

City of Ravenswood
Common Council Minutes
May 19, 2026

Call to Order

- Mayor Josh Miller called to order a meeting of the Common Council at 7:11 P.M. on May 19, 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, Dee Scritchfield, Todd Ritchie, Jeff Koon, Amanda Slaven, Eric Cullen and Attorney Steve Cogar,**
Absent - **Recorder Jared Bloxton**

Approval of Prior Minutes 5/5/26

- **Amanda Slaven** moved to approve the prior minutes, second by **Eric Cullen All Approved**

Resignation of City Recorder Jared Bloxton

- **See Attached (1)**
Dee Scritchfield made a motion to approve, second by **Amanda Slaven All Approved**

Reports to Council

- Police Dept – **See Attached (2)**
- Maintenance Dept – **See Attached (3)**
- Downtown Partners – **See Attached (4)**
- BOPARC – **See Attached (5)**
- Special Projects – Bob Newell updated Sand Creek Project is complete; they have moved on to Ohio River part. Recommends Council & Board of Parks to look at Economic Impact Study

Water/Wastewater Projects

- Approval of Authorizing Resolution – **See Attached (6)**
Todd Ritchie made a motion to approve, second by **Jeff Koon All Approved**
- **Water Project Draw 31**
MOVRC (March 2026) \$217.63
Eric Cullen made a motion to approve, second by **Amanda Slaven All Approved**

- **Sewer Project Phase 2A Draw 30**
MOVRC (March 2026) \$6146.33
Eric Cullen made a motion to approve, second by **Amanda Slaven All Approved**

Resolution to Change PEIA Plan A to Plan C

- Todd Ritchie explained rates were increased for the FY 26-27 on both plans
Dee Scritchfield made a motion to approve, second by **Todd Ritchie All Approved**

Public Comment for Smokehouse Pavilion Lease Agreement at Welcome Center

- Connie Dunlap – **See Attached (7)**
- Dana Skeens – stated he doesn't hate anyone just dislikes some of the policies; On a \$2000 lease, was a marketing analysis done; was council included in decision of \$2000/month
- Bob Staats – stated its not about who city is leasing to but how it was done; discussed the difference in lease with Inaka compared to the new lease for Smokehouse; recommended city looks into liquor liability

Closed at 8:47pm

Smokehouse Pavilion Lease Agreement at Welcome Center Location

- **Dee Scritchfield** made a motion to approve, second by **Jeff Koon All Approved (Eric Cullen recused himself from the vote)**
Discussion – Todd Ritchie asked what would happen if they delayed the motion to pass. Mayor stated might lose contractors or tenants; if lease doesn't make it 5 years could council reconsider? Dee Scritchfield stated she appreciates public comments and has had many people contact her stating they are excited to see this happen

Considering an Ad Hoc Committee – No Action

Release RFP for FY25/FY26/FY27 audits for City of Ravenswood

- **Dee Scritchfield** made a motion to approve, second by **Eric Cullen All Approved**

Declaring Surplus Property

- **List Attached (8)**
Amanda Slaven made a motion to approve, second by **Eric Cullen All Approved**

Public Forum

- Bob Staats – **See Attached (9)**

Enter Executive Session 9:16pm

Jeff Koon made a motion, second by **Eric Cullen All Approved**

Exit Executive Session 9:39pm

Eric Cullen made a motion, second by **Amanda Slaven All Approved**

Actions During Executive Session

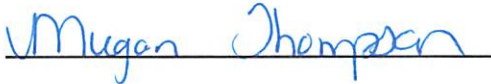
- City Pool Supervisor pay increase to \$20.00/hr
Eric Cullen made a motion to approve, second by **Amanda Slaven All Approved**
- General Accountant or Financial Contracted Services -Mayor will work on solicitation for outside financial services with city attorney and financial consultant
Amanda Slaven made a motion to approve, second by **Jeff Koon All Approved**

Next Meeting Date June 2, 2026 @ 7:00pm

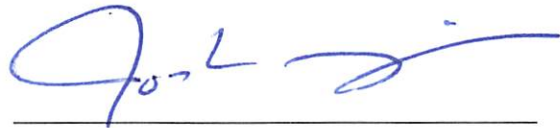
Adjournment

Mayor Josh Miller adjourned the meeting at 9:42pm via a motion from **Amanda Slaven** and second by **Eric Cullen All Approved**

Submitted By



Megan Thompson, Acting City Clerk



Mayor Josh Miller

It has been a pleasure serving the citizens of Ravenswood for the past 14 years. My occupation and additional work requirements have now led me out of town on a regular basis, evenings, weekends, etc. These new work requirements keep me from dedicating the necessary time to my position as city recorder that the citizens of Ravenswood deserve. As a result, I will be stepping down from my position of city recorder effective 5/14/2026. Thank you.

Jared Bloxton

May 2026 Report to Council / April Activity

Total # of incidents = 281 (See Attached Dispatch Log)

Nature of calls:

See Attached 911 log

Mileage/Fuel

Total Miles Driven = 12,369

Total Fuel Cost = \$5,289

Average Price = \$4.23

Gallons Used = 1280

Arrests:

Misd. Citations: 50

Total Arrests: 53

Total arrests for Calendar year: 369

Use of Force Incidents

0

Pursuits

0

Fines and Fees Collected (city court):

April: \$4,591

Total Calendar Year 2026: \$18,378

Overtime Hours:

Shield Program: 61.5 (Does not include Non-OT hours)

Highway Safety (Reimbursed): 109

Court: 7.5

Arrests/Coverage/Transports/Investigations: 21

Training/Meetings/Special Details: 21

Shift Differential: 80

K-9: 10.5

Total: 310.5

Reimbursed: 109

Code Enforcement

1. Vehicles removed: 4
2. Demolished Buildings: 0
3. New Property Investigations: 5
4. Open Property Investigations: 123
5. Property Investigations Closed: 2
6. Grass Warnings: 30
7. Dog At Large: 3
8. Search Warrant Executed: 0
9. Citations Issued: 2
10. Barking Dogs: 3
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 of Directors
7. FBI National Academy Associates
8. International Association of Chiefs of Police
9. Jackson County Multidisciplinary Investigative Team (Sex Crimes Primarily)

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

- 1.** We have been working hard to get the pool ready to open for the season. Lots of time and effort so appreciate all the guys stepping up to make this happen
- 2.** We picked up the hanging baskets of flowers last week and have put them along Washington Street
- 3.** Redone the flower beds and landscaping around City Hall building in conjunction with Parks & Rec
- 4.** Worked on getting trees cut down at the ball fields that were hazardous
- 5.** Guys were busy this past month repairing water leaks throughout town
- 6.** Would like to ask to hire two positions for part time summer help.

Downtown Ravenswood Partners

Executive Director 30-Day Activity Report

Prepared by: Molly Washburn

Reporting Period: April 15 – May 15, 2026

Strategic Leadership & Professional Development

- Attended the **Main Street America National Conference**, participating in professional development and gathering revitalization best practices applicable to downtown Ravenswood.
- Successfully completed the **Community Investment Training Program** through the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Rural Investment Collaborative.
- Finalized the **Downtown Retail / Small Business Incubator project concept**, focused on activating downtown entrepreneurship and local business growth.
- This incubator concept is intended to be presented to the Ritchie property owners for potential future advancement.

Public Art & Community Placemaking

America 250 Mural Project

- Worked on securing an **America 250 public art project** through the West Virginia Department of Tourism.
- Project includes a **\$5,000 mural award** made available through the Jackson County Commission.
- Met with the Jackson County Commission alongside Casey's leadership regarding placement in downtown Ravenswood.
- Proposed location: **Casey's HUPP Building**
- Local artists **Neil Loprinzi** and **Phil Moulton** are collaborating on the project.
- Target completion: **end of May**

Mural Mosaic Project

- Community-painted tiles were successfully shipped back to **Mural Mosaic**.
- Confirmation received **May 15** that all tiles have been received.
- Project remains **fully on schedule** for **August installation in downtown Ravenswood**.

EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant

- Continued implementation of the EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant with consultant **Triad Engineering**.
- Began working with property stakeholders to initiate **Phase I Environmental Site Assessments**.
- Priority properties currently moving forward:
 - **HUPP Building**
 - **Copes Building**

Impact:

This work continues preparing key downtown redevelopment sites for future reinvestment.

Historic District Design Guidelines Project

- Continued coordination with **Designing Local** on the Historic District Design Guidelines project.
- Consultant team reports project is approximately **50% complete**.
- Design standards remain on track for completion in the coming months.

Impact:

This project will provide clear redevelopment guidance, strengthen historic preservation efforts, and improve long-term reinvestment confidence.

Organizational Transition & Continuity Planning

- Submitted formal resignation, with final day scheduled for **May 31, 2026**.

- Significant time this month has been dedicated to **transition planning and institutional knowledge preservation** to support continuity.
- Activities include:
 - Creating transition documentation
 - Organizing project records
 - Developing guidance materials for future leadership
 - Preparing handoff information for active grants, partnerships, and ongoing initiatives

Impact:

This work helps ensure continuity of operations and minimizes disruption during leadership transition.

Summary

Over the past 30 days, work has focused on:

- Completing a nationally recognized economic development training program
- Advancing multiple downtown public art initiatives
- Moving key redevelopment sites into environmental assessment
- Continuing historic design standards development
- Preparing a strategic leadership transition while preserving organizational momentum

Good evening, everyone.

I apologize that this update is much longer than usual.

As we discussed in October, the Sayre Log Cabin is in dire need of repair. The project was put out to bid, and the winning bidder was Frank Unger of Past Respects. The estimated "worst-case scenario" restoration cost is \$57,000 to replace the north wall and roof. At that time, Council took no action on funding as discussions shifted toward limiting additional spending and new projects.

Immediately afterward, BOPARC and Great Bend Director Adeline Smith began seeking outside funding opportunities. On April 1, the Jackson County Commission awarded \$20,000 to complete Phase One: roof replacement. The shingles have already been ordered, and the project is now in the contractor's queue.

We have also donor, who has chosen to remain anonymous, willing to grant \$16,000 in matching funds. We are extremely grateful for this donor's continued belief in our mission. This individual previously donated \$15,000 to support year-round programming for the Great Bend Museum. In addition, another donor is willing to grant \$7,500. These contributions reduce the remaining funding gap to approximately \$13,000. We are confident we can raise the remaining funds and complete the cabin restoration by fall.

In 2021, a fund was established to raise money for repairs to the McIntosh House. Those donated funds remain in an account at WesBanco and currently total approximately \$4,000. Because the McIntosh House will ultimately need to be demolished, those

funds can no longer be used for their original purpose. Our plan is to contact all donors and ask whether they would prefer to have their contributions returned or redirected to the Sayre Log Cabin restoration project. There are fewer than 30 donors in total. I contacted three donors simply to "test the waters," and all were supportive of transferring their donations to the new project. Several even offered to contribute additional funds. If approved by donors, this would reduce the remaining funding gap to approximately \$9,000.

Shane Johnson and Adeline have also completed a promotional commercial to support crowdfunding efforts. A benefit concert is currently being planned, along with several other fundraising initiatives. We have momentum, community support, and confidence in this project moving forward.

Where will the money go? The Fund for Ravenswood has established a special project account through the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation. QR codes and online links have been prepared to allow electronic donations. Cash donations will be receipted and deposited directly into the PACF account. This process will ensure all funds remain transparent, accountable, and easy to track.

CAMPGROUND & MARINA

- 1 full time site (#2) is available, 1 short term site (#11) is available
- A meeting was held Thursday 14 May at the campgrounds. The meeting was attended by Bob Huffman, Bob Newel, Jared Anderson, Mayor Miller and myself. The main

consensus is to add sites on the lagoon side of the road where the current soccer fields are and to put as many as will fit in that area. Soccer would move to the lagoon area when it is replaced.

- A locking access gate for the new docks has been quoted by Bare Fencing at \$2700.

VETERAN'S PARK

- The story walk has been updated for May the book is appropriately, Memorial Day by Emma Carlson Berne
- City maintenance plans for the installation of the shade structure at the toddler section of the playground within a few weeks
- Signage arrives tomorrow (finally) for the military pieces in the "cannon circle"

ANNEX & GREENHOUSE

- Greenhouse is in full swing to beautiful our parks and city hall
- Fitness classes have moved to the pool
- BOPARC meets monthly at the annex the first Monday of at 6pm. Please join us!

RAVENSWOOD MUNICIPAL POOL

- Fully staffed
- Opening 23 May (FREE) from 12 to 6pm. Sunday 1 to 5pm. Closed for the week and then open for the summer beginning 30 May (this Saturday)

- City maintenance performed a miracle by getting this pool open on time

MCINTOSH MEMORIAL PARK

- I give this same report every Month but here it goes
- 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?
- Please be advised this property in its entirety can only be used for OUTDOOR RECREATION due to a grant from the Land Water Conservation fund which states: Property acquired or developed with assistance under the LWCF Act shall remain as public outdoor recreation in perpetuity unless approved by the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior. IN ADDITION, the property is deed restricted (circa 1934) so that it must remain a park. One proposal after demolition is the addition of pickle ball courts as long requested by residents.

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

I would like to take a few moments this evening to talk about who we are and what we do.

We are a seven-member commission appointed by Council. Our goal is to represent the interests of the community in every decision and recommendation we bring before Council. I would like to introduce our members:

Joe Marra — Joe is the banking manager at Ravenswood's WesBanco. Outside of work, much of his free time is spent mountain biking and maintaining the Kevin Clegg Memorial Trail System.

Jeff Weiss — Jeff is a seven-time All-American athlete, earning four All-America honors in cross country and three in track and field during college. He continued competing at a semi-professional level and qualified for two U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials. Jeff is the owner of JW Landscaping, and like Joe, he is heavily involved in mountain biking and trail maintenance.

Gary Cross — Gary is a retired educator who has served on City Council and on numerous boards and commissions throughout the community. He also volunteers at the No Hunger Food Pantry.

Craig Greening — Craig retired as Executive Director of JCDC, an organization that provides services and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. He is an avid hiker and national park enthusiast. Craig also spent five years teaching high school within the Navajo Nation. He is passionate about inclusive access and expanding diverse recreational opportunities.

Nicole Salsler — Nicole currently serves as Vice President of Peoples Federal Credit Union. She played college softball on scholarship at Alderson Broaddus University. Nicole is also the mother of three children who have been active in school athletics and activities.

Steve Tucker — Steve is the retired CFO of the West Virginia State Police and a former council member. He currently serves as a district supervisor for the federal courts in the Southern District

of West Virginia. Steve is also an avid biker and hiker and recently completed Angels Landing in Zion National Park — a challenging 5.4-mile trail with approximately 1,500 feet of elevation change.

Kendra Palmer — Kendra is a creative thinker and avid traveler who is always seeking ways to improve everything she touches. She is a dedicated “do-it-all” mom whose children have participated in many school activities and programs.

Our commissioners generously give their time, talents, and energy for the betterment of Ravenswood. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals serving this community, and I am sincerely thankful for each of them.

So, what do we do? By state law and city ordinance, we are charged with providing, conducting, and supervising public playgrounds, parks, playfields, indoor recreation centers, and other recreational facilities owned or controlled by the city. We are budget mindful and continuously seek outside funding and grants. We have been successful with both!

As Director, I speak on behalf of the Commission and bring recommendations to the Common Council regarding recreational and cultural activities that promote constructive and wholesome use of the community’s leisure time. These activities take place in our parks and on other public properties with the consent of Council.

I firmly believe our parks belong to everyone — equally. Nothing within our parks should be exclusive or restrictive. Our parks are among the most valuable and beautiful properties in our city. They were intentionally set aside for public use when

Ravenswood was originally planned. Because of their desirability, these spaces are often viewed as opportunities for commercial development. One of our responsibilities is to help protect and preserve them for future generations. Fortunately, three of our community's greatest assets — North Park, McIntosh, and the Riverfront — are protected by deed restrictions that preserve them for recreational use.

What do we need? We need a Council representative to serve alongside us. In the past, both Nick Fox and Jared Bloxton have filled this role. Tonight, I am asking for one of you to become involved once again. This representative would help advise Council regarding our findings, recommendations, and initiatives while also serving as an important conduit for communication between the Commission and Council.

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AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Ravenswood held on May 19th, 2026,

Josh Miller, Mayor, has been duly authorized to act on and sign on behalf of the City of Ravenswood for all federal and state actions as they relate to planning, design, and/or construction of the Ravenswood Sewer Phase I and Ravenswood Sewer Phase 2B projects.

This motion, being duly presented and seconded, has been adopted by a majority vote and therefore Josh Miller, Mayor, may sign all such documents relative to the above-mentioned projects on behalf of the City of Ravenswood.

Newly Authorized Representative

Signature Date

Josh Miller, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:

Signature Date Clerk/Recorder/Secretary

(Attach copy of minutes from meeting.)1001

May 19, 2026

Mayor Josh Miller & Council Members
Ravenswood City Hall
Ravenswood, West Virginia:

Due to time restrictions placed on speaking, I ask to read my entire statement before any discussion or questions. I am not here to cause conflict or

I ask that this statement in full be placed into the official public records and included within the official minutes of this meeting prior to any discussion, deliberation, or vote concerning the proposed Welcome Center incubator restaurant lease agreement listed on tonight's agenda

I am not here to criticize or bash anyone. I respect those who hold public office. I am here to offer constructive perspectives on the lease issues to keep the city from facing problems that could arise for not following proper procedures and laws..

I write today as a concerned citizen and taxpayer of Ravenswood to respectfully request that council postpone and table any vote on the proposed lease agreement until additional legal, financial, procurement, and ethics reviews can be completed by the appropriate authorities.

Based upon statements made during prior public meetings, it appears the proposed lease arrangement originated from a verbal agreement made by the mayor with Smokehouse Pavilion LLC prior to formal council consideration or approval. This raises concerns regarding whether standard procurement procedures, competitive bidding practices, market analysis requirements, and independent appraisal procedures were properly followed before negotiations and commitments were made. Public records and meeting discussions also appear to show no clear indication that council formally participated in or approved the original negotiations before the agreement was later presented publicly in a council meeting.

Public discussions during council meetings further indicated that the proposed rental amount was initially referenced by the mayor as approximately \$3,000 per month before later being reduced to \$2,000 per month. At this time, it remains unclear what appraisal, market analysis, negotiation records, or financial justification supported the reduction in the proposed lease amount. Concerns also exist that city insurance expenses may be deducted from the lease payment itself, potentially reducing the city's actual revenue even further.

Without an independent appraisal or documented market analysis establishing fair market value, questions remain regarding whether the proposed agreement adequately protects the financial interests of the taxpayers and the city's publicly funded assets. A publicly funded commercial facility should be supported by transparent documentation demonstrating that the rental amount reflects reasonable market value and protects the city from avoidable financial loss.

Additional concerns exist regarding the contents of the proposed lease agreement itself. Based upon the information currently available, the agreement does not appear to clearly define several significant provisions necessary to protect the city and taxpayers, including responsibility for

utilities, maintenance and repair obligations, insurance responsibilities and liability coverage, responsibility for restaurant equipment and furnishings, rental negotiation procedures and future adjustments, liquor liability protections, parking and traffic management obligations, and other operational requirements necessary to protect the city from future financial and legal liability.

There also appears to be no publicly documented clarification regarding whether the proposed lessee possesses prior restaurant ownership or management experience relevant to operating a publicly funded incubator restaurant facility. Because the project involves public assets and taxpayer resources, these operational qualifications and protections should be clearly established before approval of any lease arrangement.

Additional concerns exist regarding potential alcohol-related liability and public safety issues associated with the proposed location. Based upon the current layout and location of the facility, restaurant patrons consuming alcohol may be required to travel through or near public park property. This situation may create additional liability, insurance, enforcement, and safety concerns for the city that should be carefully reviewed before approval of any lease agreement. Questions also remain regarding parking capacity, traffic flow, public access, and how these issues may affect park operations and surrounding public areas.

Because Smokehouse Pavilion LLC involves the spouse of an active county elected official and her business partner, the appearance of a potential conflict of interest also warrants careful review. I wish to clearly state that this statement is not intended as a personal attack against any private individual or business owner. I support local economic development and sincerely wish the business success. My concerns relate solely to governmental transparency, accountability, and compliance with applicable laws and procedures governing public assets and taxpayer-funded projects.

The West Virginia Ethics Commission has repeatedly emphasized through advisory opinions that public officials must avoid even the appearance of using public office or influence for private financial benefit. These opinions further stress the importance of transparency and avoiding conflicts involving politically connected individuals in public contracts and municipal transactions.

Additional concerns have also arisen through recent Freedom of Information Act requests. I previously requested a copy of a letter read aloud by the mayor during an open public meeting regarding public speaking and lawsuits against citizens. Although the request was approved, the document was never provided to me.

I also requested a copy of the document provided to the mayor by the city attorney during a live council meeting concerning guidance received from Mr. Roush of the West Virginia Ethics Commission stating that it was permissible for the city to lease property to the spouse of a county elected official and her business partner. I was informed in the response of the FOIA request that no such document existed or could be produced. The existence, contents, and legal significance of any such communication should be clarified before council proceeds with approval of the proposed lease agreement.

Further concerns arose after receiving a copy of the contract between the city and the contractor responsible for construction of the Welcome Center project. Although I received the agreement between the city and contractor, the contract provided appeared unsigned, and no Notice to Proceed document was included despite construction activities reportedly already being underway. These circumstances may warrant additional clarification regarding project authorization, oversight, procurement compliance, and construction procedures.

Failure to comply with applicable matters including procurement standards, grant requirements, ethics regulations, or municipal procedures could potentially expose the city to audit findings, questioned costs, repayment obligations, grant complications, or other financial consequences that may ultimately impact local taxpayers and future infrastructure funding opportunities.

These matters should be fully reviewed and addressed before council proceeds with approval of any lease involving public property and public funds.

I also respectfully remind all parties that citizens possess a constitutional right to speak and raise concerns regarding matters of public interest, including municipal spending, procurement practices, ethics compliance, and government transparency. Public participation and scrutiny remain fundamental components of accountable government and should be respected throughout this process. Threatening legal action against citizens who question these matters to try to silence them constitutes a federal civil rights violation under Section 1983 and can be documented as official intimidation to the State Auditors Office and the Ethics Commission.

For the reasons stated here, I respectfully request that council table this matter until:

- a complete legal review is conducted by the city attorney
- an independent appraisal or market analysis is obtained,
- procurement compliance is verified,
- all outstanding public records requests are fulfilled,
- construction documentation is clarified,
- operational liability concerns are addressed,
- and the matter can be reviewed, if necessary, by the appropriate state oversight agencies.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to the citizens of Ravenswood.

Jacqueline C. Dunlap
Concerned Citizen
Ravenswood

Title	Date Entered	Make, Model	Serial/Inventory ID	Reason for Surplus	Date Approved for Surplus	Surplus Action
12" iPad Pro 2018	5/14/2026	A2014	DLXZC1QDKC48	Found, battery is dead		Recycle, do not fix.
Iphone 6S	5/14/2026	Iphone 6S		No longer supported		Recycle, do not repurpose
Iphone 6S	5/14/2026	Iphone 6S		No longer supported		Was Bob Huffmans from years ago, has been wiped and needs recycled
Iphone 14	5/14/2026	Iphone 14		Back and screen are cracked, was Tim S.		Has been wiped of all data, recycle do not reuse.
Iphone 14	5/14/2026	Iphone 14		Unable to determine way to get into phone, has been decommissioned from Verison, phone locked in SOS mode, has been out of service for some years.		Destroy phone, in case of company data still on phone. Do not reuse.

* Declare Surplus Property *

Joe L. [Signature]
Mayor

* Per IT Contractor Dan Ramsey *
Jim [Signature]



Tuesday May 19, 2026

To: Ravenswood City Council "Public Forum"

By/From: Bob Staats, Former Council Member 2005-2008.

Phone is 3045326836. Email is 10011978.bs@gmail.com

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- 1) As I have noted to Council previously, I do not think that having the Public Forum portion of the meeting on the agenda AFTER the Council has deliberated business, is serving either the Public or the Council properly. A review of the recently passed new ordinance for conducting Council Meetings was presented at the May 5, 2026 meeting. I agree with what was said and reviewed there and, in general, with the spirit and intent of such. However, the new ordinance did not mandate (and should not) that the Public Forum would be conducted AFTER council business. Frankly, the appearance of such would tend to lead one to believe that either a) what the public has to say about a topic truly is not to be taken into account before council action OR 2) that Council has possibly decided in advance together as to how the outcome of a vote on an order of business will occur (on that, I refer you to the WV Open Meetings Act). I again urge the Council to act to have the Public Forum in the future changed to a point earlier in the meeting and before business actions.
- 2) In response to comments by the Mayor at the May 5, 2026 meeting's Public Forum alluding to persons being innocent until proven guilty, might I remind the council that YOU recently terminated an employee who has not yet been convicted of allegations. You may, however, have said that the cause for that person's termination was for "violation of the city handbook". So, then, why could the termination step not have been taken prior to the arrest and allegations?
- 3) I have a very simple financially related question to ask the Council. That is 'Where would the City's financial status currently be if not for the payments received from the insurance company from the McIntosh Community Building fire?'... I'll repeat that. "Where would the City's financial status currently be if not for the payments received from the insurance company from the McIntosh Community Building fire?". It is extremely disappointing that of the over \$5 million received from the loss that there is such a lower than that amount that may be deposited into the new "Ravenswood First" account. I note that about \$4.2 million of loss payments were just received in July of 2025.
- 4) It appears to me that the upcoming fiscal year's budget that you recently approved has expense levels based on the past few years' revenue levels that INCLUDED the payments received for the fire loss. The budget going forward needs to be based on what the normal revenue sources bring in. The past few years history of this does not line up with the upcoming year's budget that you have approved. The City of Ravenswood budget total is \$4.9 million. Of that, about \$600,000 comes in from garbage collection. So without garbage collection, the budget would be \$4.3. As a comparison that you might consider, The City of Ripley's published budget is \$2.9. They have no garbage collection revenue but they do have higher revenues than Ravenswood in several categories. This comparison alone gives much pause for wonderment about the budget's intent and accuracy.
- 5) I urge Council to reconsider the actual expected revenues for the coming year and make a variety of tough decisions to reduce expenses. My "shade tree accounting" tells me a reduction of \$1 million to \$1.5 million for the year is in order. * I won't publicly share what cuts I would be considering if I were on Council, but I would be willing to discuss those with any of you if you so desire.

* I will add that, if your upcoming year monthly financial reports show that revenues are coming in at less than 80% of total monthly OR if expenses are exceeding 80% per month, your budget needs adjusted.

Receipt Name	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Contributions						
Other Entities	8500	11,070	0	2200	0	139,430
Contributions						
Other Funds	0	0	0	0	758,998	25,561
Reimbursements	36,227	171,609	27,849	506,997	189,141	263,929
Misc. Revenue	24,359	961	21,258	7929	3681	24,585
Convenience						
Fee Revenue	3581	2850	0	0	0	0
Capital Lease						
Revenues	0	627,430	0	0	18,350	0
Federal Grants	0	695,898	2227	39,949	6499	29,750
State Grants	0	0	157,295	30,116	0	0
Other Grants	0	0	35,000	20,000	0	0
Insurance Claims	0	0	1,285,426	25,495	66,965	4,179,171
Harvest in the						
Wood	0	0	0	23,528	100,406	102,531
Ohio River						
Festival	0	0	0	35,860	38,089	19,979

TOTALS	72,667	1,509,818	1,629,055	692,074	1,182,119	4,784,936
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GENERAL FUND						
RECEIPTS TOTAL						
ON STATEMENTS	2,391,225	4,019,064	3,965,377	3,460,666	4,193,864	7,987,740

LESS NON						
COMMON,						
NON NORMAL,						
NON EXPECTED						
RECEIPTS	- 72,667	- 1,509,818	- 1,629,055	- 692,074	- 1,182,119	- 4,784,936

ACTUAL COMMON,						
NORMAL, EXPECTED						
RECEIPTS	2,318,558	2,509,246	2,336,322	2,768,592	3,011,745	3,202,804