

Ravenna City Council Public Health and Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2012

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:45 P.M. by Chairman, Bruce Ribelin. Present were: Frank Seman, Amy Michael, Jack Ferguson, Fred Berry, Sharon Spencer and Fran Ricciardi. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Joseph Bica, Finance Director, Kim Cecora; City Engineer, Bob Finney Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, Bill Bregant. Also in attendance were Nick Dudek of 328 North Prospect Street, Ravenna; Louis Dudek of 704 East Main Street, Ravenna; George Rossow of 6481 Peck Road, Ravenna and Marc Resnik of 1102 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna.

Mr. Ribelin said the first item on the agenda is the sale of Squad 2311 in the Fire Department.

Mayor Bica said the long and short of it is, they would like to sell this unit at auction vs. trading it in. They believe the value is much higher at auction than in trade.

The clerk noted that Chief Cleveland said he wanted to sell it to the township.

Mayor Bica said they are going to put it up for auction and the township can bid on it. There has been interest expressed by the township.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Mr. Ribelin said the next item for discussion is open fires within the City limits.

Mayor Bica said the Service Director is in a conference in Columbus. There has been open burning in the City. There really is not a legislative mechanism to fine people for open burning. There has been some discussion between the Service Director and the Fire Department. Typically, the Police Department can go out and write a ticket if someone is parked in the front yard but there isn't really a mechanism to actually ticket an individual with a warning and then a fine for open burn. She would like to make an addition to the Code to do the same thing that is done when a parking ticket is issued. They get a warning and then an actual ticket.

Ms. Michael asked if they are prohibiting any burning. It's not uncommon for people to have a pit fire outside.

Mayor Bica said there are specifications as to how big the fires can be. He thinks it's a three foot in diameter total for an outdoor fire. He agrees that these are fires where people tend to burn leaves, trash, tires.

Mr. Ribelin said there is some legislation in place but as far as enforcement, they do not. He asked if Ms. Engelhart will be putting together some language on it.

Mayor Bica responded in the affirmative, noting the Code says they can't do it but there are no teeth behind the legislation. That's all they're looking for. They don't want to prohibit people from having backyard fires.

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Mr. Seman said that he thinks the Code says they have to burn hardwood. They can't burn trash or other things in a pit.

Mayor Bica said this is not a critical item to move on. He would like to bring the committee some language at the next meeting. They wanted to bring it up and see how they felt about it. If they're okay with it, they will propose some language at the next meeting.

It was the consensus of those present that the issue would remain on the agenda for the meeting next month.

Mr. Ribelin said the next item for discussion is the Summit County HIV Education and Testing Program.

Mayor Bica said Summit County is looking at the Ravenna City Health Department to help them explore a joint effort. They want to hire the Ravenna nurse on a part-time, pay for that nurse at about \$23,000.00 from the Summit County Health Department to do education and testing for HIV in Portage County. It would be a collaborative effort between Portage County and Summit County. Ravenna's nurse would actually be the point person that Summit County would like to hire to do that in Portage County. What it does is offsets some of the cost of the nurse. It gets her out there doing more promotion of public health.

Ms. Michael asked if this means the nurse will have her hours restored because they had been cut.

Mayor Bica responded in the affirmative stating the nurse will have her hours restored.

Mr. Ribelin said that it gives them an opportunity to expand the services.

Mayor Bica said they see this as a huge collaborative effort between Summit County and the City of Ravenna, utilizing Ravenna personnel, giving them some additional hours. The educational component is extremely valuable. A contract will be submitted for services and payment of the \$23,000.00. It wouldn't start until 2013. This is not an emergency issue.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Ms. Michael noted a clothing bin at the CIC building on North Chestnut Street. She asked if they were given permission to put it there.

Mayor Bica responded that they did not. He did call the number and received a call back. The person has never returned that call about why it was put there. There was no permission given and as Ms. Michael pointed out on a couple of occasions, it has become a rash around town.

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Ms. Michael said it looks junky and they are showing up all over town. She is concerned about how legitimate they are.

Mayor Bica said they never received permission from any one to do that. It just appeared there one night. They are following up on it, with very little luck, but they are trying.

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

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Bruce Ribelin, Chairman
Public Health and Safety Committee