

Mayor's Report
City of Gahanna
Regular Council Meeting – November 16, 2020
Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin

The following is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Monday, November 16, 2020:

General Information

- Due to the rising number of COVID cases, the Senior Center will remain closed for the remainder of 2020.
- While City Hall currently remains open to the public (with safety protocols in place), we are monitoring daily health updates and guidelines issued by the State and will be prepared to adjust as necessary.

Department Updates

- *Gahanna Division of Police*
 - Division officers currently are participating in a two-hour online training with PoliceOne Academy on confronting armed encounters ("Ambush Awareness and Preparation").
 - Detective Power and Management Analyst Money Penny attended Peer Assistance Team training.
 - In order to increase accessibility to information for officers in the field, Lt. Moffitt is developing companion procedures through the Division's content management system (LEXIPOL). These would provide quick access to required procedures to be followed (such as the procedure for prosecutor notification in cases of domestic violence).
 - Prepared and submitted to Mayor and Council a monthly detailed report on 9-1-1 System Statistical Analysis for the month of October.
 - Reviewed changes made to CPD policy regarding misdemeanor arrests and the impact those changes may have on the Gahanna Division of Police and other local agencies.
 - Officer Marvin Hixon's last official workday with the Gahanna Division of Police will be Friday, November 20. He has served our City with selfless dedication for more than 20 years and has made a tremendous impact in our community.
- *Parks & Recreation*
 - Parks Team:

- Sweep paths at Vets Memorial, Price Road, Creekside Park, Academy Park and Woodside Green Park
- Trash removal, cleaning and sanitizing bathrooms daily at all facilities
- Mow and trim at every park
- Prepare Creekside for Holiday Lights virtual tree lighting and decorating Park
- o Facilities Team:
 - Conducted monthly facility and AED inspections
 - Rekeying shelters and facilities to secure premises
 - Painting at Creekside
 - Stained steps behind Pour House
 - Installed new path lighting around Creekside lagoon, enhancing visibility and attractiveness for guests
- o Arbor Team:
 - Planted 24 trees at Creekside, Sunpoint Park and Academy Park
 - Responded to 9 resident inquiries
 - Pruned and removed hazard trees
 - Met with Public Service & Engineering Department, Finance Director and Mayor to discuss and align interplay between needed Street Tree Program and proposed Sidewalk Program
- o Recreation Team:
 - Great Gahanna Goblin Trail:
 - 588 cars sold (refunded 136 due to weather)
 - Average attendance per car: 4.5 (2,470 total attendees)
 - Senior Center:
 - 2,095 seniors served YTD with meals/crafts
 - 340 seniors have attended drive-in bingo
- o *Public Service & Engineering*
 - o 2020 Street Program Update
 - Despite the pandemic and associated challenges and delays, we successfully completed the biggest resurfacing program and rebuild program in the City's history. We resurfaced over 4.7mi and rebuilt nearly 2mi of streets, including two major industrial roadways. As part of these rebuilds, we also replaced an old 4" asbestos cement water line from 1939 and an old clay tile storm line.
 - Strawser has started the reconstruction of Shepard and Walnut Streets. The reconstruction will include replacement of an old clay tile storm line. The road is planned to reopen before Thanksgiving, weather dependent.

- All lanes of traffic have been reopened through the Research and Blatt rebuild. The contractor is working on completing some small remaining items such as restoration, sealing, striping, etc. There have been some delays due to utility conflicts. A portion of Blatt Blvd. near Dayton Freight was not able to be rebuilt due to a utility conflict with gas transmission lines. We are working with the utility to create a plan to complete this final area over the next year.
- o Street crews conducted the 1st annual city-wide street light inspection. The inspection generated a repair list of 74 lights that either were out or cycling, including 12 operated by AEP. Over the next few weeks, Jess Howard Electric will be working on required repairs.
- o Utility crews fixed two water breaks in the past week and one emergency water line break in the middle of the night.
- o Aqua-Line recently completed our bi-annual water main leak detection survey. They used acoustic monitoring devices to survey all 150 miles of public water main to search for hidden leaks. The work completed by the contractor identified seven (7) water line leaks that otherwise may not have been detected. These leaks could have produced an estimated 175,000+ gallons of water loss per day.
- o All snow equipment has been serviced and is ready for this winter weather season.
- o Engineering staff completed four (4) inspections/assessments in the past week, in response to citizen requests for drainage assistance.
- o Private Development
 - Nine (9) development projects are undergoing final engineering design and review
 - 21 projects are in the active construction stage
- o 2020 Street Ratings/2021 Street Program
 - We have begun our 2020 Street Ratings in preparation of the 2021 Street Program. The street ratings will occur over the next month or two, as we annually assess every street in the City. Ratings are expected to be completed by the end of the year and will be shared with Council and residents upon completion.
- o 2020 Sewer Improvement Project
 - The contractor is prepping the sewer lines for the lining. We expect the work to be completed by the end of the year/early January, weather dependent.
- o Western Gahanna SSES

- Flow monitors and rain gauges are installed and connected online. With all instrumentation in place, we are prepared to document the sewer's response to wet weather events. We have received 789 mailed survey responses and dozens of online responses.
- o City of Columbus Widening of Hamilton and Morse Roads
 - The short-term goal for the project is to complete temporary pavement installation to allow some utility work through the winter.
 - Utility conflicts are still in progress of being resolved.
 - A baseline schedule has not been approved yet, but the expected substantial completion date will be Summer 2023.
- o *Economic Development*
 - o Development:
 - Council approved the assignment and transfer of a 10-year, 75% property tax abatement agreement from Trevi Enterprises, LLC to **Exeter Claycraft, LP**, who has purchased the 262,400 sq. ft. building located at **8700 Claycraft Road**.
 - The building is one of the largest ever constructed in Gahanna and is designed to accommodate up to five (5) 52,000 sq. ft. leases.
 - Its largest tenant, Benchmark Industrial, Inc., leased space last year and has since expanded with additional space to accommodate a new personal protective equipment operation, fully leasing out the site.
 - According to data from CoStar group, the City's industrial segment has remained robust, even amid the COVID-19 pandemic. About 6.7 million square feet of space has been completed in the past 12 months and vacancy remains at 6.9%.
 - o Fiber:
 - Engaged legal counsel to review existing fiber contracts and assist in developing an executable fiber strategy to promote economic development within the city
 - Working with Dept. of Public Service & Engineering in developing design guidelines for small cell initiative
- o Held virtual meeting with leadership team of key Gahanna business and Mayor to discuss current operations and potential for expansion/future facility needs
- o Gahanna was one of two runners-up in *Columbus CEO's* award of "Best Suburb to do Business". Several Gahanna-based businesses and institutions, including KEMBA Financial Credit Union and Columbus Academy, were honored as well.

- *Planning, Building & Zoning*
 - Design Review Code online public engagement survey concluded as of 11.13.20, with 366 responses.
 - A proposed change to Rezoning sign code will be presented at November 18th Planning Commission meeting. The change would shift responsibility for posting sign of proposed rezoning to the City, to ensure that signs are posted timely and with accurate information for residents.
 - In period from 11/2 – 11/12:
 - 76 permits issued with average issuance time of 6.5 days
 - 191 code enforcement inspections performed

Project	Number	Investment \$	Job Creation
New Build (Approved)	4	\$11.4 M	104
Expansion/Renovation (Approved)	7	\$4.63 M	55
New Build (Pending/Tentative)	8	\$94.8 M	565
Expansion/Renovation (Pending/Tentative)	2	\$1M	7

- *Human Resources*
 - Open enrollment started 11.12, with employees using the newly implemented Employee Self Service (ESS) in Munis to complete open enrollment. Utilizing ESS creates an efficiency in insurance processing by automatically transferring sensitive employee information directly to the City's health insurance providers.
 - HR is monitoring the current increase in COVID cases in Ohio and implementing additional steps to prevent an outbreak in the City's workforce. This includes updating the workplace guidance and researching alternate work arrangements.
 - Continuing work with outside consultant to conduct benchmark updates to the Compensation Plan. This will continue into 2021 and will include job audits, FLSA audits, wage compression and benchmark of pay scales.
- *Finance*
 - 2021 Budget – Respond to budget questions for Finance Committee

- Oversight of CARES Program – The Gahanna CARES Assistance Program Review Committee continues to review applications received for financial assistance. Total awarded to date (\$799,097.74):
 - \$526,627.30 awarded to Gahanna small businesses
 - \$292,470.44 awarded for residential assistance
 - Additional \$80,368.23 to be awarded in residential assistance pending receipt of additional supporting documents

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

- Continuing work on implementation of third phase of MUNIS

- *Information Technology*
 - Virtual Computing Environment Refresh
 - Work has begun on rebuilding our virtual computing environment at City Hall.
 - Decommissioning of end of life equipment and reestablishing new environment on new hardware should be completed by end of November.
 - Project will increase our capacity while reducing cost of operation and overall technology footprint.

 - Desktop & Laptop 5 year lifecycle deployment.
 - Continue to make progress on lifecycle deployments.
 - Are requesting equipment needs and staging equipment for COVID work at home scenarios.

 - City Council Livestream Technology Assessment
 - IT attended and ran the livestream Council meeting on 11/9
 - We are requesting the existing equipment be configured to stream at a higher resolution.
 - The assessment and continued adjustments will be made in advance of Monday's committee meetings.
 - We are putting together a recommendation to better equip chambers for live streaming of in-person meetings
 - Meeting with President Leeseberg is being scheduled to discuss proposed implementations

 - New Communications Center:
 - Participated in a walkthrough of the new facility with State of Ohio LEADS personnel to discuss the new facility and certification requirements.
 - Work has begun to splice the fiber optics between City Hall and New Facility and should be completed next week.

- Meeting held with Mayor and Pizzuti to discuss finalizing the Facilities Assessment plan document; anticipate completion of assessment in 1st Quarter of 2021
- Draft RFP for Asset & Workorder Management System with Citizen Engagement is underway.
 - Schedule of requirements-gathering and RFP development will be presented by the end of November
- *Marketing & Communications*
 - The new Gahanna Parks & Trails Map is complete. A video was prepared to introduce and promote the new Map, which can be viewed here: <https://www.gahanna.gov/new-parks-trails-guide-now-available/>
 - Weekly COVID updates are posted every Thursday on Gahanna.gov, unless a significant change occurs. Staff continues to participate in weekly calls with FCPH for updates and news.
 - The Marketing & Communications team is participating in Granicus platform training.
 - Working with the Department of Public Service & Engineering to develop detailed communication plans for upcoming programs, including the sidewalk program and the new introduction of monthly utility billing. Initial communications on this change are expected to be sent out by the end of this month.
 - Worked with IT Department to identify alternative platforms for photo/digital storage. As a result, transitioned photo storage from Photo Shelter to a new platform, generating a **savings of \$7,000/year**.
 - Working with Department of Economic Development to develop an overall plan for marketing of development opportunities within the City.
 - Assisting Arbor Team in developing signage for new arboretum at Creekside
 - Upcoming/ongoing projects: Finalizing 2021 communications and marketing plan for sidewalk program, preparing a budget overview (explaining and providing detail to residents regarding city budget), development of a new citywide magazine, creating a recap of 2020 street program, and ongoing refresh of strategic plan.
- *Mayor's Office*
 - Participated in virtual meeting with COMMA (Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association) and MORPC

- Participated in MORPC's monthly Commission meeting
- Ongoing work on facilitation discussions with senior leadership team to refresh strategic plan and develop internal roadmap for project prioritization
- Held virtual meetings with staff and developers regarding opportunities for development in Gahanna; met with Director of Development and Communications & Marketing team to outline plans for creation of marketing materials to promote available real estate and development opportunities within the city
- (Virtually) met with consultant to identify next steps for finalizing facilities assessment, and conducted follow-up meeting with staff to outline information needed for assessment
- Development of application(s) for boards and commissions to use for mayoral appointments
- Ongoing communications with representatives from Governor's Office and FCPH regarding COVID-19 trends and response
- Finalized proposed contracts for Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau with CVB Director and City Attorney, to submit to Council
- Worked with City Attorney to finalize proposed Rental Registration Code and Nuisance Code, and ongoing work on proposed litter legislation and noise ordinance
- Researched and held discussions with potential partner to assist with identifying/ applying for grant opportunities as additional revenue source