2 are not open to vote this year those will be next year votes.

(Pat) Yes.

(Joe) Okay. So, Mr. Evans we are going have to figure out how we notify these two individuals, because they gave us applications for

(Michael) You don't have an obligation when they file for a position that is not open. No response is necessary Mayor. They are charged with knowing what they are doing.

(Joe) Okay. Then they wouldn't be considered for mayor since they turned them in for commissioner #1 and for Commissioner #2?

(Michael) You can't turn that into an application to be on the ballot for mayor. The deadline has passed so this will be a matter to take up next year.

(Joe) I have been a commissioner or mayor for 13 years and I have never had anybody run against me. Or run against anybody up here. So, I am excited beyond words that we have people that are actually willing to get involved. This is so awesome. That being said I have got to make sure that I do it right. I don't want there to be anymore accusations; I want it to be out there and I want everybody to know what is what.

(Michael) I could have turned one in, but I don't live in Ravenna. Same effect. You would have no obligation to call me or write me and say that you didn't do this within the statutory guidelines. There are enough people here to tell these people whoever they are before breakfast tomorrow.

(Joe) The other thing is we have to pick the order for the mayor ballot and it has to come out of a hat. Our names have to be put on two pieces of paper and they have to be drawn out of a hat. This is for the order that they will appear on the ballot. Because there are multiples. Again in 13 years I have no idea how to do this. I am making sure that we do every step right.

(Pat) I'm learning the hard way.

(Joe) We have that schedule for Monday at 10:00 Am (corrected to 9:30 AM) February 26th which is next Monday, a week from yesterday. Are you able (speaking to Erik Premont) to attend that? Since you are here, we wanted to extend you the invitation to attend. You don't have to be here.

(Michael) Just sent an email. An email notification gets you there.

(Pat) I need his email address to send it. I will send you and email with all the information on it. I will also send you and email stating what position you are in. So that you will have it written down.

(Joe) As far as other election information we have on March 5th is the Texas State Primary and that election will be here so that you don't have to drive to Bonham. That will be here and the May election will be here as well.

Not sure about the November election, but could also be here.

(Joe) When we asked about it, she said no, but because we are actually on the ballot, we will have the election here for May and that somehow got us the March Texas.

(Claude) They expanded the State Law on Polling places. If I remember right, because they used us last year so they had to add us back.

(Joe) So, the answer to the previous question that Rip had asked has changed in our favor. Cause we were told that we wouldn't be told that we wouldn't be having those elections out here. On March 5th I will be here at 6:00 AM and turn off the camera for this room for this room cannot have video cameras during the election time. We can actually turn off one camera and keep everything else active so, that is not a problem. The system is set up to do that.

(Pat) I will be here at 10:00 AM.

(Joe) Then Pat will be here at 10:00 AM and take over until they are done. Or until I come back up.

Do you guys have any other questions for Pat? (All answered that they did not.)

E. TCOG Representative-Mary Browning-Rodriguez (update)

Mary gave Pat an Agenda stating all that she talked about. It will be included in this report.

F. City Attorney-Michael Evans (updates on City legal work)

I have been in communication with Mr. McDowell and he has searched everywhere and he thinks that any of this paperwork would be and has come up with nothing. I have asked emanate domain attorneys that deal with title and the emanate domain people say that it is about titleship. If the city is interested it is emanate domain issue. I'm still researching that. There is not a lot of case files up there. I am trying to get a hold of a draft that Judge Cunningham started last year in June. He said that he was going to start on that following our meeting so, I have asked him for a copy of that draft so that you and I can look at it to see what questions we have before we have reconvened with him. That is where I am right now.

(Joe) I am obviously healed well enough to make a time to meet with Dale just let me know. We'll make it happen.

(Michael) So, if I get to talk with the judge this week, is this the same stoke we were talking about, has the stoke changed for you all since last year or is it the same.

(Discussion between board members concluding that it is the same and nothing has changed.)

There was discussion about whether the county was taking care of the roads and the fact that there may be hiring of a motor grater driver with his machine.

(Joe) As far as the scope of the inter-local agreement that you may not know about, we are trying to set up An inter-local agreement where the county would let us use their equipment on the days that they weren't using it. It would allow us to maintain the roads, trim the trees and do the things that need to be done out here by us who have actually worked the heavy equipment or for companies that have the heavy equipment so we all know how to do it. We don't have the funds to do it or the equipment available to the city as we said. Now we are getting to the point where we do have the funds where we can start renting some equipment if that's the route we need to go, but if we can make the inter-local where that's not necessary and that much better for us. So that is what we are trying to work on. We had is basically worked out with the previous commissioner Edwina who had then resigned for a different position. So, we had to start over.

G. Planning and Zoning

Di Hopkins spoke on reducing the requirements of how much land is needed to put in an aerobic system from 1 acre to ½ acre and possibly LLPD (Drip irrigation). She will try to put together a template for these changes and to help the city grow.

H. Communications-James Peercy (update)

(Pat) He wanted me to ask if you had gotten the pipes down for the cameras so that he could get them hooked up.

(Claude) No, I haven't. I may have to find somebody to do that.

(Joe) So, we need to locate the pipes and are we going to repair them or just replace them.

(Claude) You can do them either way. It's not that hard to do them either way.

(Joe) We need to see if we can find somebody who can do that for us. That's going to take something off your plate.

(Claude) Let talk to a few people and get an idea of what we need to do. Get some folks to come and look at it.

(Joe) We still need to get this electrical worked out as well. So that we don't have the extension cord. Sooner rather than later. We need to get those two things taken care of. It doesn't have to be us; we can go ahead and pay somebody if we need to.

(Claude) It's in our budget for maintenance.

(Joe) That is why we put the money aside in the budget. We need to get it done.

5. Consider and take action regarding 106 Poplar ordinance violations.

Bruce Wayne who owns the cars, but not the property. This was done without the owner's knowledge. A letter was written to inform the owner that he needed to contact the Sheriff's department about the situation. The letter was written with the Sheriff's information to make it easier for the owner to get the situation taken care of.

6. Consider and take action regarding 200 E. Maple ordinance violations.

Claude had stopped several times to inform the people that they needed to dispose of the dead dog that was laying in their yard. No one was home. Fining them had been recommended at last meeting. The different violations of the past were then discussed. Fine was set at \$250.00. A letter was written up with a copy of the ordinance to be given to the constable to be served.

(Joe) Do I have a motion?

(Claude) I make a motion to set a fine accordance with the Ordinance for \$250.

(Chad) I second that.

(Joe) Any Opposed? Passes unanimously at 7:44 PM.

7. Consider and take action regarding 114 E. Sycamore St ordinance violations.

(Claude) They have been cleaning up. They have all the stuff that was dumped out picked up except for one box. They are actively cleaning.

(Joe) So we can remove this one.

8. Consider and take action regarding Clint Hemby subdivision lots.

Nothing has been heard from Clint Hemby in a while. This will be removed for the time being. He needs to formally ask before we take action to annex his property into the city limits.

9. Consider and take action regarding new members for the P & Z Committee.

(Joe) We lost two members of our P&Z.

(Claude) We lost three actually; one moved out, our head of it resigned, and Leslie resigned. That left me and Cody.

(Joe) We have three open spots on the P&Z. If we can get one more, we can at least take us up to a formal committee. We did set it at five, we can always change that. Cause we are the ones that set it. We also can change the fact that they have to be in the city limits. We have one gentleman here that just moved into the city.

(Mark Owens) My name is Mark Owens and this is my wife, Kelly. We came to the last meeting to introduce ourselves, because we moved to Ravenna and we want to be part of the community. I believe that Chad mentioned to me that they needed someone on the P&Z. I thought about and I told my wife that I don't know if I want to be on the P&Z committee or not. I have some history of politics in my family and it is not political, but it can get political really quick. I am willing to do whatever it takes. I have been around city politics and Planning and Zoning before. I have some familiarity on how it works and different things that we want to watch out for and different things that we want to strive for as a city.

(Jeff Peeler) I will be glad to do it.

Description of when and where the meetings will be held and what needs to be done. Why there is a need for a P&Z. Also plans for commercial buildings in the city. Also putting a notice on social media about a position on the P&Z.

Discussion about the website as well as the fact that the city is a type C city and the up coming election.

(Claude) I make a motion that we appoint Mr. Owens and Mr. Peeler to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

(Chad) I second that.

(Joe) Any opposed? Passes unanimously at 8:04 PM

10. Consider and take action regarding Property Insurance for City Hall.

Bradford-Watson Company had the insurance in 2018-2020. Jennie Poe is checking into it and will be getting back with Pat on the quote.

11. Consider and take action regarding the Community Center.

Nothing we can do still on this. This was discussed when Mr. Michael Evans gave his report.

12. Consider and take action regarding P & Z recommendations.

No recommendations at this time.

13. Consider and take action regarding the following City of Ravenna public works projects: street Maintenance, road work, and culverts; solar streetlights; tree trimming and mowing.

(Red Bud washout)

(Claude) TGW got us three loads of base rock dropped. We just hit it quick to get it knocked out. I filled up some of the big holes. Someone called the Sheriff's department for moving rock. She came out and saw what I was doing and she said to keep on going. She called in and she left and I kept spreading the rock.

(Ana Weaver) Do you need any dirt. It is really good clay and will work for a base.

(Claude) At some point we will need it for Red Bud to get it built up on the West half.

(Ana) I'm good at build up.

(Claude) At some point we will need to start that. As far as more gravel, Willow could use two more good loads. The North side of Poplar needs at least two loads. Willow Street doesn't need it real thick, but it does need some.

(Joe) Pine Street has gotten really bad.

(Claude) Until we get the water flow straightened out it will do no good. We need to use a grade-all to get the ditches cleaned out. If somebody would like to mow or shred the ditches that would be great. I have yet to get a chance to go down there and do that. There is a lot of hedges that is coming out over the road which is causing people to go around it and creating a crooked road when it actually a very straight road.

The North half of South Poplar needs a load.

(Chad) I recommend grating these roads and seeing where we really need dirt and rock.

(Claude) If we can get him to do it and get in here and clean it up that would help a lot.

(Joe) So it is a \$150 an hour. It is about 3 miles of roads that we have. Three passes would be the equivalent of nine miles. The machine runs 3 or 4 miles an hour. So, three to four hours he should be able to do the whole city. I don't think that is possible.

(Chad) As bad as the roads are it should take eight hours to do these roads. Brian Dudley does his own county road and that is probably the speed that he is able to run it, because he maintains it. Over here it hasn't been done in many years.

(Chad) I make a motion that the city contracts Brian Dudley for eight hours at \$150 an hour for a road grader to grade the roads.

(Claude) I second that.

(Joe) Any opposed? Passes unanimously at 8:16 PM.

(Claude) I have talked about the tree trimming and the mowing. If we get that going now, we can see how much gravel we will need.

The other thing is driving down W Sycamore on my way to Willow to see how it was holding up, somebody has dumped a whole load of tires. I will get those picked up this week and get them up to the tire shop. I think it will cost \$3 to \$5 per tire. It looks like 6 or 8 tires. I will get those picked up and turn them in. It is going to cost us. Which brings me to the next item I would like to discuss. The City of Wyndom did a city wide clean up. They got a couple of roll offs and the city paid for the roll offs and the people of the town got to bring stuff in. You can't bring in chemicals like paint and that kind of stuff. TCOG does a chemical turn in.

(Mary) I think it will be in early April this year.

(Claude) Sweet! So, if we can get that it could help. I don't know about tires.

(Ana) If we could work out an agreement with the local tire stores.

Prices of rock loads were discussed and the type of rock that is ordered to use on the streets. Also discussed what can and cannot be put in a roll off.

(Michael) Whenever you get ready to do this see if Ravenna-Nunnelee will put a notice on the water bill of when and where this will happen.

(Claude) I don't know if you want to do this strictly in the city limits or if you want to include the EJT area. That is going to be a lot of stuff. You may also get people who doesn't live in the city limits.

I don't have anything on streetlights.

(Jeff Peeler) We still can't hear the siren. Do you think that maybe you could get a grant and possibly get a second one a on the other side of town?

(Pat) We may be able to make the siren louder.

(Joe) Let's call Fred and see if there is any way to make it louder. We will find out what it will cost to put in a secondary siren. Then we will check into some grants once we know how much we will need.

14. Adjournment.

(Joe) Do I have a motion?

(Claude) I make a motion that we adjourn.

(Chad) I second that.

(Joe) Any opposed? Passes unanimously at 8:25 PM.