

MINUTES OF A FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 17, 2012

The September 17, 2012 Ravenna City Finance Committee meeting was called to order at 6:55 P.M. by Council President Francis Ricciardi. The following members were present: **Fred Berry, Bruce Ribelin, Frank Seman, Amy Michael and Jack Ferguson.** Also attending the meeting were: Finance Director, Kim Cecora; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Nick Dudek of 328 North Prospect Street, Ravenna; Donna Swigart of 528 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna; Vince Sylvester and Kem Cipriano, owners of the East Main Saloon as well as their attorney John Plough of 447 Madison Street, Ravenna.

President Ricciardi noted that Attorney Plough has asked for a few minutes to speak on behalf of the owners of East Main Saloon. He explained to Mr. Plough that the comments would probably be better made in front of the liquor commission at the hearing. However, Mr. Plough asked and he said yes, he may.

Mr. Plough said he's here on behalf of Vince and Chip Cipriano who are co-proprietors of the East Main Saloon. He's not sure if that was made clear at the last meeting. The Cipriano name in Ravenna has been synonymous with good, quality businesses and that's the way they've tried to run this business down there at East Main Saloon. In the eight years they've been open, they've never been cited once by the liquor commission for any violations. Since this incident that took place that got so much publicity in the paper which wasn't even their fault. They were just trying to keep somebody out of the bar who wasn't old enough to be there and didn't show proper ID and she didn't want to leave. That's when it all started. They were just trying to enforce the law and then this happened. Since that time, they've only had two calls from there. There were no problems. Vince who is currently operating this and he's retiring in a couple of weeks and then Chip is going to take over.

Mr. Ricciardi asked what the nature of those two calls that were no problem.

Vince Cipriano said one the cops had to come because some one wouldn't pay the cover charge at the door. The other one was some drunk they wouldn't serve went out back and passed out and they called the cops. It was like 1:30 in the morning.

Mr. Ricciardi said that a report came across on his desk because that person actually assaulted on of the paramedics.

Vince Cipriano said this person was not a customer of the bar.

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Mr. Ricciardi said that's not what the report he got says. It says this individual was in there and he was with a customer. He tried to hit the customer with a bottle. The customer blocked it. The one customer left. This guy stayed there, started harassing the bartender. Another individual who was there intervened. This guy grabbed his leg. This guy punched him in the face, bloodied him up pretty good, dragged him outside and left him on the street. That's when the cops were called. They came out. They called the squad for this guy. They transported him to the hospital.

Vince Cipriano noted that he got arrested.

Mr. Ricciardi said he did. He got arrested for assaulting the paramedics, not from what happened in the bar. What he can't figure out is why when this guy takes a swing at somebody with a bottle, your people don't call the cops right then and there.

Chip Cipriano said that's because they are afraid to.

Mr. Ricciardi said that they are further ahead of the game if they do that than if you let it go and your guy just drags them outside and dumps him on the sidewalk.

Chip Cipriano said he is very confused. The incident they're talking about, the person came into the bar; did not get served. He went out back, started throwing a fit. That was last Tuesday.

Mr. Plough said he got this information a week ago Monday.

Mr. Ferguson said he was across the street at the Chamber office. It was last Tuesday. There were three police cars and an ambulance there.

Mr. Ricciardi said when somebody tries to knock somebody else in the head with a beer bottle, the cops should have been called right then and there.

Mr. Plough said he thinks that's what is happened. He thinks because of the situation here now with their license request to not be renewed, they're afraid to call the police because every call goes as a strike against them. If you're going to have drinking alcohol, with people drinking, there are going to be incidents. It's almost impossible to prevent it.

Mr. Ricciardi said the idea is to cut them off before they get to that point. From what he read in the report, this guy was harassing the one customer for quite awhile. This guy kept telling him to leave him alone and the guy wouldn't. Why somebody didn't call the cops before it got to the point where the rest of it happened, he doesn't know.

Mr. Plough said nobody in this room, apparently wasn't there and he doesn't know what happened. It's possible that somebody could have been bothering another person and the bartender didn't even know it.

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Mr. Ricciardi said that it's possible there really is a man in the moon.

Chip Cipriano said he does recall hearing about it from the neighbor.

Mr. Ricciardi said there has to be better communication between them as the owners and their employees.

Chip Cipriano said that's one of the things they are talking about right now; revamping the whole crew.

Mr. Plough said they are trying to do whatever they can. Most of the problems occur on the weekends. What they are doing is on Friday and Saturday nights, there are going to be three bouncers; one at the front door, one at the back door, and one in the middle of the bar. Hopefully, they'll all be able to take an assessment of a situation, being three of them in there. They're not going to let anybody in unless they have a valid Ohio Driver's license. They will not accept any other form of identification. They are going to enforce a dress code; no hoodies or soggy pants. They are going to require proper attire for both men and women. They are charging a cover charge after 11:00 PM. They think that will keep a lot of the riffraff out. Hopefully, that will work. This is a list of things they've already done. They have already established these. No smoking in front of the bar. If they're going to smoke, they are going to have to go out to the patio in the back; no loitering on the property and the DJ is not going to play gangster rap, only rock and roll, country and top 40s. From 11:00 to closing on Fridays and Saturdays everyone has to go in and out through the back door; no more than 40 customers in the bar at one time. Nobody is going to be over served. If they are exhibiting any kind of evidence they are under the influence of alcohol, they're not going to be served. These are things that could prevent problems where they might have to call the police because drunks get angry when they can't get that last alcoholic beverage they want. These are things they want to do to try to prevent problems from developing. Bartenders caught drinking on the job will be fired.

Mr. Plough went on to say that they were hoping somehow Council would take it upon themselves to possibly reverse that other resolution so they don't have to go to a hearing. Chip Cipriano is going to be taking over in a couple of weeks.

Chip Cipriano said when they first opened this bar about eight years ago, they talked this thing out, did a little investigating on how the bars worked. They talked to a couple of people who own bars. They looked at this bar and thought it would be a nice little bar for the blue collar workers around here to go to after work, maybe something to do on the weekends; people who didn't want to go to Kent any more, middle aged people. They worked out a nice deal and opened up the bar with these thoughts, knowing they would have some problems, like most bars. Little did they know they were going to have so much bad element coming through the door, right from day one. It's like you get a free pass to get out of jail pass and go straight to East Main Saloon. They've been battling these problems for the last eight years. They've been doing

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everything they can. They started off by getting security. At one time they had a security company in there. They put cameras in. They were one of the first ones around here to put cameras in. They just did everything they possibly could. He spent most all of his weekends there. Over the last six months he and his brother started working out some other things and Vince took the business over, just temporarily because they weren't sure if he was going to run his retirement incentives, etc. Everything has worked out with his retirement and he's coming back in October 1, solely. They are going to implement all the changes they talked about but they are also going to start the DJ at 8:00 and have them done at 1:00. Their biggest problem has been people coming in from other bars on the weekends after they've been drinking too much and coming in there around 1:30 and starting trouble. They are opened until 2:30. They're one of the only ones. They don't care about the bar. They sat somewhere else, enjoyed themselves and respected that bar but they're going to come in here and start trouble.

Mr. Ricciardi asked if they are going to reduce their hours.

Chip Cipriano responded in the affirmative. They are going to have the DJ done by 1:00 and everybody out by 1:30. That's going to take off some of the problem right there. Another problem they run into with the bar, people stroll in there that they don't serve. They refused to serve someone once and he turned around, went to the police and told them they took a \$100.00 bill from him that was in his shoe. The police went there and checked to see if everybody had a \$100.00 bill.

Mr. Berry asked if there is any way to keep individuals who are intoxicated from coming through that door.

Mr. Cipriano said they try. But you don't know it when they first come in. If they come in just fine and once they get that first drink, you can start seeing it then. It's usually their first or second drink when you really know they've been drinking all night. Sometimes you can see it and those are ones they don't serve. Weekdays he'll be closing early, too. The first sign of trouble, he's just going to shut the place down.

Mr. Ricciardi said that was the Haymarket for years and years and years. Certainly they weren't trouble free but they didn't have anywhere near, seemingly, the number of incidents that they're seeing there now. Does he have an explanation for that.

Mr. Cipriano said he thinks there are more people coming into town drinking now than there used to be. They're from the different smaller areas that might have gone to Kent. No one wants to drive too far any more. They've had their problems over there. He thinks all of the bars are having their problems. This year they've got the majority of them. They've been there for eight years and didn't. They still haven't gotten any kind of mark on their license. No matter what kind of argument a customer gives them. They won't get served if they're underage. They try to talk you into staying after hours. They try to talk you into selling liquor on Sundays. They haven't done it. Sure, they've had their other problems. There is bad element that comes in. Lately, there has been more of it.

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Mr. Ricciardi said to let him tell how they get to this point where Council recommends a non-renewal to the liquor board. They get the police come to them and tell them there have been so many incidence of these particular establishments that they need to be addressed to the liquor board. That's when it comes to Council. That's usually when these folks vote to follow the recommendations of the Police Department because they're the ones who deal with these problems on a relatively regular basis. They aren't here because anybody in particular owns it or they know anything specific about the bar other than the incident he just related because it just came across his desk. They know what they hear from the Chief of Police who comes here, or his representative and says they're having a problem with this establishment and this one and the liquor board just sent an inquiry as to whether or not there are any bars in the community that needs to be looked at. When the Police Chief comes here and says it's this one and this one, and this one they need to have it addressed, then this body generally does what it did in the case of their establishment and the Town Tavern and recommend that this go before the liquor board for a hearing. That's why they are where they are. It's nothing personal with reference to them or the folks at the Town Tavern or anything else.

Mr. Cipriano said he isn't taking it as anything personal. He thinks Council has a job to do and they are doing it.

Mr. Ricciardi said the only thing he can say at this point they are going to go to the liquor board. That's probably not going to go away by addressing this body. They are more than welcome to as he told them outside. He doesn't think asking these folks to withdraw that simply based on some modifications or changes that they have now incorporated isn't going to happen at this stage of the game is what he was told.

Mr. Cipriano said that he's just trying to give his point that there have been a lot of calls but a high percentage of those calls are something that they weren't at fault for. They're uptown in Ravenna. None of them are regular customers. Most are from out of town; 95% of the people who go in there every Friday and Saturday night do not cause a problem. Every time there is a problem, he's hearing the name for the first time. He can't say all of the time but 90% of these problems are coming in from out of town, from another establishment and they get very upset when they try to enforce what they're supposed to enforce. This is an ongoing battle for them, too but they're not giving up the fight. They keep battling it. They don't want it to be that way. They're not criminals. He has to get fingerprinted every year with his job. He feels like they are villain-ized by having this bar in town. Sometimes he thinks the police even look at them like they're part of this big conspiracy going on here. They're not that way. They are just trying to do the right thing and have a decent bar for people to come into. It was working for awhile. He wasn't at the last meeting. He was out of town. Vince and Mr. Plough talked with the Police Chief and he said he's more than willing to work with them on anything and he understands exactly where they are coming from.

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Mr. Plough said they talked with Chief Adkins and Captain Wallis about a week and a half ago. They were very cordial to them. They said they were very willing to work with everybody. They made some suggestions, which has been implemented. That's why they are just trying to head this thing off at the pass before it got out of control. Just to remind them, back in the 80's, he did prosecute a murder case from the Haymarket. There was a pretty serious incident down there.

Mr. Ricciardi said he's aware they had their troubles. He knows of the case he's talking about.

Mr. Plough said that these things do happen in bars and hopefully, nobody is going to come in there with a gun. They're going to keep those kind of people out. He thinks the point they are trying to make is these folks are good business people. The Cipriano family is a good business family and they don't want to lose their license because they were under the impression that if an incident happened, call the police. Now, it seems like they are possibly being punished because they do call the police. That has kind of put a damper on them maybe making calls. Even the police said no, they don't want them to do that; don't be afraid to call. Just call. Like he said at the last meeting, Giant Eagle had three times as many calls as East Main Saloon in the last three months. It happens. You can't control when you have a public place. You can't control perfectly what kind of people come into your establishment. They can try to do what they can and they are making efforts to do that to limit the number of problems that they have and he thinks these implementations they mentioned here are helping. The calls have gone down. This incident Mr. Ricciardi talked about, Vince wasn't there. Chip wasn't there. He doesn't know what happened.

Chip Cipriano said that if it happens after October 1, he'll know about it.

Mr. Plough said that if it happens, like he said, the neighbor who owns the business next door came in with this fellow and apparently they must have gotten into some kind of an argument that started it.

Mr. Ricciardi said he doesn't know what goes on in their establishment. Certainly it's incumbent upon the owners to know what goes on in their establishment. That's one reason he is suspecting is why they are here having this conversation now. For them to come in here and say they didn't know this; they didn't know that; he believes that. But he thinks it is incumbent upon them to know what happens there and when you perceive a problem, they've got to figure out ways to stop it from reoccurring and they have to cooperate with the police. To not call the police in that situation that he just described, to him, is just simply something that's going to get them into more trouble.

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Chip Cipriano said the newspaper said there was a girl who got arrested from Windham at East Main Saloon Saturday, September 8 which is the girl that came in the front door, and this they do know about, did not get served, went out back and started throwing a fit and they called the police. So, she was fighting with the police. She wasn't their customer. She wasn't her problem. This is the kind of stuff that makes them think this is the place to go for bad guys.

Mr. Ricciardi said unfortunately they don't get to write the headlines and neither do they.

Chip Cipriano asked whenever they do call the police; no matter how innocent, is it a mark against East Main Saloon.

Mr. Berry said that's what it sounds like it has been.

Chip Cipriano said there are customers who get refused service. They start trouble. They tell the security guys they try the nice approach first and then push them out the door. They're still on the property then they go back and break something. So they call the police. Then it makes them a bad guy. He's sure there are legitimate mistakes made, especially with the transition of him taking over for the next couple of weeks. They can't ward off this meeting with the state, he can see, but he wanted Council to at least know this. He doesn't know this works with the state; if they make an instant decision, whatever. They will see on their license that they've never had a mark against it.

Mr. Ricciardi said that he's sure that will be considered by them as well. The Police Chief will be here for the hearing. If he's got something to speak on their behalf, he's sure Chief Adkins will do that.

Mr. Ribelin said they will have the right to appeal the decision by the State Liquor Control Board.

Mr. Cipriano said he was hoping for a year to show them.

Mr. Plough asked if there is any possibility they can revote on it and come up with a resolution.

Mr. Ricciardi said he doesn't think at this stage of the game. The hearing has been set. These liquor control people come down hard on them for doing that kind of thing; setting hearings and then having the City who requested the hearing suddenly say they don't need them any more.

Mr. Plough said they all appreciate Council's time.

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Ms. Michael thanked them for coming in with the information they did.

President Ricciardi opened the regular Finance Committee meeting at 7:20 P.M.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 1 is a request to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of August 20, 2012.

There being no additions, deletions or changes, a motion as made by Mr. Berry to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seman. **Voice Vote: All Ayes.**

President Ricciardi said Item No. 2 is a request to approve the assets no longer needed to sell at auction.

Mr. Berry said this is for the previous scanner copier that was used in the Engineering Department. It has been replaced and the recommendation by the engineer was to auction it off along with other items that have come up.

An explanation of the auction procedures in the Ohio Revised Code was read by the clerk. She said that they discussed the possibility of having two auctions a year and posting the legislation with those dates on it. The legislation has to be posted in the newspaper in its entirety the first time. It can be condensed the second time.

President Ricciardi said when this says “the legislative authority shall adopt a resolution expressing its intention to sell that property by internet auction” are they talking about specific property has to be listed in the resolution or are they talking about a general statement indicating road machinery, equipment, tools, supplies, etc.

The clerk said that the resolution would say it’s not needed or unfit for public use.

President Ricciardi said he thinks they need to have Mr. Cimino review this and see if they can do a general resolution or be more specific. It’s unclear to him how they have to do it.

The clerk said this particular one will have those items listed. In the meantime, they will discuss it with Mr. Cimino.

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 authorize the mayor to enter into a contract with Ravenna City Board of Education for a school resource officer.

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Mr. Ribelin said previously the City of Ravenna and the school system split the salary of the resource officer. He believes there wasn't one in the school last year. The school system has agreed to pay the entire salary of the resource officer. This is simply a contract with them stating they will do that.

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

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 authorize the mayor to enter into an amended contract with the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District.

Mr. Ribelin said the City previously had a contract with Akron Regional Air Quality Management District. It was explained at the Committee meeting by Ms. Engelhart. The cost of the testing is higher but the industries will be assessed for the cost of those tests.

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 process the tree lawn parking.

Mr. Ferguson said this has been an ongoing issue for a long time. The administration has written up a draft which they presented to the Committee. It has some very realistic teeth in it. At some point in time, they will be holding a public hearing and then shortly thereafter, hopefully, they will get this thing resolved and put to bed.

Mr. Ribelin said that it looks like a good compromise.

Mr. Ferguson said that the draft they were presented with his quite realistic. Of course there will be some controversy on it but he's sure it will be workable.

Mr. Seman said he's not as enamored with this as everyone else is. He thinks this is a hardship on many senior citizens. He's been practically assaulted about the cost for something they've been doing for 20, 30, 40 years. Now it's going to cost them almost \$300.00 to register to use it. There will be people, for sure, at the public hearing. He's telling them to come to the public hearing.

Mr. Ferguson noted this isn't written in stone and can be changed.

President Ricciardi said they can listen to what the folks have to say and he thinks everybody is open to making any changes in the policy. Nobody wants to create hardships for people but by the same token, they don't want people taking advantage of the situations.

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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. 6 is a request to appropriate \$1,092.00 for contract mowing through 2012.

Mr. Ferguson said there was more high grass and more problems with mowing this year and they just had to go out more often than projected and more money is needed to finish out the year.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 7 is a request to amend the Codified Ordinances to allow two of the five Shade Tree Commission members to live outside the City limits.

Mr. Plough said he's opposed to this. The Shade Tree Commission hasn't been active for a long time. When it was active, it really didn't do the job it was supposed to do, according to the law. To have two members who live outside the City to be on the committee. He's not sure what the motivation is behind it. He knows that the last arborist lived up in Lake County. He talked to him about 20 or 30 times over the years. He really didn't have any interest in the community because he lived in Lake County. He had an interest in making money because he came down here to be the arborist but his view of the City was actually different than somebody that actually lives here and goes past the trees all of the time, every day of their lives. He came down here two or three times a year, looked at the trees and said this one needs cut or that one needs cut. He thinks if the people don't have an interest then if they live in the community and they're not going to see it the same way as he would or someone else who lives here. He would be opposed to that ordinance being amended like that. He thinks people ought to live here and ought to have a vision of what they want the community to look like. If they planted 5,000 trees in this community, he thinks the businesses would flock here to be in a community where people would love to come. When he was a kid growing up on South Chestnut Street, almost every street in this City had a tree line on both sides and there were canopies over the center of the street. You could walk down the street; drive down the street, everything would be shady. The way it's been hodgepodge over the last 40 years or so. He thinks that's when they started cutting the trees down and planting smaller trees and a lot of those would die and then even trees that weren't even on the side of the power lines that were cut down, they weren't replaced by larger trees or they weren't replaced at all. He just noticed uptown here recently, there have been a number of trees uptown cut down. When that streetscape went in 1994, he talked to the architect who said they cut down a lot of trees that were planted. They were in wood, they aren't like they are now with a base goes into the ground and have a metal grate around them. They were raised and had wood around them. They cut every tree down in the City. Then it takes them 20 years to grow. He talked to the architect and he said trees are a replaceable commodity. Well, sometimes that's

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true but trees that have grown 20 or 30 years, they're not replaceable. He sees a lot of trees in the metal grates have been cut down and nothing's replaced them. He knows this because he lives in Ravenna. He comes uptown a lot. He sees things. He thinks if they have two people who don't live inside the City limits to be on the committee, they're not going to see it the same way as a person who lives here. He just wanted to express his opinion on it.

Mr. Ribelin said the reason for the request was that someone who lives in the township and is an arborist is interested in sitting on this commission.

Mr. Plough said that he knows how arborists look at things. They look at different than a citizen. They look at it in terms of well, there's one dead branch at the top, let's cut this tree down. That's the way the last arborist looked at it. He can go around and show them 20 or 30 trees that he wanted to cut down 15 years ago that are still thriving. He just thinks that someone who lives here would have more interest in preserving the trees and to plant more trees, that's what he would like to see. Plant trees where the other trees have disappeared. They've probably lost thousands of trees in the last 40 years.

President Ricciardi said to be honest, and he has said this before, they cut an oak out of his front yard. He didn't see anything wrong with that thing when he went down and looked at it. Since then he got his crabapple. It blooms once a year. It has these suckers that come up. He has to trim those five times a year. It's more maintenance than its worth. Since then he planted in his front yard five trees about five years ago. They all took off like crazy. They are all thriving as well if not better than this little short crabapple tree that you get three days worth of blossoms out of a year and you get ten days worth of maintenance a year. It's a nightmare for the homeowners. They ought to be able to watch a tree grow and let it do its thing. He lives on a side street where there are no wires so the trees he planted are going to get big and they're going to get bigger. They're not going to interfere with anybody's wires except maybe the cable company. He doesn't see any reason to plant these kind of trees when they aren't going to interfere with wires. He thinks they've got to look at the area before deciding to put a crabapple here or a pear tree there. He said this before too; if you go down to the prosecutor's office, or across the street from there. They planted these things the fruity things come down on the sidewalks and they get really slippery. Somebody is going to break a neck or a leg on those things. So there wasn't a whole lot of forethought that went into where to put these things.

Mr. Finney asked if they should cut those down.

President Ricciardi said he doesn't see why not and why wouldn't they. They represent a public health hazard.

Mr. Finney said he spoke with the previous service director and asked him not to plant the crabapples over the sidewalks. He was told that it was up to the arborist to plant what he wants.

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Mr. Plough said that Mr. Askren had control of every thing.

President Ricciardi said he has a point, from his perspective.

Mr. Finney said that it's Ms. Engelhart's intent, with this proposal, to find additional qualified people. If it takes going outside of the City to find qualified people. People who have an interest in trees aren't necessarily those who are capable of reading a report and understand the technical report from an independent arborist that says that if they probed a tree and found that the density inside the tree is a certain number; do they understand that. That's what they are looking for. Somebody who might understand the tree might not have a life or it is hollow in the middle, is unsafe, etc.

Mr. Plough said there is an instrument which he had used on one of the trees in front of his house, which is on the tree lawn about three or four years ago which can go in and determine how much of the inside of the tree is hollow. If a certain percentage is still there, the tree is still okay.

Mr. Finney noted that there will be people who can't differentiate between that report and the fact that they're going to climb to the top of the tree and live there so that it doesn't get cut down. That's Ms. Engelhart's approach to this; let's find people who are qualified.

President Ricciardi said that if they get lay people who blindly follow that person because they are perceived to be an expert, it's as big of a problem as those who blindly follow what a paid arborist is saying he says because he has to rationalize getting paid.

Mr. Plough said Tommy Guy who used to do tree work for the City told him that actually trees that have a lot of leaves are more of a danger than dead trees because when the wind hits them, if there is a gigantic wind, it will hit those leaves and that's when the trees will come down, because they have a lot of leaves on them. It doesn't sound right but that's what it is.

Ms. Michael thanked Mr. Plough for his passion and love for trees. She truly does have a love and passion and she admires that. There are five seats with only two of those members being from outside the City so the City votes would outweigh those that aren't. She had the same problem with the Health Board. She was uneasy about it. At first she felt that they wouldn't have a vested interest like a member of the community. But then she wants what's best for the City. To get people to volunteer to sit on boards, there aren't a lot of people locally any more. She thinks by spreading out a little bit, even though the numbers are smaller, it's going to help point our community in the right direction.

Mr. Plough said he can see her point. He doesn't agree with her but he does see her point.

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President Ricciardi said he thinks folks have a mind to give it a try this way and get this board filled up with people and then move forward. If it becomes problematic, they can always change it.

Mr. Plough asked if it's being amended so certain people might have someone who wants to be on this committee. To him, that's not the way it should work. If they have enough volunteers from the City, he doesn't see any reason to do this. He thinks the Service Director is an automatic member according to the ordinance.

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 to accept and appropriate the 2012 CDBG funds (Formula) according to exhibit attached.

Mr. Seman said this is to accept the funds and appropriate the funds. The funding is now available and they would like to get on with the work. This is for a \$53,000.00 grant. Some RLF funds were contributed. If they drop below \$50,000.00, and they are very close to dropping below \$50,000.00 they will automatically use Regional Planning and work through the County on it. This has been dropping every year to the tune of between \$5,000.00 and \$8,000.00. It's been very useful with the programs Mr. Finney has been putting together using the funds. They also pay for the fair housing out of this which is \$4,000.00. One of the last items is the general administration, the administration contract, that is \$6,000.00.

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 and appropriate the 2012 CHIP grant funds according to the exhibit attached.

Mr. Seman said this is set up to do rehab on ten houses and small repairs on more houses. It really depends on how they spend the money as to how many houses can be serviced by these funds. The money appropriated for that goes to small items like furnaces, hot water tank, something specific, the rehabs are complete rehabs. This is in the neighborhood of \$435,000.00. Some other funds were also added to this. This is very helpful to people in the community who want to fix their home up to have access to these funds.

Mr. Finney asked if they are able to use any of this money for small improvements.

Mr. Seman responded in the affirmative. The attached paperwork says five small home improvements.

Mr. Finney asked if that's down to a \$1,000.00 level or if they want to stay at \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00.

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Mr. Seman said he thinks they have the ability, if they have to, to go lower, in the case of an emergency repair. The problem is, they have a list of people who have applied for these and they try to stay in the order to who has requested funds. That would be the only thing that would inhibit that. Quite honestly, they need to find funds more specific to what Mr. Finney is talking about. The situation with seniors really troubles him in this community. He would think they would find a large number of poor in this community are senior citizens. When something goes wrong in their house, they have no resources to take care of it.

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

President Ricciardi said the next item is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into an administration agreement with NDS for the administration of the Formula Grant.

Mr. Seman said this agreement is done annually, along with the Formula Grant.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 11 is a request to appropriate \$2,000.00 from the Recreation Levy Fund to purchase security cameras at the parks.

President Ricciardi noted that they are looking to put two additional cameras at the skate park and one replacement at the pavilion. These cameras are of a higher quality than the previous cameras.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 12 is a request to accept a donation of \$10,534.28 and record estimated revenues in Parks Capital Improvement Funds.

President Ricciardi noted this is a donation for the small pavilion at Chestnut Hills Park.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 13 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into a contract with Maplewood Career Center to build a pavilion at Chestnut Hills Park.

President Ricciardi noted that this is the pavilion for which the previously discussed donation is being directed.

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Mr. Cecora said he spoke with Mr. Cimino this morning who indicated a contract may not be needed. They may just go with certificates of additionally insured. He will keep every one posted if none is needed.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 14 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into a contract with Tremco, Inc., to install the roof over the RAC.

Mr. Finney said Tremco will put plans and specifications, monitor construction and provide the roof through state purchasing. This is a metal roof. It's the same company that installed the roof at the water plant. It is a different type of roof but same company.

President Ricciardi said as he recalls, this roofing system requires an authorized installer to do the work. They can't just go out and get any contractor to do the work.

Mr. Finney noted that Mr. Ricciardi is correct but that one of the local contractors is a certified installer. They have been requested to submit a bid. They have met with two contractors but he believes they have asked for more bids.

President Ricciardi said Item No. 15 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter to advertise for bids for the Fairland, which they all know as the old Fairgrounds, allotment improvements.

Mr. Finney said this is a Neighborhood Revitalization Grant that was applied for and was awarded, \$300,000.00 of funding. This is based on a low to moderate income, high density community. They are going to make multiple repairs from hydrants, pavement, sidewalk, curbs. They are going to abandon the Woodside lift station, connect the homes into a gravity sanitary sewer. The lift station has lived its life. Also, Woodgate, Sapp and Southgate will be resurfaced. There are six hydrants that will be replaced, three of which are from 1950s. He believes 23 street lights will be replaced by Ohio Edison at Woodgate, Sapp, Southgate and the Fairgrounds. They were also able to get the street lights on Freedom Street in that stretch also. It's about a \$450,000.00 project; \$300,000.00 is grant money; \$50,000.00 comes from the paving program; \$50,000.00 comes from CDBG and \$50,000.00 comes from RLF. There will be a small portion from Sanitary but he thinks it's around \$6,000.00.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 16 is a request to appropriate \$16,000.00 for the replacement of the raw water flow meter at the water plant.

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Ms. Spencer said that Mr. Stephens explained they were getting inaccurate readings from the existing meter and it needs to be replaced.

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

President Ricciardi said that Item No. 17 is a request to appropriate \$1,600.00 for a turbidimeter for combined filter effluent.

Ms. Spencer said Mr. Stephens gave a good presentation. This will help with the EPA compliance monitoring which is the most important thing.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 18 is a request for the mayor to apply for funding from the OPWC for the construction of the Diamond Street water line project.

Ms. Spencer said what they are basically doing is asking to allow the mayor to submit the application and then if the application is approved, to agree to participate in the City's local share of the funding. The application deadline is November 1.

Mr. Finney said the total project cost is estimated at \$488,000.00. The City's share will be about \$150,000.00 which will be coming from the Water Fund. The project will encompass North Diamond from Main to Highland Avenue and then from the railroad tracks to Cleveland Road. This is next year's construction. They have been preliminarily approved at the county level. Now it goes to the State, which is standard procedure. There is some storm work that needs done, the big box culvert needs some work at the Wahoo Ditch and that will be part of this project also. That will be using storm funds.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 19 is a request to update the payroll ordinance with proposed changes listed.

Mr. Cecora said that the fitness incentive for part-time patrol officers is simply putting them in line with what the unions are doing now. They made it voluntary. Property maintenance; the description comes out for the parking enforcement and property maintenance person, they are taking that out of the description. They are adding an assistant engineer effective January 1, 2013; removing the senior project manager effective 12/31/2012. There is also a

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category in there called Permit Specialist. That has not been used for a couple of years. They are removing that. They are not going to remove the Fire Clerical or the Street Department Clerical as originally thought. They are going to stay in as payroll positions; changing the range on Accounting Clerk, lowering it from 9 to 7.

Ms. Michael asked if the Fire Clerical will be a fulltime or a part-time position.

Mr. Cecora responded that it will be listed as a fulltime position in the payroll ordinance.

Ms. Michael noted that quite some time ago, some of the cost savings were to make that a part-time position and the Street Clerical a part-time position. Then recently, when they talked about the employee retiring, taking it back by hiring two individuals, each part-time in those departments.

Mr. Cecora said because it's a union position, they are going to leave it fulltime in the ordinance but just not fill it.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 20 is a request to authorize the mayor to enter into a contract with Infinity Resources for employment placement.

Ms. Michael said they talked about a way of saving costs for seasonal part-time employees. This is an employment placement agency to provide those employees. Her understanding is that it is a 40% increase in costs but Mr. Cecora explained to her that that the unemployment and Worker's Compensation, what they are saving with one of those claims alone, would be worth the 40% hike. She asked how many Workers' Compensation claims do they average in the department, with these seasonal employees.

Mr. Cecora said that one is more exposed to unemployment than it is Workers' Compensation. They have been okay when it comes to occupational injuries but they are seeing more and more exposure to unemployment. With the unemployment laws the way they are, with the look back period of 26 weeks of continuous employment, includes the City of Ravenna, they are swept up in the exposure period. What compounds it is the City doesn't pay any state or federal unemployment. They are a pay as you go entity. They are self-insured when it comes to unemployment claims.

Mr. Berry asked if it's always been that way.

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Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative. As Ms. Michael said, it's 1.38% over base wage. He sent an email out last week that talked about the base wage of which they are paying 20% on a dollar for OPERS, Medicare, Workers' Compensation markup. They have to throw in another 20% on top of that with Infinity Resources. Is it worth the trade off? When they start looking incrementally at that, yes, it is. When they look at Workers' Compensation exposure and carrying costs of any employee beyond pension and straight benefits, it's not outrageous whatsoever. One of the comments he made with this is that it is a pilot program, selecting seasonal employees out of Parks & Recreation, a couple of people in the clerical pool, maybe something like backfilling a job that was eliminated because of attrition. These are some of the areas they are going to look at and see how it works out with this agency. One of the things about Infinity Resource Group is they aren't a monster agency. This isn't Manpower or Kelly Services, not that there is anything wrong with that. They're a medium sized concern. They are really hands on. They've had great communication. He's met with them on several occasions. Elaine Van Hoose has met with them. Before they take this on, on a larger scale, they will try it out and see how it goes.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 21 is a request to appropriate \$1,000.00 for the purchase of a filing system for all personnel and HR related information.

Ms. Michael said Mr. Morris was at a meeting recently and they talked about having all of the records in one area. This is for a new filing system for the HR related files.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 22 is a request to appropriate \$2,074.28 from the water revenue fund to cover the unemployment liability owed on a past employee.

Mr. Cecora said here is a classic case; unfunded, self-insured unemployment compensation. A part-time employee whose 26 week look back period included some employment with the City of Ravenna. A breakdown of the various places of employment are attached and how the City rolls into it. It's a good illustration of how this happens during a look back period. It may not solely be City of Ravenna and may be in conjunction with other full or part-time employers. That's one of the things they are on the hook for. For as long as they are self-insured, that's how it's going to play out. That was a consideration when they talked about the mark up put on any type of outsourced employee.

Mr. Berry asked if it's a good move for the City to do it that way.

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Mr. Cecora said he thinks in the course of doing business for most public entities over the last 30 years, it probably was rather innocuous simply because things such as turnover, unemployment, outside of natural attrition, the rate wasn't that great, particularly for an entity the size of Ravenna, it was an afterthought at best. Very rarely did an employee leave, not upon his or her own volition. It's much like they are going through with Mr. Morris. There are so many questions Council had about HR policies, documentation. When you don't do a lot of hiring in 30 years, you don't tend to use it as much. At this point, that's his best answer. If you want to pay it premium based, he doesn't know if they have enough to justify paying it premium based. It would be like healthcare, do you want to pay the premium or do you want to pay per spec. They can follow it up if they want.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 23 is a request to accept the proposal from Love Insurance for the municipal insurance package for 9/15/2012 through 9/14/2013.

Mr. Cecora said this is the same insurance agent, with Arrowhead Insurance. The price came in really good this year at \$71,000.00. No changes in coverage. They know the company and coverage is the same.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 24 is a request to adjust estimated revenues and appropriations.

Mr. Cecora said he has a schedule and will get it to them via email. This is the cleanup entry. It will tell them any appropriations needed, revenues coming in. He will give a little bit more information in the email as to what to look for and some of the talking points on it.

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

President Ricciardi said Item No. 25 is a request for the retroactive approval of advances, appropriation transfers and fund transfers completed in August, 2012.

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Mr. Cecora said there was one advance to report and that is return of grant money back into the General Fund.

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 8:22 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Francis M. Ricciardi, Chairman
Finance Committee