

Mayor's Report & Comments
City of Gahanna
Regular Council Meeting – September 8, 2020
Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin

The following report is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Monday, September 8, 2020:

City Operations

- Based on the recent Order issued by Gov. DeWine under the *Responsible Restart Ohio* guidelines, the Gahanna Senior Center is slated to reopen as of October 1, 2020. We currently are evaluating the safety guidelines that have been issued by the State and are developing protocols that will govern Center programming and operations. Prior to re-opening, the Senior Center will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to prepare for welcoming back the senior members of our community.
- Boards and commissions continue to be encouraged/asked to meet virtually/online if able to do so effectively.

Staffing Updates

- As shared last week with Council, I am excited to announce the hiring of Dr. Donna Goss as our new Director of Economic Development for the City of Gahanna. Dr. Goss previously served as the Director of Development for the City of Dublin and brings a wealth of experience in the development industry. Today marks her first day with the City. She will continue to work with Jennifer Syx, our development consultant who has been serving as the Interim Development Director for the past several months.

Department Updates

- *Gahanna Division of Police*
 - This morning, Chief Jeff Spence participated in a small group roundtable with U.S. Representatives Steve Stivers and Troy Balderson, to discuss current issues in policing and law enforcement. Chief Spence was one of only a handful of local law enforcement executives invited to participate in the discussion, and his representation of our Police Department was a distinct honor for the City of Gahanna.
 - On Friday, September 4, Officer Mike Lambert retired from the Gahanna Division of Police after 24 years of dedicated service to our community.
 - On Tuesday, August 25, the Gahanna Division of Police said an unexpected farewell to Officer Steve Werner, who voluntarily resigned from the Department

after five years of service in Gahanna. Officer Werner and his family are relocating to Texas. He served our community with dedication and compassion, and we wish him much success in his new position in Texas.

- Earlier today, Officer Marvin Hixson announced his plans to retire from the Gahanna Division of Police after serving the Gahanna community for the past 20 years. Officer Hixson previously retired from the US Army. Most recently, he has served as a School Resource Officer and is the longest serving SRO on staff. His last day of work will be prior to this year.
- The Gahanna Division of Police has submitted their proofs of compliance to the Ohio Collaborative for Law Enforcement Certification for the Group 4 police standards. We anticipate certification in those standards by the end of this month.
- 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.
- *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 93% comparing August 2019 vs. August 2020. Year-to-date revenue for paddleboats and kayaks currently is at \$16,200, with 1,630 rides. (For further comparison, the prior three-year YTD average revenue for paddleboats and kayak rides is \$9,736.75.)
 - Given the popularity of the series, the Parks & Rec team will continue to present its weekly “drive in” series at Headley Park through September to provide a “socially distant” amenity for residents. To date, tickets for 759 cars have been sold for these events.
 - With the Gahanna Senior Center still closed to the public, 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, 1,330 meals have been served through the Senior Buddy program, and the twice-held drive-in bingo program has attracted 209 participants overall.
 - Due to popular demand, both the Camp Crates and Rec Club programs will be extended in fall months. Rather than weekly “crates,” the Rec team will provide monthly crates, with themed activities. More details on the expanded program will be announced soon.

- 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 August, the Parks/Arbor team pruned 20 trees, removed 20 dead trees, and handled 58 resident calls and meetings to address complaints and issues regarding trees and park-related matters.
- *Public Service & Engineering Department*
 - Street Program Update
 - Strawer Paving has completed the 4.7 miles of pavement overlay work in this year's program. Sealing, striping, restoration and a few other miscellaneous items remain.
 - Residential street rebuilds have been completed on all roadways except Walnut St. and Shepard St. Columbia Gas is working at those locations to install a new main and services ahead of the road work.
 - Rebuild of Research and Blatt Blvds. continues to progress and is on schedule. It is expected to be completed by mid October.
 - The rebuild of Xavier and St. John reopened last week ahead of schedule and in time for the Labor Day weekend.
 - We are in final stages of plan review for the waterline replacement of Havens Corners, St. Martens and St. Stephens, and rebuilds of St. Martens and St. Stephens. We anticipate that the project will be bid in late 2020, for an early 2021 start of construction.
 - 2020 CCTV
 - This project is approximately 60% complete at this time.
 - The contractor found a few sections of trunk line that required heavy cleaning due to accumulated sediment. They also found an abundance of disposable wipes that were clogging the main.
 - Sidewalk Program
 - Sample ratings of neighborhood sidewalks have been completed
 - We are in the process of outlining parameters for a proposed sidewalk program for the City that will be fiscally feasible for both residents and the City. We anticipate presenting a proposed plan to Council in late September or early October.
 - Western Gahanna SSES Phase 1
 - Sewer evaluation surveys were sent out last week to 3,100 properties within the area to be evaluated.
 - Flow monitors arrived last week. The City's consultant will begin installation of the monitors this week.

- *Mayor's Office*
 - In partnership with the City, the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) 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 still 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".)
 - The inaugural "Supporting Gahanna Together Day" was held on Saturday, September 5.
 - More than 100 residents volunteered their time and talents, helping with various service projects throughout the City, including clean up of Big Walnut Creek, painting the Lily Stone Bed & Breakfast, cleaning up litter in pocket parks, filling planters, and more.
 - The event was covered on all four local news networks, generating positive promotion for the City and local businesses, many of which were featured in the news stories.
 - T-shirts and hats remain available for purchase. 100% of the proceeds will support programs negatively impacted by COVID-19, including GRIN, and senior and youth programs. You can find a link to purchase merchandise by visiting Gahanna.gov and clicking on "Supporting Gahanna Together Day."
 - The event marked a collaborative effort between the City and multiple partner organizations, including the Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce, Visit Gahanna, Gahanna Historical Society, Make Gahanna Yours, the Gahanna Area Arts Council, and the Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation.
- The Administration currently is reviewing the facilities assessment study that began under prior administration to determine next steps for prioritizing capital projects.
- Budgeting plans for 2021 are underway in every department.
- The Gahanna CARES Assistance Program
 - The Program will officially launch on Monday, September 14. Deadline for submitting applications will be November 6.
 - A press release for the Program already has been distributed to *This Week* news. A detailed communications plan also has been created to share information with residents and local businesses about the Program.
 - Applications for both residents and small businesses have been developed, along with parameters and guidelines for the Program that identify eligibility requirements for applicants and use of funds. New software was

required to be purchased to allow applicants to upload confidential financial information with their online applications. A special webpage has been created for Gahanna.gov, and contains information on the program, as well as links to the applications. (Links will become "live" upon the open date for submission of applications.)