



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

Monday, August 7, 2023

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, August 7, 2023, in Council Chambers. President of Council Stephen A. Renner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Merisa Bowers delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on August 4, 2023.

Present 6 - Karen J. Angelou, Merisa K. Bowers, Nancy R. McGregor, Kaylee Padova, Stephen A. Renner, and Michael Schnetzer

Absent 1 - Trenton I. Weaver

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

C. HEARING OF VISITORS:

1. Resolution Presentation by Council

Councilmember Bowers informed the meeting attendees about a resolution that Council discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting the previous week. The resolution aimed to designate August 2023 as Safe Driving and Share the Road Awareness Month in the City of Gahanna. She expressed gratitude to various individuals, including Council Clerk Jeremy VanMeter, Chief Spence, and Patricia Kovacs of the Bicycle and Trail Advisory Committee (BTAC), for their collaboration in creating the resolution. Although she did not read the entire resolution, Councilmember Bowers noted that it was available on the city's website through provided links. She mentioned that physical copies of the resolution would also be accessible in the Council Office. Furthermore, she highlighted that Patricia Kovacs would be recognized during the meeting for her contributions through BTAC in connection with this resolution.

Council members presented the resolution to Ms. Kovacs and posed for a

photo.

Ms. Kovacs expressed her gratitude to the council and Councilmember Bowers on behalf of BTAC. She also extended her thanks to all city staff members who contributed to making the city more bikeable and walkable. Ms. Kovacs specifically mentioned staff from the Parks & Recreation Department, as well as from the Engineering Department. She also acknowledged the efforts of past staff members in these departments. Addressing a question about the data, Ms. Kovacs mentioned her interest in data and explained that she had reviewed crash statistics in Gahanna over the last 10 years. She highlighted that the city had an average of 4.8 bike crashes and 4.5 pedestrian crashes per year. However, in the past year, there were zero bike crashes and two pedestrian crashes. Ms. Kovacs speculated that initiatives such as the "Share the Road" resolution and increased social media presence might be contributing to safer roads. She then drew attention to the issue of distracted driving and noted an increase in speeding and red light running since the onset of the pandemic. Ms. Kovacs urged everyone to stay focused while driving, avoid using phones while behind the wheel, emphasizing the importance of road safety. She concluded by thanking the council.

2. Members of the Public

Sharon Montgomery of 572 Bonnington Way, Gahanna, OH spoke on RES-0027-2023 and shared additional compliments of city staff.

Ms. Montgomery expressed her appreciation and complimented the council for including a focus on distracted driving in Resolution 27. She highlighted specific aspects of the resolution that she liked, particularly the encouragement for parents to serve as good role models and the acknowledgment of the prevalence of electronic devices and the temptations associated with their use. Ms. Montgomery mentioned that this issue had been a concern she had raised with state legislators two decades ago, warning about the increasing use of phones and the potential consequences of distracted driving. She expressed her satisfaction that the city's efforts were addressing this crucial aspect of the problem and thanked Chief Spence for the Division of Police's prompt response in providing a fact sheet about the new distracted driving law. Ms. Montgomery stated she had another commitment and would not be able to stay for the public hearing on the Capital Improvements Plan. However, she commended the Council Clerk for his excellent minutes, stating that they were as informative as attending the meeting in person. She thanked the council for their efforts and positive initiatives.

Christian Peck of 122 Oklahoma Avenue, Gahanna, OH spoke on behalf of the Gahanna Area Arts Council (GAAC).

Mr. Peck, the Board President of the Gahanna Area Arts Council located at 81 Mill Street, Suite 300, expressed his gratitude on behalf of the organization towards the City of Gahanna. He acknowledged that the Arts Council recently hosted a successful community performance by the

Columbus Symphony Orchestra at Headley Park, an event that saw the participation of over 870 community members. Christian noted that the weather conditions were favorable, and even a rainbow appeared during the performance. He highlighted the significant increase in attendance compared to similar events in the past, attributing the success to the support received from the City of Gahanna. Mr. Peck thanked various individuals and departments for their contributions, including the entire Parks Department for their assistance in planning and setting up the event and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the City's Public Information Officer, as well as the Visit Gahanna team for their role in promoting the concert. Mr. Peck acknowledged Councilwoman Bowers for her personal donation to sponsor the event, and Mayor Jadwin and her family were thanked for attending and purchasing tickets. Mr. Peck conveyed his gratitude on behalf of the Gahanna Area Arts Council, its board of directors, volunteers, and the entire arts community for the city's support and collaboration in making the event a success.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

President Renner announced that he would open proceedings for both the Parks Master Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan under the same hearing. He first offered time to the Administration for any comments on either item. Mayor Jadwin indicated there were no initial remarks but said they would reserve for comment if needed. President Renner read the rules of procedure sections 9.10 and 9.11 regarding the public hearing's structure.

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.

1. ORD-0059-2023 - Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan

President Renner opened the public hearing for comment at 7:11 p.m., calling first for any proponents or opponents to speak on the Parks Master Plan.

There were no speakers.

2. ORD-0060-2023 - 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan

President Renner then called for any proponents or opponents to speak on the Capital Improvement Plan.

There were no speakers.

Councilmember Bowers asked whether any video comments had been submitted through the link on the Council webpage. Deputy Clerk of Council Pam Ripley confirmed that no video comments had been submitted for the meeting.

President Renner closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2023-0136](#)

CN Minutes 7.24.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2023-0137](#)

COTW Minutes 7.31.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2023-0138](#)

FIN Minutes 7.31.2023

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Motions:

[MT-0015-2023](#)

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE PERMISSION TO BID CONTRACT FOR ANNUAL STREETLIGHT MAINTENANCE

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

3. Resolutions:

[RES-0027-2023](#)

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUGUST 2023 AS SAFE DRIVING AND SHARE THE ROAD AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

4. Ordinances for Second Reading:

[ORD-0056-2023](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - General Fund and Streets Fund for Traffic Signal Cabinet Repairs

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

5. Ordinances for Waiver, Adoption as an Emergency:

[ORD-0057-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORD-0052-2023 AND ORD-0053-2023 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO FILE APPROPRIATIONS FOR PROPERTIES CONNECTED WITH THE TAYLOR STATION AND CLAYCRAFT ROUNDABOUT PROJECT TO CORRECT THE EFFECTIVE DATES; WAIVING SECOND READING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda with waiver of second reading and an emergency declaration.

End of Consent Agenda

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

Yes: 6 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner and Schnetzer

Absent: 1 - Weaver

F. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0059-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF GAHANNA PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

President Renner introduced the Ordinance and read it by title.

[ORD-0060-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF GAHANNA 2023-2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

President Renner introduced the Ordinance and read it by title.

G. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Padova, to bring ORD-0042-2023 back from postponement in order to consider for second reading and adoption.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner and Schnetzer

Absent: 1 - Weaver

[ORD-0042-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODE PART THIRTEEN BUILDING CODE CHAPTER 1311- REGISTRATION - Removing Requirements of Certain Contractors to Register with the City

Councilmember Bowers provided her recollection regarding the item. In her review of the minutes from June 5th, she mentioned that there was a previous request for additional information and potential administrative processes related to the issue. For the record, Bowers noted that as of the present moment, she had not observed the provision of the requested information or administrative details.

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

Yes: 4 - Angelou, McGregor, Padova and Schnetzer

No: 2 - Bowers and Renner

Absent: 1 - Weaver

H. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & ADOPTION:

[ORD-0058-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS; WAIVING SECOND READING - General Fund Transfer and Developer Escrow Contract Services

A motion was made by Angelou, seconded by Schnetzer, that the Ordinance be Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner and Schnetzer

Absent: 1 - Weaver

[ORD-0061-2023](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN OFFICE & INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH ORTHOPEDIC ONE, INC. FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS; WAIVING SECOND READING

President Renner invited guests from Orthopedic One, Dr. Jonathan Feibel and COO Brooke Burns, who were in attendance to speak on the ordinance.

Dr. Jonathan Feibel said they did not have anything formal to present. He emphasized that Orthopedic One was very excited about the opportunity to move to Gahanna. He believed it was a good fit for the practice and citizens of Gahanna.

President Renner thanked Feibel for the presentation last week and also shared his excitement for Orthopedic One's move to Gahanna.

Councilmember McGregor said she thought the period was for 10 years and not five. Mayor Jadwin confirmed that the period for the O&I incentive was five years.

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Schnetzer, that the Ordinance be Introduced, Second Reading Waived, and Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Angelou, Bowers, McGregor, Padova, Renner and Schnetzer

Absent: 1 - Weaver

I. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk - None.

2. Council - None.

J. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

President Renner noted that the CIC will meet on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 8 a.m. in the Committee Room at City Hall.

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

Councilmember Angelou provided an update on recent activities and discussions within the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). She began by highlighting that there was no activity in July, but a meeting recently took place in August. She informed the council about upcoming events and resolutions under consideration at MORPC. There are several items on the MORPC agenda for the upcoming meeting, including the adoption of MORPC's 2023-2025 regional data agenda by the Regional Data Advisory Committee. She also noted Resolution 10-23, which authorized the executive director to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Central Ohio Transit Authority for transit supportive infrastructure. Another resolution involved an agreement with the Ohio Department of Development for the home weatherization assistance program. She shared that Erik Janas, the current chair of MORPC, would be leaving due to his new role as the chief of staff for Cuyahoga County in Cleveland. This change would impact the leadership of MORPC. Councilmember Angelou mentioned the upcoming Summit on Sustainability called "Inspire," scheduled for October 26th. She encouraged participation and stated that Gahanna's mayor also had a role in this event. She brought attention to MORPC's strategic framework for 2023-24, which she planned to discuss further with the Clerk. She praised the framework's comprehensive nature and credited Niel Jurist, who previously worked for Gahanna, for contributing to its development. Councilmember Angelou concluded by extending well wishes to Erik Janas and expressing gratitude for his contributions to MORPC.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova provided an update on the activities of the Visit Gahanna staff, particularly regarding the planning for the holiday light

celebration scheduled for Sunday, November 19th, which falls just before Thanksgiving. She informed the council that sponsors were actively being sought for the event and that vendor applications would soon be available on the Visit Gahanna website. Councilmember Padova encouraged everyone to mark their calendars for this upcoming community event. She recalled attending the holiday light celebration the previous year and highlighted the positive aspects of the event despite the chilly weather. She mentioned the strong attendance and the enjoyable activities available for children. Councilmember Padova then announced a new addition to the Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) staff, Jarod White, who had joined as the new Marketing and Communications Manager. She mentioned that Jarod White was a Gahanna Lincoln High School graduate and warmly welcomed him to the CVB team.

4. School Board (SB) - Bowers

Councilmember Bowers began by sharing some positive news about Lincoln Live students who received recognition for their achievements. These students were awarded 10 Regional Student Emmys by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Ohio Valley Chapter. Notably, their accolades included distinctions such as Best Newscast and Best Sports Program. Councilmember Bowers informed the council that Gahanna Jefferson Schools would be resuming classes for the new academic year on the upcoming Thursday. In light of this, she encouraged everyone to remain vigilant and considerate of students' safety as they return to school. She announced that the next quarterly City School District meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 10th. Although the specific agenda had not yet been circulated, it was anticipated to be forthcoming. Councilmember Bowers concluded her updates by mentioning that the joint presentation she had previously mentioned was postponed indefinitely. However, she expressed hope that this presentation could be revisited at a later date.

Councilmember Angelou asked why the meeting had been postponed.

Councilmember Bowers responded that an email had been received from the superintendent indicating that they had requested to postpone.

K. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin expressed her gratitude for the presence of representatives from Ortho One, particularly CEO Mark D'Aloisio and Dr. Feibel, who attended the meeting along with Brooke Burns and the Ortho One team. She thanked the City Council members for their favorable vote, which would have a significant impact on Gahanna and the community. The Mayor elaborated on the details of the project, emphasizing the construction of a \$20 million facility at the Crescent in Central Park, creating 215 jobs with an initial annual payroll of \$28 million. This development was expected to positively influence the local schools, contributing \$5.6 million over the first decade.

Mayor Jadwin highlighted Director Hamons' statement, describing the project as unparalleled in his three decades of experience. She celebrated the prospects for Gahanna and Ortho One and anticipated productive collaboration in the future.

The Mayor proceeded to recognize another growing business in Gahanna, Ultimate Solutions. She recounted how Council had previously approved an O&I agreement for Ultimate Solutions, a global company in the life science industry. The Mayor praised the company's choice to establish a presence in Gahanna, attributing it in part to a memorable dinner experience at Creekside. She informed the Council about Ultimate Solutions' recent grand opening and their progress in job creation, nearing the promised 30 jobs under the O&I incentive.

Mayor Jadwin extended her gratitude to the residents who participated in National Night Out at Sunpoint Park, an event that allowed the community to connect with law enforcement officers. She appreciated Pastor Dave Jansen and Center Point Church for their support, including providing hot dogs and snacks. The Mayor announced another community engagement opportunity, Coffee with a Cop, scheduled for August 10th at the Starbucks near Raising Cane's. She highlighted the presence of police and fire vehicles and the involvement of 104.9 The River in the event.

The Mayor reflected on Mr. Peck's comments regarding the symphony and the vibrant weekend in Gahanna. She shared personal milestones, such as her mother's 85th birthday and her daughter and son-in-law's sixth wedding anniversary. Mayor Jadwin described the Vets Rods and Classics car show as well-attended and praised the Gahanna Area Arts Council for organizing the symphony event. She recounted presenting a citizen commendation to Albert Keichel, an 80-year-old resident who displayed bravery and selflessness in assisting law enforcement during a shoplifting incident at Giant Eagle earlier this year.

Mayor Jadwin offered reminders about the upcoming school season, including the closing date for Gahanna Swimming Pool and the continued operation of the splash pad. She also provided details about Hunters Ridge Pool's schedule. The Mayor stressed the importance of safety in school zones and crosswalks, urging drivers to be attentive and students to avoid distractions while walking. Mayor Jadwin expressed her enthusiasm for the upcoming school year and looked forward to the opening of the stadium for the first football game on September 1st.

2. City Attorney - No report.

L. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember Angelou began by expressing her privilege to be present last Wednesday during the retirement ceremony for Officer Todd Hoffman, a dedicated member of the police force. She described the event as heartwarming, mentioning the poignant moment when the American flag was

presented in honor of his service. Councilmember Angelou acknowledged Todd Hoffman's exemplary career as a police officer, highlighting his contributions to the community. Transitioning to a personal note, Councilmember Angelou announced that the previous day had marked her 57th wedding anniversary. She mentioned that she and her husband had reached this remarkable milestone and jokingly challenged the audience to figure out the math. She reflected on the joy and significance of celebrating 57 years of marriage, expressing gratitude for the time they have spent together. Councilmember Angelou shared that they aspire to enjoy several more years of happiness as they continue to grow older together.

Councilmember McGregor began her remarks by extending a warm anniversary wish to Councilmember Angelou. She then proceeded to announce an upcoming event for the Gahanna Historical Society. The Founders Day celebration was scheduled for Saturday, and Councilmember McGregor shared that the event would take place from 11 AM to 2 PM at the historic area on South High Street. She encouraged residents to attend and participate in the festivities. Councilmember McGregor also highlighted the ongoing improvements to the Lily Stone Bed & Breakfast. She mentioned that substantial progress had been made, particularly on the south side of the building, where the painting had been completed. The west side was also undergoing painting work. Councilmember McGregor noted that significant efforts had been put into securing the necessary funds for the painting project, as the house had been in need of a fresh coat of paint for some time. She recounted the process of scraping off old paint during the priming stage, which had revealed the extent of the work required. She expressed optimism about the upcoming appearance of the house and shared that the chosen color, named "Rosemary," had been selected in connection with Gahanna's identity as the Herb Capital of Ohio. Switching topics, Councilmember McGregor provided details about the entertainment and treats planned for the Founders Day celebration. She mentioned the musical performances, with bands such as the Goldsberries and a group called Flat Bottoms set to provide entertainment. Councilmember McGregor also informed the audience that Dairy Queen would be contributing ice cream, which would be available for purchase during the event. She emphasized that the celebration offered an enjoyable opportunity for attendees to listen to music, sample treats, and explore the historic homes in the area.

Councilmember Bowers extended congratulations and anniversary wishes to Councilmember Angelou and her husband Dick. She expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming Founders Day event, recalling the enjoyable time had during Pioneer Day the previous month and looking forward to a similar experience this weekend. Councilmember Bowers proceeded to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of various committees and individuals within the city. She expressed gratitude to BTAC (Bicycle and Trail Advisory Committee) and its members, especially to Patricia Kovacs and Sharon Montgomery for their dedicated advocacy for safer roads and improved bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Councilmember Bowers reiterated her commitment to prioritizing these initiatives and thanked Ms. Kovacs for her kind words from earlier. Councilmember Bowers reported on her attendance at the Gahanna 175 planning meeting. She shared that next

year would mark Gahanna's 175th anniversary, and she expressed anticipation for the celebration and the collaborative efforts of the committee. She acknowledged the importance of community partners being involved and was eager for the various activities and excitement that the anniversary would bring. Councilmember Bowers also mentioned her positive experience at National Night Out, thanking the Gahanna Division of Police and Chief Spence for their contributions to the event's organization. She highlighted the community block parties hosted by Sunny 95 and praised the collaboration between the Parks Department and Rathburn Woods, which led to a successful and well-attended block party. Councilmember Bowers took the opportunity to congratulate a new business, House of Hands, which had its grand opening as an aesthetic medical spa on North Hamilton Road. Regarding recent business developments, Councilmember Bowers touched upon O&I incentives and expansion projects. She recalled the projects she had voted on, including the CAPS project from the previous year and the current project with Ortho One. She noted the expansion of Ultimate Solutions, despite their withdrawal from an O&I incentive request. Councilmember Bowers expressed enthusiasm for both Ultimate Solutions' and Orthopedic One in Gahanna.

Councilmember Padova remarked on the upcoming "Taste of Gahanna" event organized by the Gahanna Chamber of Commerce. She mentioned that the event would take place on Sunday, August 27th, from 5 to 8 PM at Edison Brewing. Councilmember Padova highlighted the availability of tickets for purchase on the chamber's website, gahannachamber.org. Drawing from her previous experience, she lauded the event's appeal and the picturesque view offered by Edison Brewing Company, especially during sunset. Councilmember Padova also remarked on the Sunny 95 block party at Rathburn Woods, an event mentioned earlier by Councilwoman Bowers. She expressed her attendance at the event, noting the positive atmosphere that brought neighbors together on a beautiful summer evening. Continuing her update, Councilmember Padova turned attention to the GRIN (Gahanna Residents in Need) back-to-school fair. She informed the audience about the fair's scheduling and its impact on the regular operations of the GRIN pantry. Due to the fair, many of the usual volunteers were engaged in event preparation, leading to a shortage of staff at the pantry. Councilmember Padova encouraged those available to volunteer for the pantry in the morning and pointed to the Sign-Up Genius on GRIN's website as a means to get involved. She shared her personal fondness for volunteering during Saturday mornings, highlighting the unpredictable yet rewarding experiences that come with helping at the pantry. Councilmember Padova shared a heartwarming personal note by revealing that her daughter, Geneva, was celebrating her second birthday. She recounted a recent conversation with Geneva, in which the young child unexpectedly associated the following day with "vote no day" instead of her own birthday. Councilmember Padova used the anecdote as a teachable moment, promoting civic engagement and encouraging everyone to exercise their right to vote. Councilmember Padova concluded her remarks by echoing the importance of civic participation and the power of using one's voice, both in family conversations and in the broader community.

President Renner began his comments by offering congratulations to Officer Huffman for his achievements. He expressed appreciation for the significance of welcoming new officers to the force and recognizing retiring officers for their dedicated service to the citizens of the city. Shifting focus, President Renner shared a personal celebration from about a week ago. He and his wife, Melissa, had commemorated their 30th wedding anniversary. In a light-hearted tone, he mentioned a conversation with his wife about the prospect of another 30 years together. He jokingly referred to Councilmember Angelou and her husband's lengthy marriage and expressed the idea that they would eventually catch up in years.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Renner adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

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

Stephen A. Renner