



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

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

**Regular Meeting moved to Tuesday, September 2, 2025 in observance of Labor Day.
City offices were closed on Monday, September 1, 2025.**

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

Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, in Council Chambers. President of Council Merisa K. Bowers 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 August 29, 2025.

Present 6 - Merisa K. Bowers, Jamille Jones, Nancy R. McGregor, Kaylee Padova, Michael Schnetzer, and Trenton I. Weaver

Absent 1 - Stephen A. Renner

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

**Swearing-in Ceremony - Division of Police
Constant Pearson, Communications Technician I**

Mayor Jadwin invited Constant "Connie" Pearson and Director of Public Safety Tim Becker to come forward. Director Becker stated that the evening was momentous for him, as Connie was the first communications technician hire during his two and a half years with the City of Gahanna to fully complete training. He noted that the job required rigorous preparation and expressed excitement that she had completed the program and was now serving independently. He then invited Chief of Police Jeff Spence to share remarks. Chief Spence explained that the department had been diligently working over the past year to bring more communications technicians into

the role. He recognized MaCayla Fullum, who was nearing the completion of her training. He described the training as a challenging six-to-seven-month process covering 911 calls, non-emergency calls, radio traffic, and the technology used in the communications center. He praised Connie for completing the program successfully while maintaining a positive attitude. Chief Spence also acknowledged the contributions of Angie Collins, center manager, and Louise Jones, training officer. He expressed optimism about completing training with MaCayla and continuing to build the team. Mayor Jadwin commended Connie, describing her as a “superstar” who had handled difficult calls with a consistent smile. She then administered the oath of office, officially swearing Connie in as a communications technician for the Gahanna Division of Police. Following the oath, attendees applauded.

President Bowers congratulated Connie and her family on behalf of City Council. She emphasized that dispatchers served as the calm voice in emergencies and the first line of help when residents needed it most. She expressed gratitude for Connie’s service to the community and welcomed her as part of the team.

D. HEARING OF VISITORS:

None.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2025-0169](#)

Council Regular Minutes 8.18.2025

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2025-0170](#)

Council Special Minutes 8.25.2025

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2025-0171](#)

Committee of the Whole Minutes 8.25.2025

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2025-0172](#)

Finance Committee Minutes 8.25.2025

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Resolutions:

[RES-0035-2025](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GAHANNA TO EXIT

THE JOINT SELF-INSURANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTRAL OHIO HEALTH CARE CONSORTIUM (COHCC)

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0036-2025](#) A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A HEALTH BENEFITS SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR CITY OF GAHANNA EMPLOYEES AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE RELATED AGREEMENTS FOR THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FOR HEALTH AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE AND STOP LOSS INSURANCE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNAL SERVICE FUND

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0037-2025](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS - Public Safety Contract Services and State Treasury Contract Services to Materials and Supplies Accounts

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0038-2025](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO ENTER INTO THE PURDUE DIRECT SETTLEMENT

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

3. Ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption:

[ORD-0035-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING, APPROVING, AND RATIFYING THE SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL FOR TAX YEAR 2023

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 Weaver, to Pass the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Renner

F. RESOLUTIONS:

[RES-0039-2025](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ELECTRIC SUPPLY AGREEMENT FOR CITY FACILITIES FOLLOWING TRADITION ENERGY'S PRICING ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION (OMNIA PARTNERS PROCUREMENT) AND

AUTHORIZING RELATED ACTIONS TO EFFECTUATE
AGREEMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - Renner

G. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0037-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 0027-2025 TO CORRECT THE ADDRESS FOR CENTERPOINT CHURCH FROM 670 MCCUTCHEON ROAD TO 620 MCCUTCHEON ROAD, SUBSTITUTING EXHIBIT B WITH A CORRECTED EXHIBIT B, AND DECLARING THIS ACTION TO BE A CORRECTION FOR THE RECORD

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

[ORD-0038-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - General Fund and OCJS Grant Fund

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

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk - None.
2. Council - None.

I. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Padova reported that the last CIC board meeting took place on August 19, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. Members approved the minutes from the July meeting and reviewed the July financials. The board discussed two open seats and the types of candidates being sought to fill those positions. Members also reviewed the Our Gahanna draft recommendations from an economic development perspective. Under real estate, the board discussed the Amfield property owned by the CIC and voted unanimously to demolish the property pending bank approval. The board entered executive session at 8:41 a.m. and adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next board meeting will be held on September 16, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

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

[2025-0173](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 9.2.2025

Vice President Weaver reported that the commission would meet on September 11, 2025. He encouraged Council to review the linked report in the agenda. He noted that Mayor Jadwin had been elected secretary of the executive committee. Weaver also announced that Dublin Mayor Chris Groomes had been elected board chair, Bexley Mayor Ben Kesler had been elected vice chair, and additional members of the executive committee included Fairfield County Commissioner Jeff Fix, Upper Arlington City Manager Steve Schoeny, and Columbus Public Service Director Kelly Scocco. He concluded by stating that he would provide additional updates at the next meeting.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reported that Visit Gahanna was seeking sponsorships for the Holiday Lights Celebration scheduled for Sunday, November 23, 2025. She encouraged sponsors to contact Visit Gahanna. She stated that the fall/winter Herbal Cocktail Trail had launched the previous day with eight participating establishments. Participants who complete at least half of the trail and submit their passports would receive two bottles of Simple Times Mixers to support and promote a local Gahanna business. She added that the CVB planned to launch a gift program through Gahanna hotels. Several hundred lavender sachets with attached notes welcoming guests to Gahanna as the Herb Capital of Ohio would be distributed at check-in to reinforce the city's unique brand and create a memorable stay for visitors.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Councilmember Jones announced that the September school board workshop meeting would be held on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library. Directors from across the district would present at that session. She also noted that the first home football game of the season would take place on Friday, September 5, 2025, marking the start of Friday Night Lights.

J. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin thanked the hundreds of residents who attended the Our

Gahanna Sweet Celebration event the previous Tuesday, August 26, 2025, where the City unveiled a draft of the Our Gahanna strategic plan. She reported that residents engaged in the process by asking questions and providing feedback. The event filled the plaza for three hours, with staff present to monitor the information boards. For those unable to attend, Mayor Jadwin explained that several “road show” events would be held through September 20, 2025, including one that had taken place earlier that day at the library. She noted that residents could find dates, times, and locations at **ourgahanna.com**, where a survey was also available through September 20. She encouraged residents to take the survey to ensure their voices were heard in shaping the community’s vision for the future.

Mayor Jadwin reminded Council that two weeks earlier, Senior Director Schultz had presented flood mitigation efforts for Creekside. That presentation outlined the work required to meet FEMA requirements and included preliminary concepts for additional improvements to enhance accessibility, environment, and aesthetics at Creekside Plaza. At the Our Gahanna event, the City shared renderings of these concepts with the community. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with residents also offering new suggestions. She announced that a community conversation would take place on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Creekside Conference and Event Center. The meeting would provide further discussion of the renderings and the community’s vision for the Creekside District.

Mayor Jadwin provided an update from the Franklin County Engineer’s Office. Beginning Monday, September 8, 2025, the intersection at Morse and Reynoldsburg-New Albany Roads would close for roundabout work, lasting through Friday, September 12, 2025, weather permitting. Eastbound and westbound travel on Morse Road through the intersection would not be accessible, and detours would be posted. Updates would be shared on the City’s website and social media pages.

Mayor Jadwin also highlighted upcoming community events as follows:

- **Creekside Hops and Vines** on Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 6:00 to 11:00 p.m., presented by the Gahanna Parks and Recreation Foundation. The event remained in need of volunteers, who would receive a free admission ticket.
- **Kyle Miller 5K** on Sunday, September 7, 2025. She explained that this year, the organization had distributed \$17,000 to \$18,000 worth of shoes by fitting students at Goshen Lane and Royal Manor schools on site, allowing children to leave with shoes immediately.
- **Senior Expo** on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the Gahanna Sanctuary.

- **Touch-a-Truck** on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Hannah Park.
- **Final Gahanna Market** on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Creekside, followed by the community conversation at 7:00 p.m.
- **Mill Street Market** on Sunday, September 28, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

She noted that October would also feature many events, including the **Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall**, presented by the VFW and the American Legion, from October 2-6, 2025. Volunteers were needed to staff the wall 24 hours a day during its stay in Gahanna. Mayor Jadwin concluded by announcing that **Trick-or-Treat** would follow the MORPC schedule and take place on Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

President Bowers asked Mayor Jadwin about the format of the upcoming Creekside community conversation. Mayor Jadwin responded that the event would be structured as a presentation followed by audience questions. President Bowers inquired whether audiovisual equipment would be available and if the event would be streamed. Mayor Jadwin stated that the City was still evaluating those options with the Creekside Conference and Event Center. She explained that if streaming was not possible, the event would be recorded and posted later. President Bowers thanked Mayor Jadwin, noting that she had received questions about the format.

2. City Attorney

Assistant City Attorney Matt Roth shared there was nothing to report at this time.

K. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember McGregor congratulated her husband on their 52nd wedding anniversary, which they had celebrated the previous day.

Councilmember Padova reminded residents about the Collective Market taking place on Sunday, September 7, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Collective Home Supply. She noted that the market would feature a variety of vendors, including food, drinks, antiques, and other items.

Vice President Weaver reported that the Board of Education had announced the new high school auditorium would be named the Jim Singer Auditorium in honor of Mr. Singer's more than five decades of service to Gahanna Lincoln High School. Weaver described Singer's contributions as assistant band director and auditorium manager, highlighting his dedication to hundreds of school and community events. He stated that he had been

honored to provide a letter of support for the naming, both as a councilmember and as a graduate of the high school. He added his congratulations to Connie Pearson on her recent swearing-in and welcomed her to the City.

President Bowers congratulated the Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce on a successful Taste of Gahanna event, noting that approximately 500 tickets were sold, making it one of the largest in recent years. She reported attending the Columbus Chamber of Commerce's CEO Insight event on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, which featured an interview with Lauren Hagan, the new CEO of the Columbus Metropolitan Library System. President Bowers shared highlights of Hagan's remarks, including her background, values, and vision for the library's expanded role in providing literacy support, digital circulation, technology access, and job-skilling resources. President Bowers also wished everyone a happy belated Labor Day and thanked Parks and Recreation staff for a smooth and successful pool season.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Schnetzer, to go into Executive Session under authority of Section 5.40(a) of the Council Rules of Procedure to consider the appointment of a public employee or official.

President Bowers noted the purpose of the Executive Session was to review expiring board and commission terms and identifying next steps. She stated there was no legislation coming out of the session and anticipated that Council would immediately adjourn upon the end of Executive Session.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Renner

President Bowers announced Council would meet in Executive Session in the Law Library.

Council rose to report to Executive Session at 7:26 p.m.

Council rose to report from Executive Session at 8:21 p.m. with no further action.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Bowers adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2025.*

Merisa K. Bowers