

City of Ravenswood
Common Council Minutes
February 17, 2026

Call to Order

- Mayor Josh Miller called to order a meeting of the Common Council at 7:00 P.M. on February 17, 2026 in Ravenswood City Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America.

- Mayor Josh Miller led the pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

- The following members were present, Mayor Josh Miller, Councilors, Eric Cullen, Dee Scritchfield, Amanda Slaven, Todd Ritchie, Jeff Koon and Attorney Steve Cogar, Recorder Jared Bloxton – call in

Approval of Prior Minutes 1/20/26

- Todd Ritchie moved to Approve the meeting minutes from 01/20/2026, second by Eric Cullen **All Approved**

Presentation – Ravenswood Historic District Design Guidelines

FY24- Audit Report

- Prior Year Findings were 13 and this year only 7
- There were no single audit findings-clean report

Dee Scritchfield made a motion to approve FY24 Audit, second by Jeff Koon

Audit Accepted All Approved

New Ordinance- Public Forum & Decorum Procedures- First Reading

Public Forum

- **Katrena Ramsey-** Speaking on behalf of Craig Greening - **See Attached**

Reports to Council

- **Police Dept-See Attached**
- **Maintenance Dept- See Attached**
- **Bob Newell** – Flap Grant, contract from DOH Approved; Boat ramp and stone on Sand Creek -AMPECO gearing up to start
- **Planning & Zoning-** Final Land Use Code almost finished, working on digitizing.
- **Downtown Ravenswood Partners – See Attached**
- **Parks & Rec- See Attached**
- **Great Bend Museum- See Attached**

OnTrac- Applying for and administering USDA Rural Business Development Grant-
Need Council Approval

Todd Ritchie and Dee Scritchfield recused themselves from voting

Amanda Slaven made a motion to Approve, second by Jeff Koon **All Approved**

ADA Compliance of Public Properties

- Selection of Vendor to assist long-term plan; Put out to bid for survey and Plan Pre-Bid Meeting

Todd Ritchie made a motion to Approve, second by Amanda Slaven **All Approved**

Municipal Water and Wastewater Projects

- **Phase 2A-** Pro Contracting is finishing up work at lagoons, waiting on AEP to set up service.
- **Phase 1-**Requesting binding commitment
- **Phase 2B** –Requesting binding commitment

Resolution Draw 29

Reimbursement for fencing around Silver Hills Tank \$8200.00

MOVRC Invoice 3614 \$474.50

Amanda Slaven moved to Approve, second by Jeff Koon **All Approved**

Phase 2A-Draw 27

Thrasher (Jan&Feb) \$16,250.00

MOVRC \$4381.64

MOVRC \$6197.70

Pro Contracting EEGF \$179,689.36 ARPA \$30,539.81

Dee Scritchfield moved to Approve, second by Todd Ritchie **All Approved**

Ravenswood Waterfront EEGF Projects

- Bob Huffman presented a recommendation to clean trees and riverbank on property of Welcome Center/Incubator. Talked with Marion Construction.

Eric Cullen recused himself from voting

Jared Bloxton made a motion to Approve, second by Amanda Slaven then discussion

Todd Ritchie asked for more information on the scope of the project

Dee Scritchfield asked if this would be grant funded

Amended Motion- Jared Bloxton withdrew his original motion and made a motion to table this item, second by Amanda Slaven **All Approved**

Approval of Expenditures from Opioid Litigation Fund

- Purchase of Money Counter for Police Department

Dee Scritchfield moved to Approve, second by Amanda Slaven **All Approved**

Declare Openings for Maintenance Dept – Executive Session

Hiring of contractor for additional data entry and reconciliation process of financials – Executive Session

Eric Cullen made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:38pm. Second by Jeff Koon **All Approved**

Amanda Slaven made a motion to exit Executive Session at 9:23pm. Second by Eric Cullen **All Approved**

Todd Ritchie moved to hire 2 hourly employees for Maintenance Department. In addition, open an Assistant Maintenance Supervisor position at \$50,000 Non-Exempt. Amanda Slaven recused herself from the voting, with a second from Eric Cullen **All Approved**

Todd Ritchie motioned to hire a contracted position to help the financial consultant with data entry and reconciliation process for \$15,000 grant funded. Second by Amanda Slaven **All Approved**

Next Meeting Date March 3, 2026 @ 7:00pm

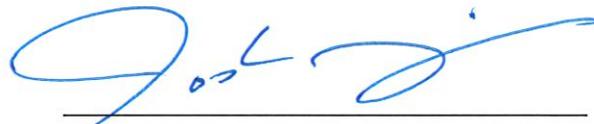
Adjournment

Mayor Josh Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:26pm via a motion from Todd Ritchie and second by Eric Cullen **All Approved**

Submitted By



Megan Thompson, Acting City Clerk



Mayor Josh Miller

Good evening ladies and gentlemen -

I come before you tonight to urge you to approve and fund the Americans With Disabilities Act survey and resultant transition plan as proposed to the Council at your last meeting.

Full disclosure – Tatum Storey, the young lady who was here at your last meeting, is my granddaughter. But that is not the reason I am here tonight.

The reason I am here, is because before I retired, I spent 40 years employing, supporting, and advocating for people with disabilities. I spent the last 15 of those years here at the Jackson County Developmental Center.

I urge the Council, in the strongest possible terms, to come to an understanding of the importance of having a ADA compliance survey completed as required in law. I like living in Ravenswood. I would like it more if the Council would look around the city and see how poorly the city welcomes people with disabilities.

Being compliant with the ADA does not just mean ramps and curb cuts. Nor does it mean creating accessibility for people who use wheelchairs. It includes doors on city property that can be opened by older individuals or people with limited upper body strength. It includes fully accessible parking capable of allowing appropriate vehicles needing an extra parking space for side access. It includes city documents fully accessible for people who are blind. And so on and so on.

The ADA's purpose is to simply allow access to everything from physical properties to to public documents, to all people. It was developed to create fair access for all people. If in the eyes of the law everyone is equal, then everyone must have equal and fair access to the same things as people without disabilities have.

This is not a problem to be solved by BOPARC, or the Planning Commission. It is a problem to be addressed by the City Council. Should a lawsuit be filed based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, not having the survey completed means the Council did not care and we the taxpayers lose. If the survey is completed and a transition plan is developed, then maybe the city and its residents could win or minimize any legal entanglements. And more importantly, the residents of Ravenswood with disabilities win, by living in a city that shows it cares.

Yes. There are many municipalities who have not completed an ADA survey, and who have not been sued. But, that is like driving without a driver's license and getting away with it – until you don't. Like the Boys Scout say... be prepared.

Let me share some numbers.

Ravenswood population is 3,846

22% or 843 people are over the age of 65

44% or 370 of those folks over 65 have a disability

14% or 531 of the city under the age of 65 have a disability

Thus approximately 900, or 23% of people living in Ravenswood have a disability. This does not include people with a disability who live near our fair city who come for shopping, or other types of business. These disabilities include a wide range of medical and health issues, from severe to mild. Nevertheless, this is a significant percentage of the people who live in our fair city who have a disability.

But--- the number of people with disabilities that live in the city or come to the city for business or recreation, is unimportant. Though there are plenty of people with disabilities in and around our fair city, what is important, is that Council takes this issue seriously, which is required by law, and approves and fully funds the survey, and then oversees and ensures the transition plan is completed.

Thank you.

Craig A. Greening
812 Gallatin St.

February 2026 Report to Council / January Activity

Total # of incidents = 267 (See Attached Dispatch Log)

Nature of calls:

See Attached 911 log

Mileage/Fuel

Total Miles Driven = 11,901

Total Fuel Cost = \$4,181

Average Price = \$3.48

Gallons Used = 1272

Arrests:

Misd. Citations: 7

Total Arrests: 96

Total arrests for Calendar year: 96

Use of Force Incidents

0

Pursuits

0

Fines and Fees Collected (city court):

January: \$1,998

Total Calendar Year 2026: \$1,998

Overtime Hours:

Shield Program: 36 (Does not include Non-OT hours)

Highway Safety (**Reimbursed**): 78

Court: 8

Arrests/Coverage/Transports/Investigations: 29

Training/Meetings/Special Details: 5

Shift Differential: 120

K-9: 12

Total: 288

Reimbursed: 78

***Ranked #5 in the region for DUI arrests**

***Ranked #9 in the entire State for DUI arrests**

This is due, primarily, to the Highway Safety work conducted by Patrolman Josh Ankrom

Code Enforcement

1. Vehicles removed: 9
2. Demolished Buildings: 0
3. New Property Investigations: 2
4. Open Property Investigations: 117
5. Property Investigations Closed: 3
6. Grass Warnings: 0
7. Dog At Large: 2
8. Search Warrant Executed: 0
9. Citations Issued: 0
10. Barking Dogs: 0
11. Illegal Burns: 0

Community/Other Participation/Boards & Associations

1. Jackson County Drug Court
2. Hope House Bridge Program (bridging recovery and law enforcement)
3. Youth Involvement – Coaching / Participating with kids
4. Community Outreach – Speaking Engagements
5. Proxy Member – WV Law Enforcement Professional Standards Subcommittee
6. WV Chiefs of Police Board
7. FBI National Academy Associates
8. International Association of Chiefs of Police
9. Jackson County Multidisciplinary Investigative Team (Sex Crimes Primarily)

Maintenance Dept Report 2/17/2026

- Garbage routes going as scheduled
- Cardboard routes working out good
- Maintaining water distribution system
- Maintaining sewer system
- Working on ballfield building when time allows
- Plowing and treating streets in the event of snow and ice
- Maintaining city buildings.
- To consider an opening for assistant maintenance supervisor position.
- To consider 2 openings for general maintenance positions.

Downtown Ravenswood Partners

30-Day Activity Report

Reporting Period: January 20 – February 17, 2026

Prepared by: Molly Washburn

Executive Summary

During the January 20–February 17 reporting period, Downtown Ravenswood Partners advanced public art implementation, launched the SHPO Historic District Design Standards project, completed federal grant procurement steps, strengthened educational partnerships through the VolunTEAM initiative, and continued federal-level investment training to support long-term economic development capacity.

Public Art & Community Engagement – Mural Mosaic Project

- Hosted two official tile-painting launch events at the Senior Center and Ravenswood Arts Gallery.
- Public tile painting phase underway; will continue through the first week of May.
- Received a two-month extension from Mural Mosaic due to winter weather delays.
- High School and Middle School art students will paint at least 125 tiles.

SHPO Historic District Design Standards Project

- Officially launched the SHPO-funded Design Standards project with Designing Local (Columbus, OH).
- Bi-weekly coordination calls underway.
- Stakeholder interviews being conducted with historic district residents and building owners.
- Community presentation scheduled for the City Council meeting on the 17th.

Environmental & Federal Grant Compliance – EPA Brownfields

- Completed RFQ process for environmental consultant under the EPA Community-Wide Assessment Grant.
- Received 13 proposals from qualified firms.
- Evaluation process currently underway.

Regional & Educational Partnerships – VolunTEAM Initiative

- Met with Jackson County Board of Education alongside Kelly Adcock (Main Street Ripley).
- Presented VolunTEAM countywide volunteer coordination initiative.
- Invited to present to high school principals; meeting scheduled March 4 at the Board of Education.

Professional Development – Community Investment Training

- Participated in weekly two-hour Community Investment Training sessions every Monday.

- Training through the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond focuses on developing investment-ready downtown projects.

Business & Community Engagement

- Attended the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce meeting to maintain alignment with local business stakeholders.

Overall Impact

Work completed during this reporting period advances project implementation, strengthens regional and educational partnerships, fulfills federal grant requirements, and builds long-term economic development capacity for downtown Ravenswood.

BOPARC Report to Council 17 February 2026

VETERANS' PARK

- Shade structure has arrived
- Completing grant reporting for PACF for reimbursement of 50% of the shade expense
- A new "statue" and signage is in the planning stages. This project is in cooperation with a local artist, the museum, veteran's groups, CNC Syndicate and Constellium. This is a project for America250.
- New book added to the StoryWalk. Slugs in Love represents Valentines Day

CAMPGROUND & MARINA

- Campground is losing several long-term clients as their contract has ended
- Five campsites are available, seven of twenty boat slips rented for the summer

MCINTOSH MEMORIAL PARK

- No updates—decision for demolition on hold by council—project costs continue to rise
- Will architecture details and cut stone be reserved/stored for a later prospect?
- Will site be back filled for future construction?

WASHINGTON'S RIVERFRONT PARK

- We have thawed! Memorial trees to be updated and pruned this week, 55 trees planted resulting in \$16500 in donations since the project began in 2013
- Sayre Log Cabin roof/wall received bids in the amount of: \$32,320.00 at the BOPARC meeting at 6pm 17 February 2026
- Museum roof contractor has not returned to begin repair
- Randy the River Rat made his 5th annual appearance at 7:32am on 2 Feb. His prediction of 6 weeks of winter has been viewed 66k times on social media. People depend on him.
- Coordinating a presentation with DAR and The Sons of the Revolution at ORF (celebrating America250)

KEVIN CLEGG TRAILS SYSTEM

- Saturday morning trail hikes from 9am to 10am
- Wednesday bike rides continue from 5:30 to 6:30 (wear headlamps)
- New one mile trail to be added beginning next month. Project is coordinated by park commissioners with all volunteer labor

ANNEX

- FREE (BOPARC SPONSORED) Zumba classes continue Mondays at 6:30
- FREE (BOPARC SPONSORED) Pound classes continue Tuesdays at 6:30
- FREE (BOPARC SPONSORED) Yoga classes continue Wednesdays at 6:30

- Annex functioned as a warming station during the recent snow/ice storm
- A community garden club is being formed to use the greenhouse for town beautification
- Planting in the greenhouse begins in March

RAVENSWOOD MUNICIPAL POOL

- Job descriptions posted on website and to be advertised in two weeks
- Actively recruiting staff, reaching out to food vendors, updating concessions
- Pool opens on Memorial Day weekend
- Pool has become a “regional pool” as many have closed in other counties

BOPARC BOARD

- Next meeting is on 2 March
- **BOPARC wishes to formulate the budget for 2026-2027 but requires a treasurer’s report to do so. No balances or reports received since August 2024 despite monthly requests.**

Web Master Report

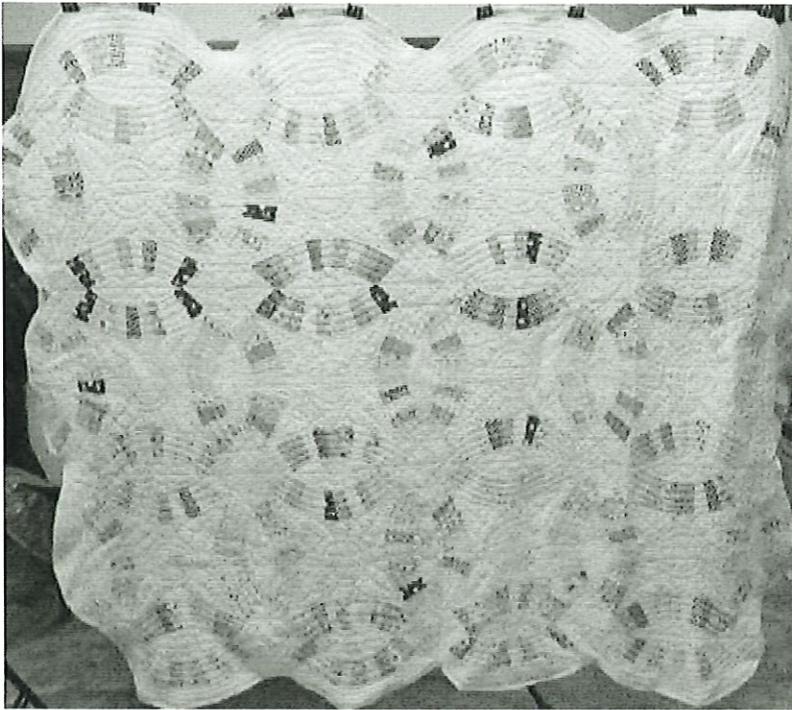
Nothing new. Continue to add content as directed.

CityofRavenswood.com is hosted by Civic Plus. Civic Plus has safeguards to assure compliance with Title II ADA.

Sweeping changes are coming in 65 days for digital and social media ADA compliance. Municipal governments with a population of 50k and under must comply by 26 April 2027. Larger municipalities must comply in 65 days. For further details you may use this link:

<https://www.civicplus.com/blog/wa/dojs-rule-web-accessibility-state-local-governments-need-to-know/>

Great Bend Museum Memo



Hello from the Great Bend Museum in Ravenswood! We were founded in 1972 by the Jackson County Historical Society to share the history of our county and the Ohio River's Great Bend region through objects, photographs, and archives. In 2020, the Historical Society entrusted the museum and its collection to the City of Ravenswood, ensuring that we can continue preserving and promoting county history for generations to come.

Object Stories: The quilt pictured at right features the interlocking arcs of the Double Wedding Ring pattern, formed from carefully pieced curved segments that create overlapping circles across a light background. Each ring is composed of small fabric scraps, florals, dots, stripes, and soft pastels arranged in a balanced but varied design. Fine quilting stitches add texture and secure the layers together.

The Double Wedding Ring pattern rose to popularity in the late 1920s and 1930s and was often associated with marriage and unity. Its design made it especially meaningful as a wedding gift while also allowing quiltmakers to use small leftover fabric pieces. Piecing curved seams required patience and skill, reflecting the time and care invested in its construction.

Now preserved at the museum, this quilt represents more than decorative needlework. It reflects domestic craftsmanship, resourcefulness, and the ways families marked significant moments in their lives through handmade objects.

Just Around the Corner: At 1 p.m. Feb. 28, we invite the community to join us at the Ripley Library for Captured in Crisis, a program exploring one of the most devastating natural disasters in Ohio Valley history.

In 1937, floodwaters submerged much of Ravenswood, reshaping the town and the lives of those who experienced it. Amid the rising waters, photographer Clara Weisheit ventured out by boat, documenting the destruction as it unfolded. Her images remain among the most important visual records of the flood, capturing not only the scale of the disaster but also the resilience of the community in its aftermath.

This program will take a closer look at those photographs and the stories they preserve. We hope you will join us as we reflect on this pivotal moment in local history and the role visual documentation plays in shaping how we remember it.

Director's Desk: With Valentine's Day approaching, we often think about the ways we express care, whether it be through cards, flowers, or thoughtful gestures. This year, that felt like the right lens for selecting our Object of the Month: A handmade textile that reminds us that love is not always measured in purchases, but in hours spent stitching.

There is something meaningful about creating something by hand for another person. It requires time, patience, and intention, qualities that cannot be rushed. In our collection, we see that generosity is preserved in quilts, shawls, and clothes. Handmade textiles remind us that care is often quiet. The hours invested in each stitch reflect a commitment that extends beyond decoration; they reflect presence.

That is often how handmade textiles function. They are practical objects, but they also carry intention because they hold both material and emotional value; thoughtful preservation matters.

Whether you plan to display or store a family quilt or garment, preservation begins with stability. Light is one of the greatest threats to fabric. Prolonged exposure to sunlight or even strong indoor lighting can cause fading and fiber breakdown. If you choose to display a textile in your home, avoid direct sunlight and consider rotating it periodically rather than keeping it continuously on view. Hanging a quilt for years at a time can place stress on fibers, particularly along the top edge.

Temperature and humidity also play an important role. Attics and basements are rarely ideal storage spaces. Heat accelerates deterioration, and damp environments invite mold and pests. A stable, climate-controlled interior closet is often far safer than a garage or cedar chest.

When storing textiles, avoid plastic containers that trap moisture. Acid-free boxes are best, but if those are not available, clean, unbleached cotton sheets can be used to wrap items safely. Avoid newspaper, colored tissue, or cardboard, which can transfer acids and cause staining over time. If folding is necessary, pad creases with cotton or acid-free tissue and refold occasionally along different lines to prevent permanent stress.

Finally, preserve the story alongside the fabric. Write down who made it, when it was given, and why it mattered. Textiles can endure for generations, but context is often more fragile.

At the museum, we are entrusted with preserving the handmade pieces of our shared history. In many homes, similar pieces rest quietly in closets and cedar chests. With thoughtful care, those stitched expressions of affection can continue to speak long after the season has passed.

The Great Bend Museum, 220 Riverfront Park in Ravenswood, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Follow on Facebook, visit www.cityofravenswood.com/museum, call 304-273-1999, or email us at museum@cityofravenswood.com.