



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

City Council

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Merisa K. Bowers, President
Trenton I. Weaver, Vice President
Jamille Jones
Nancy R. McGregor
Kaylee Padova
Stephen A. Renner
Michael Schnetzer

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, February 19, 2024

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, February 19, 2024, in Council Chambers. President of Council Merisa K. Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Vice President of Council Trenton I. Weaver delivered an Invocation. The Division of Police Honor Guard formally presented the colors and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on February 16, 2024.

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. HEARING OF VISITORS:

1. Presentation of Police Awards & Recognitions

Chief Spence expressed gratitude to the members of the Council, the City Attorney's office, and Mayor Jadwin for gathering to recognize the outstanding achievements of three individuals from the Division of Police. Chief Spence highlighted the significance of the occasion, noting that the city had never before issued a Medal of Honor, making this ceremony particularly special because three medals would be issued. Chief Spence went on to explain that the purpose of the gathering was to honor Sergeant Kyle Parrish, Sergeant Justin Sheasby, and Officer Kaylea Pertz for their remarkable heroism on November 14th, 2023. However, he acknowledged the enduring wounds from that tragic day, emphasizing that the emotional and mental scars would persist in the hearts and minds of those affected. Despite the solemn acknowledgment of the irreparable losses, the chief emphasized that the ceremony aimed to

celebrate the bravery displayed in the face of sudden and unthinkable tragedy. The Chief stressed that the presence of Sergeant Kyle Parrish, Sergeant Justin Sheasby, and Officer Kaylea Pertz served as a reflection not only on the agency but also on the individuals themselves. He recounted their modest response, as they had consistently maintained that they were merely doing their duty on that fateful day. Chief Spence took the opportunity to underscore the Division's core values-professionalism, integrity, respect, and commitment-pointing out that these principles were exemplified by many members of the force. He emphasized the commitment to serving any community, the dedication to rigorous training to respond with precision in critical moments, and the overarching commitment to embody the ideals of guardianship within the policing profession. Concluding his address, Chief Spence extended an invitation to Mayor Jadwin, Director of Public Safety Tim Becker, and Council President Bowers to join him in presenting the prestigious awards.

Mayor Jadwin proceeded to announce the first recipient of the Medal of Honor, Sergeant Kyle Parrish. The mayor then officially certified that the Chief of Police for the City of Gahanna, being duly authorized, had awarded the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Kyle Parrish. The recognition was based on Sergeant Parrish's conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action, demonstrating a willingness to risk his life above and beyond the call of duty on November 14th, 2023. The announcement was met with applause from those in attendance in acknowledgement of Sergeant Parrish's exceptional service.

Director Becker then proceeded to announce the second recipient of the Medal of Honor, Sergeant Justin Sheasby. The director formally acknowledged that the Medal of Honor was issued to Sergeant Sheasby for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action. This recognition was attributed to Sergeant Sheasby's willingness to risk his life above and beyond the call of duty on November 14th, 2023. The acknowledgment of Sergeant Sheasby's exemplary service was met with applause from those present at the meeting.

President Bowers then took the floor to announce the presentation of the third Medal of Honor. The honor was bestowed upon Officer Kaylea Pertz for her conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action, demonstrating a willingness to risk her life above and beyond the call of duty on November 14th, 2023. The announcement was also met with applause from the attendees, marking the acknowledgment of Officer Pertz's exceptional bravery during the mentioned events.

Chief Spence invited the city's newest state representative, Beryl Brown

Piccolantonio, for a presentation on behalf of her office and the House of Representatives.

State Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Ohio House of Representatives and herself, wearing dual hats as both a state representative and a mother. She extended her thanks to the three honorees, emphasizing their daily commitment to service and, in particular, their actions on the specified day. She shared details about the bus filled with students and families heading to the Ohio School Boards Association's annual convention. The students were enroute to celebrate the induction of one of their school board members as the newest president of the Ohio School Boards Association. Representative Piccolantonio recounted her recent visit to Tusky Valley for a dedication ceremony of their new auditorium, themed 'Stepping Forward.' She highlighted the community's focus on progress and expressed gratitude for the service demonstrated on that day and every day by the honorees. Representative Piccolantonio then presented commendations for Officer Kaylea Pertz, Sergeant Kyle Parrish, and Sergeant Justin Sheasby. Each commendation recognized the recipients for being awarded the Medal of Honor by the Gahanna Division of Police, acknowledging their willingness to go above and beyond expectations. The commendations praised their commitment to a vocation that involves risking personal safety for the well-being of fellow citizens. The representative commended the enthusiasm and devotion displayed by the honorees, earning the respect and gratitude of their peers and the community. She conveyed her personal appreciation as both a representative and a mother, aligning herself with the Gahanna Division of Police in acknowledging the significance of the Medal of Honor. Representative Piccolantonio concluded her remarks by extending wishes for health, happiness, and prosperity to Officer Kaylea Pertz, Sergeant Kyle Parrish, and Sergeant Justin Sheasby in the years to come, eliciting applause from those present.

President Bowers also conveyed the regards of Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, who had issued Congressional Proclamations for Officer Pertz, Sergeant Sheasby, and Sergeant Parrish. Reading excerpts from the proclamations, President Bowers shared that Congresswoman Beatty wished to recognize the heroism and fearlessness displayed by the three officers in response to the crash on November 14th, 2023. The proclamations commended their valor, courageousness, and selfless acts that risked their own safety to save others. It was emphasized that the officers had set an important example for the community, and their continued service to Gahanna was eagerly anticipated. President Bowers continued by announcing that, on behalf of council colleagues, a resolution would be issued to express gratitude for fulfilling the mission of

the Division of Police. The resolution acknowledged the officers' highest act of service in safeguarding lives, stating that they deserved high honor and robust support from the City of Gahanna for their heroic actions. President Bowers informed the attendees that a resolution would be passed that evening to honor the Gahanna Division of Police, specifically recognizing Sergeant Sheasby, Sergeant Parrish, and Officer Pertz for their extraordinary service and valor in the line of duty. The announcement was met with applause from those present. President Bowers then turned the floor over to Mayor Jadwin, acknowledging that a proclamation for the three officers would be presented by the Mayor.

Mayor Jadwin expressed gratitude to Chief Spence and everyone present for joining the special evening in the City of Gahanna. Acknowledging the rarity of the occasion, she highlighted that the awarding of a Medal of Honor had never occurred in the city before, and tonight, it was being bestowed upon three of Gahanna's finest. The mayor emphasized that the Medal of Honor is given to an officer who displays extreme courage while consciously facing imminent peril. Reflecting on the events of November of the previous year, she recognized Officer Kaylea Pertz, Sergeant Kyle Parrish, and Sergeant Justin Sheasby for demonstrating extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. While the officers would humbly describe their actions as simply doing their jobs, the mayor insisted that, for them, it transcended a job; it was a mindset. Mayor Jadwin praised the officers for their extraordinary conduct in risking their lives to save others, highlighting that such actions were reflective of the training imparted by the Gahanna Division of Police. She pointed out that their actions exemplified the core values of professionalism, commitment, integrity, and respect embraced by every member of the Division. Expressing her honor and distinct privilege, Mayor Jadwin presented, on behalf of the City of Gahanna, a proclamation to Sergeant Justin Sheasby, Sergeant Kyle Parrish, and Officer Kaylea Pertz. The proclamation conveyed the city's utmost appreciation, gratitude, and respect for their acts of heroism and life-saving actions. Mayor Jadwin acknowledged their exemplary representation of the City of Gahanna and concluded her address with a heartfelt "Thank you," and was joined with applause from those in attendance.

Chief Spence thanked the Mayor, Council, City Attorney's Office, and the three officers being honored, along with everyone in the Division that showed up for the ceremony. He appreciated all those serving in the department for joining tonight's ceremony, along with members of the public.

2. Members of the Public

Kathy McCorkle, residing at 677 Picadilly Court, Gahanna, OH, addressed the City Council to voice her objection to a liaison appointment. She expressed concern regarding Democrat City Councilmember Jamille Jones, the founder of the group "Pint-Sized Protesters," whose objective is to organize and educate children in the art of protest and demonstration. McCorkle contended that Jones should not serve as Council's liaison to the Gahanna Jefferson Board of Education. She asserted that the children were already under assault from the policies of the leftist Democrat school board members, school staff, and individuals of a similar socialist persuasion. Despite acknowledging Jones as a nice person, McCorkle insisted that she should be removed from the position due to the access it grants her to educators who may influence or have influence over the school children. In her objection, McCorkle drew parallels between the potential consequences of having Jones as the liaison and the perceived death, destruction, and chaos experienced across the nation due to leftist protesters. She emphasized the community's disinterest in having a City Councilperson actively teaching young people to engage in similar activities. McCorkle concluded her objection by urging the removal of Democrat Jamille Jones as City Council's liaison to the Gahanna Jefferson Board of Education and the appointment of another Councilmember to the position.

Sharon Montgomery, residing at 572 Bonnington Way, Gahanna, OH, addressed the City Council during the meeting, commencing with a historical perspective on laws restricting the use of electronic devices while driving. She pointed out that Brooklyn, Ohio, took matters into its own hands in 1999 when the state failed to meet its responsibilities in this regard, highlighting the similar opportunity Gahanna now has. Montgomery emphasized that since 2005, the state had failed to pass nine bills aimed at providing stronger penalties when sober drivers caused serious injury or death. Despite the argument that these drivers didn't mean to cause harm, Montgomery drew attention to the severe punishments meted out to drunk drivers. Legislators, she stated, ignored overwhelming public support for these bills, prompting cities like Gahanna to consider taking the lead. Referring to the varying interpretations of home rule, Montgomery noted that the current state distracted driving law allows local jurisdictions to have stronger penalties. She lauded the City Council's discussion on proposed penalties, recognizing the need for public awareness to make them effective deterrents. She suggested a press conference on April 1st at the start of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month as an effective means of communication. Montgomery presented four strong reasons for implementing these penalties in the traffic code: justice, consistency, precedent, and safety. She expressed hope that Gahanna, like Brooklyn,

would set a trend. Regardless of the law's name, she asserted that drivers breaking traffic laws and causing serious harm must be appropriately held accountable, with support provided to the victims. Commending the City Council for dedicating time to understanding the issues surrounding weak penalties for electronic device use while driving, Montgomery expressed her pride in the city's efforts. Concluding her address, she thanked the Council for their commitment and added her pride for the recent Medal of Honor Ceremony, calling it "amazing."

D. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2024-0038](#)

CN Minutes 2.5.2024

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2024-0039](#)

COTW Minutes 2.12.2024

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Resolutions:

[RES-0003-2024](#)

A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE COMPLIANCE OF A PETITION FOR ORGANIZATION OF A NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY WITH OHIO REVISED CODE CHAPTER 349; AND SETTING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PETITION

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-0005-2024](#)

A RESOLUTION HONORING SGT. JUSTIN SHEASBY, SGT. KYLE PARRISH, AND OFFICER KAYLEA PERTZ OF THE GAHANNA DIVISION OF POLICE FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AND VALOR IN SAFEGUARDING LIVES

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

3. Ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption:

[ORD-0004-2024](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Water Meter Fees

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

4. Ordinances for Introduction, Waiver of Second Reading, and Adoption:

[ORD-0008-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN OFFICE & INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH NUVIK USA, INC, DBA CROCODILE CLOTH FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS; WAIVING SECOND READING

The Ordinance was adopted with waiver of second reading on the Consent Agenda.

End of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, to Pass the items under the Consent Agenda as published. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

E. MOTIONS:

[2024-0024](#) Ohio Division of Liquor Control Notice to Legislative Authority Permit NEW 2393331 EAGLE ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS INC DBA CAMPUS AND CO - COLUMBUS; 460 HAVENS CNR RD, GAHANNA, OH 43230

President Bowers provided the Council with a brief overview of the process and background related to an item on the agenda. She noted that included in the agenda item was a letter received by the Council Office on January 29th, 2024. The letter served as a notification to the local legislative authority, informing them of the opportunity to notify the Division of Liquor Control about any objections to the issuance of a permit. Additionally, the authority could request a hearing, during which a hearing officer would be present, with both the objector and the applicant attending. President Bowers detailed the subsequent steps in the process, explaining that a report from the hearing would be submitted to the Superintendent of Liquor Control. The Superintendent would then decide on whether to overrule or sustain the objection. Following this decision, either the applicant or legislative authority could appeal to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission. President Bowers concluded by informing the audience that this information could be found on the Division of Liquor Control's website.

Councilmember Schnetzer sought clarification on the voting process, highlighting a change in the city's approach in recent years. He noted that if no action were taken, liquor permits would automatically be granted. Confirming with President Bowers, he clarified that a "yes" vote would be an objection to the permit, while a "no" vote indicated no objection.

President Bowers confirmed the clarification and invited any further comments or discussions.

Vice President Weaver shared insights from a committee discussion the previous week, expressing concerns about enforcement and the location. He supported the objection, emphasizing the need for a hearing to thoroughly

examine the issues.

Councilmember Renner concurred with Vice President Weaver, acknowledging the unusual circumstances surrounding the matter. He believed a public hearing was necessary to address the complexities involved.

President Bowers thanked the applicant, Mr. Gooden, for coming to Committee of the Whole last week to discuss this matter. She said that it was critically important to note that this action did not, in her mind, indicate any moral, law-abiding, or ethical shortcomings on the part of Mr. Gooden, Eagle Academy, Campus&Co, or any of the other families associated. Rather, it had become apparent that Gahanna has had a good and longstanding relationship with many of the associated families. As indicated by her colleagues, however, Bowers said the inability of our secular protocols to adequately ensure compliance with a permit, which is a neutral, generally applicable regulatory law, if one is issued by the Division of Liquor Control, the proximity to the school, the saturation of liquor-permitted establishments already in the vicinity, and the highly exclusive nature of the business, including the insularity of staff training, managers, and customers, all give rise to both the need for enforcement and the difficulty in doing so. Given the uniqueness of the situation, Bowers believed it was appropriate to have the Division of Liquor Control analyze all relevant facts at a hearing and issue a decision. She reiterated her thanks to Mr. Gooden and members of the audience who were in attendance during the meeting as interested parties.

Councilmember Schnetzer, returning to the process, highlighted the rarity of Council objecting to liquor permits, citing only one previous instance involving a severe situation. He saw that particular circumstance as a “slam dunk” situation and recalled that people had been shot in the parking lot. Further, that circumstance also had the Police Department’s support in revocation of the permit. However, the item tonight did not fall within this category. He noted that, while this might be somewhat unusual in their nature of business, in the sense that it’s not a traditional bar or a traditional restaurant, etc., there are other clubs, namely the Moose Lodge, the VFW Hall, that also operate in close proximity to our pools and various other youth sports fields. He believed that if Council were to object to this, that it would be a somewhat disparate treatment vis-a-vis some of those other establishments. Concluding, Schnetzer summarized that this was his rationale for not objecting at this time.

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Weaver, to object to and request a hearing for issuing new permit 2393331 (Eagle Academy of Columbus INC DBA Campus&Co - Columbus at 460 Havens Corners Road), and instructing the Clerk to complete notice from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control to the Legislative Authority received January 29, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Schnetzer

F. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0069-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC CODE SECTIONS OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

G. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

[ORD-0005-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$68,000,000, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING AND IMPROVING MUNICIPAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING AND IMPROVING ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING THE SAME, IMPROVING THE SITES THEREOF, ACQUIRING LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, WATER, SANITARY SEWER AND STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS, AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, RELOCATION, OR ADDITIONS TO UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY AND RELATED APPURTENANCES THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Vice President Weaver noted his appreciation for Director Bury, the administration, and external consultants for their efforts on the project related to the issuance of bonds. He acknowledged the healthy discussions that had taken place, ensuring that the city moved forward with the best possible financial foundation for the ongoing project. Vice President Weaver anticipated supporting the ordinance and looked forward to the subsequent steps in the project.

President Bowers opened the floor for any additional discussion on the item, acknowledging the extensive conversations that had occurred in committee meetings.

Councilmember McGregor took the opportunity to share her perspective, highlighting the initial goal of finding land for a new police station. She emphasized that the renovation of the existing building, encompassing the police station, a senior center, and various administrative functions, proved to be a more cost-effective solution than constructing three new buildings. Councilmember McGregor expressed gratitude for the work invested in repurposing an existing structure, keeping the costs lower than they might have been if starting from scratch. Her comments underscored the financial

prudence of the current approach to the project.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Ordinance be Adopted as an Emergency. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[ORD-0006-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Capital Improvement Fund and General Fund for 825 Tech Center Drive Project

President Bowers began the discussion by recalling that the ordinance under consideration involved utilizing available cash for potential overages that might not be incurred, thereby avoiding the use of bond money for those expenses. She acknowledged her less-than-eloquent expression of the concept.

Senior Director of Operations Kevin Schultz clarified that the funds in question, amounting to \$10 million, were designated for contingencies and allowances related to the project.

President Bowers, expressing her appreciation, noted the thoughtful structure of the arrangement. She characterized it as fiscally responsible and sophisticated in terms of utilizing bond dollars. President Bowers concluded her remarks by thanking Mr. Schultz.

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

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

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk

Mr. VanMeter noted he would move forward with posting public notice for the hearing on the New Community Authority, given Council's approval of the legislation determining the petition's compliance and setting the hearing date as March 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

2. Council - None

I. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Renner said he believed Vice President Weaver had provided a very good report last time and that the CIC had not met since. He announced CIC would be meeting tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m. in the Committee Room.

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

Vice President Weaver reminded everyone that the State of the Region will be held on March 15th from 11 AM to 1:00 PM at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. Seats are dwindling, so he urged members to let Clerk VanMeter know if they would like to attend. Additionally, Weaver noted that he had attended his first commission meeting on February 8th and joined the Mayor representing the City of Gahanna. The commission heard from the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, Joe Nardone, president and CEO, as well as Kristen Easterday, director of communications and public affairs. They previewed plans for the new terminal. There is a new website, CMHnext.com, that provides information and more about the new terminal project. On Tuesday, February 27th, MORPC is inviting community planners, local government officials, school board officials, and school administrators for a special event on the benefits of planning together. Weaver said he was honored to be joined by Superintendent Dr. Deagle for that event. MORPC has been hosting and is hosting a series of regional planning luncheons. The next one is in the Northwest Area of Central Ohio that will be held at the Dublin Recreation Center on March 27th. MORPC, through these luncheons, is convening local governments to work collaboratively on short and long-range community planning. The ideal participants include public officials, local government staff, and community partners with responsibilities for transportation, development planning, and sustainability. Lastly, on February 28th, from 9:30 to 11:00 AM at MORPC, there's an event called Reimagining an Inclusive, Equitable Future. MORPC and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) is hosting a panel discussion. COMTO is known as the voice of equity in transportation and serves as the national advocate for employment diversity, inclusion, and contracting opportunities in the multimodal, multi-billion-dollar transportation industry. Guest speakers will discuss the impact of the transportation industry due to the growth in our region, overcoming barriers to ensure equitable access, representation while positioning minority leaders, and more. The event is free and open to the public, but it does require registration. Anyone interested should let him know.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reported that Visit Gahanna's 2024 annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20th, from 11:30 to 1. It will be held at the Gahanna Sanctuary, and the theme is 'Tourism Powers Economic Development.' Tickets were available for purchase at visitgahanna.com. Also, the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival tickets are going to be on sale March 1st. With an early bird discount, one can get \$5 off the regular tickets.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Councilmember Jones began by expressing her congratulations to the Gahanna Lincoln High School video production classes for their outstanding achievements. She noted that they were nominated for seven national student production awards and recently secured two of those awards. The accolades

were specifically for their film and documentary titled 'End of the Distraction' and a public affairs video called 'The Beat Goes On.' Councilmember Jones commended Mark Lowrie and the students for their hard work and ongoing excellence in this field. Moving on to upcoming events, she mentioned the Gahanna Gala scheduled for the upcoming Saturday. Although tickets were sold out, Councilmember Jones highlighted the ongoing online auction, which included over 300 items covering a variety of things. She encouraged everyone, whether attending the Gala or not, to participate in the auction as a means of supporting Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation (GJEF). Councilmember Jones also brought attention to Public School Week, scheduled for the following week from February 26th to March 1st. She described it as an annual week-long celebration dedicated to honoring the contributions and achievements of educators and advocates of public schools. Councilmember Jones saw this as a great opportunity to highlight the Gahanna school system. Concluding her updates, Councilmember Jones reminded the community of the regular school board meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd. She acknowledged the calendar cadence being a bit different that month and wanted to ensure that people were aware of the meeting.

J. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin commenced her remarks by acknowledging the special presentation held earlier in the evening. She expressed her appreciation for Sharon Montgomery's sentiments about being proud to be in the city. Reflecting on the emotional evening, Mayor Jadwin recognized that it was a long-awaited moment and appreciated the patience and support of the Council. Expressing gratitude to State Representative Piccolantonio and Congresswoman Beatty for their support, Mayor Jadwin shared a quote defining a hero as an ordinary person facing extraordinary circumstances with courage, honor, and self-sacrifice. She believed the three officers honored that definition. Switching topics, Mayor Jadwin congratulated the Gahanna Community Chorus and their director, Kate Cremean, for their beautiful concert over the weekend. She praised the talented individuals from high school productions to adults in the chorus, highlighting the community's ongoing production of amazing events. Mayor Jadwin continued by commending the successful Creekside chocolate walk organized by Give to Gahanna. She acknowledged the participating businesses and the positive feedback from a non-Gahanna participant, expressing awe at the community's winter event offerings. Sharing her personal experience at the Creekside chocolate walk, Mayor Jadwin humorously mentioned spending five hours there, including two additional hours enjoying Creekside. She congratulated Give to Gahanna for organizing the event and looked forward to its continued popularity. Mayor Jadwin thanked Councilman Weaver for mentioning the MORPC meeting on February 8th and expressed excitement and honor at being elected to the executive committee of MORPC for a two-year term. She anticipated collaboration with other Central Ohio municipal leaders on regional growth initiatives. Encouraging residents to

provide input on the Active Transportation Plan, Mayor Jadwin emphasized the importance of the survey, available online until Sunday, February 25th. The survey aimed to gather residents' views on transportation modes within the community. Lastly, Mayor Jadwin informed property owners in the 2024 Street and Sidewalk Program about upcoming open houses at City Hall on March 12th and March 14th. The sessions would offer information on construction expectations, program timelines, and an opportunity for residents to ask questions.

Vice President Weaver asked if Council could receive copies of the correspondence that went out to residents in the street and sidewalk program. Mayor Jadwin confirmed she would send a copy of the postcard that had been mailed to residents.

[2024-0047](#)

Mayoral Proclamations - Sgt. Justin Sheasby, Sgt. Kyle Parrish, and Officer Kaylea Pertz for their acts of heroism and lifesaving actions, and for their exemplary representation of the City of Gahanna

2. City Attorney

Reflecting on the evening's ceremony, Assistant City Attorney Matt Roth noted it was a privilege to work every day with the officers and administration of the Gahanna Division of Police. He remarked that they were all very good at what they do.

K. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember McGregor began her remarks by expressing gratitude for the touching ceremony held to honor the city's police officers. She acknowledged the officers' timely presence at the accident scene, emphasizing the belief that they were guided by God to be there to help. Transitioning to another topic, Councilmember McGregor shared information about satellite classes at Eastland and Fairfield Career Center held at Clark Hall. She listed the programs available, including architecture, bioscience, teacher preparation, and physical medicine. Councilmember McGregor shared her granddaughter's positive experience in the architecture program with an architect as an instructor. She then discussed her other granddaughter who presented her capstone project in the bioscience program. This project focused on the potential use of an EEG to detect dyslexia in children, offering an early and more affordable diagnosis compared to current methods. Councilmember McGregor highlighted the significance of early detection in providing timely services for children with dyslexia. She mentioned that her granddaughter was nervous but delivered a thorough presentation along with other students who showcased various projects, some related to chemicals and dog food preservation, and she ended up winning first place in the competition, which came with a scholarship. McGregor concluded her remarks by highlighting the availability of these programs within the community, allowing students to participate while still being part of the high school.

Councilmember Jones provided brief remarks, expressing her pride as a

Gahanna resident. She acknowledged that there are numerous reasons for residents to take pride in their community, and she specifically highlighted the evening's events. Councilmember Jones extended her gratitude to the officers and everyone involved in making the night possible, emphasizing that it felt like more than an ordinary resolution.

Councilmember Padova expressed her gratitude during the meeting, acknowledging the positive and emotional impact of recent resolutions and the presence of visitors and guests. She specifically mentioned the last meeting and the current one, which focused on honoring Sergeant Sheasby, Sergeant Parrish, and Officer Pertz. Councilmember Padova conveyed her appreciation for the officers' daily efforts and especially their actions last fall. She admitted being moved nearly to tears by their uplifting stories and commended them for their courage. She extended her thanks to Chief Spence for his leadership throughout.

Councilmember Renner expressed his gratitude to Sergeant Sheasby, Sergeant Parrish, and Officer Pertz for their valor and dedicated service. He highlighted the difference between those who merely consider their work a job and those, like the honored officers, who see it as a true call to duty. Councilmember Renner commended the officers for responding to the call even though they were not explicitly requested but recognized the need for their service. He also acknowledged the mayor and the director for handling the situation professionally, providing the officers with the necessary time and space to reflect and be with their families after the traumatic event they experienced. Shifting the focus to a different matter, Councilmember Renner expressed his discontent with a resident who used the public speaking opportunity to attack Councilwoman Jones without presenting any evidence. He defended Councilwoman Jones as a duly elected member who has admirably fulfilled her duties, emphasizing the need for respect among colleagues. Councilmember Renner expressed his hurt and offense at the derogatory statements made against Councilwoman Jones, vowing to address such behavior in the future.

Councilmember Schnetzer expressed his gratitude to the entire Division of Police during the council meeting. He acknowledged that, over the years, the Council may have become accustomed or even spoiled by the Division's consistent level of excellence. Councilmember Schnetzer cited instances where the police played crucial roles, such as being the first on the scene of a motorcycle accident and a suicide, where they saved lives. He highlighted the recent extra-jurisdictional situation where the Division of Police went above and beyond the call of duty. Councilmember Schnetzer noted the presence of news cameras, indicating that the story of their excellence was being shared across the central Ohio region, and expressed pride in that accomplishment. In a show of appreciation for Chief Spence and Safety Director Becker, Councilmember Schnetzer attributed the Division's success to their leadership. He commended them for setting a cultural tone within the division that has resulted in the continuous receipt of awards.

Vice President Weaver expressed gratitude to Sergeant Sheasby, Sergeant Parrish, and Officer Pertz for their heroic actions in November. He conveyed

his appreciation for all the officers and their daily commitment to embodying public service and community. Vice President Weaver noted that the positive reputation of the Gahanna Division of Police and its officers extends across central Ohio. He continued to extend his heartfelt gratitude not only to the three officers but also to the entire Division, Chief Spence, and Director Becker. Vice President Weaver acknowledged the significant recognition received from both the state, represented by Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio, and the federal government, represented by Congresswoman Joyce Beatty. In his final remarks, Vice President Weaver thanked Councilmember Renner for his comments during the Council comment session. He emphasized the diversity of the seven independently elected council members, each contributing unique skill sets and values. Vice President Weaver highlighted the importance of representing all residents, even those with fundamental disagreements, and stressed the possibility of disagreeing without being disagreeable, fostering mutual respect among councilmembers.

President Bowers offered congratulations to the heroic officers and all the members of the Gahanna Division of Police, including the communications department and other first responders. She extended her gratitude to Chief Spence for his leadership with a guardian mentality, expressing pride in the community for valuing such principles. President Bowers acknowledged Representative Brown Piccolantonio for presenting commendations and Congresswoman Beatty's office for providing Congressional proclamations. She appreciated the collaboration that recognized the importance of the moment on short notice. Taking a moment to address public comments, President Bowers noted that the speaker on occasion comes and speaks before Council and has every right to do so. Usually, Bowers remains silent as to the speaker's remarks because she believed that giving too much attention to them can also be detrimental. However, President Bowers emphasized and expressed her pride in Councilmember Jamille Jones for her executive skills, knowledge depth, and kindness. She highlighted Councilmember Jones's role as a liaison to the school district, specifically thanking her for coordinating the resolution to recognize Dr. Thomas, Mrs. Amerson, Mrs. Whitfield, and African-American literature students. President Bowers expressed her gratitude for Councilwoman Jones's relationships that facilitated the recognition. Additionally, President Bowers congratulated Clerk of Council Jeremy VanMeter for his election to the executive committee of the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association, acknowledging his professionalism and service. She also recognized Sophia McGuire, records analyst, for the recent acceptance of her proposed session presentation at a national annual conference on records keeping in Atlanta. The session is titled "Records Management Resurgence: Using Outreach, Education and Cross-Departmental Relationships to Revive or Jump Start a Records Program." McGuire will present along with records managers from Dartmouth libraries, Livingston County, New York, and the University of Wisconsin Madison. Bowers congratulated McGuire for her ongoing professional development and extraordinary professionalism in this national recognition. President Bowers attached her constituent report for January to the agenda, emphasizing the upcoming constituent hour with Councilmember Weaver at the Gahanna Library. The discussion would focus on the proposed zoning

code and ongoing land use in Gahanna. President Bowers invited residents to attend or reach out to either of them for further discussions.

[2024-0040](#)

Councilmember Merisa K. Bowers' Constituent Report - January 2024

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Jones, to go into Executive Session under authority of Section 5.40(a) of the Council Rules of Procedure to consider the appointment, employment, promotion, or compensation of public employees and officials.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

President Bowers noted the request was an executive session with Council members regarding Council Office staffing changes and consideration of salary updates. She also noted there would not be any legislation or action coming out of tonight's executive session and Council would adjourn promptly thereafter.

President Bowers announced Council would meet in the Law Library for the executive session.

Council rose to report to executive session at 8:05 p.m.

Council rose to report from executive session at 8:38 p.m. with no further action.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Bowers adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2024.*

Merisa K. Bowers