



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

City Council

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

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, April 6, 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, April 6, 2026, in Council Chambers. President of Council Trenton I. Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Vice President of Council Jamille Jones delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on Friday, April 3, 2026.

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

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

C. HEARING OF VISITORS:

Sharon Montgomery of 572 Bonnington Way, Gahanna, Ohio, addressed Council and stated that April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. She explained that she had not requested a resolution or proclamation this year in order to gauge the level of awareness among four central Ohio cities that have supported her advocacy efforts. She clarified that her decision did not intend to surprise the Council and noted that Mayor Jadwin had already acknowledged the month in a prior conversation with her. Ms. Montgomery stated that driving under the influence of electronic devices remains a significant problem and that drivers continue to make dangerous decisions resulting in serious harm. She reported that, in the first 90 days of the year, Ohio recorded 231 fatalities due to traffic violence, representing a 12 percent increase compared to the same period last year. She noted that reports indicate

crashes attributed to phone use have declined, but questioned the accuracy of those reports due to enforcement challenges and inconsistencies in crash reporting. She explained that reports do not clearly distinguish electronic distractions and do not account for widely acknowledged underreporting. Ms. Montgomery stated that approximately 8,000 crashes involved distracted driving, resulting in 29 deaths within 30 days of the incidents and 2,899 injuries, with additional fatalities possibly occurring later due to injuries. She questioned how these numbers persist and attributed a significant cause to the permissiveness of the distracted driving law, which she said fails to convey that such behavior is unacceptable. She cited the exception allowing phone use at red lights and noted that more than one-third of distraction-related crashes occur at intersections. She explained that drivers using phones at red lights remain mentally distracted when the light changes, increasing risk in complex intersection environments. Ms. Montgomery further stated that lenient penalties contribute to the problem, noting that offenders who cause serious harm are not required under Traffic Rule 13 to appear in court or hear victim impact statements and may instead pay a \$150 fine. She thanked Council for addressing penalty-related concerns and thanked Chief Spence for applying to serve on the Ohio Traffic Safety Council. She concluded by stating that significant work remains to improve distracted driving laws and overall road safety.

President Weaver thanked Ms. Montgomery and reminded attendees that a Committee of the Whole meeting would immediately follow the Regular Meeting. He also stated that Council would not meet for the next two weeks and would reconvene on April 27, 2026, for both a Regular Council meeting and a Committee of the Whole meeting immediately afterward.

D. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2026-0069](#) Council Regular Minutes 2026-03-16

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2026-0070](#) Committee of the Whole Minutes 2026-03-23

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption:

[ORD-0009-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) Grant Fund for Body-Worn Camera Services

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

End of Consent Agenda

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

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

E. RESOLUTIONS:

[RES-0011-2026](#) A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA AND HONORING THE SERVICE OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING EAGLE SCOUT AIDEN COMBS

Councilmember Bowers offered a brief introduction as the item came before Council for the first time. She noted that Council had not previously recognized Volunteer Appreciation Month and explained that the timing coincided with a celebration honoring a recently promoted Eagle Scout, which she believed made the recognition appropriate. She stated that volunteering plays a critical role in the community and emphasized that many community functions depend on individuals who choose to support one another. Councilmember Bowers referenced a recent call for volunteers for the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival and stated that community success relies heavily on volunteer participation. She remarked that the concept of being a village requires individuals to act as villagers and acknowledged that such efforts often involve physical and emotional work that may not always be convenient or glamorous. She recognized individuals who coach, mentor, serve, organize, or otherwise contribute when needed. Councilmember Bowers expressed her support for bringing the recognition forward in conjunction with honoring Aiden Combs for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. She reported that he earned more than 63 merit badges, hiked more than 350 miles, and contributed over 317 hours of service to the community.

She stated that his Eagle Scout project, which involved building playground equipment for a local preschool, will benefit families for years. She concluded by recognizing all volunteers, including Aiden Combs, for their contributions to the community, inviting her colleagues to join her in presenting the resolution to Combs on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at Hannah Park.

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

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

[RES-0012-2026](#)

A JOINT PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY 2026 IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, AND AFFIRMING THE SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY ACTION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Councilmember Renner stated that he prepared a brief presentation and apologized to his colleagues for placing the item on the Regular Agenda, explaining that he misunderstood the modified April 2026 schedule. He stated that he would have preferred to discuss the matter during a Committee of the Whole meeting but noted that time did not allow for that option. He thanked Mayor Jadwin for her continued interest in partnering on the resolution and her support for environmental stewardship. Councilmember Renner introduced the Earth Day resolution and explained its significance. He referenced a recently released NASA image of Earth from the Artemis II mission and described the planet as appearing small, bright, and shared. He stated that the image served as a reminder that, from a distance, property lines, jurisdictions, and politics are not visible, only a shared home. He explained that Earth Day highlights the fundamental dependence of human life on clean water, healthy land, clean air, and functioning natural systems. He emphasized that environmental stewardship directly connects to public health, quality of life, community resilience, and the future. Councilmember Renner stated that the Earth Day theme, "Our Power, Our Planet," reflects the idea that environmental progress depends on the daily actions of communities, educators, workers, and families rather than any single administration or election. He noted that Earth Day promotes practical actions such as community cleanups, tree planting, educational efforts, town halls, and sustained local engagement. He emphasized that while Earth Day has a global scope, it carries strong local significance and represents a matter of public leadership. Councilmember Renner stated that environmental challenges require collaboration, thoughtful

leadership, and a willingness to work across the community. He cited a quote from Senator George Voinovich emphasizing that government should empower people and mobilize their energy and resources to solve problems. He explained the relationship between human development and the natural world, stating that healthy natural systems sustain human life while development shapes the environment through land use, stormwater runoff, and design decisions. He emphasized that the challenge involves supporting both human well-being and ecological health rather than choosing between them. Councilmember Renner stated that these principles apply locally in Gahanna, where streams, trees, parks, and public spaces contribute to resilience, health, beauty, and a sense of belonging. He explained that stewardship includes caring for streams and watersheds, maintaining tree canopy, valuing parks and green spaces, and focusing on human-centered design to ensure communities remain safe, connected, and livable. He noted that Earth Day materials highlight local actions such as cleanups and tree planting, which align with the resolution's focus.

Councilmember Renner explained that the resolution recognizes Earth Day, affirms environmental stewardship as a shared responsibility, and highlights local priorities, including tree canopy stewardship and stream, watershed, and neighborhood stewardship. He stated that although the resolution is ceremonial, it directs attention to visible local priorities where community participation can create meaningful impact. He encouraged residents to take practical actions such as planting and caring for trees, reducing litter, protecting storm drains, participating in cleanup efforts, conserving resources, and supporting parks and green spaces. He also encouraged schools, businesses, civic organizations, faith communities, and institutions to lead by example through stewardship and resource conservation. Councilmember Renner concluded that stewardship represents a shared responsibility rather than solely a government function and stated that caring for the planet begins with caring for local communities. He emphasized that achieving a healthier and more resilient Gahanna requires collective effort and thanked the Council.

President Weaver thanked Councilmember Renner for the presentation and his work on the resolution.

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

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

F. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING, WAIVER, & ADOPTION:

[ORD-0010-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH CAP-STONE & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE 2026 STREET REBUILD AND WATERLINE PROGRAM (ST-1120 / TR-CM-02); AND WAIVING SECOND READING

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

Senior Director Kevin Schultz stated that he requested a waiver for the item.

President Weaver acknowledged the request and apologized for the confusion. He stated that action could be taken that evening and explained that he had momentarily misunderstood the agenda. He thanked staff for reading the two items and indicated that Council would turn to the administration for comments.

Director Schultz apologized and explained that, while preparing the April schedule, he mistakenly believed an additional meeting would occur. He requested a waiver for the first item involving Capstone and reminded Council that the item involved a construction contract and therefore did not require a 30-day referendum period. He further requested a waiver and emergency designation for the second item, Ordinance 0011-2026, noting that the agenda already included an emergency request. He explained that the administration sought authority to issue a notice to proceed and secure a place on the contractor's schedule without waiting until the April 27, 2026, meeting and the days following.

President Weaver thanked Director Schultz and again apologized. He stated that Council would first need a motion to approve, followed by a motion to amend and a request for waiver, and asked the Clerk to confirm the procedure. Clerk VanMeter confirmed that Council could proceed in that manner and advised that Council could also vote to waive the second reading for each item and then move to adopt each ordinance. President Weaver agreed with that approach and asked for a motion to waive the second reading for Ordinance 0010-2026 and Ordinance 0011-2026.

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Bowers, that the Ordinance be Introduced, Second Reading Waived. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

City Attorney Tamilarasan clarified that Ordinance 0011-2026 had already been amended in draft form between the committee stage and first reading to include emergency language.

President Weaver acknowledged the clarification and stated that Council completed the waiver process for both items and now needed to vote on the adoption of each ordinance. President Weaver expressed appreciation and stated that Council would vote on the items separately. He then requested a motion to approve Ordinance 0010-2026.

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

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

[ORD-0011-2026](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH VISU-SEWER OF OHIO, LLC FOR THE 2026 SANITARY AND STORM SEWER CLEANING PROJECT; WAIVING SECOND READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Bowers, that the Ordinance be Introduced, Second Reading Waived. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Padova, that the Ordinance be Adopted as an Emergency. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

G. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk - None.

2. Council - None.

H. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Padova reported on the March 18, 2026, meeting. She stated that the meeting included an update from the Montrose Group regarding strategic planning discussions, including benchmarking analysis and plans to meet with board members. She explained that the next steps include reviewing governance regulations and evaluating the future direction of the CIC. She noted that the group compared the CIC to those in Bexley, Hilliard, and Westerville, highlighting differences in funding, operations, and initiatives such as loan programs and real estate strategies. Councilmember Padova stated that discussions emphasized the need to develop sustainable funding and that the Montrose Group will conduct interviews and present recommendations at the next meeting. She reported that the board approved the February meeting minutes with one small addition and tabled finance updates due to the absence of the treasurer. She stated that Director Gottke introduced a property acquisition policy focused on consistent processes, documentation, and due diligence, which the board approved following discussion. She reported that the board entered Executive Session at 8:58 a.m., and adjourned out of Executive Session at 9:26 a.m., and then adjourned the meeting. She stated that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

Councilmember Renner stated that he did not attend the March meeting.

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

[2026-0071](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 2026-04-06

President Weaver encouraged Councilmembers to review the attached report, noting that it contained useful links and information, and specifically highlighted the March legislative update. President Weaver reported that MORPC did not hold a commission meeting that month and instead scheduled four regional meetings. He stated that the regional meeting he planned to attend was canceled and that he awaited further information regarding whether it would be rescheduled. President Weaver thanked those who attended the State of the Region event and noted that several members of the administration were present. He stated that Mayor Jadwin presented an award to Commissioner Jeff Benton of Delaware County for excellence in public service. He described the event as well attended by public servants and encouraged future participation. President Weaver referenced Councilmember

Renner's earlier comments regarding the Earth Day resolution and noted that the MORPC report included a link to the Central Ohio Climate Action Plan. He described the plan as a shared roadmap toward a healthier, more resilient, and more equitable future for the region and stated that it outlines goals and actions for local governments, businesses, organizations, and residents to reduce energy waste, improve air quality, and strengthen the region. He concluded his report.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova announced information regarding the upcoming Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival. She stated that Visit Gahanna offered residents an opportunity to receive a free ticket to the festival by attending the Spring Showcase, which replaces the traditional annual meeting with a more interactive, community-focused format. She explained that the open house will take place on April 14, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Noble Cut Distillery and will allow residents to learn about programs, events, and partnerships led by Visit Gahanna. She stated that guests who visit each station will receive a single-day pass to the festival and noted that reservations are limited and available through the Visit Gahanna website under the events tab. Councilmember Padova reported that Visit Gahanna and the Ohio Herb Center will host the annual Herb Day on May 3, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She described the event as an opportunity to purchase plants and begin seasonal gardening and noted that it will include herb-related activities and vendors. She stated that individuals interested in volunteering for Herb Day may register through the Ohio Herb Center website under the Herb Day tab. Additionally, Councilmember Padova stated that Urban Restaurant Week will begin on May 3, 2026, in conjunction with Herb Day. She explained that Visit Gahanna is partnering with local businesses to offer herb-infused food and drink specials for one week and noted that details regarding participating businesses will be announced on the Visit Gahanna website and social media. Councilmember Padova added that individuals who do not attend the Spring Showcase may still obtain a ticket to the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival by volunteering. She stated that the volunteer registration link is available on the festival website and noted that volunteers will receive a t-shirt, snacks, and an invitation to a volunteer picnic in July. She further stated that Sunday volunteers will receive a meal during their shift. She encouraged residents to volunteer, attend the festival, and

engage with the community.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Vice President Jones reminded the Council of upcoming Gahanna Jefferson Public School Board meetings for the month. She stated that the Board Workshop Meeting will take place on April 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at High Point Elementary. She reported that the Finance and Facilities Meeting will occur on April 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Clark Hall and that the Regular Board Meeting will take place on April 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Clark Hall.

I. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin provided several updates and noted the upcoming events schedule. She announced that the 2026 Community Grant Program portal opened and stated that the application deadline is Monday, April 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. She explained that the program allows Gahanna-based nonprofit organizations to apply for funding to support community members, with a focus on basic needs. She directed interested parties to the city's website for additional information. Mayor Jadwin announced that the Gahanna Bike Rodeo will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Academy Park. She stated that the event honors longtime resident Denny Oswald and includes bike repair, helmet fittings, and safety courses. She noted that Bicycle One will serve as a partner for the event. Mayor Jadwin stated that, in recognition of Earth Day, Make Gahanna Yours will host a spring community litter cleanup on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She explained that participants may meet at Friendship Park or register in advance online and noted that the organization conducts these events quarterly. Mayor Jadwin reported that the Walk in Our Boots 5K, organized by the American Legion to benefit Gahanna veterans and homeless veterans in Central Ohio, will take place on May 2, 2026. She stated that event information is available on the city's website. Mayor Jadwin announced that the city's shred and e-recycle event will occur on Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at City Hall, 200 South Hamilton Road. She explained that the event date changed from its usual April timeframe and noted that the city's website includes a list of accepted and prohibited items. Mayor Jadwin also stated that the

State of the City video was released the previous week. She explained that the city chose a video format in anticipation of the upcoming Civic Center opening rather than hosting multiple large events. She stated that the theme, "Cultivating Community," aligns with the city's strategic plan and that the video is available on the city's website and YouTube channel. She invited residents to view the presentation.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan reminded the Council that the Charter Review Commission process was underway and stated that the next meeting would occur on April 9, 2026. She explained that this meeting would serve as the final opportunity for boards and commissions to return and provide feedback. She stated that the commission would begin deliberations following that meeting and noted that the public may attend and speak during the public comment period at any meeting. City Attorney Tamilarasan also reported that she is currently reviewing the traffic and criminal code. She stated that, following a citizen inquiry at the Charter Review Commission, she connected with the individual and agreed to review the city's golf cart regulations to determine whether their use should be permitted within city limits. She added that she will include this topic as a separate discussion item on a future agenda, apart from the broader code review.

J. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember Renner thanked Sharon Montgomery for attending and raising awareness about distracted driving. He stated that the community is in a transition period and noted that various technical solutions exist to modify driver behavior, including mobile applications offered by insurance companies that provide incentives for not using phones while driving. He explained that such applications detect motion and that in-vehicle monitoring systems also discourage phone use. He stated that his own vehicle issues warnings when he attempts to use his phone. He expressed hope that the law will eventually align with these technological advancements.

Councilmember McGregor encouraged residents to take advantage of the spring season and visit local parklands. She explained that spring wildflowers, known as ephemerals, bloom before tree leaves fully emerge and remain visible for only a short period. She shared that she recently

visited Academy Park and observed early blooms and noted that Gahanna Woods also offers opportunities to view these flowers. She described Virginia bluebells as a notable example and encouraged residents to explore local parks during Earth Month.

Councilmember Schnetzer stated that, although he had not planned remarks, he wanted to highlight an additional volunteer opportunity related to environmental stewardship. He described the annual Hoover Reservoir litter cleanup, typically held on a Saturday in September from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., organized by the City of Columbus Watershed Management. He explained that the reservoir serves as a major source of drinking water for Columbus and Gahanna and encouraged participation as a way to directly support water quality. He noted that additional information is available through the City of Columbus website or by email.

Councilmember Padova thanked the Parks Department for hosting the Junior Rangers program and described the program as engaging young children in learning about nature, ecosystems, and environmental stewardship. She noted the program included activities for children ages approximately four and a half to seven and commended staff for their efforts. She also thanked Councilmember Renner for the Earth Day resolution and stated that she scheduled a litter cleanup at a preschool in recognition of Earth Day.

Councilmember Bowers thanked Scout Troop 898 from Gahanna Community Congregational Church for attending the meeting and learning about local government. She also thanked residents who attended her recent constituent hour and stated that she plans to continue offering such opportunities. She thanked Sharon Montgomery for her continued advocacy on distracted driving and emphasized the importance of promoting safe driving awareness throughout the year. She noted her practice of recognizing August as Safe Driving and Share the Road Month in connection with Pelotonia. She also highlighted upcoming Columbus Metropolitan Club forums and encouraged participation, noting that professional development funds are available. She concluded by thanking Councilmember Renner for his presentation and contributions regarding environmental stewardship.

Vice President Jones thanked Sharon Montgomery for her advocacy and

stated that her remarks serve as a reminder of the actions individuals and the community can take. She thanked Councilmember Bowers and Councilmember Renner for their resolutions recognizing important community contributions. She announced that her upcoming constituent hours on April 18, 2026, will begin at 12:30 p.m. at Sergeant Coffee. She also announced that Juneteenth will return for its second year on June 19, 2026, at Creekside and stated that additional details will follow.

President Weaver echoed appreciation for Sharon Montgomery's advocacy and thanked Councilmember Renner and Councilmember Bowers for their work on the resolutions. He emphasized the importance of service, stewardship, and community engagement. He also announced that the Gahanna Lincoln High School theatre department will present "Grease" as its first mainstage production in the new high school theater the following weekend and encouraged residents to attend and support the performers and crew.

K. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Weaver adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

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

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

Trenton I. Weaver