

**MINUTES OF A FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**August 20, 2012**

The August 20, 2012 Ravenna City Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Council President Francis Ricciardi. The following members were present: **Fred Berry, Bruce Ribelin, Scott Rainone, Frank Seman, Amy Michael and Jack Ferguson.** Also attending the meeting were: Mayor Joseph Bica; Finance Director, Kim Cecora; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Elaine Van Hoose; Police Chief, Tim Adkins; Police Captain, Jeff Wallis; Nick Dudek of 328 North Prospect Street, Ravenna; Donna Swigart of 528 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna and Attorney John Plough of 447 Madison Street, Ravenna.

Mr. Plough noted said that he was informed that he might be able to speak to the second resolution passed earlier in the evening.

President Ricciardi said that it's kind of like Mr. Plough will be talking but nobody is going to be listening but he will be permitted for speak for two minutes.

Mr. Plough said he's here on behalf on of the East Main Saloon. They have been opened for about seven and a half years and have had absolutely no liquor violations filed against them in that time. The incident that took place Friday, which was unfortunate, was a result of them trying to eject someone in a peaceful manner who is not supposed to be in the bar because they were under the age of 21. That incident obviously led to a fracas outside the establishment, which they were trying to follow the law by keeping someone from underage getting in. It's his understanding that in addition to the supposed 32 calls within a time period, within that same time period, Giant Eagle has had 137 calls. The library, which is uptown, a just a little bit down the street from them, has had 77 calls. Two times they called, they weren't even there. Somebody was trying to break into their building. Not all of the calls have been a result of incidents or things like that. They've also been a friend of the Ravenna Police Department. They've tried to contact them when they were made aware that certain people who were in the establishment that the police may have wanted to talk to or had a warrant to arrest; they tried to help the police in that manner. A lot of the times, when they've called, that was the reason for the calls. Their opinion is that if they are shut down, then the people who are going to these establishments will just find another place in town to go to. The problem just shifts from one end of town to the other or from one side of town to the other side. You're still going to have liquor licenses. The Board of Liquor control is not just going to say no more liquor licenses in the city of Ravenna. That's just not going to happen, unless the public votes the whole area dry; which is a possibility. They just wanted to bring that to their attention. If they could get a special meeting with Council before the hearing takes place, they would like to ask for that also.

President Ricciardi asked to what end would they hold a special meeting.

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Mr. Plough said that they could discuss it more and if there were any questions. He knows they were given a couple of minutes tonight but to more thoroughly discuss the situation and maybe try to shed some light on the reasons they call the police.

Ms. Michael asked if they had any notification, other than the newspaper article, that their license was in jeopardy.

Mr. Plough responded that the newspaper article was the first notification received. Mr. Cipriano is more than willing to hire an off duty police officer to work in the establishment and help prevent these kind of calls being made. He talked with Chief Adkins about this who isn't sure it's allowed or not or whether he would allow it. They think in light of all the calls that are made from other places, this is not an abnormal amount of calls.

President Ricciardi said he doesn't think they are going to have a special meeting. He thinks what they are going to have to do at this point is follow whatever procedures are established by the Liquor Commission and move forward with it and make their argument to them.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 1 is the approval of minutes from the Finance Committee meeting of July 23, 2012.

There being no questions, comments, deletions or modifications, a motion was made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Ribelin to approve the minutes. **Voice Vote: All Ayes.**

President Ricciardi said Item No. 2 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into a contract with Stull Consulting to prepare an updated spill prevention control and countermeasure plan and appropriate funding for the same.

Mayor Bica said they have to have a spill prevention program outlined for the tanks at the fuel depot. The cost is \$2,000.00. That will be coming from the storm water fund.

There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 3 is a request to appropriate \$2,589.00 to pay for street lights damaged by vehicle accidents.

Mr. Ferguson said there are two street lights that have been damaged from accidents. They are looking to replace those. The monies in their funds have been depleted because of past incidents.

Mr. Ribelin asked if any restitution can be expected from the insurance companies.

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Mr. Cecora said that a line was built in this year called insurance repairs. They brought some money in to cover that. He will need to talk with Mr. Dowdy to see what the odds are of collecting these funds. As it stands, it comes from the capital improvement fund but if Mr. Dowdy thinks there is a good probability of collecting on the back end of this from whoever did this, then they'll put it in a more appropriate account that's just specifically for that.

There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 4 is a request to appropriate \$12,000.00 to complete the water tower painting project.

Mr. Seman said this is a case where they found damage or potential damage to the bolts and there are some electrical lines that need to be moved. They are asking for this additional money to be appropriated to cover the cost if that. It doesn't make much sense to paint it and not make sure that it stays fastened down.

There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 5 is a request to appropriate funds to pay the storm water coordinator and miscellaneous advertising as required by the permit.

Mr. Seman said the funds have to be available to pay the coordinator. There are certain requirements set forth by the permits. There are costs involved with those requirements.

There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 6 is a request to appropriate \$6,000.00 from the water and sewer funds for water curb box plugs and notifications.

Mr. Seman said there have been problems with turning water off at various locations only to have somebody come and turn it back on. This prevents people from doing that. It's kind of a lock box that can be put onto the in ground meter. He knows of one person who turned their water back on three times.

There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

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President Ricciardi said Item No. 7 is a request to appropriate \$5,000.00 to cover a potential donation to build a pavilion at Chestnut Hills Park.

Mr. Rainone explained that Planning Committee did not have a meeting this month so he asked Ms. Van Hoose to speak with the committee of the whole.

Ms. Van Hoose said they have been approached by a potential donor to construct a small pavilion at Chestnut Hills Park. This donor is willing to pay for the vast majority of the materials. Labor would be completed by the city. Construction of the actual pavilion has been coordinated through Maplewood students. The reason she is approaching them with such urgency right now is two reasons. The main reason is the fact that the students have to have it on their school agenda and constructed in September. In order to do that, they need to have the funds available to make the purchase of these materials. The donor will follow up with a letter stating they will pay the expenses of around \$10,500.00 toward this pavilion. The parks board is aware of this potential donation.

Ms. Michael asked if Mr. Cimino had been contacted regarding the legality of this.

Ms. Van Hoose said to her knowledge, he has not been. She hasn't asked him and doesn't know if anybody else has.

President Ricciardi asked if there are plans or drawings for this.

Ms. Van Hoose responded in the affirmative stating they are through Carter Lumber. That's where they are getting supplies. Bob Finney was taking care of that. It's ready but they need the funding to pay for the items and to get this rolling and tell Maplewood everything is ready. The donor has given a verbal commitment of the funding today. They will be sending something in writing.

Mayor Bica said part of the issue is trying to get the materials to coordinate with Maplewood's schedule.

Ms. Van Hoose said Maplewood needs to be completed with this project by the end of September. They coordinated it with what the city employees, street department/service department in laying cement and preparing the site.

Mr. Seman said he does not have any problem doing this providing the funds are available if they don't pay it and they realize that money is gone.

Ms. Van Hoose said she consulted with Mr. Cecora who said there was \$12,000.00 available to cover it. That is what the cost is going to be. It could be a little bit more because the donor was willing to do X amount which is the lion's share of this. Bob Finney came up with a design through Carter that might have a little bit more in it, which is nothing compared to what they are donating to finish it off.

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President Ricciardi asked the size.

Ms. Van Hoose said from post to post it will be 24' by 28'. They are also including four picnic tables that will be constructed. It will have a metal roof and round beams. The donors are asking for nothing in recognition for this pavilion. Their desire is that they have seen that this playground is in need of a pavilion which they are willing to come forth right now and help pay and the usage of the park. They thought it would be nice for parents and kids to have shade.

President Ricciardi asked if they know where, on the grounds, it will be constructed.

Ms. Van Hoose said that Bob Finney has been out there and looking at it. There will be a sidewalk from the main sidewalk into the playground. There will be a sidewalk coming off about 40 feet. That's where it will be placed.

President Ricciardi asked if that's included in the cost or if that will be an additional cost.

Ms. Van Hoose responded to her knowledge, Mr. Finney has everything included in the cost.

Ms. Michael asked if the city will have to carry additional liability insurance for the Maplewood students.

Ms. Van Hoose said Bob Finney has been dealing with them and she can find out. She doesn't know.

Mr. Seman asked if Ms. Van Hoose can get some of these answers before it actually goes before Council.

Ms. Van Hoose responded in the affirmative.

There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 8 is a request for the approval of the implementation of the Ravenna Economic Development Through Occupancy Program.

Mr. Cecora said they talked a little bit about this. He just completed the final edit on the program and he wanted to make sure it was abundantly clear that none of this involves a cash transaction. It is simply tax credit incentive. There, in no way, can be remuneration or payment involved with this. He asked if an ordinance is needed for this or if it is an administrative ED tool they are adopting.

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President Ricciardi asked exactly what they're talking about.

Mr. Cecora said that it is the incentive program whereby an existing company decides to expand on their site, the city will offer a tax incentive credit on their net profits, based on job creation and payroll created. If a new company moves into town and occupies an existing building, they will also be offered that same net profit credit based on withholding thresholds and jobs created thresholds.

The clerk asked if Council would be approving these individually through legislation.

Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative. One of the things they talked about was that it is exclusively an internal tool. It has nothing to do with HUD. It has nothing to do with the Department of Development. This is just something the city has at its disposal internally. Again, the percentage cannot exceed 50% of the withholding and basically how many jobs they bring in, they'll craft how many years and the value of that, etc.

President Ricciardi said that as was pointed out, is this a general kind of thing or on an "as needed" basis.

Mr. Seman said they've actually done this once with Parker Hannifin. He would think that the answer is that they don't need legislation to approve the program. He does think the administration wants it in their war chest to help with development.

The clerk noted that if they do not put the program in legislation form, it gives them a little bit more leeway to make modifications.

Mayor Bica said they would not offer this to every one. This is kind of another ace up their sleeve. If they don't need to use it, they shouldn't.

President Ricciardi asked why they don't let it go and as something comes up, then it would be approved by committee and council if need be.

Mr. Cecora said they can do it much like tax abatement and deal with it on a case by case basis, council can acknowledge and accept it and get a heads up.

Mr. Seman said in committee last week, there was a question as to whether or not an ordinance is needed for the new company coming into the old Domino Logistics building on Freedom Street. They do need legislation because they are going for new money. If this was just RLF money, it could be done without legislation. There are other financing issues involved with moving this company here. He thinks they were going to add about 20 jobs as their part of the agreement. The grant is in the sum of \$350,000.00. The city is providing \$25,000.00 through RLF funds. The grant from the state is \$325,000.00. This is just purely permission to authorize the mayor to go ahead and file for this grant. When they start paying this off, it will go back to the RLF funds and provide additional funding for future development.

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There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 9 is a request to accept the amounts and rates determined by the Portage County Budget Commission.

Mr. Cecora said this is done annually. This basically acknowledges and accepts what the county has set forth for the tax budget next year.

There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 10 is a request for the retroactive approval of advances, appropriation transfers and fund transfers for the month of July, 2012.

Mr. Cecora said there was one transfer to report. That was for debt service. That was it.

There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

Mr. Finney said he has a request to appropriate an additional \$20,000.00 for the city garage floor drain project. There was some additional items added to the scope of work that he doesn't expect it to be \$20,000.00 but he wants to make sure they cover the costs. That will come from the storm fund. This just came up Thursday last week.

There being no further comments, questions, objections or discussion, President Ricciardi declared that an ordinance would be prepared.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

**ATTEST:**

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Clerk of Council

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Francis M. Ricciardi, Chairman  
Finance Committee