

**Mayor's Report
City of Gahanna
Regular Council Meeting – November 2, 2020
Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin**

The following is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Monday, November 2, 2020:

General Information

- Because City Hall and the Senior Center will be used as polling locations on Tuesday, 11/3, City Hall will be closed to the public for normal business that day. City Hall will re-open on Wednesday.
- In light of the rising number of reported cases and hospitalizations related to COVID-19, the Senior Center will not reopen through the end of 2020. Plans are underway to develop socially-distant programming for 2021.
- We continue to implement safety protocols for everyone who enters City Hall and city facilities. **All persons entering City Hall, including employees, are required to wear a mask and to check in with the front desk receptionist.** This is a safety process required by FCPH protocols and allows for contact tracing in the event a diagnosed case of COVID at City Hall or another city facility.

Staffing Update

- Sophia Marshall has joined our team as a full-time Management Analyst in the Department of Finance. She filled the role previously held by Chance Shannon.

Department Updates

- *Gahanna Division of Police*
 - Division members completed eight hours of in-service training that included:
 - Legal update from Assistant City Attorney Matt Roth
 - Review of Use of Force Policy
 - Intermediate force option requalification – chemical agents and Electronic Control Weapons (ECW)
 - Review and training of Pursuit Policy, conducted by Lt. Moffitt, focusing on the more restrictive thresholds adopted by the Division in its Pursuit Policy
 - Psychological first aid for officers, led by Dr. Mark Query
 - The Division and the Department of Human Resources will be working with PRADCO to conduct an assessment of the sworn staff to create a behavioral, psychological and emotional intelligence best fit model for use in its hiring process. The assessment will analyze the dimensions of the current staff to determine the best qualities for success (i.e. teamwork, effective motivation, ethical action, etc.).

- On October 20-22, 2020, the Gahanna Division of Police participated in Operation Autumn Hope, a statewide effort by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost to target prostitution & human trafficking. Gahanna PD was one of 50 law enforcement agencies and partners across the State of Ohio that participated in the operation. Six (6) arrests were made in Gahanna as a result of this operation (none were Gahanna residents), and Gahanna detectives were involved in a total of 11 arrests.
- Chief Spence, Deputy Chief Lawless, and Lt. Moffitt participated in a meeting with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to plan for a regional coordination of safety and security efforts for Election Day.
- Chief Spence held his monthly Civic Association meeting by phone on Wednesday, October 28. This was the last meeting of 2020. Meetings will resume in January 2021.
- On October 28, two Gahanna middle school girls went missing following suspicious circumstances regarding their use of electronics. The following day, on October 29, Gahanna PD, in partnership with Columbus PD, located both girls in the Beechwold area and reunited them with families within 24 hours after their disappearance.
- Chief Spence led an initial walk through of the proposed Communications Center with Mayor Jadwin, Public Safety Director Winn and City Attorney Mularski to provide a briefing on space usage, general operations, and timeline for construction. The Center will establish a police presence on Gahanna's west side and place city resources at a major gateway into the City,
- *Parks & Recreation*
 - The Parks & Recreation Department continues to offer activities in its Outdoor Explorer Series, supported by the Gahanna Parks & Recreation Foundation. The Department's "Night Hike," scheduled for November 4 at Woodside Green Park, features a nighttime hike to find and study owls.
 - Restrooms at both McCorkle Park and Sunpoint Park suffered vandalism over the last two weeks. At McCorkle Park, sinks were ripped from the walls and piping destroyed. At Sunpoint Park, a 3' branch was jammed into a toilet, along with sticks, leaves and rocks, causing damage to the plumbing main line and rendering the restrooms unusable for two days. Vandalism at Sunpoint Park has become a recurrent issue. These two recent incidents resulted in approximately \$1500 in costs incurred by the City (including repairs in staff time), and further delayed progress on other park projects.
 - The lagoon at Creekside will be drained on November 9, to allow time for installation of lighting for the holidays.

- Golf course maintenance continues throughout the fall. Greens are cut every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and leaves and debris are removed daily. The Pro Shop is preparing to repaint and reorganize once the course closes for the season.
- Parks Team:
 - Continue to mow, trim, and remove leaves in all parks
 - Clean and sanitize park bathrooms twice daily for COVID compliance
 - Installed lighting and provided set up and event support at Academy Park for the Great Gahanna Goblin Trail
- Arbor Team:
 - Pruned 68 trees at Creekside, Gahanna Golf Course, and Academy Park
 - Responded to 25 resident inquiries
 - Removed 5 hazard trees, and Planted 7 new trees
- Facilities Team:
 - Installed new landscape and path lighting at Creekside lagoon
 - Installed electrical service to boardwalk for future lighting improvements
 - Performed repairs caused by vandalism at McCorkle and Sunpoint Parks
- October Overview:
 - To date, 2,095 meals have been served to Gahanna seniors through the Senior Buddy Program. A special thank you to Ashford on Broad for supplying meals through the entirety of the program.
 - 340 seniors have participated in Drive-in Bingo.
 - 62 Rec Crates have been delivered
 - 600+ cars of families enjoyed the Great Gahanna Goblin Trail on Oct. 22 and 23. Though both evenings sold out, Friday evening's event was forced to end early due to lightning. Cars that did not have an opportunity to experience the drive-thru event will receive refunds.
- *Public Service & Engineering*
 - 2020 Street Program
 - Strawser is tentatively planning to start the reconstruction of Shepard and Walnut Streets next week. The reconstruction will include the replacement of an old clay tile storm line.
 - We are nearing the completion of Research and Blatt Blvds. and expect that it will be substantially completed by the end of November. We have experienced some minor delays due to utility conflicts and frequent rain.
 - 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.

- 2020 Sewer Improvement Project
 - The contractor currently is prepping the sewer lines for the lining. We expect the work to be completed around the end of December or early January, pending weather.
- 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 responses to the resident survey and 109 online responses, generating a 30% response rate. (Historical average response rate has been 20-25%.)
- Citizen Drainage Requests
 - Engineering staff investigated draining concerns at 20 properties
- Private Development
 - Engineering is overseeing 41 private development projects through design and construction
- School Zone 20mph Replacement and Upgrades
 - We expect our contractor to replace the remaining two solar powered flashers by the end of the year.
- City of Columbus Widening of Hamilton and Morse Roads
 - Utility conflicts are still being resolved. A fiber optic conduit carrying a portion of Gahanna's GNET is being lowered to accommodate the widening.
 - Even though a baseline schedule has not been approved yet, the expected substantial completion date is Summer 2023.
 - The short term goal for the project is to complete temporary pavement installation to allow some utility work through the winter.
- Fleet Division is prepping and outfitting salt and plow trucks for the 2020-2021 winter season. We expect all vehicles to be ready within the next week for inclement weather.
- *Economic Development*
 - Held meetings with multiple developers to identify opportunities for potential projects in the City.
 - Continuing negotiations with representatives from Metropolitan Holdings regarding proposed Mill St. project.
 - Working with Real Estate Committee of CIC to identify priority areas and develop internal process for review and purchase of real estate, per discussions during CIC strategic planning session.

- Finalized paperwork for the City to become a member of the Columbus Regional Energy Special Improvement District (ESID), an important new development incentive tool that enhance sustainability initiatives at no cost to the City.
- Secured consultant to review City's fiber network and prior agreements, in order to identify opportunities to engage providers, leverage partnerships and grant funding opportunities, to grow and capitalize network as a revenue source for the City.
- Finalized negotiations on relocation of new business to Gahanna.
- Scheduled BR&E (business retention and expansion) meetings with several local businesses.
- *Planning, Building & Zoning*
 - Participated in video to promote resident engagement on the Design Code survey. Over 100 responses have been received in less than a week. The link to the survey is available on the home page of Gahanna.gov.
 - In period from 10/15 – 10/29:
 - 83 building permits issued
 - 170 code enforcement inspections performed
 - 16 violations/citations issued

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.,82 M	565
Expansion/Renovation (Pending/Tentative)	3	\$1M	7

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

- Preparing for open enrollment and biometrics gathering for employees. The open enrollment portion of the HRIS will go live on November 12.
- *Finance*
 - 2021 Budget – Finalized and presented budget on 10/26
 - CARES Program – The Gahanna CARES Assistance Program Review Committee continues to review applications received for financial assistance. To date:
 - \$378,000 awarded for business funding
 - \$252,000 awarded for residential assistance
 - 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*
 - Visited Licking County Join Communications Center with Gahanna PD to research and validate technical approaches, in preparation for transition to new Communications Center
 - New Communications Center;
 - Ordered IT equipment for dispatch area and investigators
 - Continue to work with voice recording providers; received and reviewing quotes
 - Conducting final configuration on networking equipment
 - Working with Fiber Committee to finalize splicing of City fiber into the new facility
 - Working with Development Department to inventory, organize and better understand City fiber network
 - Met with Mayor week of 10/19 to finalize approach to facilities assessment; scheduled and held virtual meeting week of 10/26 with Mayor and consultant to discuss adjustments needed to assessment and finalize next phase
 - Finalized deployment plan for the rollout of PC resources based on 5-year lifecycle plan. This includes replacement and refresh of approximately 50 devices, prioritizes staff who need the ability to work from home. Rollout began week of 10/26 and is expected to stretch into 2021.
 - Continued working with County GIS Data to refine ERU Dataset to better calculate ERU values. Anticipate having preliminary results for the Public Service Department within the next week.

- Presented Franklin County's aerial photography application to PD and Service Departments. This will require a small expenditure by the City, but will enhance operations by making 15+ years of photos available to city staff for use in planning.
- *Marketing & Communications*
 - Preparing communication materials to share with public to explain the budget process and the proposed 2021 budget.
 - The Department sends out a monthly City e-newsletter and a monthly Parks & Recreation e-newsletter. The newsletters are sent out on the first of every month.
 - COVID updates continue to be posted every Thursday on Gahanna.gov and now include Franklin County numbers. Staff continues to participate in weekly calls with FCPH for updates and news.
 - Developing materials to promote community engagement opportunities related to the ongoing Design Code review
 - Completed edits on the new Parks & Recreation Trail Map. Map is expected to go to print within the next week.
 - Responded to resident questions and prepared video to provide information regarding Trick or Treat.
 - Preparing next series in "Meet Our Staff" video series, which will focus on members of Gahanna PD
 - Staff is evaluating options for publication of a citywide "Gahanna magazine" that would replace *The Current*. The magazine would allow for a wider focus of content (including not only Parks & Rec programming, but features on city projects, businesses, etc..) and would expand the audience to every household in the city.
 - Finalizing 2021 communications and marketing plan, which includes website updates, development of a new citywide magazine, and overall new communication platform that will enhance the City's ability to reach more residents in a timely manner, consistent with Administration's goals.
- *Mayor's Office*
 - Met with consultant to discuss objectives for facilities and to finalize next steps needed to complete facilities assessment
 - Continued internal facilitation discussions with senior leadership team to refresh strategic plan and create roadmap for project prioritization

- Held departmental meetings with each Director to discuss ongoing projects, project-related issues, and set strategies.
- Worked with City Attorney to finalize proposed Rental Registration Code and Nuisance Code.
- Met with Creekside owner to discuss challenges of tenants brought on by COVID-19, opportunities for future collaboration, and opportunities to support local businesses within the Creekside District.
- Additional ongoing projects: development of a Special Events policy, creation of application process for open Mayoral appointments on Boards and Commissions, preparing RFQs for Creekside visioning project, partnering with One Columbus to schedule and present economic development workshop for Council and senior staff, creation of sustainability task force and diversity coalition, responding to resident concerns.