



City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Trenton I. Weaver, President

Jamille Jones, Vice President

Merisa K. Bowers

Nancy R. McGregor

Kaylee Padova

Stephen A. Renner

Michael Schnetzer

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, March 16, 2026

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

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

Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, March 16, 2026, in Council Chambers. President of Council Trenton I. Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Vice President of Council Jamille Jones delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on March 13, 2026.

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

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

C. HEARING OF VISITORS:

Fred Kenimer of 3625 Eyre Hall Pass, New Albany, OH, stated that he had lived in Gahanna from 1982 through 2022 and noted his long history in the community. He recalled speaking with former Mayor Jim McGregor in the past regarding a fox sighting by the river and noted that Councilmember Renner had been one of his neighbors. He stated that he had met with Mayor Jadwin previously and reflected on the many positive experiences he had in the city. Mr. Kenimer explained that he attended the meeting to speak about the Rapid Relief Team (RRT), where he served as an ambassador for the local chapter. He stated that the organization operated globally and that Councilmembers should have received a brochure via email. He noted that RRT had hosted events in the past, including providing a meal for first responders at the high school approximately nine years ago. He explained that the organization engaged in both proactive and reactive efforts. He described several

recent response efforts, including assistance related to tornadoes in Kentucky, flooding north of San Antonio, and fires in Los Angeles, noting that these represented only a few examples of their work in North America. He emphasized that the organization maintained a global presence. Mr. Kenimer stated that he wanted to make Council and the Mayor aware that RRT remained available to assist with both reactive and proactive needs. He noted that he had shared his contact information with Clerk VanMeter, Mayor Jadwin, and Chief Spence and encouraged officials to reach out if needed. He stated that his goal involved giving back to the community and expressed appreciation for the work done by Council. He concluded by stating that he looked forward to supporting future efforts through RRT.

D. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2026-0058](#) Council Regular Minutes 2026-03-02

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2026-0059](#) Committee of the Whole Minutes 2026-03-09

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Resolutions:

[RES-0007-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A THEN AND NOW PURCHASE ORDER UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE 5705.41(D)(1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF STOP LOSS COVERAGE THROUGH SUN LIFE

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0008-2026](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) CONTRACT WITH THE GAHANNA-JEFFERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0009-2026](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO ENTER INTO THE SIX REMNANT DEFENDANTS SETTLEMENT.

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0010-2026](#) A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE SELECTION OF SUCCESSOR

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE GAHANNA NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY.

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

End of Consent Agenda

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

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

E. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

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

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

F. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING & EMERGENCY ADOPTION:

[ORD-0008-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 921.04 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA TO UPDATE SEWERAGE SYSTEM CAPACITY CHARGES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

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

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

G. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

[ORD-0007-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE ANNEXATION OF APPROXIMATELY 7.6 ACRES FROM JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO, TO THE CITY OF GAHANNA; LOCATED AT 4736 AND 4722 JOHNSTOWN ROAD (PARCEL ID NOS. 170-000068 AND 170-000069).

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

Councilmember McGregor stated that she would support the annexation. She noted that the property lay in Jefferson Township and that the City had no control over how the township might zone the property or what could be built there. She expressed her belief that the property would be better situated within the City, particularly because it bordered several City properties. She described the parcel as an orphan property within

Jefferson Township and stated that annexation would allow the City to provide water and sewer services to support quality development.

President Weaver thanked all individuals who had worked on the item and shared their insights throughout the months-long process. He also thanked residents who had reached out or met with the applicant and acknowledged their presence at the meeting. President Weaver stated that, if approved, the rezoning application and development plan would follow, noting that multiple steps remained in the process. He thanked Trivium and the applicant for meeting with neighboring residents and expressed his belief that the applicant remained committed to delivering a quality project and being a good neighbor. He stated that annexation concerned site control and noted that a project would proceed on the properties regardless of whether the City or Jefferson Township retained control. He expressed his belief that property owners had the right to develop their property within the code. He stated that it remained unclear what development might occur if the parcels remained in Jefferson Township. President Weaver stated that he represented Ward 4 residents and that he aimed to reflect their wishes in his decision-making. He stated that, if the annexation were approved, he would work with residents and the applicant to ensure the final development aligned with community interests. He concluded by stating that he would vote no on the annexation.

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

Yes: 5 - Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner and Schnetzer

No: 1 - Weaver

Abstain, COI: 1 - Bowers

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

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

I. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Renner reported on the February 18, 2026, Community Improvement Corporation meeting. He stated that President Mrus called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. He reported that Director Gottke presented additional information on the strategic plan, including comparisons between the Gahanna CIC and other central Ohio CICs and discussion of how mature organizations often evolve beyond land banking. He stated that the board approved the 2026 organizational meeting minutes and the January regular meeting minutes. He reported that Treasurer Jeff Kessler presented draft financials for December 2025 and January 2026, noting balances of approximately \$450,000, and that the board approved the December draft financial report and Leppert's engagement letter. He stated that Director Gottke provided updates on Creekside demolitions and stormwater work and that Jodelle Carder reported on efforts to establish a property management contract with Wallace Ackley. He noted that the board discussed SGT Coffee's request to use CIC property on High Street for parking. He stated that Rachel Zarick presented Google storage options and that the board approved a Google Workspace enterprise standard. He reported that the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m. and that the next meeting would occur on March 18, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. in the Committee Room.

Councilmember Bowers asked Councilmember Renner whether he could provide additional detail regarding demolition and site progress. Mayor Jadwin stated that Director Gottke could provide an update on demolition to the extent information remained available. Director Gottke reported that crews had demolished the buildings and that the contractor had temporarily moved to another job while the CIC obtained an EPA-required permit to complete pavement demolition. He stated that the contractor would return to complete pavement removal and restore the lots to grass once the permit was secured, which he anticipated would occur within the next few weeks. He stated that staff had communicated with Visit Gahanna regarding use of the lots for events, including the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival, and that staff continued to work on access agreements to allow continued use of the properties. Councilmember Bowers thanked Director Gottke for the update.

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

[2026-0060](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 2026-03-16

President Weaver reported on the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission meeting held on March 12, 2026. He stated that a pre-commission meeting featured former Congressman Steve Stivers, President and CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, who discussed business and regional support efforts. He reported that MORPC would not hold a formal commission meeting in April and instead would conduct four regional meetings. He thanked Council Office staff for assistance with the report and encouraged review of the full report. He highlighted the release of the future land use map and noted its availability through the Mid-Ohio Open Data (MOOD) portal, which included more than 800,000 planning records. He thanked communities that contributed updated data and noted the upcoming State of the Region event.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reported that Visit Gahanna would host a spring showcase on April 14, 2026, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Noble Cut Distillery. She stated that the event would provide an interactive, community-focused open house where residents could learn about programs, events, and partnerships, including the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival, Ohio Herb Center, Herbal Cocktail Trail, and Holiday Lights. She noted that attendees could visit stations to learn about tourism, local businesses, and community events and that participants who visited each station would receive a complimentary single-day pass to the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival. She also reported that the spring and summer Herbal Cocktail Trail launched on March 1 and would run through August, featuring eight local businesses. She stated that a future version of the trail would expand to include mocktails and coffee drinks.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Vice President Jones reminded Council of upcoming school board meetings, including a finance and facilities meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, and a regular board meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19, both at 6:30 p.m. at Clark Hall. She also noted that the district would not hold school on Friday, March 20, due to a conference compensation day. She reported that the district had mailed the financial spotlight to all residents and made it available digitally on the district website. She highlighted several student achievements, noting that the high school earned bronze recognition for the 2025 AP School

Honor Roll, marking the first time Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools received this distinction. She stated that the recognition reflected the district's commitment to fostering a college-going culture, expanding opportunities for college credit, and supporting overall college readiness. Vice President Jones also reported that all 30 members of the high school's DECA chapter qualified to compete at the international DECA conference. She recognized several athletic accomplishments, stating that senior Kael Clous won the school's first boys bowling individual state championship and earned recognition as the OSU Athlete of the Week. She noted that the girls bowling team finished as state runner-up. She reported that senior Jordan Mills placed fifth in her weight class at the state wrestling tournament. She also recognized KyLee Tibbs as a two-time girls wrestling state champion, noting that Council had recognized her the previous year and that she repeated as state champion. Vice President Jones concluded by congratulating all students and athletes for their recent accomplishments.

J. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin thanked Council and acknowledged earlier comments regarding the recent storm. She reported that the Parks team began clearing trees on Friday night and that the service crew worked into the night addressing infrastructure issues, including streetlights and pump station outages. She stated that the storm demonstrated how the community came together and emphasized the significant efforts of AEP and its crews, noting that thousands of crews responded across Ohio. She shared that she observed crews from Kentucky assisting locally and expressed appreciation for their support. She stated that AEP provided proactive and transparent communication throughout the event and acknowledged that the power outages created frustration for residents. She compared the situation to a severe ice storm approximately ten years prior and expressed gratitude for the response efforts. Mayor Jadwin reported that the City arranged a special storm debris collection for the week. She stated that residents could drop off branches, leaves, wood chips, and logs up to 20 inches in diameter at the service garage located at 152 Oklahoma Avenue. She noted that the service would operate daily through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and instructed residents to enter from Lincoln Circle near the post office, where staff

would direct drop-off locations. She stated that the City would not accept larger logs, soil, lumber, rocks, or household trash and directed residents to the City website for additional information. She acknowledged the additional workload placed on the public service team and noted the volume of yard waste generated by the storm.

Mayor Jadwin announced that the 2026 Community Grant Program portal opened that day. She stated that the program provided funding opportunities for Gahanna-based nonprofits and encouraged eligible organizations to review guidelines and submit proposals. She noted that staff scheduled a virtual meeting to explain the process and answer questions and directed interested parties to the City website for details. She stated that Director Wybensing remained available to answer questions.

Mayor Jadwin reported that the City would implement updates to the utility billing portal effective April 1, 2026, to improve user experience. She advised that residents who used autopay would need to re-enter account and payment information in the new system due to security measures and stated that customer service staff could assist residents. She directed residents to the City website for additional details, including information about associated fees.

Mayor Jadwin noted that she attended the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission meeting and pre-commission session featuring Ohio Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Steve Stivers, who discussed business impacts and legislative issues. She also reported attending a meeting of the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association, where Jason Hall of the Columbus Partnership discussed regional challenges, including housing, property taxes, and data center growth. She stated that the meeting provided an opportunity for communities to share experiences, collaborate, and address common challenges, emphasizing both competition and cooperation among municipalities.

Mayor Jadwin highlighted upcoming events, including the early bird deadline for pool memberships on March 31, 2026, and the egg hunt scheduled for March 28, noting limited remaining availability. She also announced plans for a second annual Mental Health and Wellness Fair in May and stated that the City would share additional details once

finalized.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan reported that the plaintiff in the Taglia trip and fall case from Academy Park voluntarily dismissed all claims, resulting in dismissal with prejudice and closure of the case. She also reported that she was piloting a mediation program designed to divert certain cases from formal prosecution in Mayor's Court or Franklin County Municipal Court. She stated that the program would initially focus on neighbor disputes involving escalating complaints and that she had identified initial candidates. She explained that the program aimed to address root causes and deescalate conflicts and stated that she would provide updates on its progress and potential expansion.

K. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember McGregor reminded residents to prepare for sudden storm events, noting that the recent storm occurred with little warning. She advised residents to keep nonperishable food items such as granola bars, fruit snacks, and bottled water readily available. She recommended maintaining a heat source that does not rely on electricity and shared that she used a kerosene heater when necessary. She also recommended using a solar charger for cell phones and stated that she successfully recharged phones during the outage. She suggested using LED lanterns for lighting and emphasized that simple preparations could make outages more manageable.

Councilmember Bowers reported that she circulated her constituent report covering December 2025 through February 2026, which summarized events, activities, issues, and questions she received during that period. She stated that she had planned to host a constituent hour at the library but that a power outage affected the facility. She explained that she still attended and spoke with residents, including individuals visiting for other activities, and noted that she connected with a neighbor she had not previously met. She thanked Vice President Jones for her remarks during the invocation regarding the community's response to the storm and also thanked AEP Ohio for providing timely information. She announced that she rescheduled her constituent hour for Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Gahanna Branch Library and invited residents to attend.

Vice President Jones reported that her January and February constituent report was attached to the agenda and clarified that her upcoming constituent hour would occur on April 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at SGT Coffee. She expressed appreciation for the community’s response to the storm and specifically commended Parks and Recreation staff and the Gahanna Police Department. She described observing police officers manage traffic during the storm and expressed appreciation for their efforts in maintaining safety during chaotic conditions.

President Weaver expressed gratitude to city staff, police officers, volunteers, and residents who supported one another during the storm. He noted the strength of the community and encouraged residents to utilize debris drop-off services as recovery efforts continued.

[2026-0056](#) Councilmember Jamille Jones' Constituent Report - January-February 2026

[2026-0062](#) Councilmember Merisa K. Bowers' Constituent Report - December 2025-February 2026

L. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Weaver adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

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

Trenton I. Weaver