

Mayor's Report & Comments
City of Gahanna
Regular Council Meeting – August 17, 2020
Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin

The following report is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Monday, August 17, 2020:

City Operations

- Consistent with our ongoing COVID-19 operating protocols, the Gahanna Senior Center continues to be used as our primary location for necessary small group meetings, as it is easier to effectively clean and disinfect after use. Given the uptick in cases of COVID-19, staff members are limiting in-person meetings with the public wherever possible.
- Boards and commissions continue to be encouraged/asked to meet virtually/online if able to do so effectively.

Staffing Updates

- As shared verbally during the Council meeting on August 3, we welcomed Kevin Schultz as our new IT Manager, filling a role that was vacated by Craig Main. Kevin comes with years of IT and managerial experience, both in the private and public sectors. We are excited to welcome Kevin to our team.

Department Updates

- *Gahanna Division of Police*
 - The co-location of services between the Division of Police and Mifflin Township continues to proceed and remains on task, on time and on budget. It is anticipated that construction in the new Center will begin in the fall.
 - Given COVID-19, the Division of Police adapted their annual training plan to incorporate more online and virtual training. For training in August, Division members are assigned two hours of Constitutional and Community Policing, and one hour of Critical Stress Management.
 - The Division of Police and Mayor's Office continue to receive inquiries regarding the homeless gentleman who frequently camps out at the COTA bus stop on S. Hamilton Rd. The Division is in almost daily contact with this gentleman and continues to assess his physical and mental well-being. At the Division's request, the Community Intervention & Diversion team of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office visited with the individual and conducted a preliminary assessment of his condition. The Division and the CID team will continue to maintain contact with

him and will ensure that he is aware of and offered all available options for treatment.

- *Parks & Recreation Department*

- With the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, city-operated activities are experiencing a significant increase in foot traffic in 2020. The number of rounds at the Gahanna Golf Course increased 70% comparing July 2019 vs. July 2020. Year-to-date revenue for paddleboats and kayaks currently is at \$13,020, compared to \$3,150 for all of 2019 (which was historically low due to lack of staffing). (For further comparison, the prior three-year YTD average revenue for paddleboats and kayak rides is \$7,845.)
- The Parks & Rec team continues to present its weekly “drive in” series at Headley Park to provide a “socially distant” amenity for residents. To date, tickets for 675 cars have been sold for these events. The drive-in series will continue through August 28.
- Parks & Rec also partnered with the Columbus Crew by hosting two drive-in “watch parties,” which provided a safe and socially distant way for soccer fans to enjoy the game. Both events were extremely successful, as they not only sold out, but Gahanna (and Headley Park) were mentioned on ESPN’s airing of the game, bringing national attention to our city.
- The Gahanna Senior Center is still closed to the public per Governor DeWine’s *Responsible Restart Ohio* plan. Programming for the Senior Center will continue to be conducted online and through “drive up” activities that protect the safety of our most vulnerable residents. To date, 1,075 meals have been served through the Senior Buddy program, and the twice-held drive-in bingo program has attracted 85 participants overall.
- Due to popular demand, both the Camp Crates and Rec Club programs have been extended through the end of August. 119 “crates” have been sold to date, while 190 Rec Club spaces have been sold.
- With the changes to school operations, the Recs team is in the process of developing a monthly “camp crate” program to provide additional activities and programming for students beyond the classroom. The team also is working with GJPS to identify “after school” recreational programming.
- The Marketing team and Parks & Rec Department are collaborating on an updated Trail Map that will be distributed to aid residents and visitors in accessing and using Gahanna’s trails. The new map is expected to be printed and ready for distribution in September.

- In July, the Parks/Arbor team pruned 38 trees, removed 13 dead trees, removed two large downed trees in the Big Walnut, and did substantial clean-up work in Geroux Garden. The team also handled 54 resident calls/meetings to address complaints and issues regarding trees and park-related matters.
- *Public Service & Engineering Department*
 - Street Program Update
 - Rebuilds on Oberlin and Clemson have been completed
 - Currently undergoing rebuild of Research and Blatt Blvd.
 - Phase 1 of Canfield rebuild will be completed next week, with next phase to begin by the end of next week (week of 8/17/20).
 - Resurfacing projects are continuing and nearing completion.
 - Water line replacement and tie-in for Clark State/Reynoldsburg-New Albany Rd. project has been completed.
 - 2020 CCTV project is underway.
 - Currently in design phase for waterline replacement of Havens Corners, St. Martens and St. Stephens, and rebuilds of St. Martens and St. Stephens.
 - Water line at Walnut and Shepherd was replaced last week, retiring a 4" line.
 - Sidewalk Program
 - Sample ratings of neighborhood sidewalks have been completed
 - Administration is in process of extrapolating and analyzing data to understand and identify the extent of need and to create proposed plan for moving forward a program. Administration anticipates presenting a proposed plan to Council in September.
 - The western Gahanna sanitary sewer evaluation is expected to begin within the next two weeks. A communication (which will include a detailed questionnaire) will be sent to residents located within the survey area prior to the start of work.
- *Mayor's Office*
 - In partnership with the City, the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) has launched a "Supporting Gahanna Together Small Business Assistance Program" to provide financial assistance to established for-profit small businesses in our city that have been directly impacted by COVID-19. Eligible businesses may apply for a one-time payment of up to \$2500, to use for identified expenses. Funds are limited, and the Program will continue until all funds are distributed. For information on the Supporting Gahanna Together Small Business Assistance Program, eligibility requirements, and/or application, go to www.gahanna.gov (See, "Supporting Gahanna Together Small Business Assistance Program".)
 - Throughout month of July, the Communications & Marketing Department created videos that featured the Parks & Recreation staff, to introduce our residents to the team members who work for them every day. During the month of August, members of the Public Service & Engineering Department will be featured.

- On Saturday, September 5, we will celebrate "*Supporting Gahanna Day*" – a day that will focus on fostering positivity and community pride. The overall mission of the day is to bring together community partners, organizations, businesses and residents to provide support to areas of the Gahanna community that have been impacted by COVID-19. There are three ways that our residents can get involved:
 - Volunteer for an outdoor, socially-distanced service project.
 - Purchase a "*Supporting Gahanna Together*" T-shirt or hat. (100% of net proceeds will be directed to help programs in the community that have been impacted by COVID-19: senior programs, youth programs, local artists, GRIN)
 - "Shop Local" and support a Gahanna business.

Information on the above can be found at www.gahanna.gov.