

# CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSALS

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COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE

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# Proposed Amendments and Discussion Items

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Unless otherwise indicated by members, individual opinions and not necessarily reflective of the view of Council as a whole.

Intended to support Commission, not constrain or direct – multiple solutions may address a concern.

Guided by several overarching considerations, including:

- Reducing prescriptive provisions that may limit the City's ability to adapt to new tech;
- Aligning Charter language with current legal requirements, including Ohio Open Meetings and Sunshine laws;
- Promoting clarity and consistency between the Charter and Council's adopted rules and procedures; and
- Supporting continuity and effective administration within Council operations.

# Article IV

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## Section 4.02 – Composition & Term

- Council terms begin on Jan. 2
- Council terms end on Jan. 1
  
- Later organizational meeting okay, but until sworn in to office, elected member cannot move, vote

## Section 4.03 – Qualifications

- Recommend consistency and clarity
- How is the residency period calculated?

# Section 4.04

President and Vice  
President of Council.

Currently elected by Council annually to 1-year terms

Recommend changing the term to 2 years, effective January 2, 2028

Alternatively, allow Council to establish length of term in Council Rules

Municipality	Leadership Election
Upper Arlington	Council President (ceremonial mayor) elected by Councilmembers to serve <b>two-year term</b>
Reynoldsburg	Voters directly elect Council President to serve <b>four-year term</b>
Columbus	Council President elected by Councilmembers to serve <b>two-year term</b>
Westerville	Council Chair (and other leadership) elected by Councilmembers to serve a <b>two-year term</b> .

# Section 4.10 – Regular Meetings

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## Organizational Meeting

- Requested change from January 2 to **“On or before January 7”**
- This change is supported by Council as a body, per adopted amendment to Council Rule 5.01 earlier this year.

## Location of Meetings

- Balancing flexibility with transparency
- Sunshine and Open Meetings Laws

## Proposal:

- Default is Council Chambers
- Allow relocation only upon Motion at preceding **regular** meeting

## 4.11-Special Meetings

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- Add City Attorney to authority to call a special meeting.
- Simplify and modernize notice requirements to elected officials.
- No change to current notice for members of the public

## 4.12-Legislative Procedure

- Minor modernization of language.
- Existing phrase (“may adjourn from time to time”) may be out of context from Roberts Rules of Order.

# Section 4.13

## Public Notice.

Currently requires physical posting.

While this may feel old-fashioned, caution on specifying prescriptive tactics.

Consider multi-modal, flexible approach and seek opinions of Council office staff.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Council Member Updates' page on the City of Gahanna website. The page features a navigation menu with options like 'Our Government', 'Departments', 'Our Community', 'How Do L...', and 'Connect With Us'. A sidebar on the left lists categories such as 'Events', 'Facilities', 'Utility Bills', 'Permits', and 'Service Requests'. The main content area lists three items:

- MT-0006-2026**: A MOTION TO APPROVE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OF CARIS LANTZ AS COUNCIL OFFICE INTERN THROUGH THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT A RATE OF \$15.99 PER HOUR. Passed February 16, 2026; Effective February 16, 2026.
- MT-0007-2026**: A MOTION TO APPOINT EVAN ECOS TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, SEAT 4, AND FAIR HOUSING BOARD, SEAT 1, UNEXPIRED TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027. Passed February 16, 2026; Effective February 16, 2026.
- MT-0008-2026**: A MOTION TO SUSPEND COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE SECTION 5.20 TO ADOPT AN ALTERNATIVE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE IN APRIL FOR THE RELOCATION TO THE NEW GAHANNA CIVIC CENTER AS FOLLOWS: Final Regular City Council Meeting at 200 S. Hamilton Road is April 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM; Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for April 13, 2026 is canceled; Regular City Council Meeting scheduled for April 20, 2026 is canceled; First Regular City Council Meeting at 825 Tech Center Drive is April 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM, immediately followed by Committee of the Whole. Passed February 16, 2026; Effective February 16, 2026.

Below these items, there is a section for **ORD-0005-2026**: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Central Park TIF Fund, General Fund and

The document is a 'File Summary' from the City of Gahanna, dated 2/28/2026. It includes the city logo and address (200 South Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230). The criteria are: Matter Final Action Begin Date: 2/1/2026, Matter Final Action End Date: 2/28/2026, Matter Status: Passed, Matter Type: Resolution. The summary lists two resolutions:

File Number	Title	Status
RES-0002-2026	Resolution A JOINT RESOLUTION AND PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2026 AS "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" AND HONORING THE LEGACY OF CORA THURMAN Introduced: 1/22/2026 Controlling Body: City Council	Passed
RES-0003-2026	Resolution A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH FISHBECK FOR THE TAYLOR ROAD WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (ST-1121 / WA-24-01) Introduced: 1/22/2026 Controlling Body: City Council	Passed

At the bottom, it says 'City of Gahanna Page 1 Printed on 3/2/2026'.

# Strategic Plan / Charter Proposal

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## Extremely Rare

- Bexley
- Avon Lake
  - Isn't being followed
  - Hasn't been discussed for many years
- Buffalo, NY
  - estimated population of 276,000-278,000 residents
  - [\\$622M municipal budget](#) approved in May 2025
  - [currently struggling with a significant budget deficit](#), ranging between \$21M and \$54M per various reports, and considering tax increases.

## Fiscal Impact

Six-figure expenditure

What is not being funded?

## Alternatives Available

Capital Improvement Plan - Adopted by Ordinance

- Identifies procedures for convening and amending
- Establishes updating timelines

## Land Use Plan

Referenced in city code  
Planning Dept can determine when refresh needed and prioritize

# Thank you for serving our community!

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