



# City of Gahanna

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

*Stephen A. Renner, President*  
*Trenton I. Weaver, Vice President*  
*Karen J. Angelou*  
*Merisa K. Bowers*  
*Nancy R. McGregor*  
*Kaylee Padova*  
*Michael Schnetzer*

*Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council*

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Tuesday, June 20, 2023

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

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**Regular Meeting date moved to Tuesday, June 20, 2023 in observance of Juneteenth.  
City offices were closed on Monday, June 19, 2023.**

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

*Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, in Council Chambers. President of Council Stephen A. Renner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Vice President of Council Trenton I. Weaver delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on June 16, 2023.*

**Present** 7 - Karen J. Angelou, Merisa K. Bowers, 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:**

**1. Proclamation Presentation by Mayor**

[2023-0119](#)

Mayoral Proclamation - GLHS Varsity Girls Track and Field 2023-06

Mayor Jadwin commenced the proclamation ceremony by inviting the girls varsity track and field team, along with Coach Roger Whittaker, to join her at the podium. She congratulated the team on their recent achievement of winning their second consecutive state championship. Mayor Jadwin highlighted the team's impressive record of success, including their 11th consecutive OC title, 11th consecutive district title, and 9th consecutive regional title. She acknowledged their second-place finish in 2016, 2017, and 2021, as well as a third-place finish in the 2019 state championships. The Mayor expressed her admiration for the team's commitment, hard work, and teamwork, which she believed exemplified the values of Gahanna. Mayor

Jadwin also recognized Coach Roger Whittaker for his dedication and leadership since 1990. She credited his consistent efforts and coaching expertise as integral to the team's accomplishments. The Mayor expressed her pride in the team, stating that they had become a source of inspiration and admiration for the community. She read a passage from the proclamation, emphasizing the team's hard work ethic, good sportsmanship, and inspiring team play. Mayor Jadwin extended congratulations to the Gahanna Lincoln Lions Varsity Girls Track and Field team, the GLHS athletic department, and all those who supported the team. In honor of their remarkable achievements, she declared the day as the Gahanna Lincoln Lions Varsity Girls Track and Field Day in the City of Gahanna.

Coach Roger Whittaker took the opportunity to express his gratitude and admiration for the team. He highlighted the significant support they received from the community and their peers throughout the season. Coach Whittaker appreciated the dedication and hard work exhibited by all the team members. He mentioned that 90% of the girls maintained a 3.5 GPA, underscoring their intelligence and talent. He concluded by sharing the exciting news that Camden Bentley recently won the national championship on Sunday. All meeting attendees applauded the girls varsity track and field team for their outstanding accomplishments.

## 2. Members of the Public

*Lori Kappes of 110 Mill Street, Gahanna, OH spoke on the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival.*

Ms. Kappes, the Executive Director of Visit Gahanna, expressed her gratitude and appreciation to everyone for their support of the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival. She specifically acknowledged the City of Gahanna, including its various departments such as Parks and Recreation and the Police Department, for their support in making the event a success. Ms. Kappes recognized the efforts of hundreds of individuals who volunteered their time and talents to ensure an enjoyable and safe experience for all attendees. Furthermore, Ms. Kappes extended a special thank you to the community partners and sponsors who made financial and in-kind contributions to the festival. She highlighted the significant impact of the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival on Gahanna, attracting thousands of people from 27 states and nearly 100 towns and cities in Ohio, many of whom were visiting Gahanna for the first time. Additionally, she mentioned that 11 Gahanna nonprofit organizations benefited financially from volunteering their time at the festival, particularly in the admissions and beverage booths. Ms. Kappes emphasized the high quality of the event, which showcased world-class music performed by local, regional, and national musicians in the picturesque Creekside District. She highlighted the participation of Gahanna-based beverage companies, Simple Times Mixers, Noble Cut Distillery, and High Bank Distillery, as well as draft beers from Gahanna's own three Breweries: Edison Brewing, Nostalgia Brewing, and Heart State Brewing. Attendees also enjoyed a variety of delicious cuisine from food vendors and local restaurants. The Open-Air Art Studio, featuring murals created by talented artists from Gahanna and Columbus, was a popular

attraction. In terms of publicity, Gahanna received extensive coverage leading up to the festival, including at least 20 television and radio segments, numerous news articles, and mentions. To show appreciation to the City Council, staff, and volunteers who contributed to the event's success, Ms. Kappes announced a picnic on Wednesday, July 26, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Visit Gahanna offices located at 110 Mill St., across from Creekside Plaza. The picnic would include food, prizes, and games. She invited everyone to join and also encouraged attendance at Midweek at the Creek and the Gahanna Farmers Market on that evening.

*Matt Roberson of 77 Town Street, Gahanna, OH, spoke on the Plant Library.*

Mr. Roberson, addressing the Council, expressed his support for the Plant Library project in Gahanna. He acknowledged the project's significant value to the community and emphasized the importance of collective effort to ensure its continued positive impact. Mr. Roberson described the Plant Library as a safe and central location where residents of Gahanna and neighboring communities can donate plants that would otherwise be discarded. He highlighted the practice of members propagating additional plants for the project, making them available for anyone to pick up and utilize. Mr. Roberson noted that the project has gained over 3,300 members and is currently in its fifth season. He highlighted the substantial economic and aesthetic benefits brought about by the Plant Library, including the beautification of the city, the increase in property values, and the promotion of mental and physical well-being through recreational gardening. He mentioned the Plant Library's role as an economic driver for the Creekside district, citing the information provided by Gahanna's development team that the project generates 3,500 unique annual visits. Moreover, the Plant Library attracts visitors from outside the community, contributing to local tourism. Mr. Roberson informed the Council that the Plant Library is a project of CAFCO, Creative Assets for Central Ohio, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. He assured the Council that the organization maintains an insurance policy that protects property owners from any liability associated with the project. Mr. Roberson expressed his intention to clarify the nature of the Plant Library and its community benefits, as well as the legal structure supporting its operation. He requested the support of Gahanna City Council and the administration in finding a temporary location for the remainder of the 2023 season and a permanent location for the 2024 season and beyond. Mr. Roberson concluded by expressing his gratitude for the Council's time and attention.

*Kelly Fox of 140 N. High Street, Gahanna, OH spoke on the CIC and Plant Library.*

Mr. Fox, representing the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), addressed the Council to clarify certain facts and dispel misinformation surrounding the Plant Library. He stated that the CIC is a separate legal entity, distinct from the City of Gahanna, although it maintains close alignment with the city's goals for economic development. As a nonprofit organization, the CIC has been actively involved in enhancing the vitality and vibrance of the Creekside area for over two years. Despite

previous attempts to involve other developers, roadblocks hindered progress. Consequently, the CIC board made the decision to acquire vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties in Creekside, amounting to over \$5 million worth of property purchased in late December 2022. Mr. Fox mentioned that one of these properties includes the vacant car wash, where the Plant Library is currently located. Mr. Fox explained that in February of this year, the CIC reached out to Matt [Roberson], who served as the contact for the Plant Library organization, to discuss the library's continued presence on the now privately-owned property. The CIC proposed the need for an agreement governing the Plant Library's ability to remain on the premises and requested an insurance certificate naming the CIC as an additional insured for liability purposes. However, the CIC has not received a response to the letter sent in February. In late March, the CIC sent another communication stating that, since no agreement had been established, the Plant Library would need to vacate the property to allow for the preparation of the site for future development. Mr. Fox emphasized that the CIC is not opposed to the Plant Library and recognizes its value and benefit to the community. However, considering the significant financial investment made by the CIC in the Creekside properties and the years of effort put into attracting tens of millions of dollars of development to the area, the CIC has a responsibility to proceed with the planned development. Despite this, Mr. Fox assured the Council and attendees that the CIC remains willing to work with the Plant Library and the city to identify an alternative location that is more permanent and accessible, enabling the development of Creekside for the greater benefit of the community. Mr. Fox concluded by expressing his desire to ensure everyone present understood the developments that have transpired over the past six months regarding the transition of property ownership, the CIC's attempts to reach a resolution with the Plant Library, and the CIC's expressed willingness to collaborate with the Plant Library and the city in finding a suitable location. He extended his thanks to the Council and the audience for their attention.

President Renner noted that this was not a Council issue. He stated that he assumed the CIC and the Plant Library would continue to talk.

*Laurie Jacques of 358 Morgan Lane, Gahanna, OH spoke on the Plant Library.*

Ms. Jacques, a resident of Gahanna since 1996, addressed the Council to express her support for the Plant Library and urged them to provide any possible assistance to ensure its continued presence in the city. She highlighted the tremendous benefits the Plant Library brings to Gahanna, its residents, and neighboring communities. Jacques shared her personal experience as a member and coordinator of the Central Ohio Plant Swap since 2011, where she has witnessed the need for a dedicated space to exchange plants throughout the year. The Plant Library serves as a valuable resource in filling that need. Jacques emphasized the convenience and practicality of the Plant Library, especially for gardeners who may have surplus plants outside of the designated plant swap days. Instead of discarding these plants or adding them to the compost pile, the Plant Library allows for their redistribution to individuals who would appreciate and care for them. She mentioned her own contribution of over 150 pots of hellebore

seedlings to the plant library, which undoubtedly enhanced someone's garden. While Jacques acknowledged the economic purposes associated with the property where the current plant library is located, she appealed to the Council and the city to extend their support in securing a permanent home for the Plant Library. She believed that with the Council's assistance, a suitable location could be found to accommodate the Plant Library's important role in the community. Jacques concluded her remarks by expressing gratitude for the Council's attention and encouraged their support for the Plant Library's quest for a permanent home.

*Caitlyn Thureau of 4120 Fox Glove Lane, Gahanna, OH spoke on the Plant Library.*

Ms. Thureau spoke in support of the Plant Library. Thureau expressed her admiration for the collaborative nature of the Gahanna community, citing events like the Blues & Jazz Festival, Friendship Park, and Creekside Park as examples of the community's vibrant spirit. She considered the Plant Library to be a significant and cherished aspect of Gahanna's community fabric, particularly for individuals of all age groups, including herself during her young adulthood. As someone who had experienced the process of building a sense of community in an unfamiliar area, Thureau highlighted the Plant Library as a welcoming and inclusive space. She shared her personal involvement in helping Matt [Roberson] establish the community garden, emphasizing the significance of leaving a positive impact and being part of a larger effort to make Gahanna a more beautiful place. Thureau expressed her belief that the Plant Library represents a collective endeavor where community members contribute their time, labor, and love to enhance their surroundings and foster connections with others. Thureau acknowledged the potential changes in ownership or location of the Plant Library but urged the Council to explore any opportunities to support and preserve this cherished community resource. She emphasized the importance of maintaining the Plant Library's beauty and encouraged the Council to consider ways to benefit and retain this valued asset within the Gahanna community.

*Heather Olds of 270 Flint Ridge Drive, Gahanna, OH spoke on the Plant Library.*

Ms. Olds expressed her gratitude for living in the community and shared a personal story highlighting the impact of the Plant Library. She began by offering her support and assistance in any capacity to contribute to the community aspect of the Plant Library. As a social worker with almost 20 years of experience, Ms. Olds stated that the Plant Library aligns perfectly with her professional background and personal values. She recounted the challenges her family faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in nearly three years of isolation. During this time, the Plant Library became a significant and positive space for her family, particularly her nine-year-old and five-year-old children, who eagerly requested visits to the library on a weekly basis. Ms. Olds emphasized the value the Plant Library provided to her family, allowing them to engage in activities that aligned with their values of sharing with the community, fostering connections, and giving back. Her children, especially her nine-year-old, appreciated the artwork displayed at

the library, further enhancing their experience. She mentioned that the Plant Library served as a safe and beautiful space for her family to connect with others in the community. Furthermore, Ms. Olds highlighted the inspirational nature of the artwork curated by Matt [Roberson], the coordinator of the Plant Library. She noted that the Plant Library's appeal extended beyond Gahanna, attracting friends and family members from other counties who visited not only to see her but also to experience the Plant Library firsthand. In conclusion, Ms. Olds appealed to the Council to collaborate with the community and find a permanent solution that would enable the continuation of their love for plants and their commitment to the community. She expressed her hope for a positive outcome and thanked the Council.

*June Inlow of 487 Denwood Drive S, Gahanna, OH spoke on the Plant Library location and purpose.*

Ms. Inlow, a resident of Gahanna since 1982, expressed her support for the Plant Library and conveyed her appreciation as a homeowner. She emphasized the value of having access to something free, highlighting that the Plant Library does not require any additional utility expenses. Although she acknowledged that this may change depending on the library's new location, she personally enjoyed the opportunity to recycle, reuse, and repurpose various items, such as pots, through the Plant Library. As a dedicated resident, Ms. Inlow shared her enthusiasm for visiting the Plant Library regularly. She mentioned that she would even drive by at night and shine her headlights to see what treasures were available, as there was always the possibility of discovering something unexpected. While acknowledging the presence of Facebook posts about available items, she admitted that she often relied on physically visiting the Plant Library to ensure she didn't miss out on any valuable finds. Ms. Inlow expressed her gratitude that her taxes did not increase to support the Plant Library, highlighting its usefulness and the sense of community it fosters. She noted that her neighbors also appreciated the Plant Library and would often share their findings from the Plant Library with her. Ms. Inlow urged the Council to support the Plant Library in any way possible, emphasizing its helpfulness and the unifying effect it has on the community. She specifically mentioned the presence of herbs at the library, aligning with Gahanna's reputation as the Herb Capital of Ohio, and encouraged the Council to maintain that status. Ms. Inlow thanked the Council for the time to speak.

*Rachel Gonzalez of 8333 Havens Road, Blacklick, OH spoke on the Plant Library.*

Ms. Gonzalez began her comments by highlighting the Gahanna Plant Library as one of the pioneering physical plant library locations in central Ohio. She emphasized the pillars on which it was founded: generosity, community building, and promoting curiosity. Ms. Gonzalez emphasized that all items at the Plant Library were strictly free, donated by the community for the benefit of the larger community. She praised the Plant Library for its role in making gardening accessible to all and as a means of fostering neighborly connections by sharing pieces of yards and homes. Having grown up in Gahanna, Ms. Gonzalez shared her personal experience, noting that her

family was not previously inclined towards gardening, as evidenced by the persistence of invasive pachysandra in her parents' home. However, her perspective changed when she started working for the Parks & Recreation and Horticulture departments during high school. It was during this time that she developed a deep appreciation for nature. After completing her college education and embarking on a medical career, Ms. Gonzalez returned to the Gahanna area. It was during this time that she discovered the Plant Library, initially during the pre-COVID period, and became captivated by its offerings. She soon joined the Gahanna gardening group on Facebook and eventually became an admin for the Plant Library. Ms. Gonzalez provided some statistical insights into the Plant Library's impact, highlighting that it has attracted over 3,000 virtual members, with an increase of nearly 1,000 members in the past 12 months alone. This growth trend demonstrated that the Plant Library's popularity was not solely attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. The top membership groups were listed as Columbus, followed closely by Gahanna, with Westerville, Reynoldsburg, and Blacklick residents nearly tied for third place. This indicated that the Plant Library's influence extended beyond the boundaries of Gahanna itself. Expressing her personal connection to the library, Ms. Gonzalez mentioned that it had become her go-to place when showcasing Gahanna to out-of-town friends. She often combined the visit with lunch and a stroll around Creekside. However, she acknowledged the challenges faced in maintaining the library's condition over the past year, knowing that it would be its final year and that all the hard work would eventually be discarded. Despite this, the community's resilience was evident, as new items continued to be available for pickup, and the library remained a symbol of community beautification, generosity, and love for nature. In conclusion, Ms. Gonzalez urged the council to consider assisting the Plant Library in finding a new home for the remainder of the year and collaborating with Matt [Roberson] and CAFCO to establish a more permanent solution.

*The Stein Family of 954 Pinewood Lane, Gahanna, OH spoke on the Plant Library.*

Ms. Stein began her comments by acknowledging her son's nervousness to speak but expressed their family's love for the Plant Library. She described it as a source of joy for them, where they had both dropped off and picked up plants. Their Maple tree had grown remarkably, adding to their delight. Ms. Stein pointed out her daughter in attendance and emphasized her enjoyment of creating pictures at the Plant Library. The family had thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and expressed their hope for the library's continuation or the establishment of a new one. Ms. Stein conveyed her approval and gratitude for the Plant Library, its art, and the positive impact it had brought to Creekside and the Gahanna community as a whole.

*Cathy Tucker of 949 Cordero Lane, Gahanna, OH spoke via video on the Plant Library.*

Ms. Tucker expressed her appreciation for the Plant Library. She mentioned that she had been enjoying the Plant Library since its establishment and praised the brilliant concept behind it. Ms. Tucker acknowledged the

tremendous effort put in by Matt Roberson and others involved in creating and maintaining the Plant Library, describing it as amazing. She highlighted the Plant Library as a blessing for the Gahanna community and emphasized its popularity, with over 3,000 members on the Facebook page. Ms. Tucker believed that thousands of members had personally visited the Plant Library to either contribute or take home plants. She personally credited the Plant Library for enhancing her gardening passion and spoke about her enthusiasm in promoting it to others. People from other parts of Columbus would often express their excitement and engage in conversations about the Plant Library upon learning that she lived in Gahanna. Ms. Tucker shared that she had made numerous visits to the Plant Library over the years, and whenever her elderly mother was in town, a stop at the Plant Library was a must. She had adopted the practice of carefully thinning out her own plants and repotting them to contribute to the plant library, as she disliked the idea of discarding living plants. Sharing her plants with others in the community brought her great joy, and she found it thrilling to come across new plants to bring home from the library. The Plant Library's positive impact on the community was evident, as it had garnered media attention and brought people together. Ms. Tucker urged the city leaders to step up and provide funding and a permanent space for the plant library, recognizing it as a unique and valuable asset to the community.

*Julia Spain of 8560 Concord Road, Delaware, OH spoke via video on the Plant Library.*

Ms. Spain, a business owner from Marysville and co-founder of the Marysville Plant Library, addressed the Council to express her support for the Gahanna Plant Library. She shared her personal experience of how the Plant Library introduced her to Gahanna. Ms. Spain mentioned that she first learned about the Gahanna Plant Library through Facebook and was immediately intrigued. Despite the distance from Marysville, the Plant Library became the reason for her first visit to Gahanna. During her visit, she explored Creekside, enjoyed local cuisine, and discovered spots in Gahanna that she continues to frequent. The Plant Library served as a bridge that connected her to the city and introduced her to businesses and individuals she would have otherwise never met. Ms. Spain expressed her admiration for the Plant Library, emphasizing its unique and free nature. She highlighted the exceptional hospitality and welcoming attitude of the individuals running the library, which made it clear that it was a space for everyone, regardless of their background. In her interactions with business owners, Ms. Spain noted that the Plant Library stood out as an exceptional feature of the city. She emphasized that it played a significant role in attracting people like herself to Gahanna and keeping them engaged with the city. As a member of the Facebook group associated with the Plant Library, Ms. Spain pointed out that many members, including herself, were from outside the city of Gahanna. She urged the City Council to support the project and actively seek a permanent home for the Plant Library, recognizing its value in attracting visitors and creating a positive representation of the city. Ms. Spain expressed her willingness to contribute personally to the cause and commended Matt Roberson for his exceptional work in running the library.



President Renner expressed his agreement with the sentiments shared earlier by Mr. Fox. He expressed his hope that the Plant Library would collaborate with the CIC to find a solution that would allow the Plant Library to continue its operations.

## **D. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

### **1. Rezoning**

*President Renner read the rules of the Public Hearing as follows: Pursuant to Council Rules 9.10 & 9.11: The President of Council shall give a brief statement or explanation of the item under hearing. Prior to the opening of the public hearing, the administration may make a presentation of slides, videos, photos, staff comments, or combination thereof, regarding the application in question. The public hearing shall be opened with any proponents being allowed seven minutes, opponents ten minutes, then three minutes for rebuttal by the proponents. Such time schedule shall prevail unless extended by the President without opposition by a Council member. Everyone addressing Council will approach the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.*

*President Renner yielded the floor to the administration for a presentation.*

Mayor Jadwin stated that Michael Blackford, Director of Planning, would make a quick summary about the rezoning.

Director of Planning Michael Blackford provided an update on the multifamily rezoning request that was previously discussed in detail on May 22, 2023. He informed the Council that the process for this rezoning began in 2020 and now involves expanding the project slightly to accommodate 296 units on 16.66 acres of land. During the Committee meeting held the previous week, the applicant attended and expressed their request for the Council to pass the rezoning ordinance with an emergency clause. The applicant explained that there is an associated office project that has specific construction timing constraints. Granting the rezoning and allowing construction activities to commence in the next few weeks would address these timing issues. Director Blackford assured the Council that the planning department's staff is available to address any inquiries or concerns they may have regarding the project.

*President Renner opened the public hearing at 7:42 p.m., calling for any proponents, then opponents, and proponents again.*

*President Renner closed the public hearing at 7:42 p.m., with no speakers coming forward as proponents or opponents.*

#### [ORD-0045-2023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE 198-96 ON NOVEMBER 19, 1996, AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED; CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT OF +/- 16.666 ACRES

LOCATED AT 0 HAMILTON ROAD, PARCEL ID 025-013767 FROM LMFRD AND SCPD TO LMFRD; CRESCENT WOODS APARTMENTS, GRIFFIN CALDWELL, APPLICANT

President Renner introduced the Ordinance and read it by title.

Councilmember Angelou made a motion to approve. Councilmember Bowers made a point of order: this item would come later in the agenda. Renner said he was offering discussion, as an amendment was needed. He referred back to the agenda and noted this was back under second reading for adoption. He asked if there was a preference to address this item of business now or later in the agenda. Angelou preferred to not take it out of order and withdrew her motion.

**E. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1. Minutes - To Approve:**

[2023-0114](#)

COTW Minutes 5.22.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2023-0115](#)

CN Minutes 6.5.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2023-0116](#)

COTW Minutes 6.12.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2023-0117](#)

FIN Minutes 6.12.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

**2. Motions:**

[MT-0013-2023](#)

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING TO BID CONTRACT FOR GAHANNA WATER TOWER REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

**3. Resolutions:**

[RES-0021-2023](#)

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JUNE 2023 AS ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS AND BRAIN HEALTH MONTH

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

**4. Ordinances for Second Reading / Adoption:**

[ORD-0046-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORD-0081-2021 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH FISHBECK FOR PHASE ONE OF THE CREEKSIDE FLOOD IMPACT MITIGATION PROJECT TO INCLUDE PHASE TWO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0047-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Capital Maintenance Fund for Creekside Flood Mitigation and Plaza Improvements Professional Services

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0048-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT A GENERAL WARRANTY DEED FROM PAUL MICHAEL WELSH AND STACI LYNN JOHNSON FOR 0.158 ACRES OF RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION ALONG A PARCEL LOCATED AT 698 EAST JOHNSTOWN ROAD

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

**End of Consent Agenda**

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

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

**F. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:**

[ORD-0049-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - Central Park TIF and Water Capital Funds for Transfers Out

President Renner introduced the Ordinance and read it by title.

[ORD-0050-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - General Fund for Mayor's Court Contract Services

President Renner introduced the Ordinance and read it by title.

**G. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:**

[ORD-0045-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE 198-96 ON NOVEMBER 19, 1996, AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED; CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT OF +/- 16.666 ACRES LOCATED AT 0 HAMILTON ROAD, PARCEL ID 025-013767 FROM

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LMFRD AND SCPD TO LMFRD; CRESCENT WOODS  
APARTMENTS, GRIFFIN CALDWELL, APPLICANT

**A motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Bowers, to amend ORD-0045-2023 to add an emergency declaration, changing the title, a clause in the preamble, and the effective date.**

Vice President Weaver moved to amend ORD-0045-2023 to include as follows: 1) in the title of the ordinance after Griffin Caldwell, Applicant, insert “; And Declaring an Emergency” 2) in the final whereas clause, after the City Council has studied the recommended rezoning application and acted in accordance with City charter according to law, add “; and.” 3) add the following whereas clause: “WHEREAS, the Administration recommends passage of the Ordinance as an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of public peace, safety, health and welfare of the City; to wit: the need for employment and housing opportunities for residents and tax revenues from anticipated development to support and improve the infrastructure and general welfare of the city” and 4) in Section 3 to strike “this ordinance shall be in full force and effect after passage by this Council and 30 days after the date of signature of approval by the Mayor” and inserting “for the reasons set forth in the preamble, this ordinance is declared an emergency, which shall be in full force and effect immediately upon passage by this Council and on date of signature of approval by the Mayor.” Bowers seconded the motion to amend.

**The motion to amend carried by the following vote:**

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

**A motion was made by Angelou, seconded by Bowers, that ORD-0045-2023 be adopted as amended.**

Councilmember Bowers thanked the applicant, Mr. Larry Canini and Casto, and praised the efforts of the planning department and the economic development department their hard work. Bowers said she believed this is a great opportunity for the City to expand with development on an important parcel.

**The motion to adopt as amended carried by the following vote:**

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

**H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:**

1. Clerk - None.

2. Council - None.

**I. REPRESENTATIVES:**

## 1. Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) - Renner, Weaver

President Renner provided an overview of the semiannual joint CIC and Council meeting that took place earlier at 7:30 a.m. at the golf course. He highlighted several key discussions that occurred during the meeting. The first item addressed was the issue of the Plant Library, which was a topic of interest during the public comments portion of the meeting. President Renner acknowledged that all the relevant data and information were presented by the speakers. He emphasized the importance of the operators of the Plant Library engaging in discussions and collaborating with the CIC to find a resolution. Renner then moved on to discuss other notable items from the meeting. The economic development team provided an update on the current state of Gahanna's development. It was noted that applications for development projects, particularly in the multifamily and self-storage sectors, are still being received. Additionally, zoning code updates were mentioned as forthcoming. Renner took a moment to remind all attendees that once approved, the CIC meeting minutes will be published on the official website of the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation (Gahannacic.org).

## 2. Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) - Angelou

[2023-0113](#)

Councilmember Angelou's MORPC Report to City Council 6.16.2023

Councilmember Angelou provided a summary of the resolutions that were addressed and voted on during the June 8th meeting. The first resolution discussed authorized the Executive Director to enter into agreements with the Ohio Department of Development for the 2024 Home Weatherization Assistance Program. Councilmember Angelou informed the attendees that the resolution passed and approved a budget of approximately \$3,715,000 for weatherization initiatives. The second resolution mentioned was authorization for the Executive Director to approve a grant agreement between the Ohio Department of Transportation and MORPC for the Mobility Management program. Angelou stated that the resolution also passed, securing funding of approximately \$300,000 for the program. Angelou went on to share her participation in a meeting with Robert Williams, the Senior Director of Residential Services at MORPC. The meeting, attended by herself, the Mayor, and representatives from the Senior Center, focused on discussing the possibilities and benefits of home energy efficiency services. Councilmember Angelou expressed her intention to invite Mr. Williams to address the Council regarding permits and contractor applications related to this matter. Angelou then informed the attendees about her attendance at the NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council) lunch and learn event held at MORPC. She distributed informational materials to the Council members, explaining that aggregation was the topic of discussion during the event. She mentioned that cities such as Lancaster, Hilliard, and neighboring communities had already implemented aggregation programs. Angelou suggested that the Council consider exploring this opportunity and evaluate if it would be a suitable fit for Gahanna. She concluded her comments by expressing the need to have a voting process in place to further discuss the

potential implementation of an aggregation program. She highlighted the presence of Derrick Clay and Anthony Jones, familiar faces in the Gahanna community, who were part of the event and could provide valuable insights.

### **3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova**

Councilmember Padova began her comments by expressing gratitude to Lori Kappes for providing a comprehensive summary of the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival that took place over the weekend. She acknowledged the significant impact the festival had on both the city of Gahanna and the nonprofit groups that benefited from the volunteer efforts and support provided by the festival. Padova extended her appreciation to Theresa Emch, who, along with Kappes, had worked tirelessly throughout the weekend to ensure the success of the festival. She acknowledged their dedication and expressed her gratitude for their commitment, especially considering the late hours and the fact that they were still present at the meeting.

### **4. School Board (SB) - Bowers**

Councilmember Bowers commenced her comments by expressing her appreciation and congratulations to the Mayor for presenting a proclamation recognizing the achievements of the GLHS girls track team. She acknowledged their outstanding performance and their capture of the overall team title at the States. Councilmember Bowers highlighted Camden Bentley's exceptional feat of setting a state record in the 100-meter hurdles, which subsequently led to her becoming a national champion. She extended her congratulations to Bentley and the entire team for their remarkable accomplishments. Bowers proceeded to acknowledge the achievements of the boys track team, particularly the 4x200-meter relay team consisting of Wells, Cummings, Pizzico, and Shahid, who secured a state title in that relay event. Additionally, she recognized Brandon Carpico for winning the Division One state title in singles tennis. Councilmember Bowers commended the spring sports teams and their athletes for their extraordinary success throughout the season. Providing an update on construction projects, Councilmember Bowers informed the Council about the ongoing construction at Chapelfield Elementary and Middle School East. She acknowledged the familiarity of the neighborhood residents with the construction at Middle School East and assured them that the progress was for a beneficial cause. Bowers also shared the exciting news that the scoreboard at GLHS Stadium had been installed, indicating significant progress for the Gahanna Lincoln sports teams. Furthermore, she mentioned the demolition of the high school tennis courts adjacent to City Hall, emphasizing the smooth progress of the construction projects related to those facilities. Bowers concluded her comments by mentioning ongoing discussions between the city and the school district regarding financial aspects. She informed the Council that planning was underway to schedule a partnership meeting in July. She expressed her gratitude to Mr. VanMeter and the Mayor's office for their work in scheduling this meeting.

**J. OFFICIAL REPORTS:****1. Mayor**

Mayor Jadwin commenced her comments by congratulating Visit Gahanna on the successful 24th Annual Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival. She expressed her gratitude to Miss Kappes, the board president Jody Brown-Spivey, Theresa Emch, the volunteer coordinator, and the entire board of directors, sponsors, and volunteers for their efforts in organizing a remarkable weekend of great music, delicious food, and community connection. The Mayor acknowledged the impact of the festival on putting Gahanna on the map and emphasized the indispensable involvement of various city departments, including Parks and Recreation, Public Service, Division of Police, and the partnership with Mifflin Township Fire, in ensuring the smooth operation and safety of the event. Mayor Jadwin also acknowledged the upcoming planning for the milestone 25th anniversary of the festival and expressed anticipation for what Visit Gahanna will bring next year. She reminded the Council about the upcoming Independence Day celebration, which would include food, music, and fireworks at the Gahanna Golf Course on Monday, July 3rd. The Mayor invited residents to join the festivities and informed them about the July 4th parade organized by the Lions Club, which would follow its traditional route. The Mayor provided updates on recent events she had attended, including the swearing-in ceremony for 20 new firefighters and dispatchers at the Mifflin Township Division of Fire. She mentioned the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new fire station, replacing an older facility, and praised the firefighters for their contributions in creating a modern and safe operation. Mayor Jadwin highlighted the recent discussion meeting held by MORPC on the topic of how libraries enhance local communities, which took place at the new Gahanna branch. She expressed her pride in showcasing the impact of the library on the community and appreciated the opportunity to share its significance with others. Regarding the capital improvement plan (CIP), the Mayor mentioned the presentation of the first working draft to the Council, which was recorded and posted on the city's YouTube page. She announced a town hall meeting on the CIP scheduled for the following evening, providing residents with an opportunity to learn more about the plan, ask questions, and provide input. The Mayor emphasized the importance of public engagement in the ongoing process of refining the document. Mayor Jadwin touched upon the upcoming workshops and public hearings related to the zoning code and facilities. She informed the Council about the workshops to be scheduled in July, allowing for additional public engagement. The Mayor also mentioned the upcoming council meeting, where members of the MSA team would present outside renderings of the building project, followed by a workshop with the Planning Commission to gather input. In conclusion, Mayor Jadwin expressed her enthusiasm for the progress and positive developments in the city and looked forward to continuing the good work being done.

**2. City Attorney - None.**

**K. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Councilmember Angelou began her comments by expressing her appreciation for the successful Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival and the effort put into organizing the event. She mentioned the enjoyable experience of participating in various activities and the significant turnout of attendees. Councilmember Angelou conveyed her gratitude to the organizers and mentioned her well-wishes for a speedy recovery for [Attorney Mularski] who injured his toe during the festival. She also thanked the CIC for meeting with Council and acknowledged their ongoing great work.

Councilmember McGregor shared that she was on vacation but returned for the meeting to avoid missing it due to an upcoming knee replacement surgery. She expressed her desire to recover quickly and mentioned her husband's humorous suggestion of using a golf cart to attend the July 3rd Independence Day celebration, despite knowing it would not be feasible. McGregor then discussed her experience working at the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival admission gate, particularly highlighting the free entry for veterans and their positive response to the benefit. She expressed her gratitude for the inclusion of such initiatives. Additionally, she proudly shared the accomplishments of Gahanna's young students, including her granddaughter's team placing first in the state competition and their upcoming participation in the national competition in Dallas. Councilmember McGregor commended Gahanna's talented youth and expressed pride in their achievements.

Councilmember Bowers extended her congratulations to everyone involved in organizing the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival. She thanked the volunteers and staff for their hard work and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to volunteer at the festival. Councilmember Bowers shared her positive experience volunteering with her family, emphasizing the importance of teaching her son the value of service. She mentioned her son's active participation and expressed gratitude for the festival's family-friendly atmosphere. In addition to what Ms. McGregor noted, Bowers said the festival offers free admission to children under age 11. Councilmember Bowers also highlighted her participation in Lincoln Elementary Enrichment Day and the recognition of local AAPI female business owners in Gahanna. She extended her thanks to those who spoke in support of the Plant Library and expressed her commitment to finding a new location for its continuation. Councilmember Bowers thanked Ms. Angelou for drawing attention to the NOPEC presentation and mentioned her hopes for future discussions on renewable energy and aggregation. Bowers ended by wishing everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July.

Councilmember Padova expressed her gratitude to everyone who attended the meeting and sent emails in support of the Plant Library. She acknowledged the kindness and respect shown in the requests, which she believed reflected the positive effects of gardening therapy. Councilmember Padova shared her personal experience of teaching her child about caring for plants and the joy it brings to their summer activities. She expressed her strong support for relocating the Plant Library and highlighted the valuable



impact it has on the community. Padova also thanked everyone involved in the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival, mentioning her enjoyable volunteering experience and encouraging others to volunteer in the future. She expressed her appreciation for the event's community-building aspect and thanked the CVB for their hard work.

Councilmember Schnetzer conveyed his gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival. He mentioned his presence at the event and acknowledged the many individuals who were involved, including fellow council members, city officials, and staff. Councilmember Schnetzer expressed his appreciation for the festival, which he considered Gahanna's signature event, and mentioned the favorable weather conditions. He concluded his comments by expressing his hope for continued success and good weather for the festival's 25th anniversary next year.

Vice President Weaver expressed his gratitude to everyone involved in making the past weekend's events possible. He described the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival as a beautiful and enjoyable community gathering. Vice President Weaver specifically mentioned his experience working at the admissions gate on Friday night, where he had the opportunity to connect with and learn more about some of the newer police officers serving in Gahanna. He expressed his appreciation for their dedication and service. Vice President Weaver also thanked the residents, members of the Plant Library, and representatives from the CIC for their presence at the meeting. He acknowledged his role as a Council appointee to the CIC Board and expressed his commitment to working collaboratively with the Plant Library and the CIC to find a solution for the future. Weaver concluded his comments by wishing everyone a belated Father's Day and a happy Fourth of July.

President Renner expressed his regret for being unable to volunteer at the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival this year, which had been a tradition for him. He acknowledged the hard work put in by the CVB and thanked Theresa Emch for her role as the volunteer coordinator. President Renner noted that despite his absence, he appreciated the efforts made to control the sound and noise levels during the event, as he and his wife noticed a significant decrease in noise compared to previous years. He acknowledged disingenuous comments made on social media regarding the Plant Library and mentioned the influx of public comments regarding the library's importance. As a member of the CIC, President Renner expressed his eagerness for the Plant Library administrators to engage with the CIC and work towards a resolution. He recognized the value of the library and expressed his hope that a solution could be reached to ensure its continuity. President Renner also mentioned the utilization of the video submission form and expressed his enthusiasm for its implementation. He concluded his comments by mentioning the upcoming summer solstice and wished everyone well.

[2023-0118](#)

Councilmember Merisa K. Bowers' Constituent Report - May 2023

**L. ADJOURNMENT:**

*With no further business before the Council, President Renner adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.*

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**Jeremy A. VanMeter**  
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this  
day of 2023.*

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**Stephen A. Renner**