



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

Monday, June 3, 2024

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

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

Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, June 3, 2024, in Council Chambers. President of Council Merisa K. Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 May 31, 2024.

Present 6 - Merisa K. Bowers, Jamille Jones, Nancy R. McGregor, Kaylee Padova, Stephen A. Renner, and Trenton I. Weaver

Absent 1 - Michael Schnetzer

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

President Bowers noted there would be an Executive Session following Hearing of Visitors. She anticipated the session to be brief. Once Council returned from the Executive Session, Council would continue with the rest of the agenda.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Resolution Presentation by Council - LGBTQ Pride Month

Vice President Weaver announced that the Council was thrilled to be joined by School Board Member Dion Manley to receive a Resolution. Mr. Manley was recently awarded the Human Rights Campaign Equality Award at the 2024 Columbus Dinner. Weaver provided background information on Mr. Manley, noting that he is the first openly trans elected official in Ohio, having been elected to the Gahanna Jefferson School Board in 2022. Manley earned a full athletic scholarship to California State University Northridge and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Humanities from New College of California. He also earned three certificates from the Gemological Institute of America and owned a small jewelry business in San Francisco for 17 years. Currently, Manley works in the healthcare field in optometry and was recently

named to the Governor's Children's Vision Strike Force. He has over 10 years of public service experience with Franklin County and six years of nonprofit experience. Weaver expressed his honor in having Mr. Manley present and invited him to make remarks.

Board Member Dion Manley greeted everyone, including Mayor Jadwin, President Bowers, and the City Council. He introduced Mr. Wagner, a teacher at Gahanna Lincoln High School, to speak first.

Mr. Wagner shared his thoughts on the importance of Pride Month, especially in the current climate, where even simple symbols, like a rainbow flag, can be politicized and seen as divisive. He emphasized that Pride Month serves as a reminder of struggles faced by queer people. Wagner highlighted his deep roots in Gahanna, where he grew up, attended school, and now works and serves the community. He recounted his personal experiences of being queer in Gahanna, both positive and negative, and expressed gratitude for the support he received from the community. Wagner acknowledged the contributions of queer leaders, like Dion Manley, and emphasized that acceptance and representation are crucial. He concluded by thanking the council for recognizing the worth of queer lives and for fostering a community where queer individuals can thrive.

Mr. Manley expressed immense gratitude while accepting the Resolution. He thanked the Council for their words and for honoring Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month, emphasizing that the acknowledgment highlighted the progress made towards equality, acceptance, and celebration of diversity. Manley appreciated the unwavering support for LGBTQ respect, unity, and joy, stating that the Resolution served as a unified message with a vision and mission. The Resolution, he said, uplifted not only LGBTQ youth and adults but also the broader community. Manley noted that LGBTQ people have always been present and welcomed the new level of open dialogue and action. He acknowledged that this work was challenging and might not be easy for everyone. He spoke about the unique gifts every culture offers, highlighting the LGBTQ community's vibrancy, diversity, resilience, and beauty. He mentioned that seeing LGBTQ people as neighbors, family members, coworkers, and classmates brought new familiarity and that recognizing LGBTQ Pride Month came with a deep understanding of the challenges the community faces. Manley expressed his gratitude to allies and advocates, stating that their support and solidarity strengthened the message of love and acceptance and paved the way for a more inclusive future. He shared his personal journey, coming out at 19, and the difficulties and celebrations along the way. When he moved to the area 18 years ago with his young daughter, he found the community welcoming and supportive. From his work with the school district, Manley recounted how young people communicated the impact of seeing someone like them in a recognized position. LGBTQ students shared with him their realization that they could survive youth and grow up to be respected leaders, making the community and the world a better place. He stressed that everyone, regardless of age, deserves to express themselves without fear of discrimination or persecution and to live with dignity and respect. In closing, Manley urged everyone to affirm the progress made, honor those who paved

the way, and recommit to the ongoing pursuit of equality. He called for creating a world where every individual is celebrated for their uniqueness and where diversity is embraced. He thanked the council again for the resolution and wished everyone a Happy Pride.

Vice President Weaver thanked Mr. Wagner and Mr. Manley and suggested taking a photo and presenting the Resolution. He invited Mr. Wagner to come forward as well.

President Bowers thanked School Board Member Manley and Mr. Wagner for their contributions to the community. She acknowledged the powerful message they conveyed to LGBTQ youth and adults in Gahanna, showing that thriving adulthood in the City was a reality. Bowers expressed her gratitude for their efforts in making Gahanna a supportive and inclusive community.

2. Resolution Presentation by Council - CPR & AED Awareness Week

President Bowers introduced the next Resolution presentation for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Awareness Week. She acknowledged the guests present for this Resolution. She highlighted the growing public awareness of CPR training and the recent increase in civilian training for AEDs. President Bowers stated that the City staff and residents had become more aware, trained, and proficient in using AEDs. The Council wished to express its support and pride for the work of City Risk and Safety Administrator Melissa Jackson, the Gahanna Parks and Recreation Department, and the Gahanna Division of Police. The full Parks and Recreation staff were certified in CPR, first aid, and AED usage. The entire Gahanna Police Division received CPR and AED training and certification through partnerships with paramedics at Mifflin Township Fire, and now all police vehicles are equipped with AEDs. Next, President Bowers asked Director Farrell if she had any remarks to offer.

Mayor Jadwin, deferring from Director Farrell, thanked the Council for recognizing the efforts of the city administration. She emphasized the importance of CPR and AEDs within the community and among the staff. She highlighted Melissa Jackson's role, noting that the risk and safety administrator position was requested in the 2022 budget for 2023, recognizing the need for a risk and safety program. Mayor Jadwin praised Ms. Jackson, Director Wybensinger, and the staff for their significant progress. She reported that AEDs were now present in 20 City facilities and all police cruisers. Additionally, 37 non-police staff were trained, and there were certified instructors among full-time and part-time staff. Over 200 seasonal employees had been trained, marking the largest number of seasonal workers in the past five years. Mayor Jadwin invited the Council to participate in the upcoming classes and voiced appreciation for the partnership with Mifflin Division of Fire. She mentioned ongoing collaborations to strategically place AEDs throughout the City, addressing concerns about vandalism and ensuring resident protection. She thanked the Council for recognizing the team's efforts.

President Bowers thanked Mayor Jadwin and recognized the Department of Parks and Recreation staff present that evening. She mentioned Recreation Superintendent Brian Gill, noting his extensive AED and CPR certifications and training. She also acknowledged Recreation Supervisor Chris Simmons, Recreation Coordinator for Youth and Family Amy Money Penny, Aquatics Guest Service member Elijah Smith, and Head Lifeguard Abe Bisignano, who is a certified American Red Cross professional rescuer. President Bowers thanked them for their work and, before taking a group photo, recognized Gahanna Division of Police Chief Spence and Training Sergeant Sheasby, offering them an opportunity to speak about the department's progress.

Chief Spence expressed his gratitude and highlighted the vital importance of CPR and AED training. He mentioned that during the past first quarter, the department also completed casualty care, trauma care, and blood stop loss training. Officers now carried tourniquets. Chief Spence reviewed cruiser video and body-worn video footage, noting the heroic life-saving measures taken by officers when encountering emergency scenes. He emphasized the unpredictability of situations where officers might encounter someone in cardiac arrest and praised the officers' efforts in stabilizing and rendering aid at such scenes. He acknowledged the indispensable support of Mifflin Township Fire in providing high-quality training, which he deemed some of the best he had experienced. Chief Spence emphasized the goal of fielding the best and most trained officers in the region, state, and beyond. He commended Justin Sheasby for his exceptional work and appreciated the council's support in funding the necessary tools to make a difference.

Sergeant Sheasby thanked everyone and mentioned that the department received all new AEDs last year, with everyone being trained in their use. He appreciated the opportunity provided to have these AEDs available to help someone in need.

President Bowers thanked Sergeant Sheasby and introduced the final guest on this resolution, State Representative Rich Brown, District 5, which includes the southern portion of Franklin County. Representative Brown was present to speak about House Bill 47, which he co-sponsored, specifically addressing the expanded presence of AEDs.

State Representative Rich Brown expressed his pleasure in attending the meeting and thanked President Bowers and the committee members. He provided an overview of House Bill 47, for which he is the primary sponsor with a Republican co-sponsor. The bill mandates the presence of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in every Ohio school and certain municipally owned and operated sports and recreation locations. The bill passed the House with an 85 to 9 vote on June 14, 2023, and is currently in the Senate, awaiting further approval. Representative Brown emphasized the life-saving potential of AEDs, citing sudden cardiac arrest as a significant cause of death that can affect individuals of any age, including teenage and professional athletes. He shared the origin of the bill, which was brought to his attention by a constituent concerned about the lack of AEDs in various locations where her son played travel soccer. Under current Ohio law, schools are only suggested, not required, to have AEDs. House Bill 47 changes this by

mandating that every school in Ohio must have at least one AED and that school personnel, including teachers, principals, athletic trainers, and coaches, must be trained in their use. The bill also extends this requirement to municipally owned sports and recreation locations. Representative Brown explained the critical nature of timely treatment for sudden cardiac arrest, noting that for every minute without treatment, the mortality rate increases by 7 to 10%. He highlighted the ease of use of AEDs, which provide automated instructions and assessments, though training is still preferable. He praised Gahanna for its extensive AED training and implementation, recognizing the community's proactive measures as life-saving. He shared a testimonial from a young soccer player who survived sudden cardiac arrest due to the quick actions of trained coaches using an AED. The Bill has received support from numerous medical organizations, including the American College of Cardiology, the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Football League, and major Ohio hospitals and schools. Representative Brown concluded by acknowledging the funding challenges associated with the Bill. Although the Bill itself does not include appropriations, efforts are underway to secure funding through the budgeting process and grants. He expressed optimism about the Bill's passage and reiterated his appreciation for Gahanna's efforts in AED training and implementation.

President Bowers thanked Representative Brown for his remarks and announced the conclusion of the discussion on the resolution. She invited members of the City staff present to join for a group photo, expressing gratitude for their time and dedication to the important work being recognized.

D. HEARING OF VISITORS:

Lauren Renner of Gahanna, OH, spoke on the AED Awareness Resolution.

Ms. Renner thanked the Council for allowing her a few minutes to speak. She mentioned that after receiving responses to an email she had sent about AED placements throughout the City, she felt hopeful. Listening to Mayor Jadwin's remarks and hearing about House Bill 47 furthered her optimism. She identified herself as a "baseball mom" who spends a lot of time at the fields and stressed the importance of public access to AEDs when every minute counts. Ms. Renner, who works as a nurse practitioner at Nationwide Children's Hospital, shared her firsthand experience of how critical even a few minutes can be in an emergency on an athletic field or in a school. She praised the City's efforts to enhance safety and highlighted the availability of freestanding AED devices equipped with heating elements, security, and Wi-Fi. She cited the City of Dublin as an example, noting that the City installed seven freestanding AED devices for a little over \$25,000 with the help of a grant from the Shriners, city funds, and township funds. She expressed specific concern about Academy Park, pointing out that there is no sign indicating the presence of an AED, and that it is often locked, with not all coaches having keys. She noted the high volume of teenagers and other community members who frequent the park for various activities and might not be aware of the AED's location. Ms. Renner concluded by urging the Council to keep this issue at the forefront of their efforts. She suggested even

simple measures, like placing signs to indicate the AED's location, could make a significant difference.

Kathy McCorkle of Gahanna, OH, spoke on RES-0021-2024.

Ms. McCorkle stated that legislatures are filled with individuals ignorant of the word of God and the Commandments, which have historically been foundational for the nation. She criticized the passage of legislation that, in her view, condones a lifestyle of sexual debauchery. She noted that the Council would be voting for the fourth time on Resolution 0021, which she claimed celebrates and honors sexual perversion in the community. She questioned if the Council loved unrighteousness so much that there was not one member who would stand for righteousness and vote against the Resolution. Ms. McCorkle recounted an instance from a few years ago when a certain Council member requested to place the Resolution on the consent agenda, implying it was a way to conceal how members voted on the issue. She urged the Council to remove the Resolution from the consent agenda for a separate vote. She further criticized the Council for what she perceived as a lack of fear of God, evidenced not only in policies like the Resolution but also during invocations where God's name is often not mentioned. She accused certain members of praying to themselves in a manner of self-praise and self-glorification. Ms. McCorkle questioned when this practice started and who suggested it, speculating it might have been the same Council member who introduced the Resolution four years ago. In conclusion, she warned that any Council member who voted in favor of the Resolution would be leading the residents and children of Gahanna down a path of destruction, asserting that history has shown sexual perversion coming to the forefront when a nation declines.

Joshua Heintzelman of Gahanna, OH, spoke on Creekside living.

Mr. Heintzelman shared that he had grown up in Gahanna and lived within walking distance of Creekside, watching it develop into a great destination for students and teenagers. However, he highlighted a significant issue: Creekside's car-dominated problem. He expressed his desire to see Creekside become a hotspot for businesses and families, especially during the summer when Gahanna hosts festivals such as the upcoming Blues and Jazz Festival. Despite the hard work put into these events, he pointed out that Creekside is unsafe for walking or biking from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. As a teacher, he stated that he would not recommend any student visit Creekside during these hours due to the heavy traffic on Mill Street. Mr. Heintzelman recalled a conversation he had with Mayor Jadwin about a year ago during an event for the Blues and Jazz Festival parking. The Mayor had expressed a vision for Creekside to become a destination place and mentioned the high volume of people using Creekside and Mill Street as a thoroughfare rather than stopping to engage with the community. Heintzelman proposed several ideas to make Creekside more community and family-friendly, including better bike lanes and more walkable infrastructure. He urged the Council to consider, without immediate dismissal, the possibility of closing Mill Street and using High Street as the primary access to the Creekside parking garage. This change, he argued, would open up Creekside

to more businesses and create a more walkable and bikeable area. Mr. Heintzelman mentioned that similar changes in Easton had led to significant growth and increased visitor enjoyment. He also suggested diversifying the types of establishments in Creekside, such as adding convenience stores, plant shops, or even a book library to enhance the multi-use nature of the area. In conclusion, Mr. Heintzelman emphasized that people bring people together, whereas cars tend to separate them. He expressed his concern that as long as Creekside remained car-dominated during peak hours, it would not flourish as intended.

Lee Nathans of Bexley, OH, spoke via video on Save Station Public Access AEDs.

Mr. Nathans, the founder of Heart Safe Bexley, addressed the Council regarding the initiative launched in cooperation with Mayor Ben Kesler and the members of Bexley City Council. Heart Safe Bexley was initiated in October 2023 with the goal of empowering citizens to intervene in sudden cardiac arrest situations and save lives. Mr. Nathans reported that over 400 community members had been trained in compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). He emphasized that using CPR and AEDs is the most effective method for saving lives during sudden cardiac arrest events. Training sessions had been conducted at community centers, the public library, and through the Bexley Police Department. He outlined the second phase of the initiative, which involves the installation of Save Station Public Access AEDs. Potential locations for these Save Stations included commercial areas on Main Street and public parks. Addressing concerns about vandalism and theft, Mr. Nathans explained that most communities around the country have not experienced these issues due to the built-in precautions in each Save Station. The safety measures specified for Bexley's Save Stations included an alarm that sounds when the Save Station door is opened, a camera that takes a picture as soon as the door is opened and the alarm goes off, and a subscriber identity module (SIM) card that provides direct cellular communication with the Bexley Police Dispatch Center. These precautions were designed to prevent theft and vandalism and to enable the apprehension of offenders if such incidents occurred. Mr. Nathans expressed excitement about moving forward with the Save Stations and recommended this approach as a way to save lives for the citizens of Gahanna as well.

Sarah McGraw-Thimmes of Lancaster, OH, spoke via video on AED placement.

Ms. McGraw-Thimmes, the Health Coordinator for Lancaster City Schools and a member of Community Heartwatch in Lancaster, Ohio, addressed the council in support of an initiative to place AEDs in some of Gahanna's busiest areas. She shared her experience with automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) placements in Lancaster City Schools and the community. Ms. McGraw-Thimmes reported that Lancaster City Schools had installed eight AED machines outside, accessible to the public in temperature-controlled units. She mentioned that there had been no issues with vandalism. However, she noted that other communities had attached AirTags and other tracking

devices to their AEDs as a precaution. In Lancaster, AEDs had also been placed in various parks. This was done in partnership with park leadership to identify optimal locations. Signage in the parks indicated where the AEDs were located. The temperature-controlled units used in Lancaster set off an alarm when opened, which served as a deterrent against tampering. She reported that there had been no issues with vandalism or theft in the public parks. Ms. McGraw-Thimmes emphasized the value of the investment in AEDs. She shared that Lancaster City Schools had experienced three sudden cardiac arrests since the AEDs were placed, and all three victims survived. One of the survivors was a community member who collapsed at an athletic event. She offered to discuss further details about securing grant funding for AEDs and concluded by stating that improving AED access could enhance survival rates. She affirmed that the initiative was worthwhile, as one cannot put a price on a life.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Weaver, to go into Executive Session under authority of Section 5.40(b) of the Council Rules of Procedure to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Schnetzer

President Bowers announced Council would meet in the Committee Room for the Executive Session. Mayor Jadwin, Senior Director Schultz, and City Attorney Tamilarasan also attended the Executive Session.

Council rose to report to executive session at 7:45 p.m.

Council rose to report from executive session at 8:16 p.m. with no further action.

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2024-0106](#)

Council Regular Minutes 5.20.2024

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Resolutions:

[RES-0021-2024](#) A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2024 AS LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0023-2024](#) A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 1-7, 2024, AS NATIONAL CPR AND AED AWARENESS WEEK

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

3. Ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption:

[ORD-0034-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Real Estate Taxes and Fees for TIF Funds and Board of Elections

The clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0037-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - State Law Enforcement Trust Fund (2250) for Contract Services and Capital Equipment

The clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0038-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN STRUCTUREPOINT, INC. FOR DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE BIG WALNUT TRAIL SECTION 8

The clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0039-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Risk Insurance Fund (9010)

The clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

4. Ordinances for Second Reading and Emergency Adoption:

[ORD-0036-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH CENTRAL SQUARE TECHNOLOGIES LLC FOR A MULTI-AGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT COMPUTER-AIDED DISPATCH AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SOLUTION TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF

POLICE; AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION AMENDMENTS TO ARPA FUND (2330) AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (3250); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance 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: 6 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner and Weaver

Absent: 1 - Schnetzer

G. RESOLUTIONS:

[RES-0024-2024](#) A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER KELIE MOFFITT ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE

President Bowers addressed the Council to recognize Officer Moffitt's outstanding career in Gahanna and to commemorate her upcoming retirement. She emphasized the significance of acknowledging Moffitt's historic contributions to the City. According to the Resolution, Officer Moffitt holds several notable distinctions within the Gahanna Division of Police. She served as the first and only female officer in the Division's history to work in the narcotics unit. Additionally, she was the first female officer to be part of what is now known as the Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) team, previously the Tactical Response Unit. President Bowers highlighted Officer Moffitt's role as the City's inaugural Community Liaison Officer (CLO), a position established in the 2022 Budget. This role was pivotal in connecting the Police Division with residents in crisis, particularly those dealing with mental health issues, homelessness, and addiction challenges. She praised Moffitt for leveraging her deep community ties to effectively fulfill this role. Beyond her duties with the police division, Officer Moffitt contributed significantly to community service initiatives. She served on the board of Gahanna Residents in Need (GRIN) and participated in the Starfish Assignment. President Bowers invited councilmembers who were able to attend Officer Moffitt's last call ceremony on Wednesday, where they would present her with a copy of the Resolution if adopted by Council.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Schnetzer

H. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0041-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORD-0088-2023 ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES FOR PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

President Bowers asked if any councilmember would like to have the Ordinance go back to Committee of the Whole for further discussion on June 10.

Councilmember McGregor asked if Council had previously reviewed the Ordinance. President Bowers noted there was previous discussion in Executive Session. McGregor requested a brief discussion, to which President Bowers recommended the Ordinance appear on the Committee of the Whole agenda on June 10.

I. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk - None.

2. Council - None.

J. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Renner provided an update on the recent activities of the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC). He informed the Council that the CIC held its first strategy session on Friday, May 31st, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This session was part one of a retreat. Councilmember Renner then announced that the CIC would convene for part two of a retreat on Friday, June 7, 2024, also from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. He indicated that a report would be shared with the Council following these sessions. Moving on, Councilmember Renner reminded the Council about the upcoming joint session between the City Council and CIC scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2024. He noted that the exact time had not been confirmed, but, typically, the session starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Municipal Golf Course.

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

[2024-0107](#) Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 6.3.2024

Vice President Weaver began by expressing thanks to Clerk VanMeter and the new MORPC intern, Charlie Schneider, for compiling the MORPC report, which was linked to the Council's agenda. He proceeded to highlight upcoming events and initiatives, mentioning an upcoming "Money Mondays" session featuring Brian Gorenflo, the We Connect Manager at the We

Connect Data Center, who will discuss Broadband funding on June 17, 2024. Additionally, he informed the Council about a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) house party scheduled for June 12, 2024, at the Plaza Hotel on State Street, where attendees could learn about federal and local resources for home ownership. Vice President Weaver then announced the MORPC Pre-Commission Luncheon focused on Intel, set for June 13, 2024, and MORPC Night at the Clippers on the same day at 6:30 p.m. He invited everyone to celebrate MORPC's annual night with the Clippers at Huntington Park, where Bexley Mayor and MORPC Secretary Ben Kessler would throw the first pitch.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova announced the return of "Midweek at the Creek" starting on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, featuring Tyy Perkins from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Creekside Plaza. She noted that there would be no Midweek at the Creek the following week due to preparations for the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival. Councilmember Padova encouraged attendance at the subsequent Midweek at the Creek event on June 19, 2024, with Jeff McCargish. She emphasized that these events provided an enjoyable community atmosphere, allowing residents to relax with music and drinks, particularly highlighting the popularity of last year's events.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Councilmember Jones provided a brief update, starting with the announcement that the Central Office had completed its relocation to the new address at 630 Morrison Road. She proceeded to inform the council about the upcoming final Coffee and Conversation session of the year with Superintendent Dr. Deagle and select members of the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools Board of Education. This event would take place on June 6, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the new central office location.

K. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin began by expressing her gratitude to the Gahanna Veterans Committee, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S (VFW Post 4719), and American Legion Post 797 for organizing and conducting touching Memorial Day ceremonies. She acknowledged their efforts in laying wreaths and conducting multiple ceremonies throughout the City, culminating in a service at Veterans Memorial Park. Mayor Jadwin emphasized the importance of these events in honoring fallen soldiers and inspiring the community each year. Moving on to staffing updates, Mayor Jadwin welcomed Kyle Allen as the new Street Superintendent, who recently joined from the Midwest. She noted that Tyler Wilson had also commenced as the new Recreation Coordinator II, a position authorized by Council earlier in the year. Additionally, Blake Langley started as a Parks Maintenance Worker and Andrew Hunt as a part-time Parks Coordinator. The Mayor highlighted the recent addition of interns: Matt

Goodhart, Josie Meredith, and Addie Parker from Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), alongside the Council intern. Mayor Jadwin proceeded to outline upcoming events, mentioning the start of Creekside Live on Wednesday and live music events on Friday, both listed on the City's event calendar. She informed the Council about Make Gahanna Yours' litter cleanup scheduled for Saturday to beautify freeway ramps in preparation for the upcoming Blues and Jazz Fest, celebrating its 25th anniversary on June 14-16, 2024. Further, Mayor Jadwin announced Gahanna's first-ever Juneteenth celebration on June 14, 2024, organized by Ron Ransom, featuring a gospel concert at Shephard Nazarene Church. She encouraged residents to visit the Gahanna 175 website for more information. Additionally, she mentioned the Household Hazardous Waste collection event on June 22, 2024 at Headley Park, providing details on acceptable items and electronic disposal, available on the city's website. Concluding her remarks, Mayor Jadwin mentioned the planning underway for Gahanna Community Pride Night on June 26, 2024 at Hannah Park, led by Katie McBroom and supported by the Parks team. She anticipated sharing more details and a dedicated website soon.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan noted that her office is working on a comprehensive review of the City's criminal code. Council will be seeing that come forward in Committee in the upcoming weeks.

L. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember Jones began by informing the Council that her May constituent newsletter was available and attached to the agenda. She announced her next constituent hour scheduled for Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 1:00 PM at Gahanna Library, encouraging residents to attend. She expressed gratitude for the recognitions during AED Awareness Week, acknowledging Officer Moffitt and highlighting Pride Night. Councilmember Jones specifically thanked School Board Member Dion Manley and teacher Chris Wagner for their support of LGBTQ youth in the community, emphasizing the importance of such support in a society where LGBTQ youth often feel marginalized. She concluded by thanking her colleagues, the administration, and the community for their ongoing support and wished everyone a Happy Pride.

Councilmember McGregor shared a brief anecdote related to recycling. She recounted a story about a large tube TV that needed recycling. Initially planning to strip it for parts, it was left outside the night before trash pickup. In the morning, they discovered someone had cut off the cord for recycling purposes, though the TV itself remained.

Councilmember Padova thanked her colleagues for their support of the Pride Resolution. She cited statistics from the Trevor Project, noting that LGBTQ youth face significant challenges, including high rates of suicide attempts due to lack of social support and difficulty accessing mental health care. Councilmember Padova highlighted the importance of creating an inclusive

community and thanked Mr. Manley and Mr. Wagner for their presence and support, describing them as shining examples for LGBTQ youth in Gahanna.

Vice President Weaver thanked all the guests present, as well as acknowledging the use of the video comment option during the meeting. He extended his gratitude to the VFW and the American Legion for organizing a touching Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. Weaver shared a personal note about his family's experience, mentioning the placement of a brick in honor of his wife's grandfather, Everett Calvin Targett, who served in the United States Army and Indiana National Guard for many years, before his recent passing. He noted how meaningful it was for his wife, who shared the event through video clips and photos despite her grandmother's inability to attend. Weaver emphasized the importance of recognizing not only veterans but also their families for the sacrifices they make. He concluded by congratulating the Class of 2024 from various schools attended by Gahanna residents and expressed his support for Pride Month, echoing sentiments from Councilmembers Jones and Padova.

President Bowers expressed her gratitude to the veterans committee for organizing a memorable Memorial Day event, noting the pleasant weather. She then recognized National Cancer Survivors Day and shared a personal request from a friend who recently lost her sister to cancer, urging everyone to undergo preventive cancer screenings. Bowers highlighted the importance of early detection through regular mammograms and suggested younger individuals consider colonoscopies earlier due to rising rates of gastrointestinal cancers. She encouraged support for cancer research efforts like Pelotonia and emphasized the importance of expressing love to cancer survivors. Bowers concluded by celebrating Pride Month, commending Katie McBroom for organizing an upcoming Gahanna Pride event. She referenced a recent radio interview featuring LGBTQ elected officials discussing their roles and the impact of visibility on LGBTQ youth. Senator Nickie Antonio's story of helping a young man come out to his parents through her public policy work, was particularly moving to Bowers, underscoring the significance of LGBTQ representation in leadership roles.

[2024-0105](#)

Councilmember Jamille Jones' Constituent Report - May 2024

M. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Bowers adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2024.*

Merisa K. Bowers