



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

City Council

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

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

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, December 2, 2024

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

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

Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, December 2, 2024, in Council Chambers. President of Council Merisa K. Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:06 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 November 29, 2024.

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:

None.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

[ORD-0065-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025

President Bowers opened the second public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget at 7:08 p.m. She provided a detailed overview of the budget presentation schedule, noting the significant steps taken during its preparation. The process began on October 14, 2024 with a presentation of revenue and expense projections for each fund and a review of unreserved funds. On October 21, 2024, a capital and staffing budget overview was presented, detailing the planned capital projects for 2025 and proposed

staffing changes. The proposed budget was informed by the Capital Improvement Plan, the staffing study, and the priority of successfully transitioning into the new municipal complex, which will house police operations, City Hall, and a community Senior Center. Starting on October 28, 2024, weekly Finance Committee meetings were held to review the operating, capital, and staffing requests by departments. These meetings were led by Senior Directors Kevin Schultz and Miranda Vollmer. The final departmental presentations were completed on November 25, 2024. Additionally, an initial public hearing was held on November 18, 2024, to solicit community input and feedback.

President Bowers emphasized the importance of stakeholder feedback during the public hearings in shaping discussions held during Finance Committee meetings. She explained the procedure for public comments, allowing three minutes per speaker, with the possibility of an additional minute granted, within reason. She reiterated the requirement for speakers to complete a speaker slip, approach the podium when called, and state their name and address for the record. The public comment portion of the hearing began with three video comments from Kristen Steele, Robb Tarr, and Michael Corey, followed by speakers within Chambers.

Kristin Steele, Gahanna, OH, spoke via video on the 2025 Budget (Community Grant Program).

Ms. Steele addressed the Council regarding a proposal to eliminate the Gahanna City Grant Program. Ms. Steele described the proposal as indicative of a lack of compassion for the community. She emphasized that the core purpose of the grant program is to assist nonprofit organizations, such as Gahanna Residents In Need (GRIN), the Parks and Recreation Foundation, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall, in completing projects and programs that deliver direct community-wide benefits. Ms. Steele highlighted examples of the program's impact, including the construction of the splash pad at the Gahanna pool, which provides a cooling space outside regular pool hours. She also mentioned GRIN's free summer lunch program, which offers meals throughout the entire summer break, and the Buddy Program at the VFW, which supports local veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Ms. Steele expressed concern that eliminating the grant program could jeopardize these vital initiatives and others like them. She concluded by urging the Council to preserve the Gahanna City Grant Program, suggesting that if budget adjustments are necessary, alternative line items should be considered for reallocation. She emphasized the importance of continuing to provide essential support for these staples of the Gahanna community.

Robb Tarr, Gahanna, OH, spoke via video on the 2025 Budget (Community Grant Program).

Mr. Tarr introduced himself as the pastor of Gahanna Community Congregational Church located at 470 Havens Corners Road and expressed

his gratitude for the opportunity to provide public input via video. He commented on the City's ongoing deliberations regarding the continuation of the community grants program. Pastor Tarr acknowledged the potential challenges posed by reduced federal funding that has previously supported the program. While he appreciated the City's emphasis on stewardship in managing funds, he emphasized the importance of budgets as reflections of a community's values. He urged the Council to recognize the program's role in fostering inclusivity and creating a broad community impact, particularly for those who might otherwise be left out. He shared that the Community Congregational Church had benefited from the grants for its gardening program and a program supporting adults with developmental disabilities. The gardening program has provided thousands of pounds of fresh, local produce to combat food insecurity in Gahanna. Additionally, the program facilitates participation for individuals with varying abilities, including elderly individuals and those using mobility assistance devices. Tarr noted that the program fosters community relationships and enables participants to make meaningful contributions. For the program for adults with developmental disabilities, Pastor Tarr highlighted the grants' role in helping participants achieve personal, relational, and skill development goals. He underscored the long-term value of such investments, explaining that upstream support can reduce downstream costs by mitigating emergency situations and empowering individuals to succeed in life. He concluded by emphasizing the far-reaching benefits of the community grants program, for his organization and other groups working to make a difference in the Gahanna community. Tarr urged the Council to consider the program's proven impact and the potential benefits of continued investment in these initiatives.

Michael Corey, of Columbus, OH, spoke via video on the 2025 Budget (Community Grant Program).

Mr. Corey introduced himself as the Executive Director of the Human Services Chamber of Franklin County. He stated that his organization serves as a nonprofit Chamber of Commerce for over 200 health and human services nonprofits in the region. Corey expressed strong support for the City of Gahanna's nonprofit community grant program, emphasizing its importance and value, particularly during this critical time. He highlighted that investments in nonprofit organizations yield significant benefits for local communities, underscoring that dollars allocated to such programs are efficiently used to extend vital services. He provided an example of the City of Columbus, which has recently increased its nonprofit grant program from \$5 million to \$10 million, showcasing the growing recognition of the importance of nonprofit partnerships. Corey noted that similar programs are critical for addressing increasing needs within communities, especially as federal funding levels are expected to fluctuate in the coming year. Corey pointed out that nonprofits are facing unprecedented demand for services, which has been steadily rising. Many organizations are grappling with the challenge of serving more people with fewer resources. He stressed that municipalities like Gahanna play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges by providing direct support to nonprofit organizations. He concluded by highlighting the

importance of continued and robust support for nonprofits through grant programs, emphasizing the meaningful difference these investments make in addressing local needs and improving community outcomes. Corey thanked the Council for their consideration of the grant program and for their ongoing support of nonprofit organizations.

Arlene Sheak of Gahanna, OH, spoke on the 2025 Budget (Community Grant Program).

Ms. Sheak spoke in favor of the Gahanna Community Grant program. She expressed her strong support for allocating 1% of the City's budget to support local nonprofits, which she described as part of the community's safety net and a means of enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Ms. Sheak highlighted her appreciation for the work done by City staff in reviewing applications and determining which nonprofits receive funding, noting that such efforts sometimes leverage additional resources. She emphasized the importance of organizations like GRIN, which works to prevent hunger and malnutrition within the community. Sheak also shared her personal experiences of how the grant program supports initiatives that foster community connection, such as programs at the local YMCA, events at Friendship Park, and activities organized by the Historical Society. She acknowledged the growth and improvements within the community that have been supported by the grant program and the broader work of the Council and Administration. She concluded by urging the Council to make the allocation of funds for the grant program a permanent commitment. She described the program as an integral part of the community and stated that cutting it would be a significant step backward for Gahanna.

Dan Levac of Gahanna, OH, spoke on the 2025 Budget (Community Grant Program).

Mr. Levac addressed the Council, sharing his perspective as a resident with experience living in various countries, cities, and communities. He expressed that Gahanna is truly his home because it provides a safe environment for his family and a community where he can actively contribute to the well-being of his neighbors. Upon moving to Gahanna, Mr. Levac sought ways to make a meaningful difference in the community and discovered GRIN. He emphasized the importance of the Community Grant Program, stating that it allows funds to be directed where they are most needed to support residents. While acknowledging the necessity of infrastructure projects such as sidewalks and road repairs, Mr. Levac stressed that helping community members in need is equally vital. He concluded by encouraging the Council to continue supporting the grant program and thanked them for their time.

Ross Goldsmith of Gahanna, OH, spoke on the 2025 Budget (Community Grant Program).

Mr. Goldsmith addressed the Council to provide comments on the proposed fiscal year 2025 budget, specifically emphasizing the importance of the

Community Grant Program. Mr. Goldsmith began by noting that, in an ideal world, the grant program would not be necessary as neighbors would have their needs met by their work, government, and thriving community. However, he pointed out that this is not the current reality, and nonprofits have historically stepped in to fill the gap, connecting residents to critical resources, addressing urgent needs, and partnering with both public and private sectors to strengthen communities. He highlighted that Gahanna is fortunate to have a proven nonprofit community that is trusted and relied upon by many individuals for essential services. These nonprofits provide food assistance, support civic engagement, care for veterans, foster the growth of students, and contribute to the betterment of the city. From a budgetary perspective, Mr. Goldsmith stressed that the Community Grant Program constitutes just 0.9% of the City's nearly \$107 million operating and capital budget. Despite its small proportion, it has made a significant impact by partnering with 11 nonprofits in fiscal year 2024. He acknowledged that the program was initially funded through the federal American Rescue Plan but noted that, although those funds have been exhausted, the needs of the community remain unmet. He urged the Council to consider that even in Gahanna's thriving environment, many residents still face challenges, such as feeding their families, accessing healthcare, maintaining housing, and supporting their children's development. Mr. Goldsmith clarified that the proposed funding for the program would come from the General Fund and not from Issue 12 dollars, which are allocated for infrastructure investments. He argued that neglecting social infrastructure while focusing on physical infrastructure would leave community needs unaddressed. The Community Grant Program allows the City to partner with trusted organizations to tackle critical issues, such as childhood poverty and veteran care, while providing measurable outcomes. He emphasized the leverage that nonprofits have in securing additional funding to amplify the grant's impact. In closing, Mr. Goldsmith encouraged the Council and Administration to continue funding the Community Grant Program, conduct rigorous impact assessments, and demonstrate to the community how these funds improve the lives of Gahanna's residents.

Beth Bentley of Gahanna, OH, spoke on the 2025 Budget (Community Grant Program).

Ms. Bentley, Program Director of GRIN, located at 161 Granville Street, addressed the Council to express gratitude for the community grants program and to share its impact on GRIN's operations. Ms. Bentley explained that GRIN had been the recipient of two community grants. The first grant was used to purchase a walk-in freezer and cooler, which allowed GRIN to partner with other grant recipients to store and distribute fresh produce. This enabled GRIN to offer families healthy food options without limitations, promoting dignity and respect for recipients by providing them with items that are often among the most expensive in grocery shopping, such as fresh produce and meats. Ms. Bentley reported that GRIN has seen a significant increase in demand for its services. In 2023, they experienced a 16-18% monthly increase in families served. This was in addition to a 34% increase in

2022, a 36% increase in 2021, and a 34% increase in 2020. She emphasized that the grant-funded freezer and cooler were critical in helping GRIN meet these rising needs. The second grant GRIN received is being used to purchase temperature-controlled lockers, which will allow families to access food through online ordering. This new system will enable off-hours pickups, accommodating individuals with difficult schedules and fostering a sense of dignity for those who may feel ashamed to visit a food pantry. Ms. Bentley highlighted how the lockers would address specific challenges, such as helping high school students in awkward or unsafe home situations access food discreetly. She noted that the online ordering system tied to the lockers would support multiple languages, making it more accessible to GRIN's diverse clientele, including speakers of French, Spanish, and many other languages. Currently, GRIN relies on tools like Google Translate to communicate with non-English speakers, but the online system would streamline and enhance these efforts. Ms. Bentley concluded by expressing profound gratitude for the community grant program and urged the Council to continue supporting it, emphasizing its vital role in meeting the needs of Gahanna's residents.

Dr. Tommie Radd of Gahanna, OH, spoke on the 2025 Budget (Community Grant Program).

Dr. Radd addressed the Council to express her support for the Community Grant Program. She emphasized that a community's values are reflected in its budget and noted that factors such as the grant program significantly influence how prospective residents and businesses perceive Gahanna as a welcoming and inclusive community. Dr. Radd encouraged the Council to continue refining the program by ensuring a robust and transparent application process. She suggested involving more than one City Councilmember in the oversight of the grant selection process to provide diverse perspectives and enhance decision-making. She also stressed the importance of utilizing data-driven metrics to evaluate the results and impact of the grants. Dr. Radd highlighted several examples of the grant program's positive contributions to the community, including the YMCA, which serves individuals across their lifespans, GRIN, the Historical Society, and Parks and Recreation. She pointed out that these organizations provide invaluable programs and resources for residents of all ages and that their work reflects the purpose of the grant program. She concluded by urging the Council to preserve the program as a viable part of the City's budget. She reiterated the importance of managing the program transparently and documenting its impact, ensuring that it continues to nurture the community effectively. Ms. Radd expressed her appreciation for the Council's efforts and their willingness to support the grant program moving forward.

Brenda R. Hoffman of Gahanna, OH, spoke on the 2025 Budget (Community Grant Program).

Ms. Hoffman expressed her concerns regarding the proposed allocation of \$100,000 for the Community Grant Program. She stated her belief that this

funding diverged from the intended purposes of Issue 12, which she understood to focus on public safety, public works, and parks and recreation. She acknowledged her sense that the Council might proceed with the grant allocation regardless but urged caution and diligence in its administration. Ms. Hoffman suggested several measures for the Council to consider if they chose to proceed with the grant program. She recommended assessing the financial needs of the nonprofit organizations applying for grants, particularly focusing on their financial reserves as reflected in tax returns. She questioned whether organizations with substantial resources truly required additional City funds and advised the Council to ensure the funding was distributed thoughtfully across organizations that serve broader segments of the community. Ms. Hoffman advocated for robust oversight of the program, recommending that at least three Councilmembers work closely with City staff to oversee grant administration. She emphasized the importance of establishing metrics for performance and accountability, suggesting that grant recipients meet with City officials quarterly or biannually to demonstrate their progress and the impact of their efforts. She shared her own negative experience with a local charity that she believed had misused resources intended for those in need, highlighting the importance of rigorous monitoring to prevent misuse of funds. Ms. Hoffman also urged the Council to consider the long-term implications of the program, asking how often it would be funded and cautioning against creating dependency on City resources. She encouraged the promotion of self-sustainability among nonprofits, advocating for collaboration, grant writing forums, and public-private partnerships as alternative means of support. While not opposed to charitable giving, Ms. Hoffman emphasized the importance of ensuring tax dollars were managed responsibly and transparently to serve the entire community effectively. In conclusion, she called on the Council to be diligent and accountable in monitoring the program and to demonstrate to residents that every effort was made to uphold these standards.

With no further comments from the public, President Bowers closed the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Public Hearing at 7:34 p.m.

2. Zoning Amendments (See G. Ordinances for Second Reading/Adoption)

President Bowers noted that the new Zoning Code had been adopted on April 1, 2024, effective May 1, 2024. As indicated in the staff report, since the new code's adoption, the Planning Department staff traced and evaluated code provisions as implemented. Staff's mission is to continually look for improvements to standards and procedures to ensure the code meets the ever-evolving needs of the community. As such, staff proposed a series of changes that fell into two categories: previous/omitted code provisions or revisions to existing code provisions. The Planning Commission met on October 23, 2024, to consider proposed revisions and then approved them for recommendation to Council.

President Bowers opened the Zoning Amendments Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. There being no comments from the public, President Bowers closed the

Zoning Amendments Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2024-0238](#) Council Special Minutes 11.18.2024
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2024-0239](#) Council Regular Minutes 11.18.2024
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2024-0240](#) Finance Committee Minutes 11.18.2024
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2024-0241](#) Council Special Minutes 11.25.2024
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2024-0242](#) Committee of the Whole Minutes 11.25.2024
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2024-0243](#) Finance Committee Minutes 11.25.2024
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Motions:

[MT-0017-2024](#) A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING TO BID CONTRACT FOR THE 2025 STREET & SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (ST-1114)
The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[MT-0018-2024](#) A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING TO BID CONTRACT FOR THE 2025 SIDEWALK LOOKBACK PROGRAM (ST-1115)
The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

3. Resolutions:

[RES-0044-2024](#) A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE NECESSITY AND INTENT FOR ACQUIRING EASEMENTS FOR THE 2025 STREET AND SIDEWALK

REBUILD PROGRAM WITH WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS (ST-1116)

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0045-2024](#) A JOINT RESOLUTION AND PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING DECEMBER 2024 AS "NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH" IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

4. Ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption:

[ORD-0085-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Public Safety Fund for Salaries and Benefits

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

[ORD-0087-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE REPAIR AND RESURFACING OF MORSE ROAD

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

[ORD-0089-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES CHAPTER 151 - PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, SECTION 151.03 - ADMINISTRATION AND CHAPTER 153 - PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD, SECTION 153.01 - CREATION

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

5. Ordinances for Second Reading and Emergency Adoption:

[ORD-0086-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING UTILITY RATES AND AMENDING GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLE THREE PUBLIC UTILITIES - CHAPTER 919 WATER AND SEWER INTERNAL REVIEW BOARD, CHAPTER 921 SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS AND RENTAL RATES, CHAPTER 927 STORM SEWERS, CHAPTER 929 WATER CONNECTIONS AND RATES, CHAPTER 933 BACKFLOW PREVENTION, AND CHAPTER 941 GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

End of Consent Agenda

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

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

F. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0065-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025

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

[ORD-0090-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES FOR PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2025, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

[ORD-0091-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE BENEFITS FOR PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

[ORD-0092-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC CODE SECTIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

G. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

A motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Jones, that Ordinances 0070-2024 through 0084-2024 under Section G. Ordinances for Second Reading / Adoption be approved.

Discussion: Vice President Weaver noted the reading of Section 1121.03 (ORD-0082-2024) was inadvertently skipped, but was inclusive of the motion to adopt. Weaver added that he was pleased to see the revisions come forward. He acknowledged the overhaul to the Zoning Code brought forward by Director of Planning Michael Blackford and the Administration. He noted that with any large update to code or program, improvements are typically discovered throughout the implementation phase, as represented in the foregoing Zoning code amendments.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[ORD-0070-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1103.08 - MEDIUM LOT RESIDENTIAL (R-2), REVISING ACCESSORY STRUCTURE REAR YARD SET BACK

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0071-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1109.01 - PARKING, ACCESS, AND CIRCULATION, REVISING PARKING SPACE REQUIREMENTS, PARKING AREA LANDSCAPING, AND PARKING AREA RESTRICTIONS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0072-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1109.02- SETBACKS AND STRUCTURE PLACEMENT, REQUIRING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES TO BE LOCATED ON THE SAME LOT AS THE PRINCIPAL STRUCTURE AND SUBJECTING POOLS TO ACCESSORY STRUCTURE SETBACKS

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0073-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1109.05 - FENCES, CLARIFYING THE LOCATION AND HEIGHT OF FENCES

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0074-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1109.06 - OUTDOOR LIGHTING, CLARIFYING THE APPLICABILITY OF STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0075-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER 1111 - SIGN STANDARDS, REVISING THE COMPREHENSIVE SIGN TABLE, PERMANENT, TEMPORARY, AND GENERAL SIGN STANDARDS, AND MASTER SIGN PLAN REQUIREMENTS

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0076-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART

ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1113.01 - FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS, PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS FROM FILING A FLOODPLAIN USE PERMIT AND CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF NONCONFORMING USES OF STRUCTURES

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0077-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1117.02 - VARIANCES, ADDING CRITERIA SPECIFIC TO FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS AND VARIANCE APPROVAL CONDITIONS

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0078-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1101.09 - RULES FOR INTERPRETING REGULATIONS, CLARIFYING THROUGH LOT REAR YARDS

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0079-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTIONS 1105.01 - COMPREHENSIVE USE TABLE AND 1105.02 - SPECIFIC USE REGULATIONS, REVISING USES WITHIN THE INNOVATION AND MANUFACTURING DISTRICT AND ALLOWING GROUND MOUNTED RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS WITHIN ALL ZONE DISTRICTS

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0080-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1107.01 - CITY-WIDE DESIGN STANDARDS, CLARIFYING APPLICABILITY TO BUILDINGS AND ALLOWING METAL AS PRIMARY BUILDING MATERIAL

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0081-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1117.07 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN, EXEMPTING ACCESSORY BUILDINGS 200 SQUARE FEET OR LESS FROM THE MINOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0082-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTIONS 1121.01 - ENFORCEMENT

AND 1121.03 - MAINTENANCE STANDARDS, IMPROVING THE ENFORCEABILITY OF THE ZONING CODE AND CLARIFYING LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0083-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1121.06 - VIOLATIONS, REVISING PENALTIES

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

[ORD-0084-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART ELEVEN ZONING CHAPTER SECTION 1123.01 - TERMS A-Z, REVISING DEFINITIONS OF USES AND CLARIFYING ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance was adopted through a singular motion for approval of all items under Section G.

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk - None.

2. Council

[2024-0244](#) Columbia Gas of Ohio Correspondence Received 11.25.2024 - Infrastructure Replacement Program (IRP) Rider Notice

President Bowers informed the Council that a correspondence item from Columbia Gas had been attached to the agenda. She noted that the correspondence had been received by the Council Office and encouraged the Administration to review it if needed.

Councilmember Renner highlighted the importance of reviewing the correspondence, noting that Columbia Gas had proposed significant rate increases for two commercial classes to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). He explained that these increases would impact small and large businesses, potentially affecting the cost of their products and services, which consumers would eventually feel. Renner added that one of the proposed increases was particularly significant, with a 26% surcharge. He urged all members to review the correspondence to understand the potential implications for the community.

I. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Renner provided a report, noting that the CIC met on November 15, 2024, at 8:00 a.m., with the majority of the time spent in an Executive Session. Renner shared that Mayor Jadwin provided updates on the City's ongoing activities. Additionally, he noted that Mr. Blackford announced that Avenue Partners would be reintroducing their apartment complex project at the corner of Johnstown and James Roads. The project, now featuring a new design with a village A-frame aesthetic instead of the previously introduced industrial look, remains a sizable development with 182 units. Councilmember Renner also reminded attendees that the next CIC meeting was scheduled for December 17, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. in the Committee Room.

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

[2024-0245](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 12.2.2024

Vice President Weaver shared the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission report highlights, including the following: 1) Registration for 2025 Data Day, scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2025, was open; 2) Clerk VanMeter sent an email about the State of the Region event, which would take place on March 21, 2025. A Council Office table will be arranged for attendees, and members were encouraged to inform Clerk VanMeter if they planned to attend; 3) The MORPC report also listed upcoming "Money Monday" events.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova provided an update on the Convention and Visitors Bureau, announcing the following: 1) The Santa Race would take place at Creekside on Saturday, December 7, 2024, starting at 8:00 AM. Registration was still open, and volunteers were needed for tasks such as registration and manning water stations. Sign-up forms were available at VisitGahanna.com; 2) Visit Gahanna partnered with Futurecom Technologies to offer a Santa Hotline. The hotline, available at 614-478-1061, would feature daily messages from Santa through December 25, 2024.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Councilmember Jones reported there would be a workshop meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2024. These workshops provide smaller, more intimate settings for deeper discussions on specific topics.

J. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin acknowledged the upcoming Finance Committee meeting and kept comments brief out of respect for attendees and staff. The mayor

expressed gratitude for the successful Holiday Lights celebration, extending thanks to Visit Gahanna staff, volunteers, sponsors, participating businesses and organizations, Parks and Recreation staff, the Division of Police, the Department of Public Service, and Mifflin Township Fire for their collaboration. The mayor described the event as a beautiful day that fostered community spirit and created cherished memories. Residents were encouraged to visit the community calendar on Gahanna's website for upcoming events.

2. City Attorney

None.

K. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember McGregor announced the Historical Society's Victorian Christmas Holiday Program on Saturday, December 7, 2024, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. The event will include crafts, carolers, Santa in traditional attire, gingerbread cookies, and photo opportunities with a donated sleigh. A quieter session for children with sensory sensitivities will take place from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Councilmember Padova thanked speakers who commented on the budget and voiced strong support for the Community Grants Program. Drawing on her experience serving at GRIN, she highlighted the program's significant community impact. She invited attendees to the third annual Ugly Sweater Party at Edison Brewing Company on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The event will feature prizes and a 50/50 raffle supporting GRIN.

Councilmember Schnetzer thanked residents who participated in the public hearings and video submissions on the budget. He acknowledged the importance of hearing community input despite the dry nature of municipal budgeting.

Councilmember Weaver echoed thanks to community members for their engagement in the public hearings, reserving his comments on the budget for the Finance Committee.

President Bowers presented her constituent report for October and November. She expressed gratitude to Visit Gahanna, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Police Department for their efforts in hosting the Holiday Lights event, which included unique features such as a flamethrowing Santa. She announced her next constituent hour on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Gahanna Library, inviting residents to discuss priorities for 2025 and beyond. Reflecting on the public hearing comments regarding the 2025 budget, President Bowers expressed appreciation for constructive feedback on data-driven decision-making, transparency, and stewardship of tax dollars. She recounted her initial surprise upon joining City Council in 2020 at the lack of funding mechanisms

to support vulnerable community members during crises, such as the pandemic. She lauded the Administration’s work to pilot the Community Grants Program and emphasized the importance of continuing to build a sustainable program through General Fund dollars as a testament to the City’s values and financial growth since 2018.

[2024-0247](#)

Councilmember Merisa K. Bowers' Constituent Report - October-November 2024

L. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Bowers adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

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

Merisa K. Bowers