



To: Gahanna City Council
Raymond Mularski, City Attorney

From: Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor

Date: April 8, 2021

Re: Office of the Mayor Report to Council (April 12, 2021 Meeting)

ACTION ITEM(S)

ACTION ITEM – Shared Services Agreement with City of New Albany for Mayor’s Court Operations

The cities of Gahanna and New Albany each operate a Mayor’s Court under the authority granted by Section 1905 of the Ohio Revised Code. A Mayor’s Court manages the disposition of cases involving traffic violations, violations of city ordinances, and other misdemeanors. These courts offer the opportunity for maximum local oversight over both customer service and operations. It is more efficient for defendants, who may be residents, to resolve citations locally, where cases can be processed more quickly, the court is easily accessible, and customer service is emphasized.

In recent years, municipalities within the Columbus Region have been encouraged to pursue creative and collaborative opportunities for shared services. Consistent with that directive, sometime in 2019, discussions began between the Administrations of the City of New Albany and the City of Gahanna to explore possible consolidation of Mayor’s Court services. Discussions and negotiations continued throughout 2020, as processes were examined and evaluated for ways to streamline operations, improve cost efficiencies, and improve overall customer service for both municipalities.

After nearly two years of evaluation and negotiations, both Administrations now seek to enter into an agreement pursuant to which New Albany would engage Gahanna to perform various Mayor’s Court services and functions in exchange for a compensated charge per case. (A copy of the proposed Shared Services Agreement is attached.) The Agreement has an initial term of three (3) years, renewable for up to two additional three-year terms.

The Administration is respectfully requesting legislation authorizing the Mayor to enter into a shared services agreement with the City of New Albany. Because of state reporting requirements, the Agreement must be implemented at the beginning of a new quarter (in this case, July 1). In order to align with the City of New Albany’s legislative process, and in order to provide New Albany officials with sufficient time to officially initiate transfer of operations in time for a July 1 implementation date, we are requesting that this legislation be passed as an **Emergency**.

Legislation Needed: Ordinance
Emergency/Waiver: **Emergency**
Name & Address: City of New Albany
99 West Main Street, New Albany, OH 43054

Attachments: Shared Services Agreement