



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

City Council

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Stephen A. Renner, President
Trenton I. Weaver, Vice President
Karen J. Angelou
Merisa K. Bowers
Nancy R. McGregor
Kaylee Padova
Michael Schnetzer

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, December 18, 2023

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, December 18, 2023, in Council Chambers. President of Council Stephen A. Renner called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 December 15, 2023.

Honor Guard Presentation of Colors

Police Sgt. Justin Sheasby and the Gahanna Division of Police Honor Guard presented an American flag to Councilmember Karen Angelou in honor of her service to the City of Gahanna. Sgt. Sheasby informed Ms. Angelou that the flag flew over the police headquarters for 34 minutes, representing her 34 years of service as a city councilmember.

Present 7 - Karen J. Angelou, Merisa K. Bowers, Nancy R. McGregor, Kaylee Padova, Stephen A. Renner, Michael Schnetzer, and Trenton I. Weaver

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Mayor Jadwin inquired about consideration of the order of items on the agenda with respect to the presentation of the salary and benefits ordinances. President Renner acknowledged that he had received the request but that the agenda would stand as is with respect to the order of items.

C. HEARING OF VISITORS:

1. Joint Resolution Presentation by Mayor and Council – Karen J. Angelou

President Stephen Renner acknowledged the presence of Ms. Angelou and introduced the resolution honoring and commending her for 34 years of dedicated service as a city councilmember for the city of Gahanna. President Renner highlighted the exceptional record of Ms. Angelou's service, having

won 12 terms of office since 1981, representing both Ward 2 and the city at large. President Renner elaborated on Ms. Angelou's various roles and achievements during her tenure, including serving as president of the council in multiple years, vice president of the council, chair of council committees, Gahanna Jefferson Schools liaison, trustee to the City of Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation, founding member and representative to the Gahanna Convention and Visitors Bureau, and a representative to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, where she served as chair from 2020 to 2021. The resolution detailed Ms. Angelou's advocacy for the city at regional and state levels, her receipt of the William H. Anderson award from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, and commendations from Mifflin Township, the Ohio House of Representatives, the Ohio Senate, and the lieutenant governor's office. It also highlighted her professional career as a music teacher for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. President Renner further outlined Ms. Angelou's tireless efforts to enhance the safety, health, and development of Gahanna, emphasizing her support for various infrastructure projects, strategic plans, community policing, industrial planning, land acquisition, and improvements in public parks and recreation. The resolution concluded with accolades for Ms. Angelou's commitment to Gahanna's vision and values, recognizing her as a respected leader and a key contributor to the city's success. President Renner invited Ms. Angelou to join him at the front to receive the resolution and express gratitude for her remarkable service.

Councilmember Angelou expressed gratitude to everyone present, acknowledging the kind words and sentiments shared during the meeting. Emotionally touched by the accolades, Councilmember Angelou thanked the wonderful people in the city, attributing the success and positive environment to their collective efforts. Despite the overwhelming emotions, she expressed her appreciation for the heartfelt tributes, emphasizing the collaborative spirit that makes the city function effectively.

President Renner acknowledged Councilmember Angelou's sentiments and proceeded to present a gift on behalf of the Council to commemorate her years of dedicated service. President Renner described the gift as a map of the city of Gahanna on slate, connecting it to the significance of the Three Creeks for the city. He highlighted the appropriateness of the gift for Councilmember Angelou.

Councilmember Angelou reacted with delight upon receiving the gift, expressing her gratitude. She described the gift as perfect and fitting, recognizing the symbolism behind the choice of material and the connection to Gahanna's geography. The presentation of the gift was met with applause from those present.

Mayor Jadwin began by expressing her gratitude to Councilmember Angelou for her 34 years of dedicated service to the city of Gahanna. The Mayor commended Councilmember Angelou's unwavering commitment, describing her as a pillar of support, an inspiration, and a true friend to many. She acknowledged Councilmember Angelou's leadership characterized by integrity, compassion, and a dedication to always doing what is right, setting a

high standard for everyone. The Mayor noted Councilmember Angelou's impact on both the complexities of governance and the lives of countless community members, as a teacher, friend, councilmember, and neighbor. She referenced the recent event in Chambers where the room was filled with people honoring Councilmember Angelou, emphasizing her dedication, wisdom, and camaraderie. Mayor Jadwin extended personal thanks and expressed that Councilmember Angelou's face shines every time she talks about the "Gahanna Way." She wished her a retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and adventures. She thanked Councilmember Angelou for being a remarkable councilmember, a passionate advocate for Gahanna and the Columbus region, an inspiring role model, and a dear friend. Mayor Jadwin acknowledged the incredible legacy left for the community and presented a gift on behalf of the Mayor's office and administrative staff.

Councilmember Angelou expressed heartfelt gratitude for the bestowed honors and gifts. She emphasized the profound meaning these gestures hold for her and expressed her inability to adequately convey her thanks. She stated that the recognition and gifts have been amazing and that she will cherish them, never forgetting the sentiment behind each one. She shared her excitement for the future of the great city of Gahanna and expressed optimism for the new individual stepping into her role. Councilmember Angelou conveyed her best wishes for her colleagues, the mayor, and other individuals present. She mentioned her eagerness to engage with various people but acknowledged the pressing matters at hand in the meeting. She expressed gratitude to everyone, including the police and fellow council members, and reiterated her deep appreciation for being part of such a wonderful organization and city.

William Murdock, Executive Director of MORPC, opened with greetings and acknowledgment of being an intern in Gahanna Parks at the start of his career. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to make public comments, highlighting his professional connection to Gahanna. Murdock also acknowledged Gahanna's active involvement with MORPC, particularly through Councilmember Karen Angelou's advocacy. Murdock refrained from presenting MORPC initiatives, given Councilmember Angelou's consistent updates. Instead, he celebrated Angelou's remarkable service, expressing collective gratitude from MORPC's Board, staff, and the 87 communities represented. He highlighted Angelou's decade-long leadership at the regional level, serving on various committees and boards, demonstrating a strong voice for Gahanna. Specifically, Murdock commended her role as MORPC's Board Chair during the challenging times of the pandemic, noting her unique approach of bringing a "song of the month" to board meetings. Murdock shared personal gratitude for Angelou's impact on his career, emphasizing her inspiring energy and vision. He recognized her broader legacy beyond Gahanna, expressing MORPC's appreciation for her service and congratulating her on her retirement. He concluded with thanks to Council President Renner for the opportunity to address the council and wished Angelou success in her next chapter.

Councilmember Angelou expressed a desire to say a few additional words, referencing a collection of items she had kept for a while. She began by

reflecting on her entry into politics in 1981, running for office with no anticipation of a 34-year journey. She acknowledged the significant growth of Gahanna from a village to a diverse city of nearly 36,000. Angelou expressed gratitude to the community for the blessings and support received throughout her tenure. She thanked the people of Gahanna for their continuous support, emphasizing the roles of leadership, commitment, and trust in her service. Angelou hat-tipped to the wonderful and dedicated individuals she had the pleasure of working with over the years and concluded by thanking everyone for their years of support, recognizing that her journey wouldn't have been possible without their collaboration.

2. Proclamation Presentation by Mayor Jadwin – National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

[2023-0231](#)

Mayoral Proclamation - National Impaired Driving Prevention Month 2023-12

Mayor Jadwin addressed the council, highlighting the significance of December as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. She emphasized the deadly consequences of impaired driving and commended the Gahanna Division of Police for their commitment to road safety. Jadwin shared statistics on impaired driving arrests made by the division in 2022 and up to November 2023. She recognized Officer Jeff Hoffman for his exceptional efforts in leading the division in OVI (Operating a Vehicle Impaired) arrests for the past three years. She noted that Officer Hoffman's dedication accounted for over 23% of the division's total arrests during that period. Jadwin acknowledged Officer Hoffman's recent honor from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for his commitment to removing impaired drivers from roadways. She expressed gratitude to all members of the Gahanna Division of Police for their collective efforts in ensuring the safety of the community. Jadwin concluded by presenting a proclamation designating December as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month to Officer Jeff Hoffman and all members of the Gahanna Division of Police. She invited Officer Hoffman to come forward for the official presentation.

3. Joint Resolution Presentation by Mayor and Council – Raymond J. Mularski

President Renner called attention to a resolution recognizing Raymond J Mularski for over 35 years of service as a prosecutor and four years as City Attorney for the city of Gahanna. Renner read the resolution, outlining Mularski's service history, beginning with the city's initial contract with him in 1987 for prosecutorial services from Gahanna's Mayor's Court. He acknowledged Mularski's diligent and effective service as a prosecutor for over three decades and his election as the city's third elected City Attorney in 2019. Renner highlighted Mularski's role in providing invaluable counsel and guidance to City officials, staff, and board members, as well as his dedication to creating a safe and prosperous Gahanna. He mentioned Mularski's successful defense against claims, prevention of lawsuits, and careful scrutiny of city contracts to ensure legal protection and financial prudence. Renner recognized Mularski's commitment to community service, noting his

involvement in various organizations such as Kiwanis, the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival, Ronald McDonald House, and the Tour of the Scioto River Valley. He presented the resolution, expressing the city council and mayor's honor and commendation for Mularski's decades of dedicated service to the city of Gahanna. The resolution was jointly proclaimed by the mayor.

City Attorney Mularski expressed gratitude for the recognition, briefly acknowledging his pleasure in working with the city council and the City of Gahanna. He stated that he always aimed to do his best, hoping to leave the city in a better place than when he began. Mularski thanked everyone for their support.

4. Resolution Presentation by Council – Make Gahanna Yours Farmers Market Volunteers

Councilmember Bowers acknowledged the presence of the Make Gahanna Yours Farmers Market team and announced the presentation of a ceremonial resolution. Specifically, Bowers thanked Donna Simmons, Cait Masarik, Jan Little, and Rhonda Jensen for their countless hours of service to the city of Gahanna and its residents. She recognized their dedication in producing and maintaining a farmers market entirely through volunteer labor for the past five years. Bowers expressed gratitude for the team's commitment, emphasizing the significant effort required for an all-volunteer initiative. She highlighted the value of farmers markets to communities both in concept and practice. Bowers invited the Make Gahanna Yours Farmers Market team to join her and other council members to receive copies of the resolution and small tokens of appreciation.

5. Members of the Public

Dustin Holfinger of 3098 East High Street, Springfield, OH spoke on ORD-0071-2023, Tobacco Retail Licensing Program.

Mr. Holfinger expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the council. He brought attention to ORD-0071-2023, the tobacco retail license policy. He informed the council about recent developments in the Ohio House of Representatives attempting to override the governor's veto of tobacco preemption language. Holfinger noted that this language would have prevented the passage of local Tobacco Control policies. He urged the council to proceed with the provision and vote on the tobacco retail licensure policies to ensure accountability and protect the community. He reminded the council that, as of now, the Senate has not passed similar legislation, allowing communities to enact their own policies.

Chris Pantuso of 3525 North 168th Circle, Apt 123, Omaha, NE spoke via video on his gratitude for the Gahanna Division of Police.

Mr. Pantuso recorded a video expressing gratitude to the Gahanna Police Department and City Hall for their assistance in a recent incident involving his daughter. Without delving into details, he mentioned that his daughter was protesting on the Ohio State University campus and experienced a mental

health crisis. He commended the prompt response from the Gahanna Police Department and the dispatcher who handled the call. He appreciated the well-trained and disciplined officers who efficiently managed the situation. Pantuso thanked them for taking control and ensuring his daughter's safety. He acknowledged the importance of their actions in a mental health emergency.

President Renner expressed gratitude on behalf of the council to the Gahanna Police Department.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

President Renner read the rules of the public hearing into the record as follows: Pursuant to Council Rule 9.20.1, Finance Hearings being a special circumstance shall have the following Rules: (A) Speakers shall have five (5) minutes to speak on increases or additions of an item. (B) Speakers shall have five (5) minutes to speak on reductions or removal of an item. (C) Speakers shall have three (3) minutes to speak on general comments. Note: The minutes are a combined total for all who intend to speak.

[ORD-0080-2023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

President Renner offered the floor to the administration for any presentation they would like to make. There were no additional comments or presentations at this time.

President Renner opened the public hearing at 7:44 p.m., calling for any speakers in any of the three categories.

While there were no speakers who stepped forward, President Renner asked for unanimous consent to incorporate the following public comments received inadvertently under Hearing of Visitors:

Alyson Tate of 455 Whitley Drive, Gahanna, OH, spoke in favor of the Parks & Recreation Coordinator position in the budget.

Ms. Tate addressed the council, expressing her support for adding a second Recreation Coordinator position to enhance events within the city. She highlighted her role as a board member on the Parks & Rec Foundation board and as the chair of the Hops and Vines event, the foundation's largest fundraiser. She mentioned raising over \$40,000 to support parks and rec initiatives. Tate provided a unique perspective as a Gahanna resident, a member of the foundation board, and a corporate partner at Kemba Financial Credit Union, where she has worked for 13 years in the marketing department. She emphasized her involvement in developing community sponsorships and supporting various events within the city. She expressed a desire for Gahanna to be the best place to live, work, and play. Tate linked the success of local businesses and the economy to residents staying within the

city and attracting visitors from neighboring communities. Also, she acknowledged the importance of residents being proud of the city they call home. Tate highlighted the popularity of current events and the need for community participation, especially with the influx of new residents and businesses. She shared her firsthand experience as a member of the Hops and Vines committee, noting the time and effort required for event management. Tate argued that events are not sustainable when managed by one person and that additional support is necessary. She cited the recent city survey, where residents expressed the importance of maintaining or increasing special events and asserted that reducing or not adequately supporting events contradicts resident expectations. Tate concluded by urging the council to strongly consider supporting the addition of a second recreational coordinator to fulfill the community's desires and keep the city moving in the right direction.

President Renner closed the public hearing at 7:45 p.m., as there were no additional speakers.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2023-0220](#)

FIN Minutes 11.27.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2023-0221](#)

CN Special Minutes 12.4.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2023-0222](#)

CN Minutes 12.4.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2023-0223](#)

FIN Minutes 12.4.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2023-0224](#)

CN Special Minutes 12.11.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Motions:

[MT-0021-2023](#)

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING TO BID CONTRACT FOR THE TAYLOR STATION AND CLAYCRAFT ROAD ROUNDABOUT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

3. Resolutions:

[RES-0037-2023](#) A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR MAKE GAHANNA YOURS FARMERS MARKET VOLUNTEERS

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

4. Ordinances for Second Reading / Adoption:

[ORD-0085-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 133.02 - PURCHASING PROCEDURES

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0086-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 161 - MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

End of Consent Agenda

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

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

F. MOTIONS:

[MT-0020-2023](#) A MOTION TO AMEND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA SECTION 3.20 REGARDING APPOINTMENTS BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Councilmember Bowers addressed the council to note that the version with the date stamp of 12.18.23 took into consideration Chairman Schnetzer's comments from the last meeting. Specifically, she mentioned the formal insertion of the appointment of the finance chair into section 3.20 and the corresponding cleanup of section 7.10. Bowers highlighted that the remaining appointments remained consistent with past practices. She emphasized the incorporation of the CIP Advisory Committee language into section 3.20, providing a comprehensive overview of the changes made. Bowers presented the revised version for consideration by the council.

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

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

[MT-0022-2023](#) A MOTION TO APPOINT CARRIN WESTER TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, SEAT 4, AND TO THE FAIR HOUSING BOARD, SEAT 1, FOR THE CONCURRENT UNEXPIRED TERMS ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 2024

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

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

G. RESOLUTIONS:

[RES-0038-2023](#) A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING KAREN J. ANGELOU FOR HER 34 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A CITY COUNCILMEMBER FOR THE CITY OF GAHANNA

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

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

[RES-0039-2023](#) A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING RAYMOND J. MULARSKI FOR OVER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE AS PROSECUTOR AND FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE AS CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE CITY OF GAHANNA

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

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

H. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0087-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING, APPROVING, AND RATIFYING THE SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL FOR TAX YEAR 2022

President Renner introduced the Ordinance and read it by title.

I. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

[ORD-0071-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 737 OF THE GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH THE TOBACCO PRODUCTS SALES LICENSING PROGRAM

Councilmember Kaylee Padova noted the success of previous preventive actions that reduced adolescent cigarette use. However, she emphasized the need for further action to address the resurgence of adolescent tobacco use, particularly due to flavored electronic cigarettes. Padova introduced an ordinance aimed at licensing tobacco retailers, ensuring proper signage, and implementing regular checks to prevent illegal sales to minors. She stressed the accountability of owners in case of underage sales and proposed that Franklin County Public Health Department handle licensing and enforcement. She expressed hope for the council's support in reducing youth tobacco use.

Councilmember Bowers recalled the initiation of tobacco legislation efforts 18 months ago in response to advocacy from Mr. Holfinger. She discussed the importance of the tobacco retail licensing program, highlighting the need for regulation and accountability. Bowers mentioned that the program aimed to enforce existing laws rather than create new ones. She acknowledged efforts to advocate against the preemption and urged colleagues to consider adopting the retail licensing program. Bowers discussed the potential for dormancy if preemption occurred, emphasizing that the legislation aimed to enforce existing laws. She expressed strong support for the licensing program and encouraged colleagues to join in.

Vice President Trenton Weaver expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the legislation, particularly acknowledging Councilmember Padova for her leadership. He thanked the City Attorney's office and Mr. Holfinger for their contributions. Weaver highlighted the reversal in the trend of youth tobacco use and the need for municipalities to take action. He described the proposed legislation as a small but significant step to address the issue and expressed his intention to vote in favor of the legislation.

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

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

[ORD-0080-2023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

Amendment by Substitution for Exhibit A Discussion:

Moved by Schnetzer
Seconded by Weaver

Councilmember Schnetzer drew attention to a staffing study. He noted that during the finance committee meeting a week ago, the amendment did not receive extensive discussion. He pointed out a \$100,000 addition for the staffing study under the general fund, within the General Government and Finance section. Schnetzer stressed the importance of ensuring that council members had an opportunity to review and discuss this amendment before the vote. He indicated that he would have further comments before the final vote.

President Renner clarified that the current discussion focused solely on the amendment.

Councilmember Bowers sought clarification on the procedural aspect, asking whether general discussion on the larger item should be held concurrently with the amendment discussion or separately. She offered to hold her comments until the appropriate time based on the established process.

Amendment PASSED 7-0

Main Motion as Amended Discussion:

Councilmember Schnetzer stated that this budget appeared to be the most involved during his tenure, highlighting several key aspects. He emphasized the commitment to public safety by funding interactive speed warning signs, two sergeants' positions, and a School Resource Officer (SRO) position. Schnetzer mentioned allocation for vital equipment for First Responders, including radio equipment and vehicle replacements. He noted commitments to Parks and Recreation, specifically mentioning life cycle replacements for playgrounds and shade structures. Also, he discussed funding for the action sports park and highlighted infrastructure investments, such as trail expansion and street rebuilds. Schnetzer concluded by recognizing progress made on the city's primary responsibilities: Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, and infrastructure.

Councilmember Bowers acknowledged the budget's complexity and sought clarification from the administration regarding the reconciliation document circulated on Friday. She raised questions about the requested reductions and the actual cuts, highlighting a discrepancy of \$441,000 compared to the requested \$885,000 reduction. She asked the administration to comment on this matter.

Joann Bury, Director of Finance, provided clarification on the budget adjustments, explaining that while there were identified reductions, there were also additions. She mentioned errors identified in the projection module, resulting in small glitches that needed correction. Bury also discussed additional hours for the public safety director and rectifying an error in dropping a Communications Technician from the projection. Bury listed items like the street tree program and the lieutenant and sergeant Assessment Center that required adjustments due to new information and increased costs. She offered to provide more details or address specific fund-related questions if necessary.

Councilmember Bowers raised questions regarding the five-year staffing study and sought clarification on its scope.

Miranda Vollmer, Senior Director of Administrative Services, clarified that the study would cover both the police department and non-police staff, considering current operations, the Capital Improvement Plan for the next five years, and the transition to a 130,000 sq. ft. building at 825 Tech Center, incorporating factors such as facilities and cleaning considerations.

Councilmember Bowers expressed support for the mental health liaison position but sought clarification on the addition of \$122,000 for that role. She noted that her understanding was that the position involved converting a budgeted staff position to a contract services position and requested an explanation for the additional funding.

Director Bury explained that there was an error in the projection, specifically in

the Public Service budget, where a decrease in salaries and benefits was noted. She clarified that the mental health liaison position had been mistakenly omitted from the projection, and the \$122,000 was added back in as contract services rather than an employed position.

President Renner expressed gratitude to colleagues on Council and the administration for their patience and diligence throughout the extensive budget season. Renner acknowledged the efforts made to answer questions and meet the specified timeline. He thanked everyone for their patience.

Councilmember Bowers took the opportunity to address the concerns raised about the Recreation Coordinator II position. Acknowledging the difficulty of the budget process, Bowers expressed gratitude to Mr. Schnetzer and Mr. Renner for highlighting the challenging and intensive nature of the discussions. Bowers then provided additional context, explaining that the Parks and Recreation Department had requested five additional positions as part of the overall budget. Reflecting on the week's deliberations, Bowers openly shared the internal debate over the decision to specifically reduce staffing. Despite the uncertainty, Bowers emphasized the importance of the principle "slow to hire," prioritizing sustainable growth moderated within the community's capacity to weather potential challenges. She articulated a desire for the community to thrive and deliver high-quality services, work, and recreational opportunities. Bowers underscored the limitations imposed by existing revenue, referencing projections that indicated a potential imbalance between spending and revenue by 2028. This projection prompted Bowers to make decisions ensuring that the community's desires aligned with the available resources. Expressing concern about the need for funding major capital projects already in progress, Bowers appreciated the collective effort but voiced apprehension about the adequacy of the cuts and deferments made so far. She concluded by thanking everyone for their hard work on the budget.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Angelou, that the Ordinance be Adopted as Amended with the substitute EXHIBIT A. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

[ORD-0084-2023](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED AGREEMENT WITH THE GAHANNA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION (CIC) AND THE CITY TO FURTHER DEFINE USE OF FUNDING

Amendment by Substitution for Exhibit A Discussion:

Moved by Bowers
Seconded by Weaver

No further discussion.

Amendment PASSED 7-0

Main Motion as Amended Discussion:

No further discussion.

A motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Padova, that the Ordinance be Adopted as Amended with the substitute EXHIBIT A. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

J. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & EMERGENCY ADOPTION:[ORD-0088-2023](#)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES FOR PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024, WAIVING SECOND READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilmember Schnetzer sought clarification from the administration regarding the Clemans Nelson study, which formed the basis for the ongoing discussion. Referencing past committee meetings and a clause in the study, Schnetzer specifically inquired about the establishment of pay for the Deputy Chief and Chief positions, set at 8% and 12%, respectively, above the Lieutenant's pay band. He wanted to confirm whether the current ordinance maintained this established approach or if the introduction of the C27 pay band altered this long-standing arrangement.

Senior Director Vollmer addressed the question, stating that the ordinance did not alter the established approach. Vollmer explained that the ordinance provided flexibility for the city to maintain a higher earning potential for both Chief and Deputy Chief positions, deviating from the FOP negotiated contract. Vollmer referred to a memo in the Clemans Nelson report, prepared by Ms. Miller, which detailed the pay for surrounding Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs. Vollmer highlighted that the ordinance allowed the city to uncouple pay considerations from the FOP negotiated contract, providing greater flexibility to align compensation with market standards for these key positions.

Councilmember Schnetzer believed that with the high degree of training associated with the Chief's position and the Deputy Chief's position, the life and death nature of what they deal with on a regular basis, and the 24 hours, 365 days a year nature of what they do, those positions should likely be the highest-paid positions in the City of Gahanna. He stressed this was his view. He wanted to make sure that the salary ordinance that was before Council was consistent with that view.

Senior Director Vollmer responded that it was consistent. The Chief of Police is the highest-paid person on base salary in the city.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Padova, that the Ordinance be Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted as an Emergency. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Bowers

[ORD-0089-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE BENEFITS FOR PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024, WAIVING SECOND READING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Vice President Weaver invited Senior Director Vollmer to address the Council. He noted that they had a conversation as a follow-up to last week's meeting. He requested Vollmer to walk Council through the changes in the ordinance.

Senior Director Vollmer stated that after discussion with the council last week, the administration took a look back at the sick leave conversion section of the benefits ordinance and reduced that from 480 hours to 200 hours. So, that would allow those covered by the benefits ordinance to have 200 hours in their combined sick leave bank - their Gahanna bank and a prior sick leave bank. At the end of the year, they can convert up to 80 hours, with either half of that paid out or turned into personal leave that must be used within the next calendar year. It is not eligible for payout.

Vice President Weaver recalled he had expressed concerns about the threshold to be eligible to convert any sick leave, seeming high to accomplish the city's task of encouraging staff to do that conversion. Lowering it, he observed, ultimately saved the city money in the long run rather than having to pay out when staff is earning at a higher rate.

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Weaver, that the Ordinance be Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted as an Emergency. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

[ORD-0090-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORD-0091-2021 AND ORD-0060-2022 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AND ADOPT THE PAY ADMINISTRATION POLICY, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024; WAIVING SECOND READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Schnetzer, that the Ordinance be Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted as an Emergency. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

K. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk

[2023-0225](#) Ohio Division of Liquor Control Notice to Legislative Authority Permit STCK 70636190010 - PREMIER BROADCASTING COMPANY INC DBA MASSEYS PIZZA; 261 LINCOLN CIRCLE, GAHANNA, OH; APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF CORPORATE STOCK OWNERSHIP

Clerk VanMeter noted the application on the agenda was for a change in corporate stock ownership. He briefed council that this was forwarded to the Division of Police and there were no objections.

No further objections by Council. The Clerk will certify the application to the Division of Liquor Control.

2. Council

Councilmember Bowers wanted to bring to the attention of the council that, after having reviewed the Charter and Council rules and having spoken with Clerk VanMeter and Council President, she proposed a slight reduction to committee meetings for next year. Bowers added that she would like to talk with Senior Director Vollmer and the rest of the administration about this. Bowers did not want to cause any problems but was asking council members to consider possible bye-weeks during holiday weeks and to also consider their July calendars. She noted that Council is required by Charter to meet two times a month for regular Council meetings but not prescribed which dates. She wanted to give the opportunity to consider holding July meetings on an alternative schedule with plenty of advanced notice to the public. She asked if members had any thoughts to please feel free to forward them to Clerk VanMeter.

L. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

President Renner noted a meeting tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. at the golf course. This is the last meeting of the year where all of the Council and CIC meet at the golf course.

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

[2023-0219](#)

Councilmember Angelou's MORPC Report to City Council 12.15.2023

Councilmember Angelou expressed happiness about having Mr. William Murdock present at the meeting, noting the significance of his presence as a special friend. She discussed various committee matters, including nominations and highlighted the major development of Amtrak passenger rail, emphasizing its positive impact on the community and the region. Angelou mentioned the efforts and persistence over the years in advocating for the rail project. She shared information about accepting Brown Township as a member of MORPC and highlighted the increasing number of member communities. Angelou noted the acceptance of the fiscal budget and briefly mentioned upcoming initiatives and projects, including the Drive Investment Portal and other initiatives that will be pursued in the upcoming year. Angelou thanked MORPC for 12 years of collaboration and mentioned that additional information had been shared through Clerk VanMeter on the agenda attachment.

President Renner expressed surprise and curiosity about Brown Township finally becoming a member of MORPC, seeking further information on the background of this decision.

Councilmember Angelou expressed uncertainty about the reasons behind Brown Township's decision to join MORPC, citing it as a small development. She acknowledged the positive aspects and benefits that MORPC could offer to the township.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reported on Visit Gahanna's efforts to promote holiday events in the city, highlighting the Santa Hotline, where children and adults could call and receive different messages from Santa until December 25th. She shared the hotline number as 614-478-1061. Padova noted the release of the winter edition of the herbal cocktail trail, featuring nine establishments, and announced a prize for those who enjoy at least six cocktails and turn in their passports to Visit Gahanna. She celebrated Marlow's Cheesesteaks making it to 614's top 25 restaurants in Columbus, ranking at number 15. Padova encouraged residents to mark their calendars for the evening of January 27th for a soiree at the sanctuary, organized by the committee for Gahanna's 175th anniversary, which will kick off a year of celebratory activities.

4. School Board (SB) - Bowers

Councilmember Bowers briefly welcomed School Board President Beryl Piccolantonio to the meeting. Bowers shared the announcement of new start and end times for schools in the next academic year (2024-2025). She mentioned that the changes included shifting middle school and high school start times to later in the morning and extending the elementary school day by about 20 minutes. Bowers noted that the decision was based on significant research, community input, and transportation considerations. She expressed gratitude for the positive feedback received from the community and mentioned personal satisfaction that her child would have additional in-classroom experience next year.

M. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin expressed gratitude to Councilmember Angelou for her 34 years of service, highlighting her smile, vision, understanding of Gahanna's role in the Columbus region, and her ability to cut through conversations to address the true issues. She mentioned missing her presence on the dais but looked forward to continued friendship. Jadwin also acknowledged Attorney Mularski's professionalism, dedication, thoroughness, collaboration, courage in decision-making, and commitment to the best interests of Gahanna residents. She mentioned missing shared experiences,

camaraderie, and appreciated his work as a fellow lawyer. Jadwin also thanked Council for passing the 2024 budget, recognizing the teamwork and accomplishments for the city. She acknowledged the efforts of Director of Finance Joann Bury, Budget Analyst April Kincaid, senior directors, directors, managers, and superintendents for their exhaustive work in the budget process. Jadwin emphasized the dedication to delivering high-quality services cost-effectively and thanked the team for their commitment. She expressed anticipation for addressing critical needs in 2024 related to public safety, public service, parks, and recreation. Jadwin wished everyone a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year, expressing gratitude for their time during the budget discussions.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Mularski thanked the Council and Mayor for the resolution. He conveyed his sincerest appreciation.

N. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember Angelou expressed gratitude for Gahanna's vision and mission, emphasizing the importance of safety, services, and community collaboration. She addressed challenges to Gahanna's vision and mission, highlighting the role of local government in providing essential services. Angelou encouraged the incoming member to embrace the community's family spirit and wished everyone the best.

Councilmember McGregor expressed appreciation for Attorney Mularski's service and Councilmember Angelou's decades of dedication. She shared a holiday message from Luke Chapter 2:1 and extended wishes for happy holidays and a new year.

Councilmember Padova thanked colleagues for supporting the tobacco licensing ordinance, acknowledging the help from Clerk VanMeter, Mr. Roth, and Mr. Holfinger. She expressed gratitude for Councilmember Angelou's service, mentioning her warm welcome, and wished her well in retirement. She extended holiday wishes and looked forward to celebrating Gahanna's 175th Anniversary.

Councilmember Bowers expressed gratitude to Attorney Mularski for his service, congratulated Councilmember Angelou on over 30 years of public service, and thanked her for collaboration on various resolutions. Bowers presented a Hershey's bar to Angelou, an acknowledgment that attendance was important. Bowers submitted a constituent report affixed to the minutes. She wished everyone Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a happy New Year.

Councilmember Schnetzer expressed admiration for Councilmember Angelou and Attorney Mularski's service, acknowledging their lasting impact on the community. He also acknowledged the importance of PD's role and wished everyone a joyous holiday season.

Vice President Weaver appreciated the healthy budget discussions and recognized the interplay with the Capital Improvement Plan. He thanked Attorney Mularski for his service, expressed gratitude for Councilmember Angelou's warm welcome when he came onto Council, and extended best wishes for her retirement. Lastly, Weaver thanked those who spoke during public comment and wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

President Renner expressed gratitude to Councilmember Angelou and Attorney Mularski for their service, highlighting their contributions. He appreciated the police department's work and recognized the Honor Guard's presentation of colors during tonight's meeting. Renner addressed budget discussions, expressing the importance of diligence and thanking colleagues for their professionalism. He reflected on the changing times and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as president. Renner wished everyone happy holidays and a peaceful Christmas season.

[2023-0226](#)

Councilmember Merisa K. Bowers' Constituent Report - November 2023

O. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Renner adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2024.

Merisa K. Bowers