

City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

City Council - Special

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, January 13, 2025

6:45 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER: Roll Call

Gahanna City Council met in Special Session on Monday, January 13, 2025, in Council Chambers. President of Council Merisa K. Bowers called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. The agenda was published on January 10, 2025.

Present 7 - Kaylee Padova, Stephen A. Renner, Michael Schnetzer, Trenton I. Weaver, Jamille Jones, Nancy R. McGregor, and Merisa K. Bowers

B. RESOLUTIONS:

RES-0004-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA SUPPORTING THE OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S CHALLENGE OF AT&T's TARIFF APPLICATION AT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

President Bowers introduced a resolution brought forward through notice from the Ohio Municipal League. The resolution concerned a proposed tariff revision by AT&T, which would require municipalities to bear the cost of relocating utilities. President Bowers explained that the City Attorney had reviewed and redlined the model ordinance, and the Council was considering the redlined version for adoption as item two on the agenda. She then invited Mayor Jadwin to provide comments from the administration.

Mayor Jadwin thanked the Council for scheduling the special meeting and acknowledged the efforts of City Attorney Tamilarasan and President Bowers. She explained that the proposed tariff, presented to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) on December 18, 2024, was a significant concern for Gahanna and similar municipalities. Mayor Jadwin shared that the city was informed of the proposal on the previous Thursday evening and had since been evaluating its potential impacts. She noted that the tariff would have serious implications for cost, timing, design, and transparency, which would be cost-prohibitive for the city's infrastructure projects. Mayor Jadwin invited Director of Engineering Tom Komlanc and Senior Director of Operations Kevin Schultz to elaborate on the impacts.

Director Komlanc explained that the proposed tariff had been discussed within various professional organizations, including the American Public Works Association of Ohio and local municipal engineers. He highlighted that if the tariff were implemented, it could significantly increase costs for city-led infrastructure projects, including the West Gahanna Sewer improvements, sewer projects on Hamilton and Clotts Roads, and other projects in the city's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He cited the Taylor Station-Claycraft roundabout project, where relocating telecommunication facilities incurred approximately \$100,000 in additional costs. Director Komlanc emphasized the potential challenges in managing public rights-of-way and joint easements if the tariff were enacted.

Mayor Jadwin asked Director Komlanc whether the tariff would apply to emergency situations, such as waterline repairs. Director Komlanc confirmed that any relocation costs associated with emergency repairs would also fall back on the city under the proposed tariff.

Councilmember Renner expressed concern about the PUCO system, stating that it was intended to protect all Ohio residents from such issues. He questioned how the proposed tariff had advanced and suggested engaging state representatives or senators to address the matter and prevent similar occurrences in the future.

City Attorney Tamilarasan reported that she had made contact with attorneys from Taft and confirmed that, if the resolution were approved, the city would be positioned to act promptly.

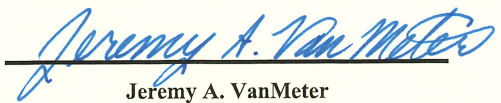
President Bowers thanked City Attorney Tamilarasan, Clerk VanMeter, Director Komlanc, and Mayor Jadwin for their efforts in addressing the issue. She emphasized the importance of the resolution in protecting the city's ability to conduct infrastructure projects cost-effectively. President Bowers then entertained a motion to adopt the resolution as identified in the redlined exhibit, item number two, resolution 0004-2025.

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

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


C. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Bowers adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.



Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

APPROVED by the City Council - Special, this
21st day of *January* 2025.



Merisa K. Bowers