



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

Committee of the Whole

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Trenton I. Weaver, Chair

Merisa K. Bowers

Jamille Jones

Nancy R. McGregor

Kaylee Padova

Stephen A. Renner

Michael Schnetzer

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, August 25, 2025

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Gahanna City Council met for Committee of the Whole on Monday, August 25, 2025, in Council Chambers. Vice President of Council Trenton I. Weaver, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m., noting Council's adjournment from a Special Meeting delayed the opening of Committee of the Whole. The agenda was published on August 22, 2025. All members were present for the meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Vice President Weaver reminded members that the next Regular Council meeting would be on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, as City of Gahanna offices are closed on Monday, September 1, 2025, in observance of Labor Day.

B. ITEMS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

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)

Miranda Vollmer, Senior Director of Administrative Services, presented information about employee health insurance and summarized a memo and recommendations from the City of Gahanna's benefits advisor, NFP. She said the City of Gahanna contracted with NFP in 2024 to assess the financial and operational implications of transitioning to a self-funded model and that NFP conducted an RFP (Request for Proposal) for health benefit services in 2025. Vollmer said staff and partners conducted finalist interviews for pharmacy benefit management and that about 25 city employees and union partners participated in finalist demonstrations for a wellness program. Vollmer said NFP recommended that the City of Gahanna exit the Central Ohio Health Care Consortium (COHCC) effective January 1, 2026, and establish a standalone self-funded program. She said the proposal would preserve UMR for health insurance and RxBenefits for prescription drug

coverage, maintaining the same vendors the City of Gahanna used through the COHCC so employees would experience no disruption. She said the City of Gahanna would run an RFP for a stop-loss carrier in August 2025 with stop-loss coverage to take effect January 1, 2026. Vollmer stated NFP recommended exiting the contract with OSU for urgent care and wellness and transitioning to First Stop Health for 24/7 virtual urgent care, PeopleEQ/WellnessIQ for an enhanced, technology-driven wellness program, and CuraLinc for employee assistance services. She said CuraLinc would provide employees and dependents with 24/7 access to certified mental health professionals and that first responders would receive a dedicated SupportLink phone line staffed by trauma-informed counselors.

Senior Director Vollmer summarized projected financial impacts. She said the top chart in the NFP report compared estimated 2026 costs under the proposed vendor arrangements (green) with the costs of remaining in the COHCC (orange). She said the City of Gahanna transitioned ancillary benefits, which included dental, vision, and life insurance, to MetLife in 2024. Vollmer said the transition would produce projected savings of roughly \$800,000 as a minimum for 2026. She said UMR projected a 4.2 lower spend compared with consortium levels, that pharmacy costs could fall up to 8.1% below the consortium agreement, that First Stop Health would offer significant savings compared with OSU urgent care (OSU proposed a \$270 per-visit fee while First Stop Health would cost about \$13,000 for the entire year), and that the wellness program would yield more than \$10,000 in savings. She said NFP projected a 0% premium increase for employees in 2026 under the proposed model. Vollmer said the City of Gahanna would include all appropriations for the program in the 2026 operating budget that staff would present in October. Vollmer outlined two resolutions staff requested: one to exit the COHCC under the joint self-insurance agreement (with notice required by October) and a second to establish a health benefits self-insurance program, authorize Mayor Jadwin to execute related third-party administrative agreements for health, prescription drug, and stop-loss services, and authorize the Finance Director to establish an internal service fund for the self-insurance program.

Councilmember Schnetzer asked for clarification about the consortium and the City of Gahanna's role in it. Vollmer confirmed that the COHCC had twelve members and that Gahanna stood among the largest members. She said, by contrast, the consortium faced a minimum projected 9% increase for 2026 while the City of Gahanna's proposed standalone arrangement would allow a 0% premium increase for employees. Vollmer explained that, historically, the City of Gahanna performed well on its health insurance experience over the past three to five years and that when the City of Gahanna's claims fell below premiums, the excess premiums flowed into consortium reserves, which the consortium used to pay other members whose claims exceeded premiums. Schnetzer asked whether the City of Gahanna would remove itself from the consortium pool and rely solely on its own employees, and Vollmer confirmed that the City of Gahanna would become its own pool. He asked whether NFP would act as the actuary and run the calculations to determine required contributions, and Vollmer confirmed that state code required NFP to run actuarial calculations annually

and report recommended reserve levels. She said she, Director Bury, and Senior Deputy Director Wybensing were working on seeding the internal service fund in the 2026 budget to protect against unexpected catastrophic claims and to avoid a steep premium increase in 2027. Schnetzer asked about risks to a self-insurance model and whether the City of Gahanna could layer reinsurance in the early years. Vollmer said the City of Gahanna would purchase stop-loss coverage with a deductible of \$100,000 so that any claim exceeding that amount would qualify for stop-loss reimbursement.

Councilmember Renner asked whether the proposed change meant the City of Gahanna would remove OSU urgent care and move entirely to virtual care. Senior Director Vollmer replied that the City of Gahanna currently paid about \$200,000 per year to OSU Urgent Care so employees and their dependents could receive certain services at no charge. She explained that the City of Gahanna would fund First Stop Health at 100 percent, that First Stop Health would provide a virtual appointment and arrange partner labs when necessary, and that those services would fall under the \$13,000 annual fee. Vollmer said employees could choose to visit another urgent care or an emergency room, but those visits would run through UMR medical claims. She added that the City of Gahanna expected First Stop Health usage to keep charges off the medical plan and that First Stop Health would reimburse the City of Gahanna if utilization did not meet agreed milestones. Councilmember Renner noted the City of Gahanna would increase wellness programming and encouraged better health behaviors; Vollmer confirmed the City of Gahanna planned to expand wellness offerings. She described PeopleEQ's wellness platform, including a gamified app and website, short instructional videos, and an annual strategy review that would use biometric data to recommend targeted well-being programs.

Councilmember McGregor asked where employees would obtain X-rays or blood draws if they used First Stop Health. Vollmer said First Stop Health would use partner providers to perform labs and imaging and that the First Stop Health clinician would follow up with the employee; she reiterated that employees could instead seek care at an urgent care facility or emergency room of their choice. Vollmer observed that many employees remained on high-deductible plans early in the year and that providing a free virtual option encouraged cost-conscious care and kept plan claims lower. She added that Human Resources and she reviewed First Stop Health's partner locations and found partners throughout the outer belt of the Columbus area.

Councilmember Jones asked whether employees would experience other changes beyond the switch from OSU to First Stop Health and how seamless the transition would be. Vollmer said employees would experience no disruption because the City of Gahanna would remain on the UMR (UnitedHealthcare) medical network and continue prescription coverage through RxBenefits/Express Scripts. She said staff would implement the administrative transition away from the consortium, that employees would receive new insurance cards in January, and that the visible changes for employees would be the new EAP, the virtual urgent care, and the new wellness program.

President Bowers noted that the HSA (Health Savings Account) would remain in place and that contributions would remain the same for the moment; Vollmer confirmed that statement.

Vice President Weaver summarized that he was not hearing any decrease in benefits for staff; Vollmer agreed and added that the plan would increase benefits while lowering cost.

Councilmember McGregor asked what financial exposure the City of Gahanna faced if the plan experienced a catastrophic claim. Vollmer explained that insurers evaluated premiums using data from the last five years, the last three years, and the last year, and that actuaries could identify one-time high-cost claims (for example, a premature baby) and treat them as one-time costs rather than ongoing expenses. She said the City of Gahanna would fund a self-insurance reserve similar to the existing risk insurance fund and could request additional Council appropriations if a catastrophic loss occurred in the first year. Vollmer noted that employees paid a monthly premium (the single plan cost ran about \$850) and that the City of Gahanna would draw from the reserve to pay claims that exceeded premium collections each month.

Recommendation: Introduction/Adoption on Consent Agenda on 9/2/2025.

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

Recommendation: Introduction/Adoption on Consent Agenda on 9/2/2025.

C. ITEMS FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:

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

Senior Deputy Director Corey Wybensinger reported that the resolution before Council would authorize Mayor Jadwin to enter into an electric supply agreement for City of Gahanna facilities. He stated that the agreement would cover 67 electric utility accounts for municipal buildings, park facilities, streetlights, lift stations, and other citywide operations. He reminded Council that Senior Director Schultz and he discussed the citywide accounts on the May 12, 2025, agenda and said this action followed from those conversations. Wybensinger explained that staff engaged an independent energy advisor, Tradition Energy, through the Omnia Partners consortium to secure

competitive pricing and favorable contract terms. He said Tradition Energy provided market analysis and indicative pricing and that recent market variables flattened pricing. He reported that staff planned to pursue a 12-month term rather than lock into a longer contract, and that staff obtained pricing for both 100 percent renewable and traditional energy, to compare the data. Wybensing stated that, based on current indicators, staff intended to pursue 100 percent renewable supply for all 67 accounts for the December 2025 to December 2026 term if the pricing proved cost feasible. He said the current numbers showed roughly a \$9,600 differential for converting about 4 million kilowatt-hours to 100 percent renewable. He described the procurement timeline: staff expected the item on the September 2, 2025, agenda, Tradition Energy would solicit market bids on September 3, 2025, staff would receive pricing between 10:00 a.m. and noon that day, and staff typically needed to return a signed agreement between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. to lock those rates. He added that staff would not have to accept unfavorable pricing and that the market could place staff under greater pressure in October 2025 if pricing did not arrive favorably. He noted an indicative price of approximately \$0.07 per kilowatt-hour and that Tradition Energy could leverage bundled purchases to obtain better rates. He requested that Council adopt the resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter the electric supply agreement in accordance with Tradition Energy's analysis and recommendation.

Councilmember Renner thanked Wybensing for the thorough presentation, noted the market volatility, and asked whether staff would report back with the options and final decision. Wybensing replied that the resolution required staff to provide Council with a copy of the signed agreement within ten days, which would include terms, conditions, and rates.

Councilmember McGregor confirmed the approximately \$9,600 difference between renewable and traditional options, and Wybensing replied that the differential reflected consumption of just over four million kilowatt-hours.

Recommendation: Introduction/Adoption on Regular Agenda on 9/2/2025.

D. ITEMS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY:

[RES-0038-2025](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO ENTER INTO THE PURDUE DIRECT SETTLEMENT

City Attorney Tamilarasan explained that she requested a resolution authorizing her to enter into the Purdue direct settlement, a national opioid settlement. She recalled that Council adopted a resolution in 2021 that joined the One Ohio plan to allocate state-distributed settlement funds among participating municipalities. She reported that the City of Gahanna accrued a little more than \$123,000 in the opioid settlement fund to date and that the City of Gahanna had not yet expended those funds. She noted that new national settlements continued to emerge and that each settlement required participating entities to submit a new participation form. Although she believed the original ordinance implicitly covered participation in One Ohio settlements, she requested explicit Council authority to participate in the Purdue settlement to ensure Council knew of and approved of the action. Tamilarasan stated

that she planned further research into permissible uses of the opioid settlement funds and the associated reporting requirements. She observed that the funds generally targeted remediation of the opioid crisis, with emphasis on prevention and treatment, and she likened the anticipated program to a grant model that would fund gaps in prevention and treatment services. She reiterated that the settlement payments accrued over time and represented an additional opportunity for the City of Gahanna to accept available funds.

President Bowers asked whether the roughly \$123,000 represented the funds the City of Gahanna already received from prior settlements or an expected additional amount from the Purdue settlement. Tamilarasan replied that the figure represented the aggregate amount the City of Gahanna accrued so far through all settlements and added that the City of Gahanna participated in about a dozen settlements by virtue of its One Ohio membership.

Councilmember Jones asked whether the City of Gahanna faced any time limit for using the accrued funds. Tamilarasan answered that the City of Gahanna held the funds with no immediate deadline to spend them, explained that individual payments tended to be relatively small and accrued over time, and noted that the City of Gahanna had about four years of accrued funds. She added that the City of Gahanna faced strict time limits for reporting and monitoring any funds once it deployed them.

Recommendation: Introduction/Adoption on Consent Agenda on 9/2/2025.

Discussion: Review of Council Rules of Procedure

City Attorney Tamilarasan reported that she undertaken a review of the Council Rules of Procedure concerning the format of legislation, specifically the use of ordinances, resolutions, motions, and other legislative forms. She stated that her review considered historical trends, statutory requirements, and practices in neighboring communities. She said she recommended written guidelines for when to use each legislative mechanism and that, absent a statutory need for an ordinance, a resolution would suffice. Tamilarasan explained that she drafted a redline and solicited comments from the Clerk of Council and administration before circulating the draft to Council. She anticipated returning the redline for the next Committee of the Whole for review. She noted that the recommendation to favor resolutions helped explain why the Council recently saw more resolutions than usual. She identified the exceptions that would continue to require ordinances, including changes to the codified code, appropriations of funds, and the acquisition or disposition of property. She stated that resolutions would suffice for purely administrative actions and for authorizations such as her authority to enter the Purdue opioid settlement or the mayor's authority to enter certain contracts. Tamilarasan added that she reviewed the legislative pathway and observed that practice required legislation to originate in Committee of the Whole and then proceed to the full body of Council, with referrals back to Committee of the Whole occurring only when further discussion proved necessary. She said she would examine whether the rules clearly reflected that practice. She invited discussion and questions.

Vice President Weaver thanked the City Attorney, invited questions, and asked Council to watch their inboxes for the redline and related materials, noting that Council would discuss the matter in two weeks.

E. ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL OFFICE:

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

Clerk VanMeter explained that Council had before it a draft ordinance to amend Ordinance 0027-2025, which Council approved on July 7, 2025. He said the July 7, 2025, ordinance authorized Mayor Jadwin to enter into an access easement agreement with CenterPoint Church, but the supplemental agreement incorrectly listed the church address as 670 McCutcheon Road rather than 620 McCutcheon Road. He stated that the title and body of the ordinance required amendment to correct that error and allow the supplemental agreement to proceed, and he confirmed that the easement itself contained the correct address and parcel.

Vice President Weaver asked for discussion and, noting the correction, said he assumed all proper filings would be made once everything was corrected.

Councilmember McGregor asked whether the error held anything up. Clerk VanMeter deferred to the City Attorney. City Attorney Tamilarasan replied that the supplemental agreement deadlines lay far enough in the future that the error would not cause a delay, and she confirmed that the easement, based on the original ordinance, could be executed and recorded.

**Recommendation: Introduction/First Reading on Regular Agenda on 9/2/2025;
Second Reading/Adoption on Consent Agenda on 9/15/2025.**

F. ITEMS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE:

ORD-0038-2025 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - General Fund and OCJS Grant Fund

Director of Finance Joann Bury stated she had two items related to the midyear review of appropriations. She requested supplemental appropriations and explained the requests as shown on the table in the finance report. She said the request included a transfer to the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) fund because grant and loan dollars came in slightly under actual expenditures, which would return that fund to a positive balance. She added payroll items for Mayor's Court and contract services for the Justice Fund in the Police Department. She said the department received grant reimbursements and planned to apply those reimbursements toward additional public safety expenditures.

Recommendation: Introduction/First Reading on Regular Agenda on 9/2/2025;
Second Reading/Adoption on Consent Agenda on 9/15/2025.

RES-0037-2025

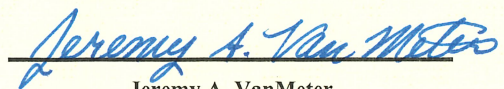
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS - Public Safety Contract Services and State Treasury Contract Services to Materials and Supplies Accounts

Director Bury clarified that the second item represented a transfer. She said projections identified a surplus on the Police Department's contract services line and a shortfall in materials and supplies, and she explained they would transfer the appropriations to address that imbalance.

Recommendation: Introduction/Adoption on Consent Agenda on 9/2/2025.

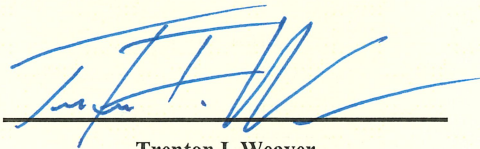
G. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Committee of the Whole, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.



Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

APPROVED by the Committee of the Whole, this
2nd day of *Sept.* 2025.



Trenton I. Weaver