



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

City Council

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Trenton I. Weaver, President
Jamille Jones, Vice President
Merisa K. Bowers
Nancy R. McGregor
Kaylee Padova
Stephen A. Renner
Michael Schnetzer

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, May 18, 2026

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER: Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, May 18, 2026, in Council Chambers. President of Council Trenton I. Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Vice President of Council Jamille Jones delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on Friday, May 15, 2026.

Present 7 - Merisa K. Bowers, Jamille Jones, Nancy R. McGregor, Kaylee Padova, Stephen A. Renner, Michael Schnetzer, and Trenton I. Weaver

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Perinatal Mental Health Month Presentation
Scott J. Gspandl, MD

[2026-0110](#)

Perinatal Mental Health Presentation - Scott Gspandl MD, MBA
2026-05-18

Councilmember Bowers stated that the City of Gahanna recognized May as Perinatal Mental Health Awareness Month and continued an important conversation about supporting families in the community. She stated that the resolution recognized that while the arrival of a child brought joy and hope, it could also bring a season of profound change and vulnerability. She noted that while the burdens of pregnancy, childbirth, and recovery did not fall equally, the journey belonged to everyone and reflected the shared responsibility of welcoming and caring for a new child. She stated

that the community recognized that supporting children also meant supporting mothers, fathers, partners, and caregivers who raised them. Councilmember Bowers introduced Dr. Scott Gspandl, a board-certified psychiatrist and clinical lead for outpatient behavioral health at OhioHealth. She noted that he earned his medical degree from Wright State University School of Medicine, completed his psychiatry residency at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center where he served as chief resident, and later earned his MBA from The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business. She explained that in his role at OhioHealth, Dr. Gspandl collaborated across the healthcare system to develop behavioral health programs tailored to meet the needs of patients and families.

Dr. Scott Gspandl thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and stated that he appreciated the City recognizing perinatal mental health as an important initiative. He explained that approximately one in five women experienced a perinatal mental health condition during pregnancy or the postpartum period. He stated that perinatal mental health conditions represented the leading preventable cause of pregnancy-related morbidity and mortality and noted that mental health conditions accounted for the number one cause of death during pregnancy and the postpartum period. He added that more than 50 percent of women diagnosed with these conditions did not receive treatment. Dr. Gspandl also discussed disparities in diagnosis and treatment, noting that Black and Indigenous women were two to three times more likely to experience maternal mental health conditions but were significantly less likely to receive care. He referenced the Adverse Childhood Experiences study and explained that untreated maternal mental health conditions now qualified as an adverse childhood experience.

Dr. Gspandl explained that mental health conditions stemmed from biologic, psychological, and social causes that all affected brain function. He discussed genetic predispositions, medical conditions, hormonal changes, thyroid disease, pregnancy, and substance use as biologic contributors to mental health conditions. He also explained that life experiences, childhood trauma, learned coping mechanisms, relationships, finances, work, housing, diet, and exercise influenced mental health and brain function. He stated that conditions such as thyroid disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, arrhythmia,

epilepsy, and stroke could impact mood and thought processes. Dr. Gspandl reviewed treatment approaches, including medication, medical care, substance use treatment, interventional therapies such as magnetic stimulation, psychotherapy, and environmental changes. He explained that many individuals began treatment through a primary care physician or therapist and stated that OhioHealth operated a behavioral health integration program in more than 80 primary care practices with embedded therapists and psychiatrist collaboration. He also discussed additional treatment options, including psychiatrists, partial hospitalization programs, intensive outpatient programs, inpatient hospitalization, substance use treatment facilities, and community mental health centers.

Dr. Gspandl stated that 50 to 70 percent of symptomatic women remained undiagnosed and untreated because of logistical barriers to care. He identified organizations and programs that provided support, including POEM (Perinatal Outreach & Encouragement for Moms), Postpartum Support International, the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline, and Help Me Grow. He emphasized that mental health conditions affected not only mothers but entire families and children. He stated that stigma represented the greatest barrier to treatment and described stigma at individual, healthcare, interpersonal, organizational, political, and societal levels. He explained that OhioHealth implemented universal screening throughout the perinatal and postpartum journey and created pathways for treatment when screenings identified concerns. He stated that educational campaigns and public discussions such as the Council meeting helped reduce stigma. Dr. Gspandl discussed OhioHealth's Fourth Trimester Clinic in Dublin, which provided breastfeeding medicine, mental health evaluations, and care coordination for women experiencing postpartum depression. He also described a partnership with LifeStance Health to help meet community demand for specialized services. He stated that informational flyers with contact information and a QR code were available for anyone interested in additional resources. He thanked Council for its time and offered to answer questions.

President Weaver thanked Dr. Gspandl for his presentation.

Councilmember Bowers thanked Dr. Gspandl and the OhioHealth team for attending the meeting. She stated that approximately five years earlier, community member Kelly Koppel contacted Council to highlight

the critical need for postpartum mental health awareness and introduced the organization POEM. Councilmember Bowers stated that five years was too long to wait between recognitions of the issue and explained that she wanted to bring attention back to the topic. She thanked Dr. Gspandl for sharing resources and information to help identify warning signs and support loved ones.

2. Gahanna Civic Center (825 Tech Center Drive) Update

Kevin Schultz, Senior Director of Operations, stated that approximately 45 to 60 days had passed since the previous discussion regarding the 825 Tech Center Drive project. He explained that the project team continued to make progress and acknowledged that the team had previously discussed issues and challenges affecting the project. He introduced Mike Fitzpatrick, CEO of Elford, and recognized Anthony Freeman from Elford's marketing department, as well as Brandt Quinn from Elford, Keith Hall and Katie Freeland from MSA Design, who attended the meeting.

Mr. Fitzpatrick thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and stated that Elford felt honored to serve as construction manager for the project. He explained that Elford and the City executed a guaranteed maximum price contract in April 2024 and celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony on May 15, 2024. He stated that the original contract contemplated a completion date of November 4, 2025. He explained that the complexity of working with an existing building and constructing a complicated addition led the project team to revise the anticipated completion date to the end of the first quarter of 2026, with hopes of holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that the project would produce an outstanding facility and an award-winning adaptive reuse project that would serve Gahanna residents and employees for generations. He stated that the project remained on budget and utilized high-quality, durable materials, state-of-the-art technology, and outstanding workmanship. He directly addressed the project delays and accepted full responsibility for the revised substantial completion date of mid-July.

Mr. Fitzpatrick explained that the project schedule suffered substantial impacts because of the failure and eventual termination of the electrical subcontractor. He stated that the subcontractor's default significantly

affected the project schedule and other trades that depended on the electrical work. He stated that Elford accepted sole responsibility for the additional construction costs, staffing costs, and impacts to the City resulting from supplementing and replacing the contractor. He explained that, because of the critical nature of the building and its functions, Elford worked with the City, the design team, and qualified third parties to inspect all previously installed electrical work and make significant repairs and adjustments to meet design specifications and code requirements. He stated that Elford consulted legal counsel and the City Attorney to protect the interests of the City and the project and planned to pursue legal remedies against the defaulting contractor and its bonding company, Travelers, in accordance with Ohio law. Mr. Fitzpatrick thanked the City of Gahanna team, MSA Design, and all individuals involved in the project for their commitment to the project and the community. He specifically thanked Mayor Jadwin, Chief of Police Jeffrey Spence, Senior Director of Administrative Services Miranda Vollmer, Senior Director of Operations Kevin Schultz, Keith Hall, Katie Freeland, Santiago Alvarez, and Maria Carpenter from MSA Design for their support and efforts throughout the project.

President Weaver thanked Mr. Fitzpatrick and asked Council if any members had questions.

Senior Director Schultz stated that the project continued to make steady progress and reiterated that the team focused on making significant electrical adjustments to ensure the safety and reliability of the electrical system because of the critical functions of the police facility. He explained that Elford, the subcontractor, MSA Design, and the City worked diligently for several weeks and months to remedy the electrical issues caused by the original contractor's poor-quality work. He stated that the project team remained committed to delivering the project to the quality residents and Council deserved. Senior Director Schultz stated that much of the current work involved behind-the-scenes systems located in ceilings and structural areas and noted that the building itself remained in excellent condition. He stated that the design created by MSA Design had come to life and that the exterior demonstrated the quality of the project. He compared the anticipation surrounding the project to children waiting to open presents on Christmas morning and remarked that the delay now felt "two seasons long." He stated that the team continued working daily on the project.

Councilmember Bowers asked whether the electrical flaws could be compartmentalized or whether the issues remained widespread and pervasive. Senior Director Schultz responded that the project team had examined those same questions throughout the process. He explained that the electrical issues generally affected the project floor by floor and stated that the project team anticipated substantial completion near the end of June. He added that life safety inspections and related requirements would extend the timeline into mid-July. He stated that the team did not believe delivering the building or moving into the building in phases represented a viable option.

President Weaver thanked Senior Director Schultz, Mr. Fitzpatrick, and the representatives from MSA Design and Elford for attending the meeting and providing the project update.

D. HEARING OF VISITORS:

Robert Mullins, 122 Nob Hill Drive North, Gahanna, OH, introduced himself and stated that he had lived in Gahanna for 21 years. He described himself as a retired grandfather of six and stated that he enjoyed living in the community. He thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Mullins stated that several years earlier he served on the Arts Advisory Council with Mayor Jadwin. He explained that the experience allowed him to work alongside talented attorneys and contribute as an artist while learning about the City's liabilities related to purchasing art or placing artwork on publicly owned land. Mr. Mullins stated that he had concerns regarding political yard signs and referenced legal cases involving cities regulating political speech through signage restrictions. He explained that his primary concern involved maintaining neighborly relationships within the community and stated that political signs sometimes created division because of their number and duration of display. He asked Council to consider what the City code required regarding political yard signs and how much discretion the City possessed to regulate speech. He stated that everyone would agree that excessively large signs or numerous signs displayed for extended periods would not be appropriate and added that signs could not incite violence. He expressed concern about certain situations he had observed within the City. Mr. Mullins asked about the rules regarding the duration of political yard signs, nuisance considerations, and divisive speech in signage, as well as how the City handled those matters. He

thanked Council and the Mayor for allowing him to speak.

Christian Peck stated that he spoke on behalf of the Gahanna Area Arts Council Board of Directors, 81 Mill Street, Suite 300, Gahanna, OH. He stated that the Arts Council wanted to thank members of the administration for their commitment to the people of Gahanna, for advancing arts and culture within the community, and for the many hours they devoted to meetings regarding the topic. He specifically thanked Mayor Jadwin, Senior Director Miranda Vollmer, Senior Director Kevin Schultz, Senior Deputy Director Corey Wybensing, Director Michael Blackford, Director Jeff Gotke, Director Stephania Bernard Ferrell, and Parks Manager Zac Guthrie. Mr. Peck also thanked members of City Council for their consideration of the ordinance authorizing supplemental appropriations to support cultural and artistic programming. He stated that regardless of the outcome of the vote, the Arts Council appreciated the many hours Councilmembers devoted to their roles. He stated that the Arts Council remained committed to its mission of connecting and enriching the community through participation in and engagement with the arts. He explained that the organization looked forward to expanding its capacity with the City of Gahanna, capturing available funds to return to the community, and creating additional opportunities for residents. He stated that the Arts Council felt especially excited about the opportunity to complete that work collaboratively with the City. He thanked Council and the administration.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <u>2026-0092</u> | Council Special Minutes 2026-05-04 |
| | The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. |
| <u>2026-0093</u> | Council Regular Minutes 2026-05-04 |
| | The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. |
| <u>2026-0094</u> | Council Special Minutes 2026-05-11 |
| | The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. |
| <u>2026-0095</u> | Committee of the Whole Minutes 2026-05-11 |

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

End of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Bowers, to Pass the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

F. MOTIONS:

[MT-0011-2026](#)

A MOTION TO APPOINT MICHAEL MOSELEY TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, SEAT 7, FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027

President Weaver introduced motions related to board and commission appointments. He thanked all individuals willing to serve on City boards and commissions and recognized several attendees who had served in those capacities. On behalf of Council, he thanked them for their service to the City and its residents. President Weaver explained that a resignation had created a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Board and stated that the first motion would fill the unexpired term for that seat.

Councilmember Schnetzer moved to appoint Mike Moseley to the Parks and Recreation Board, Seat 7, for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2027. Councilmember Renner seconded the motion. Councilmember Schnetzer stated that Mr. Moseley had applied for the position some time earlier and that Council had interviewed him. He stated that he believed Mr. Moseley possessed the qualifications necessary to serve in the role. Councilmember Schnetzer added that he and Mr. Moseley had children in the same age group, which gave him familiarity with Mr. Moseley's involvement in recreation league baseball coaching and Gahanna Junior League football. He noted that Mr. Moseley had three years of football coaching experience and several additional seasons coaching baseball. Councilmember Schnetzer stated that he believed it benefited the Parks and Recreation Board to include a regular user of the parks system and athletic fields.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Motion be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

[MT-0012-2026](#)

A MOTION TO APPOINT NICOLAS TOMASSILLI TO THE GAHANNA NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY, SEAT 1, CITIZEN MEMBER, FOR THE

UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027

President Weaver stated that, as residents continued moving into The Crescent and filling its units, the long-standing goal since the creation of the New Community Authority involved filling the Authority's seats with residents of the community. He explained that Council would move forward with that process during the meeting and requested a motion to appoint an individual to the New Community Authority.

Councilmember Bowers moved to appoint Nicholas Tomassilli to the Gahanna New Community Authority, Seat 1, as the citizen member for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2027. Councilmember Schnetzer seconded the motion. Councilmember Bowers thanked Mr. Tomassilli for applying for the position in response to correspondence initiated by Director Gottke to residents of the community. She stated that Mr. Tomassilli represented the intended user audience for the new apartments at The Crescent and described him as a young professional who would strive to represent the best interests of the community. She stated that serving the interests of the community represented the overall purpose of developing the New Community Authority. Councilmember Bowers thanked Mr. Tomassilli and stated that Council looked forward to his service to Gahanna.

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Schnetzer, that the Motion be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

G. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0019-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH K C REAL PROPERTY INVESTMENTS, LLC AND TRIVIUM DEVELOPMENT LLC FOR PARCEL 170-000488-00 LOCATED AT 4710 EAST JOHNSTOWN ROAD

President Weaver introduced the Ordinance, and Clerk VanMeter read it by title.

H. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

[ORD-0012-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - General Fund for Contract Services to Support Cultural and Artistic Programming

Clerk VanMeter read the Ordinance by title.

Councilmember Padova stated that she recently saw a quote attributed to St. Francis that read, "He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist." She stated that, as society entered the age of artificial intelligence, which required little thinking and no heart, she appreciated that the City recognized the importance of art and culture within the community. She stated that creativity could not be replaced by artificial intelligence and described it as something society needed to hold sacred in order to inspire future generations. Councilmember Padova stated that children sought opportunities to interact with art in many forms, including animal sculptures at the zoo, gardens at the conservatory, and fairy gardens. She explained that art helped children learn, grow, think, and ask questions, which made it vital to their growth and success. She stated that art inspired people and created unexpected emotional responses. She also stated that creativity benefited brain health, whether pursued as a hobby or career, and referenced a study from University College London that found participation in artistic activities such as painting or attending the theater could slow biological aging. She stated that creativity relieved stress and encouraged different ways of thinking. She explained that communities needed art to inspire creative solutions to complex problems and emphasized the importance of placing art in public spaces to inspire, entertain, and encourage people to return to Gahanna. Councilmember Padova stated that her only complaint regarding the ordinance involved the timing, because she believed the City should have adopted the ordinance earlier. She stated that the City had left money on the table or sent it to other communities for too long. She explained that, while the ordinance could not correct past missed opportunities, it had the potential to create a lasting impact that would inspire future generations to solve complex problems. She also stated that, as discussions regarding the possible revitalization of Creekside continued, she hoped and requested that the Gahanna Area Arts Council participate in those discussions as early and as often as possible. Councilmember Padova stated that she did not want the Creekside plaza to resemble every other suburban plaza in Columbus or elsewhere. She stated that she wanted the area to reflect Gahanna's diversity and incorporate art and character wherever possible. She expressed hope that the City would embrace whimsical elements instead of adopting the modern minimalism displayed elsewhere in the region. She stated that

she still supported the ordinance even if her request regarding Creekside did not occur. She added that even using the Gahanna Area Arts Council for minimal purposes would provide significant benefits with little risk, and she expressed confidence that Gahanna would benefit if the City fully embraced the partnership and explored its full potential.

Councilmember McGregor stated that she intended to vote in favor of the ordinance, although she questioned whether arts funding represented a proper function of government. She stated that she agreed with the positive statements regarding art but remained uncertain about government funding for those efforts. She explained that the opportunity to access matching funds persuaded her to support the ordinance and give the initiative an opportunity to succeed. She expressed hope that the individuals working on both sides of the effort would make the program successful.

President Weaver asked whether any additional discussion remained. He then thanked the Arts Council and the administration for working together to bring the ordinance forward. He stated that he felt optimistic about the benefits the ordinance could provide to the City, residents, and the community, as well as the potential cost savings created through collaboration with an outside organization capable of leveraging external funding sources. President Weaver stated that he felt excited about the opportunity and intended to vote in favor of the ordinance.

During the roll call, Councilmember Bowers stated for the record she would abstain from the vote. She explained that her father had served as a long-term member of the Gahanna Area Arts Council Board. She stated that no direct benefit, compensation, or contracts would result from the matter under consideration; however, because of her father's fiduciary duty and her fiduciary duty to the City, and based on guidance from the City Attorney and the Ohio Ethics Commission, she needed to abstain from voting on the matter.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Padova, that the Ordinance be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

Abstain, COI: 1 - Bowers

[ORD-0018-2026](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE, PART ELEVEN - ZONING, TO UPDATE AND

CLARIFY CODE PROVISIONS, REINSTATE OMITTED STANDARDS,
AND IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF ADOPTED PLANS

Clerk VanMeter read the Ordinance by title.

Councilmember Renner thanked Director Blackford for his tireless efforts to correct the City's code and acknowledged that the matter had remained on the agenda for some time as part of a necessary effort to catch up on code issues. He referenced the committee discussion from the previous week and stated that he continued to have concerns about the proposed flexibility pathway. Councilmember Renner explained that Director Blackford had previously responded to some of those concerns, but he still questioned the proposal. He stated that he had sent a lengthy email to Director Blackford on Tuesday outlining concerns in two primary areas: environmental and ecological performance and resiliency standards, and the accountability of the proposed flexibility pathway. Councilmember Renner suggested postponing the matter to a future Committee of the Whole meeting to allow for a more robust discussion.

President Weaver stated that he had not yet heard a motion to postpone and indicated that Director Blackford had comments to provide. President Weaver also stated that he had a motion to amend and explained that he had spoken with Director Blackford and Councilmember Renner. He stated that if Council chose to postpone the item, he preferred to address the amendment beforehand if members were willing to hear it. Councilmember Renner agreed and stated that he wanted additional discussion regarding the concerns raised in his email and did not know whether Director Blackford had prepared responses for that evening.

Director Blackford thanked Councilmember Renner for his email and stated that he, Director Schultz, and Mayor Jadwin had reviewed and discussed it. He stated that they agreed the proposals contained substantial merit. Director Blackford emphasized the importance of environmental considerations and ecological stewardship within the land development process and stated that some of the themes raised could apply citywide rather than solely within the Creekside Mixed-Use District. He explained that because the proposed language and intent affected multiple code chapters and processes, staff believed the discussion fit better within the ongoing Chapter 9 rewrite, which would also involve changes to Chapter 11. Director Blackford stated that the City had

retained the same consultant who worked on the Chapter 11 zoning code rewrite and that the consultant possessed expertise in the field. He explained that incorporating the discussion into the broader rewrite would allow staff to determine where the language best fits across multiple code sections and development processes. He stated that staff respectfully requested approval of the proposed code changes as presented because staff did not believe the changes lessened environmental or ecological considerations. He explained that the proposal functioned similarly to the existing variance process and would not create unforeseen circumstances. Director Blackford added that the Chapter 9 rewrite would provide an opportunity for a more robust discussion of the issues raised in Councilmember Renner's email.

Councilmember Renner thanked Director Blackford and stated that he appreciated the opportunity to enhance Chapter 9 and looked forward to the discussion. He stated that he continued to read the ordinance as creating a pathway that could allow individuals or groups to subordinate ordinances or standards within the Creekside Master Plan Development Area. He expressed concern about that possibility and asked what checks and balances existed to govern those decisions.

Director Blackford explained that the checks and balances for both the existing variance process and the proposed deviation process would function similarly through internal planning staff review and Planning Commission approval or denial. He stated that variances could already apply to anything within Chapter 11 and that the proposed deviations would apply in the same manner. He explained that the proposed language did not grant Planning Commission authority beyond what already existed. Director Blackford stated that the land use plan and strategic plan contained more environmental language than either Chapter 9 or Chapter 11 and that incorporating deviation language would allow for more robust discussions regarding the intent of those plans. He referenced language regarding Big Walnut Creek and riparian corridors and stated that the City currently lacked specific zoning or engineering code provisions for additional buffering or related protections. He explained that the proposed language would provide staff with additional authority to evaluate development proposals against the intent of the land use and strategic plans and reject proposals that conflicted with those goals. Director Blackford stated that the language would not allow development that harmed protected areas in exchange for other project

elements, such as parking garages or reduced setbacks. He added that future revisions to Chapters 9 and 11 would provide additional guidance regarding ecological considerations.

Councilmember Renner stated that he was considering Director Blackford's explanation and asked whether applicants could request variances or deviations while staff relied on the land use plan as an authoritative source to determine intent. Director Blackford confirmed that the land use plan and strategic plan provided additional guidance regarding goals such as preservation and enhancement of Big Walnut Creek. He explained that the proposed language would allow staff to reference those plans more directly during development review. Director Blackford stated that without incorporating the strategic and land use plans into the zoning code, staff remained limited in how they could apply those recommendations. He acknowledged that the language might appear to broaden flexibility, but he stated that it actually provided staff with more resources to evaluate whether development proposals aligned with the community's vision and balanced ecological considerations, public gathering spaces, and community benefits. He contrasted that approach with the variance process, which focused more narrowly on individual properties.

Councilmember Renner stated that he felt better after hearing the explanation. He acknowledged that the Creekside District represented a relatively small area but emphasized its proximity to Big Walnut Creek and the importance of protecting it. He stated that Director Blackford's comments reassured him that staff intended to address those concerns using guidance from other City documents. Councilmember Renner then asked when discussion of the Chapter 9 rewrite would begin.

Director Blackford stated that the Chapter 9 rewrite process had started and stopped several times because of staffing changes but that the City now stood in a stronger position to move forward. He estimated that the process would begin ramping up in earnest within a few months. Although he could not provide a completion date, he stated that current staffing levels placed the City in a favorable position to advance the effort more quickly than the Chapter 11 rewrite.

Councilmember Renner asked whether the process could realistically begin later in the year. Senior Director Schultz responded that Senior

Utility Engineer Holly Boyer had already completed substantial work on stormwater and environmental components related to Chapter 9. He stated that the City's new engineer, Hossein Naraghi, had recently joined the staff and would assist with advancing other portions of the Chapter 9 rewrite. Senior Director Schultz stated that staff intended to move forward in earnest but acknowledged that establishing a precise timeline remained difficult. He stated that fourth quarter of the current year or first quarter of 2027 appeared to be a realistic timeframe. Councilmember Renner thanked Director Blackford and stated that Director Blackford had addressed many of his concerns. He stated that he looked forward to continued and robust discussions regarding Chapter 9 and noted that staff had identified substantial opportunities for additional work within the language of the code. Councilmember Renner stated that he had no further questions.

President Weaver thanked Councilmember Renner for his diligence, advocacy, and expertise. He also thanked Director Blackford. President Weaver stated that, as he had previewed earlier in the discussion, he had spoken with Director Blackford following the previous week's committee discussion regarding electric vehicle charging stations. He explained that he had expressed concerns and questions regarding the frequency of variances related to electric vehicle supply equipment requirements and the possibility of replacing those requirements with EV-ready spaces or eliminating them through variances altogether. President Weaver stated that he questioned why the City would establish policies in code if the City intended to approve excessive variances. He acknowledged the need for flexibility in the code and stated that the committee discussion had largely addressed his concerns. President Weaver then proposed an amendment to Section 1109.01(j)(4). He explained that the section currently described parking lots and garages serving multifamily uses and required a minimum number of EV charging spaces with EVSE-installed spaces. President Weaver stated that, after discussions with Director Blackford, staff agreed to amend the draft language so that the section would read: "Parking lots and garages that serve a multi-family use *or a mixed-use development that contains residential units* shall meet the minimum number of EV charging spaces with EVSE-installed spaces. EVSE-installed spaces count as one space and EV-ready spaces cannot be utilized." He stated that the amendment would further the City's policy goals by requiring EVSE-installed spaces

in developments more likely to accommodate them and would support the City's sustainability goals. President Weaver then made a motion to approve the amendment and requested a second.

Councilmember McGregor asked President Weaver to identify the specific location of the amendment in the draft legislation. President Weaver stated that the amendment appeared in the redline draft on page five of six, or page 15 of 66 in the PDF version, under Section 1109.01, subsection (j)(4), within the electric vehicle charging section. He explained that the amendment added the language "or a mixed-use development that contains residential units."

Councilmember Renner asked whether President Weaver had formally made the motion. President Weaver confirmed that he had made the motion. Councilmember Renner seconded the motion. President Weaver announced that Councilmember Renner had seconded the motion and asked whether any discussion remained regarding the amendment.

Discussion on the Motion to Amend:

Councilmember Bowers thanked Councilmember Renner and President Weaver and stated that the amendment represented an important improvement that furthered the City's environmental and sustainability goals. She also thanked Director Blackford for working with Council on the amendment. Councilmember Bowers then asked how the amendment would affect mixed-use developments that did not contain residential units, such as retail and office developments. President Weaver deferred the question to Director Blackford.

Director Blackford explained that staff had recommended including the phrase "residential units" because the term "mixed use" could carry different meanings for different people. He stated that planning staff generally interpreted mixed use as residential development combined with some form of commercial use, although the term did not always receive a formal definition. Director Blackford explained that, without clarification, mixed use could also describe adjacent commercial uses, such as an office or medical use next to a restaurant. Director Blackford stated that staff and Planning Commission had engaged in productive discussions regarding EV charging requirements and noted that some

developments involved facilities with rapid customer turnover. He explained that EV charging infrastructure served less practical purpose in developments where visitors did not remain for extended periods. Director Blackford stated that staff and Planning Commission viewed long-term uses, such as residential developments where residents remained overnight, as the most appropriate locations for EVSE-installed spaces.

A motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Renner, that the EXHIBIT A be amended to insert "or a mixed-use development that contains residential units" in the redline section of 1109.01(j)(4) regarding Electric Vehicle Charging. The new provision to read as follows: "Parking lots and garages that serve a multi-family use or a mixed-use development that contains residential units shall meet the minimum number of EV charging spaces with EVSE installed spaces. EVSE installed spaces count as one space and EV ready spaces cannot be utilized." The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

President Weaver announced that Council had approved the amendment to the ordinance and asked whether members had any additional discussion regarding the underlying ordinance.

Councilmember Renner briefly thanked everyone for their time, especially Director Blackford, and expressed appreciation for the discussion.

President Weaver stated that he was encouraged by the incorporation of the Our Gahanna Strategic Plan into the ordinance and referenced the significant community input that contributed to the plan. He expressed hope that the zoning code would reflect that community input and residents' priorities. President Weaver also noted that the Our Gahanna Strategic Plan, specifically goal C7, supported green and sustainable economic development practices, and he stated that the ordinance represented a step forward in achieving that goal.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Bowers, that the Ordinance be Adopted as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

I. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk - None.

2. Council

[2026-0111](#)

Correspondence received via Councilmember Bowers - State Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio Notice Regarding HB 413 - Ohio Local Government Expenditure Database

Councilmember Bowers stated that she had circulated an email earlier in the day from State Representative Beryl Piccolantonio regarding House Bill 413. She explained that the House Finance Committee could vote on the bill on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, and that the full House could consider the legislation later that same day if the committee approved it. Councilmember Bowers stated that House Bill 413 would create the Ohio Local Government Expenditure Database and require political subdivisions, including the City, to participate by providing expenditure and revenue information to the State Treasurer for inclusion in the database. She stated that Representative Piccolantonio had requested feedback on the legislation and noted that the current draft would require political subdivisions to provide information annually for five years and every six months thereafter. Councilmember Bowers stated that she wanted input from the administration regarding the burden the legislation would place on staff and indicated that she supported communicating concerns to Representative Piccolantonio and the House Finance Committee regarding the burden and unfunded mandate the bill would create.

Mayor Jadwin stated that she had spoken with Representative Piccolantonio earlier that morning regarding the bill. She explained that Representative Piccolantonio had informed her that legislators had only learned about the proposal the previous Friday. Mayor Jadwin stated that the bill would require political subdivisions to implement Open Checkbook, which she described as problematic. She explained that the City had previously used Open Checkbook but discontinued it because the system proved cumbersome and difficult to use. Mayor Jadwin stated that Representative Piccolantonio had also found the system unintuitive when attempting to access and use the information. Mayor Jadwin stated that she had briefly discussed the proposed legislation with Director Bury that morning to obtain her feedback. She explained that Director Bury reiterated concerns regarding the difficulty of implementing and maintaining Open Checkbook and noted the associated costs, including software expenses and staff resources required to operate the system. Mayor Jadwin stated that the implementation timeline proposed in the bill appeared unrealistic and suggested that discussions regarding

implementation should have occurred much earlier if the timeline remained unchanged. She also noted that Franklin County already used its own reporting platform, which did not align with Open Checkbook requirements and created additional conflict. Mayor Jadwin stated that the City supported accountability and transparency but explained that Director Bury had expressed concern that Open Checkbook only presented limited financial information and failed to provide complete context regarding revenue sources and expenditures. She stated that the system could therefore present misleading information because of its limited scope. Mayor Jadwin stated that the City intended to provide information opposing the bill and noted that the Ohio Mayors Alliance had already submitted opposition testimony.

Councilmember Bowers stated that additional voices in opposition could prove helpful and suggested that Council provide a letter regarding the legislation. She stated that, given the short timeframe, the Finance Chair and Council leadership could potentially sign the letter.

Mayor Jadwin stated that she could work with Director Bury and Director Vollmer to prepare a joint letter. Councilmember Bowers stated that she wanted to balance the short timeframe, Open Meetings Act considerations, and Council leadership responsibilities and clarified that she did not intend to shift the work to others. Mayor Jadwin stated that the issue remained important and noted that the school district had also discontinued use of Open Checkbook for similar reasons. She stated that she had suggested lawmakers consider adding broader language to accomplish the legislation's intended goals without mandating a specific platform and noted that the City might include that recommendation in its response.

President Weaver thanked Councilmember Bowers for bringing the matter to Council's attention.

J. REPRESENTATIVES:

1. Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) - Renner, Padova

Councilmember Padova stated that the last meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, was called to order at 8:06 a.m. She reported that the CIC unanimously approved the March minutes and the monthly financials.

She stated that Director Gottke presented a virtual meeting policy, which CIC also approved. She said the CIC discussed right-of-access agreements for Visit Gahanna, SGT Coffee, and Utmost Renovations to use CIC-owned parcels. She reported that Council entered executive session at 9:10 a.m. and reconvened at 9:26 a.m. She stated that Ms. Zarick presented information regarding standardized email accounts for CIC members and that the meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m. She announced that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, May 20, at 8:00 a.m. in the Committee Room.

Councilmember Renner stated that he continued to experience email issues and had not had access to his CIC email account all year. He said he had reported the issue. He stated that the workaround was not functioning. Mayor Jadwin responded that she understood Ms. Zarick had also reached out to Councilmember Renner. Mayor Jadwin offered to schedule a time for them to meet and stated that it would likely work best for the two of them to connect and address the issue together, possibly before or after Wednesday's meeting if time allowed.

2. Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) - Weaver

[2026-0096](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 2026-05-18

President Weaver encouraged attendees to review the report linked in the agenda and expressed gratitude to the Council Office for its assistance in preparing the report. President Weaver reported that MORPC met on May 14, 2026. He stated that a pre-commission meeting included discussion regarding concerns local governments might have and other potential issues related to data center construction. He described the conversation as very informative. He noted that one of the panelists represented Columbus Water and Power and shared a wealth of information. President Weaver announced that MORPC had selected a new executive leadership board. He congratulated Mayor Ben Kessler of the City of Bexley on becoming the new chair, Mayor Jadwin on becoming the new vice chair, and Mayor Matthew Starr of Mount Vernon on becoming the new secretary. He stated that he had participated in the Voinovich program with Mayor Starr and appreciated his insight. President Weaver also thanked Mayor Amorose Groomes of Dublin for her leadership as chair over the past several years and stated that she would remain on the commission while stepping down from the

leadership role. President Weaver stated that the next MORPC meeting was scheduled for June 11. President Weaver also announced that MORPC welcomed three new members: Pleasant Township in Franklin County, the Village of Commercial Point in Pickaway County, and the Delaware Public Health District. President Weaver announced several upcoming events, including an Ohio Association of Regional Councils candidates forum for the two gubernatorial candidates on July 31 and the Conference on Freight scheduled for August 24 through 26. He stated that additional events would be announced later.

Councilmember Renner remarked that Pleasant Township had finally joined. President Weaver responded that Pleasant Township had been the last remaining township in Franklin County not to join. Mayor Jadwin confirmed the county now had 100 percent participation.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reported that Visit Gahanna participated in Ohio Tourism Day at the Statehouse lawn the previous week, where representatives distributed hundreds of Gahanna marketing materials to interested travelers. Councilmember Padova also reported that the CVB hosted a display at *Columbus Monthly's* cocktail competition the previous week, where staff promoted Gahanna's Herbal Cocktail Trail to more than 300 guests. Councilmember Padova stated that the Ohio Herb Center recently provided a private workshop and garden tour to a large homeschool group interested in learning more about herbs and their uses. Councilmember Padova encouraged residents to volunteer for the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival and directed interested individuals to Visit Gahanna's website for additional information. She noted that nonprofit groups that volunteered received stipends for their service and stated that the festival provided a good fundraising opportunity for nonprofit organizations seeking to raise money.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Vice President Jones announced that the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting would take place May 19, 2026, and that the regular board meeting would occur on Thursday, May 21, 2026. She stated that both meetings would begin at 6:30 p.m. at Clark Hall. Vice President Jones noted that four days remained in the school year and reminded the community to remain aware of the increased presence of youth on

sidewalks, bicycles, roads, parks, and pools during summer break. She encouraged residents to practice patience and prioritize safety for everyone. Vice President Jones also expressed appreciation to the administration, teachers, staff, students, and the entire school community for another successful school year and wished everyone an enjoyable summer.

K. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin thanked the OhioHealth team for attending the meeting and thanked Councilmember Bowers for arranging the discussion. She stated that Mental Health Awareness Month served as an important reminder that mental health remains an essential part of the overall well-being of individuals, families, and the community as a whole. She noted that mental health challenges affect people regardless of age, background, or situation and stated that the struggles are real and occur regularly. Mayor Jadwin said she appreciated the opportunity to join Council in the previously issued joint resolution and proclamation and expressed hope that the community would continue the dialogue for the betterment of the community.

Mayor Jadwin also thanked those who attended the annual economic development event on May 8. She reported that more than 100 business representatives and community stakeholders attended the event in Gahanna. She stated that Director Gottke provided an overview of the pillars that emerged from the Our Gahanna economic development strategy and shared detailed information regarding industry sectors in Gahanna, including impacts related to investment, job growth, and economic development. Mayor Jadwin stated that the City distributed Gahanna Business Excellence Awards and recognized several businesses, including legacy businesses that had operated in the City for 50 years or more. She stated that the City recognized The Grote Company, ADB Safegate, and Gahanna Grill. She added that the City intended to continue adding to the list each year.

Mayor Jadwin referenced the recent MORPC discussion regarding data centers and stated that although Gahanna does not have a significant amount of undeveloped land that would create major issues related to

data center development, the City remains susceptible to impacts involving infrastructure, natural resources, and utilities. She stated that the discussion provided an opportunity to learn how other communities are addressing those issues and to identify ways to plan for them in the future. Mayor Jadwin thanked President Weaver for announcing her election as vice chair of MORPC's executive committee. She stated that she felt honored to serve in that role and emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong voice for Gahanna in regional discussions that directly affect the community's future. She stated that regional collaboration would help ensure the community remains connected, competitive, and prepared for the future.

Mayor Jadwin also reported that she participated in a panel discussion sponsored by Ohio Realtors alongside Fairfield County Commissioner Jeff Fix and attorney Jeffrey Harris of Bricker Graydon. She stated that the discussion focused on challenges local governments face regarding development and housing. She said the conversation reinforced many of the same discussions that occur within Council Chambers, including balancing growth, infrastructure, affordability, and long-term community planning while recognizing the impacts those issues have on residents. Mayor Jadwin stated that although the panelists did not always agree, they engaged in a thoughtful and respectful dialogue. She added that attendees appreciated the open and honest discussion and the differing perspectives presented. She emphasized that the conversation must continue throughout central Ohio, across the state, and nationwide because communities everywhere face similar challenges.

Mayor Jadwin announced that City Hall offices would close on Memorial Day. She stated that VFW Post 4719 and American Legion Post 797 would host a Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park beginning at 1:00 p.m. She noted that the organizations would also conduct several ceremonies beforehand, including a wreath-laying ceremony and observances at Mifflin Township Cemetery. Mayor Jadwin stated that the community looked forward to honoring veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as their families who continue to grieve their loss.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan reported that the Charter Review Commission

continued to meet and conduct extensive work reviewing the City Charter. She stated that the commission had reached the stage of reducing proposals to draft language for consideration. She noted that the commission continued to welcome public comment and feedback at all meetings as the process neared completion. City Attorney Tamilarasan stated that the commission remained on track to meet all statutory and charter deadlines for submitting its report to Council. City Attorney Tamilarasan also reported that she continued to work on updates to the traffic and criminal codes. She stated that her responsibilities related to the Charter Review Commission had delayed that work but noted that she expected to present the updates shortly after completion of the Charter Review Commission process.

L. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember Renner stated that the contract with the Gahanna Arts Council had been a long time in development and expressed appreciation that the agreement had been completed. He stated that Council and the community had held many public discussions regarding the matter over several years and noted that the City had finally found a way to move the effort forward. Councilmember Renner thanked the administration, Senior Director Vollmer, and the Gahanna Arts Council for their work on the agreement. He also referenced comments made by his colleagues regarding the role of the arts in contributing to the heart, soul, vibrancy of the community and also government efficiency. He stated that he felt grateful to live in a city where people could come together around such efforts. Councilmember Renner also commented on the unusually high temperatures experienced over several days and encouraged residents to look out for older neighbors and others who may be vulnerable to heat exhaustion. He reminded residents to ensure that people had access to fluids and to remain aware of pets left in vehicles.

Councilmember McGregor announced that her fifth grandchild would graduate from Worthington Kilbourne High School the following Sunday. She stated that Colton McGregor would become the first of her grandchildren to attend The Ohio State University.

Councilmember Schnetzer stated that his comments focused on growing political tribalism. He referenced a speaker from earlier in the meeting who discussed politically divisive yard signs and cited Pew Research studies showing an increasing divide between the median Republican

and median Democrat over many years. He stated that the studies demonstrated less overlap between political parties and suggested that more Americans felt unrepresented regardless of election outcomes. Councilmember Schnetzer referenced current efforts across the country to redraw political districts and described the issue as bipartisan. He cited a recent *USA Today* article regarding California's filing to change its top-two primary system after polling suggested that the party currently in power might not place two candidates in the gubernatorial race. He stated that political parties too often prioritize power and control over the will of the people. Councilmember Schnetzer stated that local government provided an opportunity to act differently and emphasized that nonpartisanship required participation from both elected officials and residents. He encouraged residents to learn about candidates, evaluate issues on their merits, listen to differing viewpoints, and hold elected officials accountable for results rather than labels. He stated that he and several colleagues had gone door-to-door over the years to answer residents' questions and address concerns. Councilmember Schnetzer noted that he had first won election with 70 percent of the vote and stated that such support required broad outreach rather than appeals to political extremes. He concluded by stating that local government should focus on public safety, infrastructure, basic services, parks, and recreation rather than mimic national politics.

Councilmember Padova reported that she attended an event at Joy Local focused on mental health and spreading joy within the community. She stated that the business partnered with Jeannette Birchfield, whom she recognized from *614 Magazine's* January issue featuring the top 10 central Ohio local influencers. Councilmember Padova stated that Jeannette Birchfield, known as "Jeannettey Confetti," lived in Gahanna. She described activities at the event, including a station where attendees could decorate coffee cups and face painting and embellishments for children and adults. She stated that the event created an energetic atmosphere throughout the business and its outdoor areas. Councilmember Padova also addressed comments she had seen online regarding activity within the Creekside area. She encouraged residents to view the Creekside District as the broader district rather than focusing solely on three buildings within the area. She stated that while one portion of Creekside may have appeared quiet, many people had gathered nearby within walking distance. Councilmember Padova encouraged

residents to recognize the activity, enjoyment, and vibrancy occurring throughout the district and challenged residents, including herself, to use different language when discussing the area. Councilmember Padova also thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for operating the splash pad during the period of high temperatures. She stated that many families and children attended and expressed appreciation for the opportunity the facility provided for residents to enjoy the day.

Councilmember Bowers announced that KEMBA Financial Credit Union offered a video scholarship award providing \$2,500 toward college tuition. She stated that students could submit a video essay lasting two minutes or less by June 13 through kemba.org explaining how their education would prepare them to make an impact within their communities.

Vice President Jones thanked Councilmember Bowers for introducing the resolution and thanked Dr. Gspandl for the presentation regarding perinatal mental health. She shared her personal experience with postpartum depression and stated that she had not initially recognized the condition. Vice President Jones emphasized the importance of openly discussing mental health issues so that others experiencing similar challenges would recognize available resources and seek assistance. Vice President Jones also thanked Councilmember Padova for her comments regarding the Arts Council agreement. She stated that the collaboration between the Arts Council and the City reflected the goals of the "Our Gahanna" strategic plan and demonstrated the City's commitment to implementing the community's vision. Vice President Jones announced details regarding the upcoming Gahanna Juneteenth celebration, which would occur on Juneteenth and coincide with the first day of the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival. She stated that the event would take place at the Creekside Community Stage in partnership with Visit Gahanna. Vice President Jones stated that activities would begin at 5:30 p.m. with games, including cards and dominoes, followed by the program at 7:00 p.m. She also noted that the Franklin County Board of Commissioners Office of Economic Engagement and Community Development served as the largest sponsor and provided a limited number of free tickets. Vice President Jones directed residents to the event website and her social media accounts for ticket and volunteer information.

President Weaver thanked OhioHealth for highlighting perinatal mental health and stated that the issue had affected his own family. He also thanked the speakers who addressed Council and encouraged Director Blackford to connect with Mr. Mullins regarding signage concerns. President Weaver echoed comments regarding the recent economic development breakfast and stated that the event highlighted the importance of local businesses to the community and economy. He congratulated the award recipients recognized at the event. President Weaver concluded by reminding Council that no meeting would occur the following week and stated that Council would reconvene on June 1 for a regular Council meeting, Committee of the Whole meeting, and Finance Committee meeting.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Weaver adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2026.

Trenton I. Weaver