



# City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

*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*

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Monday, October 20, 2025

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

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

*Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, October 20, 2025, in Council Chambers. President of Council Merisa K. Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 October 17, 2025.*

**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. PRESENTATIONS:**

##### **1. Swearing-in Ceremony - Division of Police Officers Kiersten Lyshe and Cordell Cardi**

Mayor Jadwin stated that the City of Gahanna was honored to welcome two new officers joining the Gahanna family that evening. She invited Director Becker and Chief Spence to offer opening remarks before the administration of the oath.

Director Becker expressed enthusiasm about adding to the Police Department's ranks. He introduced two outstanding officers. He explained that Officer Kiersten Lyshe was with the department for some time and recently completed her training. She graduated from the third class of the Westerville Police Academy about a week and a half earlier. Officer Thomas and Sergeant Hendon served as instructors during her class. After six months of rigorous training, she was ready to begin field training and start patrol duties. Director Becker then introduced Officer Cordell Cardi, noting

that it was his first day with the City of Gahanna. Director Becker described him as an experienced law enforcement officer with previous service in Johnstown and Blendon Township. He added that Officer Cardi was eager to learn the “Gahanna way.” Director Becker then invited Chief Spence to share his remarks.

Chief Spence thanked the administration and Council for their continued support in hiring and maintaining authorized staffing levels. He acknowledged the challenges of academy training and praised Officer Lyshe for her strong performance during the program. He noted that she would now enter several additional months of field training. He also welcomed Officer Cardi, who would begin the same process. Chief Spence commended both new officers and stated that the department was fortunate to receive excellent applicants who made the training process smooth.

Mayor Jadwin then administered the oath of office to Officers Lyshe and Cardi. Following the oath, she congratulated both officers and welcomed them to the Gahanna Police Department. She expressed appreciation for their service to the community and thanked Director Becker and Chief Spence for their leadership.

President Bowers congratulated and welcomed Officer Lyshe and Officer Cardi to the City of Gahanna, expressing Council’s appreciation for their service to the community.

## **2. Resolution Presentation by City Council - Arts & Humanities Month Recipient: Gahanna Lincoln Instrumental Music Boosters**

President Bowers announced the next presentation, a resolution by City Council recognizing Arts and Humanities Month. She then turned the floor over to Vice President Weaver to introduce the resolution.

Vice President Weaver stated that he was honored to present a resolution recognizing October as Arts and Humanities Month in the City of Gahanna. He explained that the national theme for this year was “*Stories Unite Us.*” Reflecting on his own experience as a musician and artist, he shared that playing music together created a strong sense of unity. Vice President Weaver introduced representatives from the Gahanna Lincoln Instrumental Music Boosters (GLIMB), the support organization for band and orchestra programs in grades 6 through 12 at Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools. He explained that the Boosters supplement the district’s budget to provide students with opportunities they might not otherwise experience. He noted that on Saturday, October 4, 2025, GLIMB held its 70th annual TAG Day, setting a new donation record of over \$46,000. He added that donations could still be made online or by returning envelopes left at residents’ doors.

Vice President Weaver welcomed GLIMB President-elect Emily Kerns and Secretary Heather Crites to speak, after which Council would present the resolution and take photos.

Emily Kerns thanked Mayor Jadwin, City Council, City Attorney Tamarasasan, and the community for recognizing the importance of arts and arts education. She introduced herself as the President-Elect of GLIMB and shared that she had two children in the band program, including her oldest son, who participated since sixth grade. She stated that the mission of GLIMB was to support the band and orchestra programs at Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools. She emphasized that music education taught students life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. Kerns explained that the organization's ability to support students came from the generosity of the community. She highlighted the recent celebration of GLIMB's 70th annual TAG Day, first held in 1955, and noted that funds raised from the event made up a significant portion of their annual budget. She expressed gratitude for the strong support from the Gahanna-Jefferson community and invited Secretary Heather Crites to share how the funds were used.

Heather Crites introduced herself and stated that she had two children in the orchestra program. She described several ways GLIMB supported students, including reducing financial barriers for musicians, purchasing and maintaining string, wind, and percussion instruments, and acquiring a new fleet of cellos and basses to meet growing student interest. She said GLIMB funded guest clinicians, master classes, and the commissioning of new works by internationally recognized composers. She added that the organization covered contest fees for middle and high school students so all could participate at no cost. GLIMB also provided scholarships for graduating seniors and current students to attend camps or receive private instruction. Crites stated that GLIMB acted as a bridge between community generosity and more than 1,000 young musicians, ensuring they had the best equipment and opportunities during their time in the Gahanna band and orchestra programs. She thanked Council for the invitation and the recognition.

Vice President Weaver thanked the GLIMB representatives for their remarks and invited Council colleagues, Mayor Jadwin, and City Attorney Tamarasasan to join him for a photo with guests.

President Bowers thanked GLIMB for their contributions to students' enrichment and congratulated them for their continued dedication and support of music education throughout the school system.

#### **D. HEARING OF VISITORS:**

Mifflin Township Trustee Jamie Leeseberg stated that he received a notification the previous week regarding a question about whether Mifflin Township was included in the Creekside development project. He noted that the project involved a seven-story building and expressed concern that no one asked whether the township had the capacity to fight a fire in a building of that height. He explained that during his eight years on City Council, Mifflin Township's involvement in development projects had never been in question. He added that he did not know if this practice changed in the four years since he left Council. Trustee Leeseberg stated for the record that Mifflin Township wished to be included in any discussions regarding tax incentives or financial considerations related to the development. He introduced Chief Dunlevy and explained that the township possessed one ladder truck capable of serving a building of that size. He emphasized the importance of considering response times and preparedness for incidents involving large developments.

Fire Chief Brian Dunlevy thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. He stated that the department was enthusiastic about the city's growth and development and wanted to remain involved in related projects. He noted that many operational costs had doubled, including the price of fire trucks, and explained that a project of this scale would require significant departmental resources and time. He asked Council to consider the department's involvement and expressed his appreciation for their attention.

**E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

[RES-0046-2025](#) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE "OUR GAHANNA" STRATEGIC PLAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

President Bowers announced the Public Hearing for Resolution 0046-2025, a resolution adopting the *Our Gahanna Strategic Plan and Economic Development Strategy*. She explained that the item was introduced at the previous week's Committee of the Whole meeting and was scheduled for adoption at the Regular Council meeting on November 3, 2025. She stated that, pursuant to Council Rules 9.10 and 9.11, she provided a brief statement on the item under hearing. She invited the administration to make a presentation before opening the floor for public comment, allowing three minutes per speaker.

Mayor Jadwin stated that the administration did not have a presentation to provide at that time.

President Bowers explained that individuals wishing to speak could complete a speaker slip and submit it to Mr. VanMeter or obtain one from the podium outside the glass doors.

*President Bowers opened the public hearing at 7:20 PM.*

Maura O'Donnell, of 278 Rivers End Road, Gahanna, addressed Council in support of the strategic plan. She stated that she served on the steering committee and observed the plan's development over the past year through feedback sessions and public engagement. She noted that she saw members of Council at many of these sessions and that the committee's and public's feedback was incorporated into the plan. She said the edits reflected the input received during those discussions and expressed confidence that elected officials and city employees would use the plan as a guiding tool for decision-making. She thanked everyone who contributed to the plan and stated her excitement to see residents' and local businesses' ideas represented in shaping the city's future.

*President Bowers closed the Public Hearing at 7:22 PM.*

**F. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1. Minutes - To Approve:**

[2025-0200](#) Council Regular Minutes 10.6.2025

**The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.**

[2025-0201](#) Committee of the Whole Minutes 10.13.2025

**The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.**

**2. Motions:**

[MT-0013-2025](#) A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GAHANNA BIDDING FOR THE CLOTTS ROAD (SA-1105) AND SERRAN DRIVE (SA-1099) SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

**The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

[MT-0014-2025](#) A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GAHANNA BIDDING FOR THE WHITE SWAN COURT & EMBASSY COURT STREET REBUILD AND WATERLINE REPLACEMENT (ST-1120)

**The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.**

**3. Resolutions:**

[RES-0045-2025](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN

APPLICATION TO THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC) FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) SECTION 5310 FUNDING UNDER THE ENHANCED MOBILITY FOR OLDER ADULTS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0047-2025](#)

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL ARTS & HUMANITIES MONTH

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0048-2025](#)

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RES-0013-2025, THE 2026 SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AREA RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY, TO REVISE THE 2026 SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AREA FOR THE CITY OF GAHANNA

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0049-2025](#)

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO REPAIR AND/OR REPLACE SIDEWALKS IN THE 2026 URBAN PAVING SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AREA FOR THE CITY OF GAHANNA

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0050-2025](#)

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY'S APPLICATION FOR STATE CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING FOR THE CREEKSIDE PLAZA AND FLOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

**4. Ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption:**

[ORD-0041-2025](#)

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING CRESCENT CIRCLE (ST-1111) PUBLIC ROADWAY, STORM WATER, AND DOMESTIC WATER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

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

**G. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:**

[ORD-0044-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC., TO PROVIDE NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO THE CELL TOWER LOCATED AT LOWER MCCORKLE PARK

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

[ORD-0045-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AN ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR 135 SERRAN DRIVE TO PROVIDE CITY ACCESS TO EXISTING SANITARY SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

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

[ORD-0047-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT A SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT ON PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 490 AND 495 CRESCENT CIRCLE, PARCEL IDS 025-014183 AND 025-014182

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

[ORD-0048-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED ALONG CRESCENT CIRCLE (SA-1113)

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

#### H. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

##### **Recommended Postponement/Return to Committee of the Whole**

**10/27/2025:**

President Bowers noted the need for the two items listed to return to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

[ORD-0042-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH CONNECT REALTY LLC, BENSON CAPITAL, LLC, AND THE GAHANNA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF VACANT AND BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN THE CREEKSIDE DISTRICT

*The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.*

President Bowers asked a procedural question regarding Ordinance 42-2025: whether Council needed a first and second to adopt before moving to postpone, or whether it could move to postpone before entertaining a motion to adopt. City Attorney Tamilarasan advised that Council should make a motion to postpone before a motion to adopt.

President Bowers asked for a motion to postpone Ordinance 42-2025 to a

date certain. Councilmember Schnetzer asked whether a date was needed. Bowers stated that it was best practice to identify a date and proposed November 17, 2025. Councilmember Schnetzer moved to postpone Ordinance 0042-2025 to November 17, 2025. Councilmember Renner seconded. President Bowers invited discussion.

Mayor Jadwin deferred initial comments to Director of Economic Development Jeff Gottke. Director Gottke asked why Council selected November 17, 2025, rather than an earlier date such as November 3 or 10, 2025, and what Council hoped to ascertain in the meantime. He noted that 60 days elapsed since introduction and asked what additional information Council needed.

President Bowers invited Council to weigh in. Councilmember Renner stated that Council received the agreement on Friday and needed deliberation time at Committee of the Whole to vet it. He said he was not sure Council needed to wait until November 17, 2025, but procedure required a date certain, and November 17, 2025, appeared rational to avoid a mistake on an important decision. He said Council could act sooner if appropriate after Committee of the Whole discussion.

Mayor Jadwin stated that an initial draft of the agreement was presented on September 22, 2025, and that a redline version was sent on Friday. She asked why November 17, 2025, was selected and expressed concern about potential demolition of properties held by the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC). She stated a preference for the developer to perform the demolition so the developer could control existing site infrastructure and bear any demolition costs that exceeded reimbursable grant dollars, rather than the City of Gahanna. She agreed a vote that evening would not be appropriate and asked why November 3 or 10, 2025, would not be feasible to allow additional committee discussions.

Councilmember Renner reiterated that Council needed a date certain and supported November 17, 2025, given procedural requirements, while acknowledging schedule pressures and his prior public support for the project. He questioned why Council received information at the last minute.

Vice President Weaver stated discomfort with calling a Special Meeting for a single vote on what could be the most impactful vote of their tenure. He said he continued to receive parking questions, noted ongoing resident feedback and private outreach efforts, and wanted to give the developer a clear expectation for a vote date. He supported setting a reasonable date certain.

Councilmember Padova asked whether a vote on November 17, 2025, would

still allow demolition. Director Gottke said he would check with the developer, noting contractor scheduling and mobilization requirements to complete demolition by December 31, 2025.

President Bowers stated her understanding that the Holiday Lights Celebration would occur on November 23, 2025, and that no work would begin before that date. Director Gottke confirmed that no demolition would occur before November 23. President Bowers stated that selecting November 17, 2025, would allow Council to vote and, if approved, give the developer confidence to proceed with demolition by year-end. She supported further community engagement, suggested a Public Hearing on November 3, 2025, for this ordinance, requested a project website to centralize vetted information, and referenced a follow-up meeting later in the week on the fiscal impact analysis, with time for Council to review and ask questions.

Director Gottke asked whether Council intended to hold two more Committee of the Whole meetings on October 27 and November 10, 2025. President Bowers said the item should appear on both agendas if Council had questions and reiterated the value of a November 3, 2025, Public Hearing.

Mayor Jadwin clarified that her questions about the November 17, 2025, date sought to inform conversations with the developer and plan for timelines and contingencies. She reiterated that demolition would not begin before Holiday Lights and that aligning schedules could require action by December 1, 2025, to finish demolition by year-end.

President Bowers invited further items for consideration. Councilmember McGregor asked whether, if Council passed the ordinance on November 17, 2025, the action would need to wait 30 days to take effect. President Bowers stated that it would, but noted that the developer represented that Council approval would greenlight the demolition agreement with the City of Gahanna. Mayor Jadwin confirmed.

Councilmember Padova requested feedback gathered from Planning NEXT, which Director Vollmer was working to provide prior to a vote.

Councilmember Jones asked about the process to set a Public Hearing on November 3, 2025, so residents could prepare. President Bowers said Council had discretion to set the hearing, could invite an administrative presentation, would place the hearing on the agenda, and would request Council Office staff to generate social media graphics and issue notices via Council's listserv and City of Gahanna communication channels.

Councilmember Schnetzer asked whether the questions related specifically

to the development agreement. President Bowers said the discussion concerned postponement to November 17, 2025, and items Council wanted from the administration at Committee of the Whole regarding the development agreement. Councilmember Schnetzer requested inclusion of information on contingent liabilities previously addressed by the administration and City Attorney, and a summary of the city's financial estimates and pro forma related to Tax Increment Financing (TIF), New Community Authority (NCA), and other relevant figures to the extent currently known.

President Bowers thanked Mifflin Township representatives for attending and thanked Councilwoman McGregor for acknowledging the township's tax impact and potential equipment costs. She asked the administration and Mifflin Township to hold meaningful conversations to clarify the township's requests and any expectations related to the TIF or other needs. Director Gottke stated that a meeting with Mifflin Township was already on the calendar and referenced the discussion tonight would be helpful in using [creekside@gahanna.gov](mailto:creekside@gahanna.gov) emails to represent the conversation and the sequence of meetings. President Bowers thanked Director Gottke and asked Mr. VanMeter to call the roll on the motion to postpone Ordinance 42-2025 to November 17, 2025.

**A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Second Reading and Adoption of the Ordinance be Postponed to Date Certain, 11/17/2025. The Ordinance will return to Committee of the Whole on 10/27/2025 for further discussion and scheduled for Public Hearing on the 11/3/2025 Council Regular Meeting agenda. The motion to postpone to a date certain carried by the following vote:**

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

[ORD-0043-2025](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2026-2030 CITY OF GAHANNA CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, SUPERSEDING ALL PRIOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS, AND PROVIDING FOR FUTURE SUNSET

*The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.*

President Bowers explained that the Capital Improvement Plan was presented in part to Council a few weeks earlier but that the presentation had not been completed due to the lateness of that meeting. She said the item was requested to return to the Committee of the Whole on November 27, 2025, and that Council would need to postpone the ordinance to a date certain of November 3, 2025, which would be the first Regular Meeting following the next Committee of the Whole. She asked for a motion to postpone Ordinance 43-2025 to November 3, 2025.

Councilmember Schnetzer moved to postpone Ordinance 0043-2025 to

November 3, 2025. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.

President Bowers asked if there was any further discussion. Councilmember Renner commented on how close it was to the year 2030. President Bowers agreed, noting that it was a five-year planning document extending to 2030.

**A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Jones, that the Second Reading and Adoption of the Ordinance be Postponed to Date Certain, 11/3/2025. The Ordinance will return to Committee of the Whole on 10/27/2025 for further discussion. The motion to postpone to a date certain carried by the following vote:**

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

## I. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & ADOPTION:

[ORD-0046-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS; AND WAIVING SECOND READING - General Fund Development Contract Services for the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation

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

President Bowers stated that the companion resolution in Section J paired with Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance 0046-2025 and Resolution 0051-2025. She said Council would address the ordinance first, recognizing that the discussion would likely involve both items. She explained that the administration requested a waiver of the second reading and asked for a motion.

Councilmember Schnetzer moved to waive the second reading.  
Councilmember Renner seconded the motion.

President Bowers opened the floor for discussion. Councilmember Schnetzer stated that waiving the second reading was necessary to pass the ordinance in time, explaining that the ordinance acted as a financial backstop and could not wait. President Bowers said the timeline confused her. Councilmember Renner agreed and said he supported the supplemental appropriation ordinance but had questions about the resolution and the supplemental agreement, particularly regarding the timeline connected to the development agreement. President Bowers said she was unclear why a waiver was needed since a supplemental appropriation took effect immediately upon passage and demolition was not expected to begin until after November 23, 2025.

Mayor Jadwin stated that scheduling the demolition needed to begin immediately to meet end-of-year deadlines. She explained that the upcoming holidays would reduce available working time, leaving only about three

weeks in December to complete demolition after the Holiday Lights event on November 23. She emphasized that waiting for another meeting would further delay the project and limit options. She said the administration had indicated in earlier discussions that a waiver would be important to meet the required timeline.

Senior Director of Operations Kevin Schultz stated that the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) could not sign a demolition contract until Council passed the appropriations. He said contractors would not tentatively schedule demolition without approved funding and that any delay could jeopardize the \$485,000 in Department of Development grant funds awarded for the demolition. He stated that both the ordinance and resolution needed prompt passage to avoid losing the grant dollars.

President Bowers thanked Director Schultz and asked City Attorney Tamilarasan to clarify the impact of approving the ordinance with a waiver but without the companion resolution. She also asked whether the supplemental agreement required further adjustment.

City Attorney Tamilarasan said the supplemental agreement was written with the understanding that the funds would be transferred to the CIC, which would later return them after reimbursement. However, she said the administration clarified earlier that the grant would operate on a reimbursement basis, meaning the CIC would only receive funds after completing demolition and securing the grant money. She said the agreement needed to be revised to reflect that structure and include provisions requiring the CIC to return funds once reimbursed. She also said details about total grant amounts and reimbursement terms must be clearly stated.

President Bowers asked if adopting the ordinance without the resolution would simply authorize a supplemental appropriation to the CIC without requiring repayment. City Attorney Tamilarasan explained that the ordinance would reserve funds within the city's budget for the CIC's use, but the CIC would not receive any money until it secured a demolition contract and submitted documentation for reimbursement.

Mayor Jadwin confirmed that funds would not be disbursed unless the CIC moved forward with demolition. She said the CIC would first secure a contractor, then request payment through the city once work began. Once the state reimbursed the grant, the CIC would return those funds to the city.

President Bowers noted that without the resolution, there was no formal obligation for the CIC to reimburse the city. Mayor Jadwin responded that

while technically true, the CIC's membership included the Mayor, two Councilmembers, the Director of Planning, and the Director of Economic Development, which provided oversight. She said a memorandum of understanding between the city and CIC could suffice even without formal legislation.

Director Schultz added that if demolition occurred after January 1, 2026, the city would bear the full cost unless the state granted an extension, which he said was unlikely. He said delaying approval by two weeks could jeopardize the \$485,000 grant and that passing the ordinance with a waiver was in the public interest to secure those funds.

President Bowers asked if the CIC obtained demolition quotes from companies not affiliated with the developer. Director Schultz said there was one such quote, and it fell within the grant's budget. President Bowers asked under what circumstances the CIC would proceed with demolition instead of allowing the developer, Connect Real Estate, to handle it. Director Schultz said postponing the development agreement to November 17, 2025, effectively shifted responsibility to the CIC. President Bowers disagreed, noting that the developer had not indicated an inability to complete demolition. She asked who ultimately decided whether the CIC or developer would conduct the demolition. Director Schultz said the CIC, as the property owner, would make that decision.

Vice President Weaver asked the City Attorney about language changes to Section 3.1 of the agreement. City Attorney Tamilarasan said revisions were also needed in Section 2 to ensure the city did not obligate payment without demolition occurring. She said both sections required cleanup and that the total grant amount must be confirmed, as various documents listed differing figures of \$500,000, \$496,000, and \$486,000. Mayor Jadwin clarified that the grant amount was \$486,000. She said the administration rounded the appropriation to \$500,000 to allow flexibility if demolition costs exceeded the grant amount. She said if the developer performed the demolition, none of the funds would be spent and would revert to the city. If the CIC conducted demolition, the CIC would reimburse the city with the \$486,000 in grant funds and return any remaining balance.

Councilmember Jones asked what would happen if Connect Real Estate performed the demolition instead of the CIC. Mayor Jadwin said in that case, the CIC would not receive any funds because the developer would be reimbursed directly for demolition costs. City Attorney Tamilarasan added that this obligation was already included in the development agreement. Councilmember Jones asked if the development agreement would need to change if the CIC handled demolition instead. City Attorney Tamilarasan said

the agreement stated the developer was responsible for demolition and that she would prefer to include clarifying language to ensure the developer had no claim to grant funds if it did not perform the demolition. Mayor Jadwin said that revision would not be necessary because the demolition would already be completed and the clause would become moot.

President Bowers requested that the administration provide clarification at the next Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the demolition schedule, contract timelines, and when the developer could begin work assuming an affirmative vote on November 17, 2025, on the development agreement.

Councilmember Schnetzer summarized that Council was currently considering Ordinance 0046-2025, which was a supplemental appropriation of \$500,000, and that discussion naturally overlapped with Resolution 0051-2025 due to their connection. He said that Council recently appropriated over \$5 million to retire loans to retain flexibility for demolition grant funding. He emphasized that experts had stated time was critical and said he supported waiving the second reading to protect the \$486,000 in grant funds. He stated that he was comfortable proceeding with the ordinance to preserve flexibility and avoid risking the grant and would be willing to address the resolution later if needed.

Vice President Weaver asked a clarifying question about whether concerns focused primarily on the resolution. He asked if waiving the second reading and passing the ordinance would allow the administration, the CIC, and the developer to proceed if Council did not agree to the resolution that evening. He stated that, based on Mayor Jadwin's earlier comments, the appropriation would reserve the money without spending it and would provide assurance that funds were available to expend if needed while the resolution remained pending.

Senior Director Schultz stated that Council could hold off on the resolution and bring back a more acceptable version at the next meeting, provided Council approved the supplemental appropriation as soon as possible. He explained that the appropriation would make the money available, but no one would pay out those funds in the next two or three weeks while the agreement caught up for reimbursement. He said that approach was tenable and could offer a solution. He added that he believed the prior week's understanding was to add a single line to the ordinance to state the funds were reimbursable, which would resolve the issue.

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

**Yes:** 6 - Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

**No:** 1 - Bowers

City Attorney Tamilarasan interjected briefly to note that the text of the ordinance referenced grant funds using the same language as the original resolution, which stated that the CIC was awarded a grant totaling \$500,000. She explained that, to be accurate, the language should reflect two grants totaling \$486,000 instead of one \$500,000 grant. She recommended a small amendment to the ordinance to correct the figures.

President Bowers thanked City Attorney Tamilarasan and stated that the amendment would apply to the third “whereas” clause, revising it to read that the CIC was awarded two grants in the amount of \$486,000.

Councilmember Padova suggested that the correction might apply to the second “whereas” clause, but President Bowers confirmed it as the third. She then called for a motion to amend as stated.

**A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Ordinance be Amended in the third whereas clause to reflect two grants in the amount of \$486,000 instead of one grant in the amount of \$500,000. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Schnetzer, that the Ordinance be Adopted as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

## **J. RESOLUTIONS:**

[RES-0051-2025](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE 2025 SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GAHANNA AND THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION OF GAHANNA

President Bowers stated that Council already discussed the item and understood there was a request or recommendation to send it back to Committee of the Whole and bring it forward again at a later date. Councilmember Schnetzer responded briefly, and President Bowers confirmed that Council did not wish to amend or act on the item at that time.

Vice President Weaver moved to postpone Resolution 0051-2025 to a date certain of November 3, 2025, with the item returning to Committee of the Whole before that date. Councilmember Schnetzer seconded the motion.

President Bowers acknowledged the first and second and asked for discussion on the motion to postpone. Hearing none, she directed Clerk VanMeter to call the roll.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Resolution be Postponed to Date Certain, 11/3/2025. The Resolution will return to Committee of the Whole on 10/27/2025 for further discussion. The motion to postpone to a date certain carried by the following vote:

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

**K. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:**

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

**L. REPRESENTATIVES:**

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

Councilmember Renner noted the CIC would meet at 8:00 AM in the Committee Room on Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

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

[2025-0202](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 10.13.2025

Vice President Weaver thanked the Council Office for its assistance and preparation of the MORPC report. He encouraged his colleagues to review the report and its attachments, which highlighted the return on investment from the city's membership in Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). He stated that member dues totaled just under \$23,000, with a return on investment of approximately \$36 for every dollar spent. Vice President Weaver summarized several items from the report. He noted that the commission met on October 9, 2025, and that the next meeting would take place on November 13, 2025. He announced that requests for 2026 summer interns were now open and encouraged both the administration and the Council Office to participate, noting the positive experience of having interns in the past. He also shared that MORPC and the *Columbus Dispatch* were inviting central Ohio residents to participate in the *Leaders Listen Sustainability Survey* to share their views on regional sustainability issues, with a link provided in the report. Vice President Weaver noted continued interest in the Regional Economic Development Academy, explaining that participants could enroll in individual courses without completing the full six-course program. He stated that on November 6, 2025, the academy would examine how rising housing costs affected the central Ohio economy and how communities could respond. He added that the December 17, 2025, capstone course would evaluate the pros and cons of various economic

development tools available to communities, including TIFs, Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs), enterprise zones, joint economic development districts, and new community authorities, topics that were discussed frequently in recent months. He concluded by noting that on November 18, 2025, a *Strategic Training for Effective Planning and Zoning (STEPZ) Workshop* would take place and encouraged interested individuals to review the information linked in the report.

### 3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova stated that the annual Holiday Lights Celebration at Creekside would take place on November 23, 2025. She said that many friends and neighbors would attend to celebrate the holiday season and invited everyone to participate. She emphasized the importance of community engagement and encouraged residents to volunteer for the event as a way to connect with others. Councilmember Padova explained that volunteer opportunities were available throughout the day, allowing participants to help before or after the celebration if they wished to enjoy the festivities. She directed residents to visit *VisitGahanna.com* for more information about volunteer opportunities. She also announced that the annual Santa Race 5K would take place on December 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Academy Park, noting that additional details could be found on the *Visit Gahanna* website.

### 4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Councilmember Jones congratulated the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools Board of Education for being recognized by the Ohio School Board Association (OSBA) as a Board of Distinction. She stated that the board would be formally recognized at the OSBA conference next month in Columbus.

## M. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

### 1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin extended congratulations to the members of the Gahanna Lincoln Instrumental Music Boosters (GLIMB). She shared that the group settled a long-standing debate over whether the name was pronounced "Glim" or "Glime," recalling her time as a booster parent when that topic often arose while serving in the concession booth. As a former orchestra parent, she said she understood the value the organization brought by supporting school music programs and creating opportunities for students who might not otherwise have them. She thanked Vice President Weaver for arranging the recognition that evening and stated that GLIMB's impact within the

community was immeasurable. Mayor Jadwin thanked Make Gahanna Yours for hosting the Cleaner Greener Gahanna Community Litter Pickup the previous Saturday. She said she volunteered alongside members of Gahanna Rotary and noted that many residents participated, including Senior Deputy Director Wybensing and his family. She expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts to help keep the city beautiful. She congratulated New Life Church on celebrating its 40th anniversary and said it was a pleasure to attend their special celebration the previous day. She noted the church's history of beginning in Gahanna and its growth over the years, adding that Councilmember McGregor might also speak about the event. Mayor Jadwin thanked Vice President Weaver for referencing the MORPC report and shared that she participated earlier in the day in a regional housing discussion with representatives from more than a dozen central Ohio communities. She said the group discussed challenges related to housing supply, financing, and planning for the types of housing needed within local communities. She thanked residents and stakeholders who attended the recent *Creekside Reimagined* public engagement event held Thursday, October 9, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the plaza. She reported that approximately 100 people attended, asked questions, and provided valuable feedback on both the public and private aspects of the project. She said the city was working with a consulting firm that submitted recommendations for next steps and that further announcements would be made later in the week. She noted that residents could continue submitting questions to [creekside@gahanna.gov](mailto:creekside@gahanna.gov) and find background information and meeting links on [gahanna.gov](http://gahanna.gov). Mayor Jadwin listed several upcoming community events. She announced that *Great Gahanna Goblin Fest* would take place on Friday, October 24, 2025, and that the fall *Shred and E-Recycle* event would be held Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She said the fall recycling event was added last year due to popular demand and that Gahanna Residents In Need (G.R.I.N.) would again collect food and monetary donations to support families during the holiday season. She stated that *Trick or Treat* would take place Thursday, October 30, 2025, in alignment with MORPC recommendations. She shared that she received an email from a fourth grader asking why it could not be held on Friday, October 31, and explained that conflicts with high school football games and other community events made Thursday the most practical option. She added that having it on a weekday also helped ensure more residents were home to hand out candy. Mayor Jadwin concluded by acknowledging that many Gahanna residents were celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights. She said the holiday symbolized light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. She wished all who were celebrating joy, light, and prosperity and concluded her remarks for the evening.

## 2. City Attorney

None.

**N. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Councilmember McGregor reported that the Gahanna Historical Society was updating the “Red Book,” which last documented historical events up to 1976. She stated that many people were contributing stories for the new edition and invited anyone with knowledge of Gahanna’s history to submit their stories for inclusion. She introduced Project Manager Darlene Molitor and Editor Maura O’Donnell, who were keeping the project on schedule. McGregor announced that the Historical Society met on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the library and invited the public to attend. She also thanked Mayor Jadwin for recognizing New Life Church, noting that the congregation celebrated its 40th anniversary on Sunday. She shared that the church had three pastors in its history, with the first two each serving for 20 years. She described how the church began with five founding members and their families, who came to Gahanna as a team to start a new congregation. They initially met at Middle School West before acquiring land at McCutcheon and Stygler Roads, where they eventually built their church despite challenges with the property. She said the church had long supported the community and organizations like G.R.I.N. and wished them continued success for the next 40 years.

Councilmember Jones congratulated and welcomed the new police officers and thanked Vice President Weaver for organizing the Arts and Humanities Month recognition. She also congratulated and thanked the Gahanna Lincoln Instrumental Music Boosters (GLIMB), sharing that as a young person, the arts helped her find belonging. She said that as a new orchestra parent, she looked forward to becoming involved with GLIMB and expressed gratitude for the organization’s work in providing arts opportunities for students.

Councilmember Padova echoed Councilmember Jones’s congratulations to the newly sworn officers and appreciation for the guests who participated in the Arts and Humanities Month recognition. She described attending a clothing swap hosted by Collective Home Supply, and said it was a creative way to bring people together. She explained that participants brought clothing they no longer wore but once enjoyed and exchanged them with others. She said the event encouraged conversations and connections among residents and visitors, including people who were not from Gahanna but came to explore the city. She thanked the organizers for taking the initiative to try something new and said the event was a great success that she hoped would return.

Councilmember Renner thanked Councilmember Padova for sharing local community updates and Councilmember McGregor for her work with the

Historical Society. He noted that Upper Arlington participated in a textile recycling program with Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) and that Gahanna was exploring involvement in the same program. He encouraged the city to move forward with it. He also discussed the importance of renewable energy and sustainability, citing growing national electricity demand and emphasizing the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. He thanked Mayor Jadwin for her efforts on sustainability initiatives. Councilmember Renner congratulated Officers Lyshe and Cardi on joining the Gahanna Police Department and thanked Vice President Weaver for recognizing the arts. He shared that his two sons participated in the music program and that he volunteered for TAG Day several times. He said the experience gave him a deep appreciation for GLIMB's positive impact on students and the community.

Vice President Weaver congratulated and welcomed the new officers and thanked GLIMB representatives Emily Kerns and Heather Crites for attending. He also recognized Gahanna Lincoln High School Orchestra Director Mr. Dengel for his leadership and expressed excitement for the orchestra's planned purchase of new cellos and a bass. He complimented the musical talents of Councilmember Renner's son and praised the high level of musical involvement across the community. Vice President Weaver thanked members of the steering committee for the "Our Gahanna" Strategic Plan who attended the meeting. He acknowledged that the evening involved significant parliamentary procedure and discussion but said Council remained committed to following the proper process and ensuring that decisions were made carefully and thoughtfully.

President Bowers thanked everyone who attended the meeting and participated in community engagement efforts. She said the discussions reinforced the importance of involving residents in meaningful ways, especially regarding major development projects. She stated that her hesitation regarding the supplemental appropriation to the CIC stemmed from ongoing questions and expressed surprise in the developer's absence that evening to clarify the demolition timeline. She emphasized the Council's responsibility to act as fiscal stewards and to avoid duplicating efforts that could be completed by the private sector using state grant reimbursements. She said Council awaited additional information from the administration before making a final decision and noted that the upcoming vote would likely be one of the most significant during their term.

[2025-0203](#)

Councilmember Merisa K. Bowers' Constituent Report - August-September 2025

**O. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, to go into Executive Session under authority of Section 5.40(b) of the Council Rules of Procedure to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest.**

President Bowers noted the request from administration for the Executive Session. She added that at the conclusion of Executive Session there would be no further action and Council would adjourn.

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

President Bowers announced that Council would meet in Executive Session in Committee Room. Council was joined by Mayor Jadwin, City Attorney Tamilarasan, and administrative staff.

Council rose to report to Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

Council rose to report from Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. with no further action.

**P. ADJOURNMENT:**

*With no further business before the Council, President Bowers adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.*

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**Jeremy A. VanMeter**  
Clerk of Council

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

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Merisa K. Bowers