



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

City Council

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

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, June 15, 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, June 15, 2026, in Council Chambers. Vice President of Council Jamille Jones called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Councilmember Kaylee Padova delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on June 12, 2026.

Present 6 - Merisa K. Bowers, Jamille Jones, Nancy R. McGregor, Kaylee Padova, Stephen A. Renner, and Michael Schnetzer

Absent 1 - Trenton I. Weaver

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Community Grants Update

[2026-0126](#)

2026 Community Grants Funding Requests and Awards

Corey Wybensinger, Senior Deputy Director, presented an update on the 2026 Community Grant Program. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger reported that the program had met all scheduled milestones since his March update. The City opened applications on March 16 and distributed the notice of funding opportunities to registered nonprofits, previous applicants, and organizations that had expressed interest in the program over the past four years. Staff also promoted the program through social media, the City newsletter, and the Mayor's comments. Senior Deputy

Director Wybensinger stated that the City offered an informational coaching session for the first time to assist nonprofits with the application process. Three nonprofit organizations, representing approximately seven attendees, participated in the session. Staff distributed a final application reminder on April 6, and applications closed on April 13. The program received a record 24 applications from 21 organizations. Organizations could submit multiple applications for separate projects, which the committee reviewed independently. Although each project carried a maximum request of \$10,000, applicants requested more than \$207,000 in total funding.

Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger reviewed the composition of the five-member grant review committee, which included four residents, two appointed by Council and two appointed by the Mayor, and one City staff member outside the Department of Administrative Services. He thanked Travis Polk, Nancy Gurwin, Laura Repasky, Melanie Hill, and Director of Economic Development Jeff Gottke for serving on the committee. He explained that Council had received the annual funding matrix showing each applicant, project, requested amount, and awarded amount. The committee fully or partially funded 17 applications and awarded the entire \$100,000 appropriated for the program. Thirteen applications received partial funding, four received full funding, and seven did not receive funding because of competition for the available funds. Only two of the fully funded applications requested the full \$10,000 maximum.

Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger reported that staff held a post-award meeting on May 20 in Council Chambers to review grant agreements, program requirements, and answer questions from grant recipients. All grant agreements had been executed, and several organizations had already begun their programming. He noted that staff aimed to complete awards by the end of the second quarter to accommodate summer programming. He outlined the post-award monitoring process, including mandatory benchmark check-ins on July 31 and October 31 to monitor progress, provide assistance when needed, and address projects that might not meet program benchmarks. He stated that nonprofit organizations appreciated the scheduled check-ins because they helped volunteers stay on track. Final reports remained due on December 31, 2026, although staff could grant extensions in limited circumstances. He also reminded Council that the program operated on a reimbursement basis.

Councilmember Padova thanked Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger for the update and asked whether the \$10,000 funding cap applied to each organization or to each project. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger clarified that the cap applied to individual projects or programs rather than organizations, allowing the committee to fund more than one project from the same organization if warranted.

Vice President Jones asked whether the grant review committee determined award amounts in addition to selecting projects for funding. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger responded that the committee reviewed all applications against the established criteria, evaluated project scope and funding needs, considered the potential for additional outside funding, and reached a consensus on both funding and award amounts.

Councilmember Bowers thanked Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger for his work administering the grant program. She asked whether additional available funding would have resulted in more projects receiving full funding. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger responded that the committee based its decisions on the merits of each application rather than simply distributing the available budget. He noted that the previous year's committee had awarded only \$81,000 of a \$100,000 allocation because the applications did not justify additional funding. Councilmember Bowers asked whether award amounts reflected the overall program budget or the supporting documentation provided by applicants. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger replied that, in the example she referenced, the committee funded the portion of the project supported by the information contained in the application. Councilmember Bowers also asked whether organizations had to make their programs available to all qualifying residents or whether membership-based organizations could limit participation. Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger explained that applicants disclosed whether programs were membership based and that at least 51 percent of program participants had to be Gahanna residents. He added that the committee could consider membership restrictions when evaluating applications, depending on the nature of the organization.

After confirming there were no additional questions, Vice President Jones thanked Senior Deputy Director Wybensinger for the update and

expressed appreciation for the work the funded organizations would perform in the community.

D. HEARING OF VISITORS:

None.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2026-0127](#) Council Regular Minutes 2026-06-01
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2026-0128](#) Committee of the Whole Minutes 2026-06-01
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2026-0129](#) Finance Committee Minutes 2026-06-01
The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Resolutions:

[RES-0017-2026](#) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027
The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0021-2026](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND AND AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE STATE CAPITAL GRANT FUND FOR THE ACADEMY PARK PROJECT
The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

End of Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - Weaver

F. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0020-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - State Capital Grant Fund and Capital Improvement Fund for Academy Park and Friendship Park Projects

Vice President Jones introduced the Ordinance, and Clerk VanMeter read it by title.

G. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk

Jeremy VanMeter, Clerk of Council, recognized Caris Lantz, the Council Office's summer intern through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) program. He reported that Ms. Lantz would serve with the Council Office through August 6, 2026, and would present a summary of her internship experience during the first Council meeting in August. He noted that the Council Office had planned several opportunities for her throughout the summer and encouraged Council members to introduce themselves, meet with her, and share their experiences as legislators. He also shared that Ms. Lantz had expressed an interest in public policy and was considering pursuing a law degree following her senior year or after taking a gap year.

Vice President Jones welcomed Ms. Lantz and expressed appreciation for her participation in the City's summer internship program.

2. Council - None.

H. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Padova reported on the May 20, 2026, Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) meeting. She stated that the CIC discussed its strategic plan, which it anticipated presenting to Council within the next several months. The CIC approved the meeting minutes and financial reports, received an update on the transition from Gmail to Outlook email accounts, and heard that the Creekside project remained on schedule. The CIC also discussed the Amfield House sidewalks before entering executive session from 9:06 a.m. to 9:31 a.m. During the meeting, members discussed extending future meeting lengths from 60

minutes to 90 minutes. Councilmember Padova announced that the next CIC meeting would take place the following morning, June 17, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

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

[2026-0118](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 2026-06-15

Vice President Jones noted that President Weaver was absent and stated that his Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) report was included with the meeting agenda. She encouraged Council members to review the report, which included updates on pending Statehouse legislation, funding opportunities, and upcoming regional events, and thanked President Weaver for providing the report.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reminded residents that the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival would take place Friday through Sunday of that week. She noted that tickets remained available through the festival website and highlighted the addition of a Juneteenth celebration on Friday at the community stage. She encouraged residents to attend the festival and stated that the weather forecast appeared favorable.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Vice President Jones reminded Council of two upcoming Gahanna-Jefferson Board of Education meetings that week: the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on Tuesday evening and the regular Board of Education meeting on Thursday evening. She noted that both meetings would begin at 6:30 p.m. at Clark Hall.

I. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin reported that the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) celebrated the groundbreaking for the first LinkUS project to receive funding. She stated that MORPC presented approximately \$2.2 million to the City of Grove City for construction of the Hoover Road pedestrian bridge over Interstate 71. She noted that MORPC partnered with the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) to

establish the funding mechanism for the LinkUS program. Mayor Jadwin also reported that Gahanna's LinkUS project had been rescheduled from 2028 to 2029 and stated that the project would provide funding to support the Big Walnut Trail. Mayor Jadwin announced that the sold-out Mobility Exchange Conference would take place later that week. She stated that she would participate as a presenter and that Senior Director Schultz and Director of Engineering Hossein Naraghi would also attend.

Mayor Jadwin commended the Public Service Department for its response to the waterline break along the Taylor Road and Taylor Station Road corridor. She reported that staff responded on a Sunday, diagnosed the issue, completed the necessary repairs, and restored water service within approximately five hours. She expressed appreciation for the department's responsiveness and service to the community.

Mayor Jadwin reminded residents about the upcoming Independence Day celebrations, including the July 3 fireworks display at the Municipal Golf Course and the July 4 parade presented by the Gahanna Lions Club. She noted that VIP tickets for the fireworks event would become available the following week and would include parking, dinner, clubhouse access, restrooms, and a designated viewing area. She also shared that the Parks and Recreation Department had planned additional activities for the event. Mayor Jadwin encouraged residents and visitors attending the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival to use the free shuttle service from the AEP Ohio facility on Morrison Road because parking in the downtown area would be limited. She also noted that festival tickets remained available. Mayor Jadwin concluded by wishing her daughter Sarah a happy birthday and announced the birth of her first grandchild, Audrey, welcoming her to the family.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan reported that the tobacco preemption litigation had proceeded to oral argument the previous week. She stated that the Ohio Supreme Court livestreamed and recorded the oral arguments, which remained available on its website. She noted that the case had been fully briefed and argued and that the City awaited a decision. She stated that she would apprise Council once the Court issued a decision.

City Attorney Tamilarasan also introduced her summer intern, Shreya Marimuthu. She stated that Ms. Marimuthu had joined her for the summer from the University of Texas Houston and would remain through the end of July while assisting with work for the City and her private practice.

Vice President Jones welcomed Ms. Marimuthu and expressed appreciation for her participation during the summer.

J. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember Bowers thanked Mayor Jadwin for recognizing City staff for their response to the recent waterline break and highlighted the Gahanna Direct portal as a valuable resource for residents to report service issues. She shared her experience using the portal to report low water pressure after a neighbor contacted her with the same concern. She encouraged residents to use the portal to report concerns and monitor the progress of service requests. Councilmember Bowers also recognized Senior Director Schultz for his role in implementing the system. Councilmember Bowers thanked the Gahanna Division of Police and other City staff for their efforts to educate the community about e-bikes and e-scooters. She acknowledged that the issue had generated significant public interest and noted that Council continued to consider both legislative and operational responses. She expressed appreciation for staff's ongoing communication and responsiveness. Councilmember Bowers recognized June as National Gun Violence Prevention Month and encouraged the community to remember victims of gun violence and consider ways to reduce firearm-related deaths. She referenced recent incidents involving domestic violence and noted that Everytown for Gun Safety ranked Ohio as having weak systems to prevent gun violence. She expressed support for expanding emergency protection laws at the state level and continuing local efforts to provide education, safe storage resources, gun locks, and proactive first responder programs. Councilmember Bowers also referenced the joint resolution and proclamation adopted in April 2024 recognizing the Gahanna Division of Police, Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools, and Mifflin Township for their collaborative efforts to prevent unintentional firearm discharges and youth access to firearms. She encouraged residents who shared her views to contact their state elected officials regarding emergency protection orders. She concluded by congratulating Mayor Jadwin on the birth of her grandchild and wishing everyone a happy Juneteenth and Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival weekend.

Vice President Jones thanked Councilmember Bowers for recognizing National Gun Violence Prevention Month.

K. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, Vice President Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

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

Trenton I. Weaver