



City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Trenton I. Weaver, President

Jamille Jones, Vice President

Merisa K. Bowers

Nancy R. McGregor

Kaylee Padova

Stephen A. Renner

Michael Schnetzer

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, February 16, 2026

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, February 16, 2026, in Council Chambers. President of Council Trenton I. Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Vice President of Council Jamille Jones delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on February 13, 2026.

Present 6 - Jamille Jones, Nancy R. McGregor, Kaylee Padova, Stephen A. Renner, Michael Schnetzer, and Trenton I. Weaver

Absent 1 - Merisa K. Bowers

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

C. HEARING OF VISITORS:

None.

D. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2026-0032](#)

Council Regular Minutes 2026-02-02

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2026-0033](#)

Committee of the Whole Minutes 2026-02-09

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Motions:

[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

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

3. Ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption:

[ORD-0005-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Central Park TIF Fund, General Fund and Cul-de-sac Maintenance Fund for various purposes

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

End of Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - Bowers

E. MOTIONS:

[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.

President Weaver thanked everyone who had submitted interest in serving on any of the City’s boards or commissions. He stated that serving on a board or commission provided a great way to give back to the city they all loved and called home. He expressed his appreciation to everyone for their interest.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Bowers

[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.

President Weaver thanked the Administration for keeping Council informed. He acknowledged that many significant developments were taking place, including the substantial undertaking of moving and relocating to the new facilities. He described the transition as an exciting time and noted that it marked a necessary step to ensure the move occurred as seamlessly as possible. He thanked everyone for their cooperation and flexibility and thanked the Mayor.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Bowers

F. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0007-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATELY 7.6 ACRES FROM JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO, TO THE CITY OF GAHANNA; LOCATED AT 4736 AND 4722 JOHNSTOWN ROAD (PARCEL ID NOS. 170-000068 AND 170-000069).

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

President Weaver noted that, as a matter of interest to the public, Council typically did not take action on items during first readings. He stated that the item would return for a vote on March 2, 2026.

G. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

Recommended Postponement to Date Certain:

[ORD-0002-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING, APPROVING, AND RATIFYING THE SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL FOR TAX YEAR 2024

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

President Weaver reported on correspondence from the City Attorney regarding Ordinance 0002-2026 recommending that Council postpone action until March 2, 2026.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Padova, that the Second Reading of the Ordinance be Postponed to Date Certain, March 2, 2026. The item will return to Committee of the Whole on February 23, 2026 for further review. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Bowers

Recommended Postponement to Date Certain:

[ORD-0006-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 133.02 - PURCHASING PROCEDURES

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

President Weaver stated that a postponement to a date certain had been recommended for the item. He confirmed that the proposed date was March 2,2026. He then asked whether there was a motion to postpone Ordinance 0006-2026 to the date certain, stating his understanding that the ordinance would return to Committee of the Whole the following week.

A motion was made by Padova, seconded by Jones, that the Second Reading of the Ordinance be Postponed to Date Certain, March 2, 2026. The item will return to Committee of the Whole on February 23, 2026 for further review. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Bowers

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk

Clerk VanMeter highlighted for the record and for Council’s awareness that the Charter Review Commission had met on Thursday, February 12, 2026. He reported that during its organizational meeting, the Commission elected Ethan Barnhardt as Chair and Carrin Wester as Vice Chair. He stated that the Commission approved meeting dates for the first half of the year and announced that the next regular meeting would take place on February 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers and would be livestreamed. He further reported

that the Commission announced additional meeting dates of March 12th, March 26th, April 9th, April 23rd, May 7th, May 21st, June 4th, and June 18th. He noted that Council had received a tentative invitation to attend the March 26th meeting and that he would email the schedule to Council. Clerk VanMeter reminded Council that the Charter Review Commission must submit any recommended amendments to the City Charter to Council by July 1st and that Council must submit any proposed amendments to the voters at the next general election. He stated that, pursuant to the Commission's adopted rules of procedure, the Commission would accept public comment in person at any regular meeting and via video, consistent with Council's available tools and in accordance with the rules listed on the City's website. He informed the public that individuals could propose amendments to the City Charter by emailing the Charter Review Commission at CRC@gahanna.gov. He also stated that the meetings were livestreamed and archived on the City's YouTube page and that members of the public could sign up to receive meeting agendas.

President Weaver thanked Clerk VanMeter and the members of the Charter Review Commission for their willingness to serve. He asked for clarification that the Commission's meeting schedule aligned with the Administration's plans to move to 825 Tech Center Drive. Mayor Jadwin confirmed that she and Mr. VanMeter had worked through the schedule and stated that the arrangement would work.

2. Council

[2026-0037](#)

Draft Endorsement Letters - Cora Thurman Posthumous Nomination for Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame and City of Columbus Hall of Fame

President Weaver stated that the agenda included draft endorsement letters. He reminded Council that Tom Gregory had received a resolution two weeks prior recognizing Black History Month following the presentation celebrating the life and legacy of Cora Thurman. He explained that Mr. Gregory planned to submit Ms. Thurman for posthumous nomination to the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame and the City of Columbus Hall of Fame. He stated that those who attended the presentation were aware of the impact Ms. Thurman had on the Gahanna community, the City of Columbus, Columbus Public Schools, and the local community. He noted that the letters appeared on the agenda and, seeing no objection, stated that he would seek

Council's approval to move forward with submitting the letters on Council's behalf.

Vice President Jones stated that she did not intend to appear overly eager or presumptive and noted that printed copies were available for signature that evening if members wished to sign them.

I. **REPRESENTATIVES:**

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

Councilmember Padova reported that the CIC would meet on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. in the Committee Room and stated that the meeting would remain open to the public. She noted that if the committee entered executive session, they would ask members of the public to step out.

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

[2026-0031](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 2026-02-16

President Weaver reported that the Commission met on February 12, 2026, and that the next meeting was scheduled for March 12th. He announced that MORPC had received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 37th consecutive year and noted that the City was familiar with that distinction. He congratulated MORPC on the achievement. President Weaver reported that MORPC representatives, including Mayor Jadwin, had recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Congress and their staff. Drawing on his experience as a former congressional staffer, he stated that such visits provided valuable opportunities to meet with local representatives of organizations and to raise issues with the congressional delegation. He stated that MORPC had introduced a "Map of the Month" feature and that the highlighted map depicted standardized parcel-level existing and future land use based on local plans. He noted that the data depended on submissions from municipalities and encouraged communities to provide updated information. He informed Council that the map was publicly available at MORPC.org/data by searching "M.O.O.D" and described it as a useful tool to explore. President Weaver reported that the Regional Policy Roundtable would meet the following day. He highlighted Senate Bill 361, legislation at the Statehouse that would prohibit municipalities from using eminent domain for trails and multi-use paths, and noted that the bill had appeared in multiple sessions. He

announced that MORPC had accepted Norwich Township and Hamilton Township as members, bringing total membership to 93 and 94, respectively. He reported that Senator Husted had released an application form for Fiscal Year 2027 community project funding, also known as member-directed funding, with a deadline of March 9, 2026, and that MORPC expected guidance from other members of the congressional delegation soon. He added that state capital budget applications were due on March 12th and that MORPC offered assistance to communities with that process. President Weaver stated that MORPC sought input for a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis to support its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and that a survey included in the report would accept responses through February 26th. He concluded by highlighting the State of the Region event scheduled for Friday, March 20th. He noted that Clerk VanMeter had made several reservations, including one for himself, and asked members to notify Clerk VanMeter if they wished to attend. He concluded his MORPC report.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reported that the Creekside Charity Chocolate Walk took place the previous afternoon and brought approximately 200 people to the Creekside District for chocolate treats. She stated that Visit Gahanna started the event six years ago and now runs it in partnership with the Gahanna Area Arts Council. She explained that the event benefits the nonprofits involved with Give to Gahanna. She described it as a great opportunity to get outside in February, take a walk, and enjoy chocolate, and noted that the weather had been as perfect as February weather in Ohio could be, making it a pleasant day for walking and fresh air. Councilmember Padova also reported that Visit Gahanna and the Ohio Herb Center had collaborated with SGT Coffee to create coffee drinks that incorporate herbs. She stated that she looked forward to seeing what new drinks they would launch in the spring and encouraged everyone to watch for more information. She announced that instead of hosting the traditional Visit Gahanna annual lunch or annual meeting, the organization would hold a Visit Gahanna Spring Showcase on April 14th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Noble Cut Distillery. She explained that the event would replace the annual meeting and would feature an open house format, with additional details to come.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Vice President Jones provided an update on upcoming school board meetings. She announced that the Finance and Facilities Meeting would take place on February 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Clark Hall and that the regular Board meeting would occur on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., also at Clark Hall. She shared information from the February 5, 2026, Board workshop meeting that could impact the community. She explained that with the opening of the new high school, the District had updated its rental fee policy, as many community groups rent District facilities and the new high school offered additional amenities. She stated that the Board discussed the updated policy at the February 5th workshop and that, if approved, the policy would provide reduced rental rates for private programs that enrich student learning. She explained that organizations that could demonstrate they enriched student learning could receive a discount on renting District space. She directed the public to review the February 5th Board workshop meeting online for additional information and advised them to watch the Thursday meeting to see whether the Board approved the policy. Vice President Jones also recognized that February 15th marked National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day. Although the day had passed, she stated that it was never too late to show gratitude. She thanked Officers Bills, Gillespie, Jones, and Lawrence for the support they provide to students across Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools and described them as guardians of Gahanna's future. She expressed appreciation for their service.

J. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin thanked Councilmember Padova and asked her to inform Visit Gahanna that she would be happy to benchmark any coffee drinks developed in partnership with SGT Coffee, noting her enthusiasm for coffee. Mayor Jadwin also thanked President Weaver for highlighting MORPC's work and confirmed that she had recently traveled to Washington, D.C., with a delegation from the Columbus region that included MORPC leaders and several central Ohio mayors. She reported that the group conducted eight meetings in one day with members of Ohio's congressional delegation, including both United States Senators and several Representatives who serve the region and local communities. She stated that the purpose of the visit centered on advocacy and that the delegation discussed priorities

important to central Ohio, including infrastructure, transportation, economic development, housing, and regional growth. She added that she highlighted local projects and needs specific to Gahanna and mentioned the Creekside project to Senator Husted considering an upcoming funding deadline related to downtown revitalization. She emphasized that those conversations ensured that federal representatives heard the voices of Gahanna residents and understood the community's opportunities and challenges. Mayor Jadwin announced that, following the submission of an application, the City received a \$250,000 congressional earmark in federal funds to support necessary flood mitigation improvements within the Creekside garage. She described the project as critical to the long-term success of the downtown area and to protecting infrastructure, local businesses, residents, visitors, and key economic and community assets. She noted that Congresswoman Beatty championed the funding and stated that she appreciated the opportunity to thank her in person for her advocacy and support.

Mayor Jadwin also reported that the City recently issued alerts through email and social media regarding fraudulent emails sent to residents that attempted to impersonate City staff and request payment by wire transfer. She stated that the messages appeared highly convincing, including the use of a staff member's signature block. She warned that Valentine's Day and the upcoming tax season often bring an increase in scam activity. She reminded residents that official City emails always originate from a gahanna.gov email address and instructed anyone who receives an unexpected payment request claiming to be from the City not to respond, click links, send money, or initiate wire transfers. She advised residents to contact the City directly using contact information listed on the official website to verify any notice, invoice, or appeal. She thanked Council for helping to keep the community safe. President Weaver thanked the Mayor for sharing the information and recalled previous community meetings where Officer Jodon and Detective Thomas provided presentations on fraud prevention tips. He asked whether the City could disseminate or publish those resources more broadly. Mayor Jadwin responded that the City planned several informational posts in the coming months leading up to tax season to continue alerting residents. She stated that Detective Thomas, now serving as a community liaison officer alongside Officer Jodon, continued to meet with civic groups, including the Senior Center, to share information. She added that the Chief also

shared information at civic association meetings and encouraged residents to distribute the information within their neighborhoods. She stated that the City would continue to use as many avenues as possible to place the information in residents' hands.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan provided a litigation update regarding the trip and fall case at Academy Park, known as the Taglia case. She reported that the Court of Appeals granted the appellant an extension to file their brief after the appellant initially failed to submit it in a timely manner and subsequently requested permission for an extension. She stated that the appellant's brief was now due in March and that the City would file its brief thereafter. She advised that she would provide an update after the court heard oral argument and issued a decision. City Attorney Tamilarasan also echoed appreciation for those serving on the Charter Review Commission and encouraged everyone to consider suggestions or focus areas for potential comments on the Charter to help guide future discussions.

K. COUNCIL COMMENT:

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Weaver adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2026.*

Trenton I. Weaver