



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, March 2, 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 2, 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 February 27, 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. PRESENTATIONS:

**1. Swearing-in Ceremony - Mayor Jadwin & Division of Police
Sgt. Jeffrey Hoffman and Sgt. Bryan Kovalik**

Mayor Jadwin introduced the swearing-in ceremony for two new sergeants in the Gahanna Division of Police and stated that the evening marked another exciting occasion for the Division. She noted that the City had previously added a second deputy chief position and had recently promoted two lieutenants. She recalled that when voters approved Issue 12 in 2019, public safety and investment in the Police Department remained central priorities. She stated that the promotions, hiring efforts, and career development opportunities for police officers reflected the City's commitment to those priorities. Mayor Jadwin also noted the strong support shown by officers in attendance for their

colleagues. Mayor Jadwin invited Director of Public Safety Tim Becker to offer remarks.

Director Becker stated that the Division appreciated the opportunity to bring new leaders on board and expressed excitement about the ideas and leadership they would contribute as the department continued to grow.

Mayor Jadwin then administered the oath of office to Sergeant Jeffrey Hoffman and Sergeant Bryan Kovalik. Following the oath, Mayor Jadwin congratulated Sergeant Hoffman and Sergeant Kovalik on their promotions.

Director Becker invited Sergeant Jeffrey Hoffman forward for the badge-pinning portion of the ceremony and noted that members of his family attended the event. Director Becker stated that Sergeant Hoffman grew up in central Ohio and served 12 years in the United States Army Reserve as a military police officer, where he achieved the rank of platoon sergeant and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He stated that the Gahanna Division of Police hired Sergeant Hoffman in 2019 and that he had served in several capacities, including as a member of the peer support team. Director Becker noted that Sergeant Hoffman had removed more than 200 impaired drivers from Gahanna roadways and had received three consecutive awards from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. He added that Sergeant Hoffman became a standardized field sobriety testing instructor and a Driving Impaired Criminal Enforcement (DICE) officer to assist fellow officers with enforcement efforts. Director Becker stated that Sergeant Hoffman credited the support of his mentor on third shift and looked forward to strengthening the third-shift team alongside Sergeant Bryan Kovalik. Following the remarks, Sergeant Hoffman participated in the badge-pinning ceremony with assistance from a family member.

Director Becker then introduced Sergeant Bryan Kovalik for the next badge-pinning. He noted that members of Sergeant Kovalik's family attended the ceremony. Director Becker stated that Sergeant Kovalik was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and grew up in northeast Ohio. He noted that Sergeant Kovalik served six years of active duty in the United States Air Force and earned an associate degree in criminal justice from the Community College of the Air Force. Director Becker

stated that Sergeant Kovalik credited a mentor from his Air Force service and that the Gahanna Division of Police hired him in 2014. He explained that Sergeant Kovalik had served as a patrol officer, detective, SWAT member, and firearms instructor, and that these roles helped shape his development as an officer. Director Becker stated that Sergeant Kovalik looked forward to returning to patrol and continuing to develop as a leader. After the ceremony concluded, Director Becker expressed confidence that Sergeants Hoffman and Kovalik would serve as strong leaders for the Division. He stated that he appreciated the opportunity to work through the selection process with both officers and noted their enthusiasm for learning, leading, and continuing to protect the Gahanna community.

Chief Spence added that the Division had completed several promotions in recent months, including two lieutenants, a deputy chief, and two sergeants. He stated that the opening of the new facility at 825 Tech Center Drive created opportunities for leadership development and future growth within the department. Chief Spence also noted that the Division continued to hire additional personnel, including recruits and lateral transfers, which would bring the department to full staffing and position it well for the coming years.

President Weaver thanked the Chief, the Director, and the Mayor. He congratulated Sergeants Hoffman and Kovalik and their families and remarked that it was impressive to see so many colleagues present to celebrate the promotions. He stated that Council looked forward to the continued contributions of both officers.

**2. Joint Resolution/Proclamation by Council, Mayor, City Attorney
Women's History Month Presentation by Tom Gregory
Honoring Laura M. Fisher, First Gahanna Councilwoman Elected 1921**

President Weaver introduced the next agenda item, a joint resolution and proclamation by Council, the Mayor, and the City Attorney recognizing Women's History Month, along with a presentation by Tom Gregory honoring Laura M. Fisher, the first woman elected to Gahanna Council in 1921. He then recognized Councilmember Padova to introduce the presentation.

Councilmember Padova stated that Council recognized Women's History Month in March and noted that the 2026 theme was "Leading the

Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future.” She explained that Council believed it appropriate to recognize the first woman to represent the then-Village of Gahanna. Councilmember Padova then introduced Tom Gregory to present information about the life and legacy of Councilwoman Laura M. Fisher.

Tom Gregory presented a brief historical overview of Laura M. Fisher and the Fisher family’s role in Gahanna’s early history. He explained that Laura Fisher became the first woman elected to Gahanna’s council in 1921, shortly after the passage of the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote and participate in government. He noted that Gahanna elected two women that year, though Laura Fisher ultimately served as the first to hold office. Gregory provided background on Laura Fisher’s life, noting that she and her husband, Ross Fisher, were high school sweethearts and married on December 25, 1900. He explained that Ross Fisher and his brother operated a general store known as Fiser Brothers in Gahanna from 1908 to 1932, which later became Shadwicks. Gregory noted that the store served as an important part of the community’s early commercial framework. He described the Fisher family’s broader involvement in local government and civic life. Ross Fisher served as village treasurer from 1916 to 1919 and later served on Council from 1926 to 1927, while another member of the family also served on Council and the school board. Gregory stated that Laura Fisher’s service occurred during a time when Gahanna had a population of approximately 350 residents.

Mr. Gregory explained that while serving on Council, Fisher participated in discussions and decisions regarding several community issues, including the transition to electric lighting, the installation of street lighting infrastructure, and the passage of a tax levy to fund those improvements. He also noted that the Council at the time held a community mass meeting to discuss the electric lighting project and temporarily turned off the city’s lights to encourage residents to attend. Gregory further discussed the Fisher family’s continued civic involvement after Laura Fisher’s council service, including participation in agricultural and community organizations and other local initiatives. He also described the family’s business changes in the 1930s and the circumstances that eventually led to the sale of the original store. Gregory concluded by emphasizing the lasting legacy of Laura Fisher’s election and service. He noted that while her election received little public recognition at the time,

it marked an early milestone for women in municipal government in Gahanna, Franklin County, and beyond. He also observed that women now hold a majority of the elected seats on Gahanna City Council and highlighted a recent school ribbon-cutting event in which several women leaders delivered remarks. Gregory stated that Laura Fisher's legacy continues to influence the community today.

Councilmember Padova thanked Mr. Gregory for the presentation and invited attendees to come forward for a photograph.

President Weaver thanked Councilmember Padova for bringing forward the recognition and thanked Tom Gregory for the presentation. He also thanked Marilyn Fisher and the Fisher family for attending and stated that it was an honor to serve alongside the women currently serving in Gahanna's leadership.

D. HEARING OF VISITORS:

None.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

- | | |
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| <u>2026-0051</u> | Council Special Minutes 2026-02-16

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. |
| <u>2026-0045</u> | Council Regular Minutes 2026-02-16

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. |
| <u>2026-0046</u> | Committee of the Whole Minutes 2026-02-23

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. |
| <u>2026-0047</u> | Finance Committee Minutes 2026-02-23

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. |
| <u>2026-0048</u> | Ad hoc Rules Committee Minutes 2026-02-04

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. |
| <u>2026-0049</u> | Ad hoc Rules Committee Minutes 2026-02-12 |

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Motions:

[MT-0010-2026](#) A MOTION TO CONFIRM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY'S APPOINTMENT OF JEFFERSON FIRE CHIEF BRADFORD SHULL AND MIFFLIN FIRE CHIEF BRIAN DUNLEVY AS MUNICIPAL FIRE SAFETY INSPECTORS PURSUANT TO SECTION 1501.04 OF THE GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES, TO REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A SUCCESSOR IS QUALIFIED AND APPOINTED

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[MT-0009-2026](#) A MOTION TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE AS PROPOSED BY THE AD HOC COUNCIL RULES COMMITTEE (EXHIBIT A)

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

3. Resolutions:

[RES-0004-2026](#) A JOINT RESOLUTION AND PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MARCH 2026 AS "WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH" IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA AND HONORING LAURA M. FISHER, THE FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO SERVE ON THE VILLAGE OF GAHANNA COUNCIL IN 1921

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0006-2026](#) A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO PROVIDE CONSENT AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION WHICH IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE REPAIR OF CONCRETE PARAPETS AND REPLACEMENT OF VANDAL PROTECTION FENCE ON NORTH SIDE OF MCCUTCHEON ROAD BRIDGE

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

4. Ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption:

[ORD-0006-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 133.02 - PURCHASING PROCEDURES

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title. The Ordinance 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: 7 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

F. RESOLUTIONS:

[RES-0005-2026](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A WAIVER OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT WATER QUANTITY CONTROLS PURSUANT TO SECTION 1113.02(e) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA FOR THE ACADEMY PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT (PK-25-08); PARCEL ID 025-004304

Councilmember McGregor stated that she objected to the proposed waiver of stormwater management quantity controls. She explained that she had corresponded by email with her husband and Senior Utilities Engineer Holly Boyer the previous week. She noted that the engineering review had examined the Academy Park study as an isolated issue. Councilmember McGregor described her husband's professional experience with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, where he worked for twelve years across three divisions addressing erosion issues throughout the state, and his eighteen years as mayor addressing erosion along the Big Walnut Creek and other waterways in Gahanna. She cited past projects that addressed erosion along the Big Walnut near the golf course and along the cliff behind Camrose Court. She also referenced the placement of fill in the floodplain during the 1960s near Academy Park, which she stated narrowed the channel between the fill and the bank near Camrose Court and Ridenour Road. Councilmember McGregor expressed concern that the waiver request did not consider downstream issues and stated that a geological and environmental engineering firm should conduct further study to ensure that the project did not endanger nearby homes located above the Big Walnut Creek.

Councilmember Renner thanked Jim and Nancy McGregor for sharing historical information about the floodplain south of Academy Park and the erosion concerns near Camrose Court. He stated that the context provided value but emphasized the importance of distinguishing between floodplain storage and stormwater mitigation. He explained that floodplains store floodwater and reduce water velocity, which helps limit erosion by allowing water to spread out. He acknowledged that historical fill in the floodplain may have increased erosion along the Big Walnut Creek over time. However, he stated that the project under consideration

did not propose additional floodplain fill or a loss of floodplain storage. He explained that the project focused primarily on stormwater management and site improvements and that modeling indicated peak flows at the watershed scale would remain essentially unchanged, with an increase of less than one percent. Councilmember Renner also noted that the project included underdrain systems and additional tree canopy, both of which would improve stormwater performance. He stated that only a portion of the parking lot would be reconstructed, allowing green infrastructure retrofits. He also referenced the presence of a shallow groundwater table that limited infiltration practices and stated that, given those constraints, the engineering approach appeared reasonable. Councilmember Renner emphasized the need to consider environmental protection, fiscal responsibility, and community benefits when evaluating projects and expressed confidence that the project addressed those priorities.

Councilmember Bowers asked the administration whether additional analysis requested by Mr. McGregor would provide any new information beyond what staff had already reviewed. Mayor Jadwin responded that the project had undergone evaluation and planning for two years and that at least seven licensed professional engineers had participated in the planning process. She stated that the prior city engineer had approved the project the previous summer and that Senior Utilities Engineer Holly Boyer later conducted an independent analysis. Mayor Jadwin explained that the issue before Council involved a stormwater variance and that concerns related to the Big Walnut Creek near Camrose Court represented a separate matter. She then invited Senior Utilities Engineer Holly Boyer to address the question. Senior Utilities Engineer Holly Boyer stated that the existing analysis demonstrated that the project would not change stormwater hydraulics in the area and that the modeling conducted by the consulting engineer showed site hydraulics would remain generally the same after the project. Councilmember Bowers asked whether additional analysis would provide any information relevant to the waiver request. Boyer replied that it would not.

Councilmember McGregor then asked why the waiver was necessary if the project would not produce a significant change. Senior Utilities Engineer Boyer explained that Gahanna's code required additional stormwater analysis beyond state requirements. She stated that the waiver would allow the project to follow Ohio Environmental Protection

Agency regulations rather than the stricter local code. She explained that the project would increase impervious surface through the parking lot but would also include a detention basin that would detain the additional runoff and leave site hydraulics unchanged. Mayor Jadwin added that if the City followed Gahanna's code requirements, the design would require a deeper detention basin. She explained that the high groundwater table at Academy Park prevented deeper excavation due to the site's location within the floodplain. She stated that the alternative would require expanding the basin footprint, which would reduce usable park space and impact the fields. She explained that the variance would allow the project to meet Ohio EPA standards instead, which would result in little to no difference in stormwater runoff compared to existing conditions. She also noted that the park currently had no stormwater management system and that runoff flowed directly into the creek. She stated that the new basin would detain the runoff, allow natural treatment, and release the water gradually.

Councilmember Bowers thanked the administration and staff for explaining the issue and asked whether granting the waiver would set a precedent for other projects to follow EPA standards rather than Gahanna's more stringent code. Senior Utilities Engineer Boyer stated that the waiver would apply only to properties adjacent to and abutting the Big Walnut Creek where hydraulic connections to the floodplain existed. She explained that such waivers would occur on a case-by-case basis. The waiver would apply only to hydraulically connected sites and that the circumstances under which an applicant could request such a waiver were limited. Councilmember Bowers thanked staff for the clarification.

Councilmember Renner asked whether the waiver applied specifically to the current project and whether any future scope changes would require the applicant to return to Council. Senior Utilities Engineer Boyer stated that if the applicant later proposed expanding the parking lot or undertaking additional development, the applicant would need to restart the process and comply fully with Gahanna's stormwater quantity and quality requirements for the entire development. Councilmember Renner acknowledged that clarification and noted that the waiver remained limited to the current project.

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

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

No: 1 - McGregor

G. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[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

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

H. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

[ORD-0002-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING, APPROVING, AND RATIFYING THE SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL FOR TAX YEAR 2024

Councilmember Bowers stated that during the previous committee meeting Council had discussed follow-up from the City Attorney's office. She asked City Attorney Tamilarasan whether Council should move forward with adopting the ordinance and recommendations as presented or consider an alternative approach.

City Attorney Tamilarasan recommended that Council move forward with the ordinance as presented. She explained that she had prepared and submitted a memorandum, included with the meeting materials, addressing questions raised during a prior Committee of the Whole meeting. She clarified that any voting member of the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) must receive proper appointment and concurrence from the legislative authority in order to participate. She further explained that after consulting with the county and its legal representatives, they determined that the statutory quorum consisted of twelve members rather than ten and included representatives from both Jefferson and Mifflin Townships. Under that interpretation, at least six members must be present to meet quorum. She stated that seven valid voting members had attended the meeting in question, which satisfied the quorum requirement and supported the validity of the recommendations. She concluded that Council could approve and move forward with those recommendations. City Attorney Tamilarasan added that her discussions with county officials and Director Gottke identified several best practices to implement in the future to avoid similar quorum concerns. She stated that she supported Director Gottke's recommendations presented at the previous committee meeting,

including the use of alternate representatives and locally housing the TIRC, in order to establish safeguards that would ensure proper participation and compliance moving forward.

President Weaver thanked Councilmember Bowers and City Attorney Tamilarasan for their remarks. He noted that Council had discussed the item extensively over several weeks and expressed appreciation to Director Gottke, the administration, and the City Attorney for their efforts to address questions and coordinate with the county. He also thanked Director Gottke for pursuing process improvements for the future.

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

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

Recommended Postponement to a Date Certain:

[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).

President Weaver introduced the ordinance and the Clerk read it by title. Regarding the potential annexation from Jefferson Township, President Weaver stated that the developer had requested a two-week postponement in order to present information at the Committee of the Whole meeting the following week. President Weaver recommended that Council support the request and asked for a motion to postpone Ordinance 0007-2026 to a date certain of March 16, 2026. During discussion on the motion to postpone, Councilmember Bowers stated that, after consulting with the City Attorney, she would abstain from participating in dialogue and voting on ordinances associated with the project. She explained that a conflict of interest existed through her work with the law firm representing the applicant.

A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Padova, that the Ordinance be Postponed to Date Certain, March 16, 2026. The item returns to Committee of the Whole on March 9, 2026 for further discussion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Abstain, COI: 1 - Bowers

I. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:**1. Clerk**[2026-0044](#)

Ohio Division of Liquor Control Notice to Legislative Authority Permit TRFO 10013340-1 FROM HARE RAM HARE KRISHNA LLC TO GAHANNA DRIVE THRU LLC (ALPINE DRIVE THRU) 210 GRANVILLE ST, GAHANNA, OH 43230

Clerk VanMeter reported that one item appeared on the agenda regarding a liquor control notice for 210 Granville Street, known as Alpine Drive-Thru. He explained that the notice involved a transfer of ownership. Clerk VanMeter stated that he consulted with the Division of Police and confirmed that the Division had no objections. He added that, if Council raised no objections, he would return the notice indicating that the City did not request a hearing. [Note: There were no objections raised, and the Clerk returned the notice indicating no hearing was requested.]

2. Council - None.**J. REPRESENTATIVES:****1. Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) - Renner, Padova**

Councilmember Renner stated that he would provide an updated report at the next regular meeting.

2. Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) - Weaver[2026-0052](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 2026-03-02

President Weaver encouraged members to review the full report for additional details. He noted that the next commission meeting would occur on Thursday, March 12, 2026. He highlighted information included in the report regarding community project funding and member-directed spending opportunities at the federal level, as well as the state capital budget process and related application deadlines. He also noted that Congresswoman Beatty's office would host a webinar on the process scheduled for March 6, 2026.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reminded Council that Herb Day would take place on May 2, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and encouraged residents to save the date. She stated that volunteer sign-up would open soon on the website. She also reminded Council that the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival would take place June 19 through June 21, 2026, and noted that tickets were already available for purchase.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Vice President Jones reminded Council of several upcoming meetings, including the board workshop meeting on March 5, 2026, the Finance and Facilities meeting on March 17, 2026, and the regular board meeting on March 19, 2026. She stated that all meetings would begin at 6:30 p.m. at Clark Hall.

K. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin recognized the work of City staff and reported that Senior Director Vollmer and Director Gottke, along with Sarah Bongiorno from Planning NEXT, presented at the Ohio City County Management Association conference. She explained that they shared Gahanna's approach to developing its strategic plan and highlighted the community-focused engagement process used to shape the plan. Mayor Jadwin noted that the presentation drew a standing-room-only audience and stated that the recognition demonstrated how Gahanna's work served as a model for engaging residents, setting priorities, and aligning resources to support long-term growth and quality of life. She stated that the collaboration and recognition reflected the dedication of staff and the importance of keeping the community at the center of the City's work. She added that the fifteen months spent engaging the community to establish a vision for Gahanna's future provided lessons that other communities could learn from and adapt.

Mayor Jadwin congratulated Sergeants Hoffman and Kovalik on their promotions and stated that their dedication, leadership, and commitment to serving the community set a high standard for the department. She stated that the City had an exceptional Division of Police and expressed confidence that both sergeants would continue to serve and protect residents. She also thanked the Human Resources team for coordinating

the hiring and promotion process and for supporting efforts to attract, develop, retain, and advance exceptional talent within the Division. Mayor Jadwin reported that all officers in the Division of Police participated in in-service training during the previous week. She explained that the training sessions focused on sharpening skills, reinforcing best practices, updating officers on evolving policies, and ensuring they remained prepared to serve residents. She also noted that the Division participated in joint critical incident response training with Mifflin Township Fire at a school building. She stated that the training provided a rare opportunity to practice within an actual school environment and helped prepare both agencies for potential emergency situations. Mayor Jadwin explained that the training supported professional standards, including CALEA accreditation requirements, and demonstrated the division's commitment to continuous improvement. She stated that policing and community expectations continued to evolve and emphasized the importance of officers continually improving their skills to meet community needs. She thanked Chief Spence, Director Becker, and Deputy Chiefs Moffitt and Lawless for organizing the training and stated that the teams gained valuable insights from the experience.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan reported that she expected the initial review and redline of the traffic and criminal code by the end of the month and anticipated presenting the revisions to Council in April. She invited Council to share any thoughts or concerns regarding the traffic and general offense code. She explained that the review would include updates related to Avery's Law and a review of the City's internal dog designation protocol to ensure alignment with new countywide policies. She also reported that she participated in a meeting with prosecutors from Franklin County, surrounding suburbs, and the City of Columbus to discuss upcoming procedures and policies related to dog designations, hearings, and appeals. She noted that the Franklin County Municipal Court would now assign such cases to all judges rather than directing them solely to Environmental Court, which marked a change from past practice. City Attorney Tamilarasan stated that she would provide additional updates when presenting the criminal code revisions and the dog designation provisions.

City Attorney Tamilarasan also reported that the Charter Review

Commission had begun its work. She stated that Clerk VanMeter had distributed invitations for Council to participate in upcoming meetings and encouraged both Council and the public to participate in the process. She explained that suggestions could include conceptual ideas, redlined language, or other recommendations and encouraged anyone with thoughts or suggestions to share them with the commission.

L. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember Renner congratulated Sergeants Hoffman and Kovalik on their promotions and expressed appreciation for the continued development of leadership within the Division of Police. He noted that the promotions supported preparations for the opening of the 825 Tech Center Drive facility and expressed excitement about the progress within the department. Councilmember Renner also commented on the historical presentation regarding the first woman elected to Gahanna Council and stated that the discussion provided meaningful context for the history of businesses along Mill Street. He also referenced the floodplain discussion and emphasized the importance of understanding floodplain storage in relation to water mitigation. Councilmember Renner explained that he often described floodplain storage to his staff by comparing it to the size of a bathtub and stormwater to the drain. He stated that the size of the bathtub could change through infill projects and similar actions, which could decrease the overall storage area. He added that the drain could vary in size, describing it as either large or small. He stated that this analogy helped illustrate the distinction between floodplain storage and stormwater management. Councilmember Renner noted that water in the floodplain should infiltrate and acknowledged that the expanded parking lot raised questions about encroachment into the floodplain. However, he stated that the report indicated that when considering the total volume, the reduction in floodplain storage remained less than one percent. He stated that he felt confident that the City had conducted appropriate due diligence and emphasized the importance of understanding the distinctions among floodplain storage, erosion, and stormwater mitigation.

Councilmember McGregor welcomed the newly promoted sergeants and noted the continuation of the Hoffman family's legacy within the police department. She also reflected on the historical timeline of women serving in elected leadership roles in Gahanna, noting that the first woman was elected to council in 1921, the first woman mayor was

elected in 2003, and the first woman city attorney was elected in 2023. She stated that the timeline demonstrated continued progress.

Councilmember Padova reflected on the resolution recognizing Women's History Month and the legacy of Councilwoman Laura Fisher's historic leadership. She noted that six of the nine elected officials currently seated were women and stated that the representation reflected generations of persistence and change. She observed that eighty years passed between the election of the first councilwoman and the election of the first woman mayor and that nearly one hundred years passed before the City elected its first woman city attorney. Councilmember Padova discussed the theme of Women's History Month, "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future," and emphasized that sustainability included civic rights that enabled leadership. She referenced the 19th Amendment and emphasized that the right of women to vote resulted from significant effort and should not be taken for granted. She also expressed concern that proposals affecting access to voting could disproportionately burden women and stated that equal participation in democracy must remain a priority. Councilmember Padova reflected on the importance of protecting the future for the next generation and emphasized that the actions taken by leaders shape both policy and societal attitudes. She concluded that Women's History Month served as both a celebration of progress and a reminder that continued effort remained necessary to protect equality.

Councilmember Bowers thanked Councilmember Renner for his earlier comments and stated that his analogy helped her better understand the floodplain discussion. She thanked the administration for explaining the stormwater waiver request and for answering her questions. She stated that the issue represented an important topic for the community and that careful discussion and repeated clarification helped ensure that Council fully understood the matter. She also thanked Councilmembers Jones and Padova for their reflections on Women's History Month and noted that the recognition honored Councilwoman Fisher's legacy. Councilmember Bowers reflected on the progress made in women's rights and emphasized that such progress should never be taken for granted. She encouraged continued support for women in leadership roles and appreciation for those who supported those efforts. She announced that she would host a constituent hour on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Gahanna Branch Library. Councilmember

Bowers also echoed the City Attorney's comments regarding the Charter Review Commission and congratulated the commissioners on their early work. She encouraged residents to learn about the City Charter and participate in the review process and noted that any recommended changes would appear on the ballot for voter consideration in November 2026.

Vice President Jones welcomed the newly promoted officers and expressed appreciation for their service to the community. She thanked Councilmember Padova for bringing forward the Women's History Month recognition and thanked Tom Gregory for his historical presentation. She noted that the presentation highlighted the contributions of individuals throughout Gahanna's history. Vice President Jones reflected on the significance of Women's History Month and stated that the leadership demonstrated by women in the community served as an important example for younger generations. She emphasized the importance of recognizing both well-known and lesser-known women who contributed to the community and stated that their legacy continued to guide future generations.

President Weaver congratulated the Gahanna-Jefferson Education Foundation on its successful gala held over the weekend. He noted that the event drew a full attendance and raised significant funds for its mission. He stated that he appreciated seeing colleagues, school board members, members of the administration, and Mayor Jadwin in attendance.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Weaver adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

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

Trenton I. Weaver