



City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Meeting Minutes

City Council

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, July 20, 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, July 20, 2026, in Council Chambers. President of Council Trenton I. Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, July 17, 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:

President Weaver announced that the public hearings originally scheduled for that evening had been rescheduled, would be re-noticed, and were slated for August 3, 2026.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

Resolution Presentation by Council - Certified Municipal Clerk

Recipient: Sophia McGuire, Deputy Clerk of Council

President Weaver recognized Deputy Clerk of Council Sophia McGuire for attaining her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) certification and turned the presentation over to Clerk VanMeter. Clerk VanMeter thanked President Weaver and Council for their indulgence and stated that it was a pleasure to work with Deputy Clerk McGuire. He explained that, although the public often saw her at Planning Commission meetings, she performed many responsibilities beyond supporting the Planning Commission. He stated that she oversaw the City's records management policies and procedures, ensured the City remained prepared as it transitioned permanent records, coordinated

and executed the Council Office budget, and assisted with its preparation. He added that she excelled in professional development by pursuing new skills and bringing that knowledge back to benefit the residents. Clerk VanMeter described Deputy Clerk McGuire as a humble public servant and expressed his gratitude for her service. He also introduced Mollie Prasher, Clerk of the Year for the 2026 Ohio Municipal Clerks Association and Clerk for the City of Reynoldsburg, who would highlight what this certification means. VanMeter noted that Ms. Prasher had served as a mentor to him and many clerks throughout the state. President Weaver welcomed Ms. Prasher and thanked her for attending.

Ms. Prasher stated that she was pleased to return to Gahanna and noted that she had previously presented Certified Municipal Clerk certifications to each member of the Council staff over the years. She explained that the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), founded in 1947, served more than 15,000 members in the United States, Canada, England, Australia, and other countries. She stated that the organization's primary goal focused on promoting continuing education and professional development for municipal clerks through educational programs, certifications, publications, networking, annual conferences, and research. Ms. Prasher explained that the Certified Municipal Clerk designation enhanced the performance of municipal clerks in communities of all sizes. She stated that candidates earned the designation by completing extensive educational programs and obtaining relevant municipal experience. She added that the program, which had existed since 1970, prepared participants to meet the complex responsibilities of the profession through educational partnerships with 47 institutes of higher learning and had benefited thousands of municipal clerks.

Ms. Prasher invited Deputy Clerk McGuire to join her and congratulated her on earning the Certified Municipal Clerk designation. She stated that Deputy Clerk McGuire had achieved the certification after many hours of seminars, conferences, and institute sessions, reaching a milestone attained by relatively few municipal clerks. Ms. Prasher noted that Deputy Clerk McGuire was one of 3,153 Certified Municipal Clerks among more than 15,000 IIMC members worldwide. She further noted that Deputy Clerk McGuire was the 112th clerk in Ohio to earn the designation and one of 41 clerks in the state who currently held an active CMC designation. Ms. Prasher stated that

Deputy Clerk McGuire remained dedicated to the City of Gahanna, worked diligently on behalf of the City's residents and Council, and had served on the Professional Development Committee for the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association. She expressed her honor in recognizing the achievement and congratulated Deputy Clerk McGuire. Ms. Prasher also expressed her hope to return in the future to congratulate the other members of the Council staff on similar accomplishments.

President Weaver invited Council members to join him in presenting the resolution and taking a photograph with Deputy Clerk McGuire and her family before inviting Deputy Clerk McGuire to offer remarks.

Deputy Clerk McGuire thanked City Council and the Administration for encouraging and providing numerous continuing education opportunities. She also thanked Clerk VanMeter for his continued support and encouragement of professional development, certifications, and additional educational opportunities for the Council Office staff. She expressed her appreciation for the resolution recognizing her achievement.

President Weaver congratulated Deputy Clerk McGuire and stated that the City was fortunate to have an outstanding Council Office staff. He noted that the staff provided exceptional service to Council and, more importantly, to the City's residents each day. He thanked Deputy Clerk McGuire, Clerk VanMeter, and the entire Council Office team for their service.

D. HEARING OF VISITORS:

James Weaver, 1300 S. Columbus Airport Road, Columbus, OH:

Mr. Weaver introduced himself as the Chief Financial Officer for Local Waste Services, addressed Council regarding the proposed waste and recycling collection contract. He thanked the City for its business over the past five years and stated that he understood Council would consider the second reading of legislation to award the next contract to Rumpke. Mr. Weaver stated that, at the conclusion of the pandemic, the Cities of Gahanna and Reynoldsburg had experienced significant collection delays. He said that Local Waste Services had consolidated routes and submitted a bid of \$20.47 per month, compared to Rumpke's bid of \$23.90, and included a cart as part of its proposal. Mr. Weaver stated that, during the contract term, Local

Waste Services reduced missed collections to less than one-tenth of one percent. He said the company used onboard computers and fleet cameras to verify service levels, respond to concerns, provide next-day reports of uncollectible items, and complete weekly collections without delay. He further stated that the contract had saved the City more than \$2 million. Mr. Weaver stated that Local Waste Services submitted a proposed rate of \$24.79, which he said aligned with rates in other communities, including Grove City at \$23.99 and Hilliard at \$24.99. He questioned how Rumpke could offer a rate of \$24.15 for Gahanna while Westerville received a sole bid of \$28.42 and Dublin received a bid of \$28.58. He also questioned how Rumpke could include carts in its proposal for Gahanna when those other communities did not receive carts for the same level of service. He further questioned why the bid included an exception to the contractor invoice adjustment for nonperformance and complaint response requirements and why Local Waste Services' pricing aligned with Dublin and Westerville five years earlier but now differed significantly. Mr. Weaver stated that Local Waste Services' presence in the market helped maintain competitive pricing. He expressed his opinion that Rumpke's proposal represented an introductory rate and stated that fuel surcharge invoices under the previous contract had been significantly higher. He also expressed his opinion that the City's projected annual savings of \$70,000 would not materialize and that, by the time the City determined that outcome, the remaining market competition would have diminished. He thanked Council for its time.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2026-0146](#)

Council Regular Minutes 2026-07-06

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2026-0147](#)

Committee of the Whole Minutes 2026-07-06

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Resolutions:

[RES-0026-2026](#)

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO THE MAYORAL PRIMARY ELECTION

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0027-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0028-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO WARD BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0029-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES FOR COUNCIL MEMBER ABSTENTIONS

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0030-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO THE ORGANIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0031-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0032-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO PLANNING COMMISSION ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0033-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING APPEAL FUNCTIONS

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0034-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY

CHARTER PERTAINING TO THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
CONVENING CYCLE

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0035-2026](#)

A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GAHANNA CITY CHARTER PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S NON DISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

End of Consent Agenda

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

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

F. RESOLUTIONS:

[RES-0036-2026](#)

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING SOPHIA MCGUIRE, DEPUTY CLERK OF COUNCIL, ON EARNING THE CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK (CMC) DESIGNATION AWARDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS

Councilmember Bowers congratulated Deputy Clerk Sophia McGuire on earning her Certified Municipal Clerk designation and recognized her achievement in joining the other members of the Council Office who had also attained the certification.

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Renner, that the Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

G. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0024-2026](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR CERTAIN REAL ESTATE WITHIN THE 2025 SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, TO APPROVE COSTS AND QUANTITIES, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

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

[ORD-0025-2026](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR CERTAIN REAL ESTATE WITHIN THE 2025 SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE LOOKBACK PROGRAM, TO APPROVE COSTS AND QUANTITIES, AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

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

[ORD-0027-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 133.08 REGARDING COPY CHARGES TO AUTHORIZE FEES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT VIDEO RECORDS CONSISTENT WITH OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 149.43

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

[ORD-0028-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 3, TRAFFIC CODE; TITLE 9, PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES; CHAPTER 373, BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA BY ADDING SECTION 373.11, "RIDING BICYCLES; HELMETS"

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

H. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

[ORD-0021-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE A NOTICE OF AWARD AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH RUMPKE OF OHIO, INC. FOR RESIDENTIAL WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Clerk VanMeter read the Ordinance by title.

Councilmember Schnetzer stated that Council had an obligation to use residents' tax dollars as efficiently as possible and asked the Administration whether the services proposed by all responsive bidders were substantially the same. He referenced comments made during public participation regarding fuel surcharge costs and asked whether those charges would eliminate the anticipated savings under the proposed contract or whether the contracts were comparable.

Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger stated that the bid requested pricing for the City's existing level of service. He explained that the Administration had the ability to negotiate contract terms, provided those negotiations did not affect the bid price. He stated that the Administration worked with Eastman Smith, legal counsel for SWACO, and the City Attorney to review the proposed contract language. He said the Administration rejected any language it found unacceptable. He also explained that fuel surcharge provisions appeared in many waste collection contracts and typically reflected increases in fuel

costs based on established fuel pricing indexes. He noted that the City's current contract also included fuel surcharge charges because fuel costs had increased since the previous contract began. In response to a follow-up question from Councilmember Schnetzer, Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger confirmed that he considered the contracts comparable.

Councilmember Bowers thanked Councilmember Schnetzer and stated that she had similar questions. She asked whether Rumpke's original proposal contained exceptions that would not have met the City's existing level of service. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger confirmed that the original proposal contained exceptions. He explained that many of the proposed changes related to performance standards, including collection times, missed collections, cleanup of spills, and other service requirements. He stated that the Administration negotiated those provisions and removed most of the proposed exceptions. He added that the Administration required the final contract to reflect the City's original bid language and did not compromise on those requirements. Councilmember Bowers asked why the Administration had not deemed the proposal nonresponsive because it contained those exceptions. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger explained that the bid specifications permitted bidders to identify exceptions for negotiation and that the proposal therefore remained responsive under the bid requirements. Councilmember Bowers asked whether Local Waste Services had the opportunity to renegotiate its proposal. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger stated that Local Waste Services submitted no exceptions and accepted the City's bid specifications as written.

Councilmember Bowers then asked about the average fuel surcharge charges under the current contract. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger stated that the fuel surcharge typically amounted to approximately \$5 per month for collection service and adjusted quarterly based on fuel pricing. When Councilmember Bowers asked what unit that amount applied to, he stated that he would need to review the contract but noted that any vendor selected through the bidding process would have been subject to the same fuel surcharge provisions. Councilmember Bowers asked whether James Weaver, Chief Financial Officer of Local Waste Services, could answer the question regarding the current fuel surcharge. President Weaver granted permission without objection. Mr. Weaver stated that the

current contract's fuel surcharge applied only to compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel and not diesel fuel because Local Waste Services primarily operated CNG trucks in the community. He stated that CNG prices remained more stable and that the current fuel surcharge totaled approximately \$2,000 for the community. He added that the surcharge had remained at that level for approximately 24 months. Councilmember Bowers thanked Mr. Weaver and stated that she had no additional questions.

Councilmember Bowers reiterated the concerns she had expressed during the Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the possibility that Rumpke could eventually dominate the regional waste collection market. She acknowledged Rumpke's investment in the community's recycling center and noted her understanding that Local Waste Services partnered with Rumpke on recycling services. She stated that her comments did not reflect a judgment about either company but instead expressed concern that a small business might no longer be able to compete in the region, which could affect future competition for the City.

President Weaver asked whether the Administration believed that Rumpke qualified as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the contract. Mayor Jadwin confirmed that it did. She stated that the City had followed the established competitive bidding process used throughout central Ohio, including the same process used five years earlier when Local Waste Services had received the contract as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. She stated that the Administration worked with Eastman Smith, legal counsel for the consortium, and the City Attorney throughout the review process and concluded that Rumpke represented the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Councilmember Padova stated that she shared Councilmember Bowers' concerns that, when the contract ended, Rumpke could become the only remaining provider, leaving the City without competitive options. She also stated that she understood the City had followed the established bidding process and that Rumpke submitted the lowest bid. She stated that Council had a duty to represent the residents of Gahanna and that she would support the legislation despite her concerns.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Renner, that the Ordinance be

Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Bowers

[ORD-0023-2026](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT WITH DEFFENBAUGH FLEX, LLC FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLEX OFFICE/INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ON PARCEL NO. 025-014174-00, PART OF COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA NO. 1

Clerk VanMeter read the Ordinance by title.

Amendment Discussion:

President Weaver recognized Councilmember Bowers, who moved to amend the ordinance by replacing the original Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) agreement with the revised agreement identified as exhibit attachment number 12. She stated that she had worked with City Attorney Tamilarasan to revise the language to ensure that it remained enforceable and consistent. She explained that the amendment addressed concerns raised during the June 15, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the Administration's authority to approve assignments or transfers of the incentive. She stated that the proposed amendment revised that provision. Councilmember Renner seconded the motion.

Councilmember Bowers clarified that the amendment preserved the existing procedures and standards by maintaining City Council's authority to approve assignments or transfers of the incentive. She added that the amendment required Council to consider any such request without unreasonable delay to provide assurance to the recipient of the incentive.

Mayor Jadwin stated that the Administration had received notice of the proposed amendment late the previous Friday afternoon and had not known that the revision was under consideration. She asked Director Gottke to provide comments regarding the amendment and the Department's position.

Director Gottke stated that he had worked with the Clerk and the City Attorney on the proposed language. He clarified that he did not consider the original agreement to grant unilateral authority because the evaluation process relied on a scoring rubric containing 20 criteria

and 11 additional bonus criteria that supported his recommendations to Council. He explained that the original agreement allowed administrative approval only if a proposed purchaser met the same standards as the current owner, thereby avoiding a repeat of the full approval process for an identical project. He stated that he included the provision to improve efficiency and noted that the proposed amendment aligned with practices used in other communities. He emphasized that the original language required the application of objective standards rather than arbitrary decision-making. Director Gottke stated that, although he did not recommend the amendment, he found it acceptable and did not believe it warranted extended discussion.

Councilmember Bowers thanked Director Gottke and stated that she appreciated the proposed evaluation rubric for future incentives. She explained that, because this project represented the first use of the rubric, she believed it would be premature for Council to delegate review authority. She added that Council could consider such delegation in the future.

Hearing no further discussion, President Weaver called for a vote on the amendment.

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Renner, that the Ordinance be Amended by Substitution of EXHIBIT A. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - McGregor

Main Motion as Amended Discussion:

During discussion of the amended ordinance, Councilmember Bowers thanked the applicant for his transparency, his collaboration with the City, and his efforts to demonstrate the value of the project. She stated that she nevertheless would vote against the incentive to remain consistent with her previous votes opposing incentives for speculative development. She also expressed concern that the proposed average annual salary fell below the *Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed* (ALICE) threshold for Franklin County and that the project would create only 18 jobs. Although she opposed the incentive, she wished the applicant success in the community.

Councilmember McGregor stated that she supported the project

because it provided an incubator-type space for small businesses to begin operations and potentially expand within Gahanna if they succeeded. She stated that the applicant had demonstrated a need for the project and expressed her hope that it would succeed.

President Weaver expressed his appreciation to Director Gottke and the applicant. He stated that recent changes to the Ohio Revised Code and the applicant's willingness to sign a waiver allowed the City to engage in more robust discussion while improving transparency and accountability for residents. He thanked City Attorney Tamilarasan for her work and thanked Director Gottke for developing the new evaluation rubric, methodology, and thorough explanation, which he believed contributed to a more informed discussion. President Weaver acknowledged the concerns expressed by Councilmember Bowers but stated that he believed the proposal represented an appropriate project for the site and surrounding area. He added that, although he had opposed a previous tax abatement request, he believed sufficient differences existed to support this application.

Councilmember Renner stated that he had struggled with the decision. He expressed appreciation for the applicant's investment in the City and for Director Gottke's work, particularly the development of the evaluation matrix. He stated that he remained concerned about approving a 75 percent tax abatement when neighboring businesses had received lower abatements while producing more jobs. He also noted that the property presented unique development challenges and agreed that the project offered an innovative incubator concept. Although he shared concerns about the proposed salaries and future cost-of-living projections, he concluded that he would support the project.

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

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

No: 1 - Bowers

I. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk - None.

2. Council

[2026-0145](#)

Your City Council at Work Newsletter - March-May 2026

President Weaver noted that the Council newsletter was linked to and attached to the published agenda. He commended Ms. Hilts for her work in producing the newsletter and thanked the staff for their continued efforts. He encouraged residents to read the newsletter, noting that its readership continued to grow and that it provided another way to share information with the public.

J. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Renner reported that the CIC met on July 15, 2026. He stated that President Mrus called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and that the Board approved the previous meeting minutes and financial report. The Board also approved payment to Wallace Ackley, continued its engagement with Charles Harris Company for the state audit, and received updates on property taxes and the tax return. Councilmember Renner reported that governance updates included the upcoming move to the new City Hall facility and that Mayor Jadwin advised Board members to contact Director Gottke if they wished to tour the facility. He stated that the Board reviewed and approved the final CIC Strategic Plan, which addressed CIC funding, enhanced coordination with City Council, and new programs beyond property acquisition and implementation. He noted that Council members would receive a copy of the Strategic Plan and that a CIC representative would present it to Council. He also reported that Director Gottke provided updates on completed demolition work at Creekside, grant funding for High Street properties, and other property matters. Councilmember Renner stated that he left the meeting shortly before 9:00 a.m. to participate in a work call. He reported that the Board entered executive session at 9:08 a.m., returned to open session at 9:16 a.m., and adjourned at 9:17 a.m. He announced that the next CIC meeting would take place on August 19, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

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

President Weaver stated that there was no formal report and that he would provide a full report at the next regular Council meeting.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reported that the Ohio Herb Center and Visit Gahanna hosted a group of 31 retired teachers for a tour that included an herbal workshop, a make-and-take activity, a tour of the herb garden, and lunch at a Gahanna restaurant. She noted that another group tour was scheduled for later that week. Councilmember Padova also announced that Visit Gahanna and Make Gahanna Yours would host a Pelotonia Spirit Station on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at the corner of Tech Center Drive and Science Boulevard near Edison Brewing. She encouraged the community to attend and cheer for participants. She stated that the event would include coffee, donuts, cowbells, and a disc jockey providing music from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. She noted that the new location placed riders just beyond a slight hill, where they might benefit from additional encouragement.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Vice President Jones announced that the Board of Education would hold a workshop meeting on August 6, 2026, a Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on August 18, 2026, and a regular Board meeting on August 20, 2026. She stated that all meetings would take place at Clark Hall at 6:30 p.m. Vice President Jones also reported that the school district's central office would relocate to its permanent location at Clark Hall on August 3, 2026. She stated that July 29 would serve as the final day of business at the temporary central office, that the office would remain closed on July 30 and 31, and that operations would resume at the new location on August 3.

K. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin announced the start of the Gahanna Junior Police Academy, which welcomed 16 students that morning. She stated that the program supported the City's strategic plan and had been organized by Community Liaison Officers Blair Thomas and Ann Jodon. She explained that participants would spend the week learning about the Division of Police, meeting officers, exploring law enforcement and civilian career opportunities, and participating in training activities. She also thanked local businesses that donated

lunches and supplies for the program and expressed her hope that the students would enjoy a successful week.

Mayor Jadwin provided an update on the City's relocation to 825 Tech Center Drive. She stated that August 7, 2026, would serve as the final day for City services at the current City Hall location at 200 S. Hamilton Road, with the exception of the August 17, 2026, Council meeting, which would remain in the current Council Chambers. She explained that City Hall would close on August 10 and 11 to allow staff to complete the move, unpack, and conduct training. She stated that telephone service would resume on August 12 and that the new facility would open to the public for City services on August 13. She informed Council that informational flyers had been distributed and made available to residents and that additional details appeared on the City's website, social media, and email alerts. Mayor Jadwin stated that the Division of Police would complete its move in phases and that the Field Services Division would remain at 460 Rocky Fork Boulevard until the morning of August 17 to provide a consistent location for the public during the transition. She again encouraged residents to visit the City's website for additional relocation information. Mayor Jadwin announced that the City would seek public input to name the event space within the new Civic Center. She stated that an online survey would open the following day and remain available through the following Tuesday to gather community suggestions for the new facility.

Mayor Jadwin reminded Council that the final Creekside Live concert of the season would occur on July 31 and noted that no August concert was scheduled because Creekside Hops and Vines would take place on August 29. She also announced that National Night Out would return to Headley Park on August 4 and described the event as an opportunity for residents to meet members of the Division of Police and learn about police vehicles and equipment in an informal setting.

Mayor Jadwin announced the passing of former Gahanna Police Chief and former Councilmember Robert "Bob" Kelley earlier that day. She stated that Chief Kelley served with the Division of Police from June 1966 until May 1994, including service as Police Chief from 1989 until his retirement. She also noted that he later served two terms on City Council representing Ward 2. Mayor Jadwin stated that his commitment to public service left a lasting impact on the community

and that Division of Police officers were providing a traditional law enforcement escort. On behalf of the City, she extended condolences to his wife, Georgia, his family, friends, colleagues, and all who had known him, and expressed gratitude for his many years of service and the legacy he left behind.

2. City Attorney

None.

L. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember McGregor reported that the Gahanna Historical Society recently hosted a presentation on the history of Independence Day. She shared that the presentation highlighted the ages of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, noting that two signers were 26 years old, Thomas Jefferson was 33, James Madison was 25, and Benjamin Franklin, at age 70, was the oldest signer. She stated that the average age of the signers was approximately 44 years old and observed that many of them were younger than commonly perceived. She also noted that attendees discussed how signing the Declaration of Independence represented a significant personal risk in the eyes of England. Councilmember McGregor stated that she found those historical details to be particularly interesting.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Weaver adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2026.*

Trenton I. Weaver

DRAFT