



# City of Gahanna

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

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

*Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council*

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Monday, December 15, 2025

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

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

*Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, December 15, 2025, in Council Chambers. President of Council Merisa K. Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Vice President of Council Trenton I. Weaver delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on December 12, 2025.*

**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 Bowers stated that there were two corrections to the agenda. She announced the addition of Ordinance 0061-2025 under Section I, an ordinance regarding the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union collective bargaining unit contract. She also stated that an executive session listed under Section R would not be needed.

**C. PRESENTATIONS:**

**1. Swearing-in Ceremony - Division of Police & Mayor Jadwin  
Garrett Whitney, Officer**

Mayor Jadwin stated that throughout the year the City had administered the oath of office to several Gahanna police officers. She said it was fitting that at the last Council meeting of the year, the City welcomed another officer. Mayor Jadwin introduced Officer Garrett Whitney as a lateral transfer and invited Director Becker to speak before administering the oath.

Director Becker thanked Mayor Jadwin and stated that the department had been working diligently to become fully staffed with high-quality personnel. He

noted that Officer Whitney brought significant experience to the department and had transferred from Mansfield. He stated that Officer Whitney was trained in the City's new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS) and could assist in training existing officers after completing his onboarding. Director Becker expressed enthusiasm about Officer Whitney joining the department and then turned the floor over to Chief Spence.

Chief Spence stated that the department had made substantial progress over the previous several weeks. He noted that additional offers had been extended, including to recruit officers expected to begin after the first of the year, and that promotional processes would be completed in the coming weeks. He thanked Council for its support and welcomed Officer Whitney to the department.

Mayor Jadwin then administered the oath of office to Officer Garrett Whitney and congratulated and welcomed him to the City.

President Bowers thanked Director Becker, Chief Spence, and Mayor Jadwin, and formally welcomed Officer Whitney to Gahanna.

**2. Joint Resolution/Proclamation Presentation - Council and Mayor Jadwin  
Recognizing the Pinnell Christmas Extravaganza 50th Anniversary  
Recipient: The Pinnell Family**

Councilmember Padova introduced a resolution recognizing the Pinnell Christmas Extravaganza's 50th anniversary. She said the event marked the start of the holiday season for many families in Gahanna and had been part of her family's holiday tradition for about a decade. She noted that her sister-in-law taught at Pinnell and that her niece had danced there since she could walk, possibly before. She said she had seen firsthand the time, care, and dedication involved in the shows long before the curtain opened, and she described the dancers' work as remarkable. She explained that, instead of charging an admission fee, the show collected donations to distribute to GRIN, so the price of admission was a donation. She said that during her time working at GRIN, longtime volunteers associated the show with the work of unloading, moving, and sorting donations. She reported that the show collected 2,819 pounds of food that year and noted that a can of green beans weighed less than a pound, which she said helped put the total into perspective. She stated that the event had blended arts with generosity for half a century and had supported the community. She said she felt proud to bring the resolution forward and to recognize Ms. Jeri Pinnell for her dedication to the arts and the community, as well as her daughter, Ashley Holt, who she assumed would carry the torch for another 50 years. Councilwoman Padova then turned the floor over to Mayor Jadwin for remarks

and invited the honorees to take a photo with Council, Mayor Jadwin and City Attorney Tamilarasan.

Mayor Jadwin thanked Councilwoman Padova and stated that it gave her great pleasure to join Council in recognizing the milestone. She told Jeri Pinnell that she looked the same as she did 30 years earlier when the mayor's children participated in the Christmas Extravaganza. She said the dance studio and event created traditions, and she noted that she knew families who had passed participation down through generations. She said the event created memories and shared that her husband danced in the "dad line," which remained his claim to fame, and that the experience stayed in his memory and in the memories of others. She stated that the event brought families and the community together and created loving memories that lasted a lifetime. She also stated that the event created an incredible impact by collecting food for GRIN and giving back to the community, and she referenced the time spent practicing and teaching and the costumes involved. She said the event turned those efforts into community support, which she described as exceptional, and she stated that it represented the spirit of Gahanna and what the community was. She thanked Pinnell for what she had done and continued to do, and said she looked forward to next year's extravaganza.

President Bowers invited members of Council, Mayor Jadwin, and City Attorney Tamilarasan, along with Jeri Pinnell and Ashley Holt, to come forward for a photo.

Jeri Pinnell stated that she and her family grew up in Gahanna and that she attended Gahanna schools through high school. She said Gahanna had been good to them and felt like home. She stated that the Gahanna Lions Club picked up all the food donations and that the volume was significant. She said they worked closely with the Lions Club and expressed appreciation for them. She thanked Council and stated that she did not expect the recognition and that it was a lovely surprise.

Ashley Holt thanked Council and stated that she and others felt grateful that they could do a show to give a little back because the community had given them so much over the years. She said it was meaningful and thanked Council again.

Council President Bowers thanked the honorees, congratulated Jeri Pinnell and the Pinnell dance team, and thanked Councilwoman Padova for recommending the resolution.

**3. Joint Resolution/Proclamation Presentation - Council and Mayor Jadwin Recognizing the State Champion Gahanna Lincoln High School Girls Cross Country Team and Coach Ryan Callihan**

President Bowers stated that the final ceremonial resolution presentation recognized the Gahanna Lincoln High School girls cross country team as state champions and honored Coach Ryan Callahan as Coach of the Year. She turned the presentation over to Councilwoman McGregor to introduce the resolution.

Councilwoman McGregor stated that the team had made the City proud and recognized the student-athletes by name: Rachel Ille, Ruby Lewis, Olivia Smeck, Rebecca Shope, Dylan Yost, Abigail Young, and Jillian Gomez. She stated that the team made its third consecutive appearance at the state meet and that all seven girls earned Academic All-Ohio honors. She mentioned that her granddaughter, Marilyn McGregor, participated on the junior varsity team but could not attend due to swim practice. Councilwoman McGregor also stated that Council wanted to recognize Coach Ryan Callihan, who earned Ohio Capital Conference Coach of the Year honors prior to the team winning the state championship. She expressed appreciation for the athletes' hard work, the support provided by their parents, and the balance the students maintained between academics and athletics. She stated that it was an honor to recognize the team.

Mayor Jadwin thanked Councilwoman McGregor and stated that it was a privilege to recognize the team's extraordinary accomplishment, which she believed would remain part of the community's history. She stated that the achievement resulted from years of hard work, teamwork, trust, and the development of a strong culture. She shared that she spoke with the athletes and asked what they learned during the season, and they responded that teamwork made the dream work. She stated that this reflected Coach Callihan's leadership and the environment created by him and his assistant coaches, which allowed the athletes to thrive. She remarked that the team might perform well again the following year, without placing expectations on them. She described the championship as an incredible source of pride for the community and expressed joy in recognizing and congratulating the athletes. She noted that some of the runners would continue their careers at the collegiate level and stated that the City looked forward to following their progress.

President Bowers invited Council, the mayor, and the city attorney to join the team for a photo. She asked the team and Coach Callihan to remain afterward for a brief commendation presentation from a representative of the Secretary of State's office.

Brian Metzbower introduced himself as a representative from Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose's office. He stated that he informed the Secretary of the team's achievement and that Secretary LaRose, an avid runner, asked him to present a commendation on his behalf. He presented the commendation from the Ohio Secretary of State.

Coach Ryan Callihan stated that he appreciated the opportunity to speak about the team and described the season as outstanding. He stated that the team began training on June 16 and completed 21 weeks of hard work. He reported that each athlete ran between 500 and 600 miles during that period. He stated that the team showed up daily, worked hard, and was enjoyable to coach. He noted that the program included 52 girls, with 12 representing the team at the state meet. He stated that those 12 athletes also excelled academically and maintained an average GPA of 4.089. He thanked the City for the recognition and expressed appreciation to Chief Spence for providing a police escort when the team returned from the state meet, which he described as a fun and memorable experience. He thanked the City and the community for their continued support and acknowledged the visibility of the cross country teams throughout the City due to their training routines.

President Bowers congratulated the athletes and thanked the guests for attending. She congratulated them on their recognition and stated that the City looked forward to future celebrations involving them in Gahanna.

**D. HEARING OF VISITORS:**

*Ifrah Aliawl, 15 W Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN, addressed Council via video comment:*

Ms. Aliawl identified herself as a Somali American educator and community member and stated that she spoke to share her lived experience and the experiences many Somali and East African families were navigating in central Ohio and across the country. She explained that when hateful rhetoric targeted a specific ethnic group or religious identity, the impact extended beyond social media or cable news and appeared in everyday settings such as grocery stores, schools, and other public spaces. She stated that many Somali and East African families experienced heightened fear and vigilance and that parents held conversations with their children about safety that no family should have to normalize. She noted that people altered their routines, including where they shopped, how they visibly expressed their identities, and how much they spoke in public, not because of wrongdoing but because others targeted their identities. Ms. Aliawl referenced Minnesota, home to the largest Somali population in the country, and stated that community spaces faced surveillance, families felt anxious, and young people questioned their sense of belonging. She said that community organizations, educators, and

legal advocates documented these realities in real time. She emphasized the importance of historical context and recalled that after September 11, 2001, increased surveillance, hate crimes, and policies disproportionately targeted Muslim and immigrant communities. She stated that many people remembered that period and the damage it caused to those directly impacted as well as to social cohesion and trust within society. Ms. Aliawl stated that targeting one group never remained limited to that group and that dehumanizing rhetoric created permission to harm a specific group at a specific time while also creating long-term permission for harassment, exclusion, and harm. She explained that once such permission structures existed, they did not remain contained. She concluded that condemning hateful rhetoric did not concern politics but instead related to public safety, social cohesion, and community values. She stated that Somali and East African residents served as neighbors, business owners, students, parents, healthcare workers, and public servants within the community.

*Laura Abbas, 1398 Harrison Pond Drive, Gahanna, OH, addressed Council via video comment:*

Ms. Abbas stated that she served on the Gahanna Jefferson Parent Equity Committee and expressed strong support for Joint Resolution and Proclamation 0060-2025 and urged City Council to approve it. She stated that she worked as a nonprofit consultant specializing in immigrant and refugee organizations for 20 years and said that, in her experience, this period represented the most difficult time to be foreign-born and a person who is Black or Brown in the United States. Ms. Abbas stated that she co-founded the Central Ohio Rapid Response Network in January 2024. She explained that the network included 40 member organizations and had held more than 50 meetings since its formation. She reported that the network had made more than 80 attorney referrals, convened 10 community "Know Your Rights" training sessions, and completed more than 139 successful interventions. Ms. Abbas stated that these efforts occurred before U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had come into full operation in central Ohio. She clarified that ICE was present but had not reached the level of activity seen in Chicago, Charlotte, New Orleans, and Minneapolis. She stated that the joint resolution and proclamation communicated to Gahanna residents who were foreign-born and U.S.-born that City Council valued and supported them. She expressed sadness that the resolution and proclamation proved necessary but stated that the current conditions in the country and in Gahanna required such action. Ms. Abbas stated that dignity, safety, and belonging applied to all who called the city home and asked Council not to forget vulnerable populations who traveled to Gahanna for work each day. She stated that regardless of birthplace, individuals belonged to the Gahanna community.

*Dr. Abdulkadir Bare, 2484 Nissi Drive, Columbus, OH addressed Council in Chambers:*

Dr. Bare greeted City Council and attendees and extended New Year and holiday well wishes to Councilmembers and the community. He thanked City Council, the City of Gahanna, and those who organized the meeting and stated his appreciation for the previous speaker clips addressing the topic presented that evening. Dr. Bare stated that immigrants, like many Americans, came from families with generations of history and that some residents represented newer immigrant communities. He stated that being a new immigrant did not define people by negative language the President attributed to them and emphasized that immigrants were Americans, neighbors, and hard workers. He stated that immigrants served as doctors, lawyers, elected officials, and in many roles throughout the country and said that they differed from other Americans only in that they could not serve as President. Dr. Bare stated that during difficult times, Americans fulfilled their obligations and responsibilities without questioning political affiliation and that residents worked together as Americans. He stated that the current moment required unity and asked others to stand with immigrant communities for the sake of unity, safety, and children attending school. He stated that parents faced difficulty explaining to children language used by the President about them and said that this created emotional challenges for families. He thanked those who supported immigrant communities and asked those who remained silent to stand with them for the unity of the country. Dr. Bare stated that Somali children who arrived in the United States at a young age had grown to serve in the military, law enforcement, and other positions of service. He thanked neighbors, attendees, and City Council for their time and consideration.

*Kawther Musa, 645 Player Court, Galloway, OH addressed Council in Chambers:*

Ms. Musa stated that she was a Somali American, a community health leader, a community leader, and a healthcare provider. She stated that recent remarks from the presidential administration deeply hurt the Somali community and emphasized that every community deserved respect and dignity. Ms. Musa stated that when Minnesota was targeted, the entire Somali diaspora community felt the impact. She reported receiving many calls from community members over the previous days and stated that people felt scared. She explained that the Somali communities in Gahanna and Minneapolis remained closely connected, with families traveling between the two cities and maintaining relatives in both locations. She stated that when one community experienced harm, the other community felt the effects deeply. Ms. Musa stated that the Somali community worked hard and

included business owners, healthcare workers, teachers, students, lawyers, and elected officials in Ohio. She stated that in recent weeks, many U.S. citizens and Somali Americans had been detained by ICE and said that these actions caused alarm and were illegal. She stated that these events created deep fear and uncertainty within the community and emphasized the need to stand together to protect rights and ensure justice during this time. Ms. Musa stated that she wanted everyone to feel safe and supported and encouraged community members to remain connected and look out for one another. She thanked all elected officials and City Council for the opportunity to speak. She stated that although she did not live in Gahanna, she served the people of Gahanna.

*Abdi Diini, 2489 Victoria Hills Drive, Columbus, OH addressed Council in Chambers:*

Mr. Diini greeted City Council, Mayor Jadwin, and attendees and offered a greeting of peace in Arabic. He stated that the community chose unity over division and chose to stand together as Americans and neighbors. He stated that the community chose to look out for one another, uplift one another, and show compassion over suspicion and love over hate. He stated a commitment to treat every neighbor, regardless of background, belief, color, national origin, or personal story, with respect, care, and dignity, and he stated that the community embraced everyone who called the country home. Mr. Diini stated that everyone belonged and committed to making America, Gahanna, and the greater Columbus area a better place to live and raise families. He stated that the community grew together. He thanked Gahanna and greater Columbus leadership for not allowing hate, bigotry, racism, or other forces to define the city. Mr. Diini stated that families taught their children that respect and kindness represented the norm and that diversity served as a strength rather than a threat.

#### **E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**Pursuant to Council Rules 9.10 and 9.11, the President of Council shall give a brief statement or explanation of the item under hearing. Prior to the opening of the public hearing, the administration may make a presentation of slides, videos, photos, staff comments, or combination thereof. Public comment will be opened with 3 minutes allowed per speaker. Speakers must complete a speaker slip and come to the podium when called and state their name and address for the record. Additional time, if needed, may be requested and permission is at the discretion of the President of Council.**

[ORD-0053-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING THE NECESSITY OF AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENT AND REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2025 (THE COLUMBUS ACADEMY PROJECT) OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000,000; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LOAN AGREEMENT, AN ASSIGNMENT OF LOAN AGREEMENT, A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT, A TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE AND AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Bowers announced that City Council would hold one public hearing regarding the proposed issuance of economic development revenue bonds. She stated that the rules governing the public hearing appeared on the agenda and that public comment would remain open, with three minutes allowed per speaker. She requested that speakers complete a speaker slip, come to the podium when called, and state their name and address for the record. She then called the public hearing to order at 7:39 PM.

President Bowers stated that the hearing related to the proposed issuance by the City of not more than \$15 million in Economic Development Improvement and Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2025, for the Columbus Academy Project. She stated that the City proposed the bonds pursuant to Chapter 165 of the Ohio Revised Code and Article VIII, Section 13 of the Ohio Constitution. She explained that, if authorized, the bond proceeds would allow Columbus Academy to finance costs associated with capital expenditures for a maintenance building at its campus located at 4300 Cherry Bottom Road, Gahanna, Ohio; to refund and retire the outstanding \$10.7 million City of Gahanna Economic Development Revenue Bonds, Series 2019A, Columbus Academy Project; and to refund and retire the outstanding \$8.3 million City of Gahanna Economic Development Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2019B, Columbus Academy Project. She stated that the prior bonds financed and refinanced capital expenditures for Columbus Academy, including additions and renovations to school and school athletic buildings and related improvements located on the borrower's real property at 4300 Cherry Bottom Road, Gahanna, Ohio. President Bowers stated that the bonds would not constitute a debt or pledge of the faith and credit or taxing power of the City of Gahanna, the State of Ohio, or any political subdivision of the State of Ohio. She stated that Columbus Academy would serve as the initial legal owner and principal user of the project. She stated that publication in the Columbus Dispatch on December 8, 2025, provided notice of the hearing. She explained that the purpose of the hearing involved receiving public comments regarding the issuance of the bonds and stated that the hearing did not serve as a forum for debate or a judicial proceeding. She invited anyone wishing to speak on the matter to come forward.

Ally Kimbler, 789 Dennison Ave, Columbus OH, and bond counsel from Dinsmore & Shohl, introduced herself and stated that Marc Kamer, also from Dinsmore & Shohl, attended as bond counsel. She thanked Council for allocating time for the public hearing and stated that the Internal Revenue Code required the hearing in order for the City to serve as a conduit issuer for the bonds. She stated that the City acted solely in a conduit capacity and that the bonds would not create a direct debt obligation for the City. She stated that no City finances supported bond repayment and that Columbus Academy bore sole responsibility for repayment of the bonds. She concluded by offering to answer questions and thanked Council for the opportunity to speak.

With no further speakers for the Public Hearing, President Bowers closed the Public Hearing at 7:42 PM.

**F. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1. Minutes - To Approve:**

- [2025-0256](#) Council Special Minutes 12.1.2025  
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.
- [2025-0257](#) Council Regular Minutes 12.1.2025  
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.
- [2025-0258](#) Finance Committee Minutes 12.1.2025  
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.
- [2025-0259](#) Committee of the Whole Minutes 12.8.2025  
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.
- [2025-0260](#) Finance Committee Minutes 12.8.2025  
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

**2. Resolutions:**

- [RES-0057-2025](#) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION 2026 PRICING POLICY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.
- [RES-0058-2025](#) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF GAHANNA

CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO DESIGNATE A PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR SAID PROGRAM

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0059-2025](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT (FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH) FOR 2026 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0061-2025](#)

A JOINT RESOLUTION AND PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PINNELL CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA AND ITS CONTINUED PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT ON THE GAHANNA COMMUNITY

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

**End of Consent Agenda**

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

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

**G. MOTIONS:**

[MT-0015-2025](#)

A MOTION TO SET 4:00 P.M. AS THE TIME FOR THE JANUARY 2, 2026, ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RULE 5.10

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

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

**H. RESOLUTIONS:**

[RES-0060-2025](#)

A JOINT RESOLUTION AND PROCLAMATION AFFIRMING HUMAN DIGNITY AND BELONGING FOR ALL WHO CALL GAHANNA HOME

Councilmember McGregor stated that she wished to offer a few comments. She stated that Gahanna had always been a welcoming community that supported its citizens to the best of its ability. She shared that her family had a history of supporting refugees and described her family's involvement during the late 1970s Southeast Asia crisis, when millions of Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, and other refugees fled their homes. She stated that her family took in two refugee families through a program facilitated by their church and Lutheran Social Services. She explained that the families lived in

the lower level of her home on Amesbury, which had separate living spaces, and noted that the families included seven and eight members. She stated that her children were approximately three and five years old at the time and that all of the children played together freely because no doors separated the levels. Councilmember McGregor stated that she could not support the resolution because it did not differentiate between immigrants and legal immigrants. She stated that the United States was a nation of laws and that entering the country illegally constituted a criminal offense. She stated that she could support legal immigrants and those with legal refugee status. She stated that she believed the document was divisive and that she could not support it.

President Bowers thanked all speakers who addressed Council during the meeting and stated her appreciation for their comments regarding unity and the importance of coming together to support all who called Gahanna and central Ohio home. She thanked Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Renner, and Mayor Jadwin for their work in bringing the joint resolution forward.

Councilmember Renner stated that he wished to take a different direction in his remarks and shared that he had reflected deeply on the matter. He described taking a quiet walk through Blendon Woods the previous day and stated that time in nature helped him gain clarity when facing difficult issues. He stated that being among trees and water slowed his thinking and reminded him of what mattered most. Councilmember Renner noted that, according to some traditions, the previous day marked the third Sunday of Advent, known as the Sunday of hope and joy. He stated that this served as a reminder that resilience developed through care, attention, and presence rather than fear or urgency. He referenced poets and philosophers throughout history and stated that learning to be present shaped how people cared for themselves, their neighbors, and their communities. He stated that he found significance in visiting Blendon Woods, where one of the lakes bore the name of Henry David Thoreau, and referenced Thoreau, Dickinson, and Emerson as thinkers who believed that slowing down and paying attention helped people remember what mattered most. He stated that presence shaped character and that character shaped community. Councilmember Renner stated that the natural world taught that people were connected, independent, and inherently dignified. He stated that dignity did not require earning and already existed. He referenced Zen traditions and stated that resilience grew when people responded thoughtfully rather than reactively, listened before judging, and allowed space for wiser decisions and stronger relationships. Councilmember Renner stated that these reflections led him to the purpose of the meeting. He stated that Council was not debating a partisan issue or elevating one group over another but affirming the type of city Gahanna chose

to be. He stated that recent rhetoric across the region and nation diminished humanity, created fear among neighbors, and eroded the sense of belonging residents deserved. Councilmember Renner stated that the resolution did not focus on political identities or labels and instead sought to establish a civic standard that rejected dehumanizing speech and stood with residents who experienced racism, xenophobia, or targeted harm. He stated that Council shared responsibility for the community's well-being and that the city's strength came from respect, inclusion, and shared dignity. He stated that adoption of the resolution affirmed that belonging in Gahanna was lived rather than aspirational. Councilmember Renner concluded by stating that hope became durable when practiced, resilience became real when shared, and the community remained strongest when dignity remained non-negotiable.

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

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

**No:** 1 - McGregor

[RES-0062-2025](#)

A JOINT PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPION GAHANNA LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM AND COACH RYAN CALLIHAN

President Bowers expressed her thanks to Mayor Jadwin and all of Council for their interest in ensuring the recognition of excellence of the girls cross country team and Coach Ryan Callihan.

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

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

**I. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:**

[ORD-0055-2025](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ELITE EXCAVATING COMPANY OF OHIO, INC. FOR THE 2025 STREET REBUILD AND WATERLINE PROGRAM (ST-1116)

President Bowers introduced the Ordinance and the Clerk read it by title.

[ORD-0056-2025](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SHELLY & SANDS, INC. FOR THE TAYLOR ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT (ST-1121)

President Bowers introduced the Ordinance and the Clerk read it by title.

[ORD-0060-2025](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED AT 110 N. HIGH ST., 120 N. HIGH ST., 130-140 MILL ST., 152 MILL ST., 153-155

MILL ST., 161-167 MILL ST., 169 MILL ST., AND 170 MILL ST. IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO

President Bowers introduced the Ordinance and the Clerk read it by title.

[ORD-0061-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO THE UNITED STEEL, PAPER & FORESTRY, RUBBER MANUFACTURING, ENERGY, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL (USW) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 2, 2026 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2029; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

President Bowers introduced the Ordinance and read it by title.

President Bowers stated that union members approved the referenced contract earlier that day. She thanked the City's Human Resources team for its diligence and efficiency. She stated that the item appeared on the agenda for first reading and explained that, by rule, the administration had 14 days to present the contract to Council and Council then had 30 days to act. She stated that the item could proceed to second reading and adoption with an emergency designation on January 2, 2026.

**J. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:**

**Recommended Amendment: Substitute EXHIBIT A**

[ORD-0049-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

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

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

Vice President Weaver stated that he wished to briefly express gratitude to the administration, staff, and his Council colleagues for the budget process during the year. He stated that Council had engaged in extensive and healthy discussion over several months. He specifically thanked Chairman Renner for his leadership and for guiding Council through the budget process. He stated that the budget reflected the progress the community had made and included meaningful investments in the city's future. He stated that the upcoming year would bring significant activity for the city and acknowledged that additional work remained and that some desired items did not appear in the budget. He stated that he looked forward to continuing to work with

Council, the administration, and the community to build a city they could be proud to call home.

Councilmember Padova thanked staff for the time and effort devoted to preparing the budget, including late nights spent in budget meetings. She stated that not everyone shared the same level of budget expertise as Councilman Schnetzer but stated that the presentation of the budget made it easy to review and understand and to see the city's values reflected within it. She thanked everyone who contributed to the budget process.

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

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

**K. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / EMERGENCY ADOPTION:**

[ORD-0053-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING THE NECESSITY OF AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENT AND REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2025 (THE COLUMBUS ACADEMY PROJECT) OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000,000; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LOAN AGREEMENT, AN ASSIGNMENT OF LOAN AGREEMENT, A BOND PURCHASE AGREEMENT, A TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE AND AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

President Bowers stated that she wished to thank bond counsel for their diligence in attending many meetings and for providing a succinct explanation of the item before Council. She thanked them for their time.

**A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Weaver, that the Ordinance be Adopted as an Emergency. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**L. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & ADOPTION:**

[ORD-0057-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025; AND WAIVING SECOND READING - General Fund, TIF Fund, Parks and Recreation Fund, and Leave Pay-Out Fund

President Bowers introduced the Ordinance and the Clerk read it by title.

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Jones, that the Ordinance be Waived for Second Reading. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

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

#### **M. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & EMERGENCY ADOPTION:**

[ORD-0058-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES FOR PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2026, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026; WAIVING SECOND READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

President Bowers introduced the Ordinance and the Clerk read it by title.

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Padova, that the Ordinance be Waived for Second Reading. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

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

[ORD-0059-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE BENEFITS FOR PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026; WAIVING SECOND READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

President Bowers introduced the Ordinance and the Clerk read it by title.

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Padova, that the Ordinance be Waived for Second Reading. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

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

#### **N. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:**

##### **1. Clerk**

[2025-0264](#) Ohio Division of Liquor Control Notice to Legislative Authority Permit NEW 10011028-1 DAE HAN CHICKEN 6 INC CM CHICKEN 109 NORTH HAMILTON ROAD, GAHANNA, OH 43230

Mr. VanMeter stated that he had one notice to present regarding a new permit

for Dae Han Chicken 6, Inc., doing business as CM Chicken, located at 109 North Hamilton Road. He stated that he had conferred with Chief Spence and reported that the Division of Police had no objections. He stated that, if Council had no objections, he would return the notice without requesting a hearing. There were no objections noted for the record.

## 2. Council

### 2025-0263

Annual Report to Council - 919.06 Water & Sewer Review Board Hearing 2025

President Bowers stated that, as required under City Code 919.06, Council had received a Water and Sewer Review Board hearing report from 2025. She asked whether any discussion existed regarding the correspondence item coded as Item 2025-0263. She then thanked Senior Deputy Directory Corey Wybensinger for providing the information to Council and expressed appreciation for his diligence.

### 2025-0265

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Engagement on Net-Metering Policies

President Bowers introduced the next agenda item, coded as File Number 2025-0265, which she and Councilmember Renner wished to bring to Council's attention. She stated that the item involved a letter to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio regarding net metering policies and invited Councilmember Renner to provide context.

Councilmember Renner stated that the Power a Clean Future Ohio (PCFO) organization had alerted Council that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio was reviewing net metering, which statute required every five years. He stated that PUCO staff had recommended no changes to the policy. He stated that, at the eleventh hour, a commenter raised two arguments that he described as unusual and urged Councilmembers to review the record. He stated that the letter he and President Bowers wrote and submitted addressed those issues and encouraged Council to read the letter. He stated that he supported the PUCO staff recommendation to make no changes.

President Bowers added that the comment deadline fell on Friday, December 12, 2025, which prevented Council from reviewing and discussing the item in advance. She stated that, for that reason, she and Councilmember Renner signed the letter in their individual capacities.

## O. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Renner reminded members of the joint CIC and Council meeting December 16, 2025, at 7:30 AM at the Senior Center.

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

### 2025-0261

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 12.15.2025

Vice President Weaver reported that the commission met on December 11, 2025, and stated that the next meeting was anticipated for February 12, 2026. He stated that at the most recent meeting, MORPC welcomed the Village of Centerburg. He thanked the Council Office for its assistance in preparing the report. Vice President Weaver recognized Mayor Jadwin as the new Chair of the Regional Sustainability Roundtable and offered congratulations. He asked for confirmation of the new Vice Chair. Mayor Jadwin stated that Joe Lombardi of SWACO had been named Vice Chair and clarified that the announcement occurred the previous Thursday and that Mayor Kessler of Bexley would serve one additional round. Vice President Weaver reported that MORPC hosted an Economic Development Academy session on housing and launched the Local Economic Assistance Program, known as LEAP, to support communities in securing economic development resources. He stated that registration remained open for the final course, scheduled for December 17, which would discuss the pros and cons of economic development tools. Vice President Weaver stated that he appreciated the City's efforts to share information about free residential services provided by MORPC to eligible residents, including no-cost home repair and weatherization programs. He stated that the programs included income eligibility requirements and reported that 268 homes in the county had received free weatherization improvements to date. He encouraged residents who believed they might qualify to review the information and noted that he had seen it shared on the City's Facebook page and that it also appeared on gahanna.gov. Vice President Weaver stated that the MORPC legislative highlights were included in the materials and encouraged Council and the public to review them.

## **3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova**

None.

## **4. School Board (SB) - Jones**

Councilmember Jones offered congratulations to the cross country state champions and Coach Callihan. She reminded Council and the public of upcoming school board meetings, including the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on December 16, 2025, and the regular board meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2025, both scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Clark Hall.

Councilmember Jones shared several district announcements. She stated that Friday marked the final day in the old high school building and the last day for open lunch, with students moving across the street to the new building. She stated that the moving company had already begun packing and transferring items to the new facility. She stated that Chief Spence and Dr. Deagle had released a safety video highlighting safety enhancements at the new high school and encouraged the public to view it. Councilmember Jones stated that she contacted Dr. Deagle and other district officials to better understand the decision-making process for school closures following recent cold and snowy weather. She stated that district officials often participated in conference calls beginning as early as 3:00 a.m. to assess conditions and determine whether to hold school. She stated that officials waited to confirm actual weather conditions because forecasts in Ohio often changed and emphasized that the district prioritized classroom instruction while carefully evaluating safety. Councilmember Jones stated that the district did not follow a single rigid policy for closure decisions but considered guidance from multiple experts, including the National Weather Service, which evaluated factors such as snowfall, wind chill, and the length of time individuals could safely remain outdoors. She stated that she shared this information as a community member, parent, and school board liaison and acknowledged public discussion on social media. She emphasized that the district prioritized student safety and thanked the City and the Police Department for partnering with the district in making safety decisions. Councilmember Jones stated that Friday, December 19, 2025, also marked the start of holiday break and wished teachers, students, and staff a happy break, which would run through January 2, 2026. She stated that high school students would receive additional days off due to the move into the new building and that 10th-grade students would return on January 6 or 7.

**P. OFFICIAL REPORTS:**

**1. Mayor**

Mayor Jadwin stated that, in light of the weather experienced over the previous one to two weeks, she wished to recognize the City's public service team for its efforts in addressing early snowfall. She stated that, although residents often hoped for a white Christmas, the snow arrived early. She explained that two weeks earlier, the team worked all day in freezing temperatures to repair a waterline break along West Johnstown Road, completed the repair around 5:30 p.m., briefly returned home, and then came back at midnight to work nearly around the clock clearing roads during the first snowstorm. She stated that the team again worked around the clock the previous weekend to keep streets clear, safe, and accessible. Mayor Jadwin stated that she appreciated seeing comments on social media recognizing that streets in Gahanna appeared to be in better condition than those in

surrounding areas and said she valued seeing the team's dedication and hard work acknowledged by residents. She thanked the public service team for its exceptional service and stated that Parks and Recreation staff also assisted with snow removal. She shared that she observed early-morning plowing on her own street and expressed appreciation for the condition of the roads the following morning. She also thanked residents who took time to recognize staff efforts.

Mayor Jadwin stated that she also wished to acknowledge the work of union leaders and the administrative team in reaching a mutually agreed-upon three-year contract, which Council referenced earlier in the meeting. She identified union leaders Jake McKnight, Damien Palombaro, Kody Rubright, Joe Fravel, and Andy Flautt as the elected representatives who negotiated the contract. She stated that union members approved the contract in less than one hour earlier that afternoon. She attributed that outcome to the collaborative efforts of both union representatives and the City's administrative team, including Senior Director Vollmer, Senior Deputy Director Corey Wybensinger, Director of Public Service Shawn Anverse, and Human Resources Manager Ben Nolan. Mayor Jadwin stated that union membership included public service staff, parks staff, code enforcement, Mayor's Court staff, and utility billing staff. She commended the union leaders and administrative team for their collaboration and dedication in reaching a contract that reflected fairness, respect, and a shared commitment to serving the community.

Mayor Jadwin recognized Community Liaison Officers Blair Thomas and Ann Jodon for hosting the second Mental Health Matters event at the Gahanna Library one week earlier. She stated that approximately 50 to 70 community members attended and that more than a dozen vendors participated, all reporting strong engagement. She stated that vendor contact information and additional resources were available on [gahanna.gov](http://gahanna.gov) for those who attended or were unable to attend. She noted that while the season brought joy for many, it also presented challenges for others and encouraged residents to share resources or seek support when needed. She referenced the availability of the 988 crisis line and stated that the City valued ongoing conversations about mental health and partnerships with schools, which she said would continue into the new year.

Mayor Jadwin stated that the past weekend demonstrated remarkable community generosity. She reported that the Gahanna Gift Shop served 350 families in need by allowing them to shop for gifts for their own families. She stated that the program typically served 250 families but expanded after organizers reached out to church members for additional support. She stated that volunteers and donors stepped up and contributed more than 3,300 gifts,

increasing the program's capacity by approximately 40 percent. She explained that the Gahanna Gift Shop operated as a collaborative effort among several local churches. Mayor Jadwin also recognized Jason and Colleen Ruark for hosting visits with Santa and collecting donations for families on the west side and recognized Katie McBroom and Starbucks for serving nearly a dozen additional families through donations and support. She stated that she felt consistently moved by the generosity of the Gahanna community and believed it distinguished the City. She stated that the weekend's events reflected the spirit of Gahanna and aligned with comments made earlier in the meeting regarding diversity, openness, and welcoming values. She thanked community members for continuing to step up.

In her concluding remarks, Mayor Jadwin stated that the meeting marked the final Council gathering of the year and reflected on the dedication of City staff and residents. She stated that neighbors supported one another, organizations and individuals made meaningful contributions, and City staff worked tirelessly, often without recognition, to keep the City safe, vibrant, and welcoming. She encouraged residents to rest and enjoy time with family and friends during the holiday season and thanked staff and community members for making Gahanna a special place to call home. Mayor Jadwin wished everyone a safe, joyful, and healthy holiday season and New Year. She reminded Council and the public that City Hall would close on December 24, December 25, and January 1.

## 2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan said she would provide her annual report to City Council on January 2, 2026.

### Q. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember McGregor commended the street maintenance workers for the condition of the roads during recent winter weather. She stated that the roads appeared in excellent condition on Sunday morning, noting that they were not only cleared but wet, despite temperatures around four degrees. She stated that the mixture used effectively addressed snow and ice conditions. She also added information regarding the Gahanna Gift Shop, stating that gifts were purchased for \$2 each and that all proceeds supported Middle School West student functions, where the program was held. Councilmember McGregor also referenced Jason and Colleen Ruark's continued efforts to host photos with Santa, stating that another event would occur Saturday, December 20, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. She reported that despite poor weather conditions and ongoing snowfall, 51 people attended the most recent event. She concluded by sharing an anecdote related to long-standing public debate over school closures, stating that such

second-guessing had occurred for decades. She expressed confidence that school officials carefully considered conditions and made the best decisions possible.

Councilmember Jones congratulated Officer Whitney and welcomed him to Gahanna. She spoke about the extreme cold weather and stated that the season served as a reminder of the importance of building community and supporting neighbors, especially those who struggled to leave their homes during inclement weather. She encouraged residents to assist one another, such as shoveling sidewalks or helping with school parking lots, rather than focusing on complaints. She emphasized that everyone contributed to keeping the community safe and that collective effort mattered.

Councilmember Jones then addressed the earlier resolution concerning human dignity. She thanked her colleagues, Councilmember Renner, and the Mayor for their collaboration and stated that even when Council disagreed, members shared a commitment to making Gahanna a place grounded in dignity, safety, and belonging for all. She stated that the resolution affirmed humanity for all residents, regardless of immigration status, and emphasized Council's responsibility to ensure safety and respect for everyone who resided in Gahanna. Councilmember Jones thanked those who spoke during the meeting, both in person and by video, and acknowledged the courage required to speak on deeply personal and, in some cases, dangerous issues. She shared that an individual she had invited to speak chose not to attend due to fear and stated that such voices still mattered. She addressed perceptions that resolutions could feel performative and stated that this resolution carried meaningful significance. She emphasized that rhetoric had real consequences and stated that while local officials could not control national events, they could shape their own community. She concluded by stating that Council took a meaningful step toward making Gahanna safer for those who needed it and thanked everyone.

Councilmember Padova thanked Councilmember Jones and all speakers who participated in the meeting, including those who submitted video comments. She congratulated Officer Whitney and welcomed him to Gahanna. She stated that the meeting marked the final meeting of her first term and expressed surprise at how quickly four years had passed. She thanked her colleagues for their guidance and support and stated that she valued the information and insights shared throughout her term. She thanked residents she met during her service and stated that it had been an honor to serve the community. She concluded by wishing everyone a happy holiday season.

Councilmember Renner expressed appreciation for Councilmember Padova's remarks and stated that he could not improve upon them. He stated

that he was concluding his thirteenth year on Council and shared that he continued to feel emotional during moments such as swearing-in ceremonies. He emphasized the importance of recognizing residents and the meaningful impact of legislation, even when it appeared routine. He congratulated Officer Whitney, the Pinnell family, the Pinnell studio, and the girls' state championship team. He thanked all speakers who participated in person and by video and emphasized the importance of hearing all voices. He concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Vice President Weaver also congratulated Officer Whitney and welcomed him to the City. He congratulated the Pinnell family and reflected on the passage of time, noting how quickly years could pass. He also congratulated the girls' cross-country team and Coach Callihan, describing their achievement as remarkable. He referenced the athletes' academic accomplishments and stated that student-athletes often demonstrated exceptional discipline and success. He expressed confidence in their future endeavors. Vice President Weaver thanked all speakers and stated that while Council sometimes appeared quiet during meetings, members engaged in healthy discussion during Committee of the Whole meetings. He thanked Council colleagues for discussion surrounding the resolution affirming human dignity and welcoming values. He thanked Councilmember Renner and President Bowers for submitting the letter to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio regarding net metering policies and stated that the proposal addressed increasing demands on the power grid. He thanked them for their timely work. Vice President Weaver concluded by thanking his colleagues and the administration. He stated that Councilmembers held diverse backgrounds and perspectives and that disagreement strengthened the community. He stated that it was an honor to serve the community and to serve alongside his colleagues. He wished everyone happy holidays, Merry Christmas, and stated that Council would reconvene in the new year.

President Bowers thanked Vice President Weaver and stated that Councilmember Renner deserved special recognition for authoring the letter to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. She described the letter as eloquent, well written, and clearly articulated the reasons why changes to net metering policies would negatively affect residents and the energy grid. President Bowers noted that her constituent report appeared as an attachment to the agenda. She then shared a personal reflection regarding her son's recent birthday and his interest in a Mark Rober Crunch Labs build box, explaining that the program taught engineering and physics concepts. She stated that Mark Rober described engineering as an iterative process and said that concept resonated with her work on Council. President Bowers reflected on the City's progress, stating that she felt proud of expanded resident services, improved capital infrastructure, and strong safety services.

She stated that Council and the administration demonstrated improved alignment, communication, and collaboration. She highlighted expanded childcare camp offerings, public service programs such as street sweeping and sidewalk maintenance with a cost-share program, and the street tree program. She stated that Council supported community electric aggregation to reduce costs and carbon footprint and maintained stability for community grant programs supporting local nonprofits. President Bowers stated that Council and staff increased professional knowledge and expertise through accreditations and education. She stated that Council functioned more cohesively and collaboratively over the previous two years and that improved processes contributed to the smoothest budget process in recent history. She expressed pride in recent accomplishments and stated that Council would continue addressing important issues in the coming year, including incentive policy, communication with residents, and alignment with the Our Gahanna strategic plan. President Bowers concluded by reflecting on the iterative nature of progress and referenced the anniversary of the ratification of the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution. She stated that the expansion of rights aimed to ensure opportunity for excellence for all and that the work of ensuring inclusion and dignity remained ongoing. She stated that creating an environment where all residents could contribute excellence benefited the entire community. She wished everyone a happy holiday season filled with warmth, reflection, and togetherness and stated that she looked forward to continued work in 2026.

2025-0262

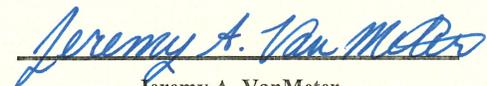
Councilmember Merisa K. Bowers' Constituent Report -  
October-November 2025

**R. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

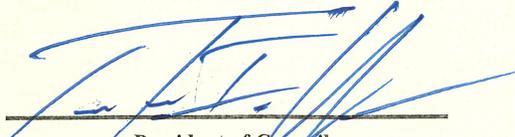
**S. ADJOURNMENT:**

*With no further business before the Council, President Bowers adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.*



Jeremy A. VanMeter  
Clerk of Council

APPROVED by the City Council, this  
*2<sup>nd</sup>* day of *January* 2026.



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President of Council