

**Mayor's Report  
City of Gahanna  
Regular Council Meeting – October 19, 2020  
Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin**

The following is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Monday, October 19, 2020:

**General Information**

- Halloween/Trick or Treat
  - As of today, "Trick or Treat" night will still be held on Thursday, October 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. With the rise in COVID-19 cases, the schedule is subject to change, pending directives from FCPH. Current safety protocols issued by FCPH are posted on the City's website ([www.gahanna.gov](http://www.gahanna.gov)).

**Department Updates**

- *Gahanna Division of Police*
  - The Division's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter in-service training is underway. This section includes a legal update from the City Attorney's Office to ensure that all officers are up to date on new developments in laws that impact their operations and processes. Officers also are participating in online training that focuses on suicide awareness and prevention for law enforcement officers.
  - Sgt. Ernest Choung was honored by Sheriff Baldwin with the STAR Award (Selflessness, Teamwork, Accountability and Respect) on October 16. The annual Award recognizes top professionals in law enforcement in Franklin County.
  - Gahanna Police handled a multitude of issues related to the recent teachers' strike, including traffic and safety concerns, loud noise complaints, and private property rights.
  - The Chief's monthly Civic Association meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, October 29. This will be the last meeting of the year, as meetings are not held in November and December due to scheduling conflicts with the holiday season.
  - Chief Spence, Deputy Chief Lawless, Mayor, City Attorney and IT Manager Kevin Schultz met to finalize logistics and legalities regarding the Communications Center collaboration with Mifflin Township. The project continues to remain on schedule, with anticipated completion in late 1<sup>st</sup> quarter/early 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021.
- *Parks & Recreation*
  - Parks Team:
    - Sunpoint Park's bioretention basin has experienced some challenges in functioning as intended. The basis is not draining properly, causing

- vegetation to fail and creating an unsightly entry into the park. The Parks team is working together with the City Engineer to reestablish the basin.
  - The facilities team is power washing and repainting park signs and shelter houses and updating sign inventory to improve wayfinding and incorporate additional educational content.
  - The parks team continues mow, string trim, and conduct leaf, trash and litter removal at each park; clean and sanitize all bathrooms twice a day, to comply with COVID protocols.
  - Replaced fence at Price Rd., Ambassador Park, and Rathburn Woods
- o Arbor Team:
    - Pruned 50+ trees
    - Responded to 41 resident inquiries
    - Introduction of the City Forester, along with explanation of guidance available to residents, has positively increased the interaction with residents
  - o Recreation Team:
    - The Great Gahanna Goblin Trail will be held this Thursday and Friday, Oct. 22 and 23, at Academy Park. Both evenings are SOLD OUT. This drive-thru only experience will include more than a dozen performers, attractions and trick or treat candy stations (where candy will be distributed through a special "Halloween shoot" that delivers candy from a 6' distance. All staff and performers will adhere to state mandates, including wearing masks during the event.
    - Although the Senior Center has a tentative opening date of November 5, the recent increase in COVID cases may impact the ability to reopen as planned. Staff continues to work with the Ohio Department of Aging and Franklin County Public Health to create safe opportunities for our seniors.
    - Paddleboats and kayaks have closed for the season. Due to COVID-19 protocols, the program operated at reduced capacity yet required additional staffing to ensure safety and sanitization of equipment.

Gross Revenue	\$ 19,170
Parks and Recreation Foundation	\$ 1,750
*Total Staffing	(\$ 20,447)
Annual equipment cost	(\$ 2,759)
Net Profit/Loss	(\$ 2,286)

- o *Public Service & Engineering*
  - o 2020 Street Program Update
    - Strawser is tentatively planning to start the reconstruction of Shepard and Walnut Streets next week. The reconstruction will include the replacement of an old clay tile storm line.

- We are nearing the completion of Research and Blatt Blvds. and expect that it will be substantially completed by the end of the month. We have experienced some minor delays due to utility conflicts.
- o 2020 Street Ratings/2021 Street Program
  - We have begun our 2020 Street Ratings in preparation of the 2021 Street Program. The street ratings will occur over the next month or two, as we annually assess every street in the City.
- o 2020 Sewer Improvement Project
  - The contractor will be moving into the City within the next couple of weeks to start prepping the sewer lines for the lining. We expect the work to be completed around December and January.
- o Western Gahanna SSES
  - Flow monitors and rain gauges are installed and connected online. With all instrumentation in place, we are prepared to document the sewer's response to wet weather events.
- o School Zone 20mph Replacement and Upgrades
  - We are in the process of acquiring a contractor to replace the two remaining school zone flashers with a solar option.
- o City of Columbus Widening of Hamilton and Morse Roads
  - Utility conflicts are still being resolved. A fiber optic conduit carrying a portion of Gahanna's GNET is being lowered to accommodate the widening.
  - Although a baseline schedule has not been approved yet, the expected substantial completion date will be Summer 2023.
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter statistics:
  - Utility crews unidirectional flushed 112,000 feet of water main and exercised 272 mainline valves. This equates to 1/3 of the City's water distribution system.
  - Street crews patched 2017 potholes totaling 10.96 tons of asphalt.
  - Utility crews responded to 405 service calls and replaced 63 water meters.
  - The Service Department addressed 286 citizen requests.
  - Received 91 street light repair requests.
    - Replaced/upgraded 37 streetlights with LED. To date, we are only two LED streetlight replacements away from breaking our record of 112 set in 2019.
  - Utility crews repaired 9 water line breaks/leaks.
  - Processed and inspected 97 right of way permits.
  - Currently reviewing more than 50,000 feet of new communication lines. This is the largest communication line expansion we have seen in decades.

- *Economic Development*
  - Currently in discussions with four companies regarding potential for establishing business locations in Gahanna.
  - Participated in two “tour meetings” with individual developers regarding future development opportunities.
  - Continuing negotiations with representatives from Metropolitan Holdings regarding proposed Mill St. project.
  - Participated in CIC Strategic Planning Session, discussing critical role of CIC as an arm of the City’s Development Department and exploring and defining CIC’s role.
  - Finalized paperwork for the City to become a member of the Columbus Regional Energy Special Improvement District (ESID), an important new development incentive tool that enhance sustainability initiatives at no cost to the City.
  - Held internal and external meetings to review City’s fiber network to identify opportunities to engage providers, leverage partnerships and grant funding opportunities, to grow and capitalize network as a revenue source for the City.
  - Continuing research and data gathering for ongoing discussions with GJPS regarding reevaluation of school compensation agreement (planned meeting delayed to teachers’ strike).
  
- *Planning, Building & Zoning*
  - Finalized survey for community engagement phase of Design Code Review; collaborated with City’s Marketing & Communications team to devise plan and approach to solicit input from residents.
  - In period from 10/1 – 10/14:
    - 68 building permits issued
    - 18 zoning permits issued
    - 209 code enforcement inspections performed

Project	Number	Investment \$	Job Creation
New Build (Approved)	4	\$10.53 M	104
Expansion/Renovation (Approved)	5	\$4.13 M	55
New Build (Pending/Tentative)	6	\$72.32 M	266+

Expansion/Renovation (Pending/Tentative)	2	\$1M	N/A
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- o *Human Resources*

- o Continued work with outside consultant to conduct benchmark updates to the Compensation Plan. This will continue into 2021 and will include job audits, FLSA audits, wage compression and benchmark of pay scales.

- o Preparing for open enrollment and biometrics gathering for employees

- o Planned and held successful Employee Recognition and Health Fair. Award recipients included:

Citizen Commendation..... Kaitlin O'Malley

Customer Service ..... Deb Stemen

Exceptional Service ..... Jennifer Hamilton

Heart of the City ..... Chief Jeff Spence

Innovation..... Sarah Mill & Annette Rundio

Leadership..... Lt. Chad Cohagen

Outstanding Employee..... Melissa Jackson

Outstanding Team(s)..... (Tie)

HR: Nancy Ballenger; Melissa Jackson & Miranda Vollmer

IT: Jason Stasiulewicz, George Simpson, Brandon McCorkle & Joe Collin

Mayor's Awards.....Lt. Ethan Moffitt, John Moorehead, Carrin Wester & Sharon Patterson

- o *Finance*

- o 2021 Budget – Finalizing budget for presentation on 10/26

- o CARES Program – The Gahanna CARES Assistance Program Review Committee continues to review applications received for financial assistance. To date:

- \$378,000 awarded for business funding

- \$252,000 awarded for residential assistance

- o Working with City Attorney to confirm final arrangements for issuance of 1099 Forms related to the tax settlement.

- Continuing work on implementation of third phase of MUNIS
- *Information Technology*
  - Evaluating current vendor contracts to align business needs and costs for 2021; renegotiating tiers to realize costs savings (thus far, \$5,000 in 2021)
  - Conducted review of prior facilities plan and needs analysis; led internal team meeting to identify and formalize next steps in concluding a project and obtain a result that will address business needs
  - Worked with Public Service Department to discuss their ERU program and how to leverage GIS services to better identify impervious areas; GIS team will begin developing an analysis based on County GIS resources and related dataset.
  - GIS working on configuration of County's Aerial Photography application for use by Public Safety and Public Service Departments. This will require a small expenditure by the City, but will enhance operations by making 15+ years of photos available to city staff for use in planning.
  - Finalizing 2020 year-end expenditures, with strategic forethought begin given to 2022 and beyond in light of potential budget limitations
- *Marketing & Communications*
  - Promotional materials are complete for the CORA launch on Oct. 21; social media campaign developed for launch.
  - COVID updates continue to be posted every Thursday on Gahanna.gov. Staff continues to participate in weekly calls with FCPH for updates and news.
  - Developing materials to promote community engagement opportunities related to the ongoing Design Code review
  - Final edits being done on the new Parks & Recreation Trail Map, with expected completion by the end of the month.
  - Continuing work on "Nominate a Neighbor" and "Business Spotlight" series, as a continued commitment to highlighting partnerships within the community
  - Finalizing 2021 communications and marketing plan, which includes website updates, development of a new citywide magazine, and overall new communication platform that will enhance the City's ability to reach more residents in a timely manner, consistent with Administration's goals.

- *Mayor's Office*
  - Participated in virtual meeting with COMMA (Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association) and MORPC
  - Partnered with MORPC to arrange for special presentation of Regional Housing Strategy for Council, Planning Commission and community
  - Participated in MORPC's virtual Sustainability Summit (Oct. 15 and 16), and MORPC's virtual Commission meeting and Transportation Policy Committee meeting (Oct. 8)
  - Continued facilitation discussions with senior leadership team in creation of internal roadmap for project prioritization
  - Held discussions with CIC leadership as follow up to strategical planning session, identifying processes and opportunities to expand support for city's development
  - Finalized proposed contracts for CIC and Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau for presentation to Council
  - Worked with City Attorney to finalize proposed Rental Registration Code and Nuisance Code
  - Researched and held discussions with potential partner to assist with identifying/ applying for grant opportunities as additional revenue source
  - Met with individual business owners in Gahanna to discuss and assist with challenges brought on by COVID-19
  - Participated in virtual story time with Columbus Metropolitan Library's "Voter Awareness Week"