



City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Trenton I. Weaver, President

Jamille Jones, Vice President

Merisa K. Bowers

Nancy R. McGregor

Kaylee Padova

Stephen A. Renner

Michael Schnetzer

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

City Hall is closed January 19, 2026 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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

Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in Council Chambers. President of Council Trenton I. Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Vice President of Council Jamille Jones delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on January 23, 2026.

Present 5 - Merisa K. Bowers, Jamille Jones, Nancy R. McGregor, Kaylee Padova, and Trenton I. Weaver

Absent 2 - Stephen A. Renner, and Michael Schnetzer

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Swearing-in Ceremony - Division of Police and Mayor Jadwin**
Officer Grant Hollaway
Lieutenant Reuben Hendon
Lieutenant Justin Sheasby

Mayor Jadwin remarked that it felt like a special evening, noting the full house and the presence of the police officer contingent lining the walls. She stated that the meeting would begin with a special presentation, including the swearing-in of a new officer and the swearing-in of two newly promoted lieutenants: Officer Grant Hollaway, Lieutenant Reuben Hendon, and Lieutenant Justin Sheasby. Mayor Jadwin invited Police

Chief Spence to share a few words before proceeding with the oaths.

Police Chief Spence explained that the department continued working to fill its ranks and welcomed Grant Hollaway, who joined from the Circleville Police Department through the lateral entry program. Chief Spence stated that Officer Hollaway would begin field training over the coming weeks and months. Chief Spence then addressed the promotions, noting that promotions to the rank of lieutenant occurred very rarely within the organization. He shared that the department had completed an extensive promotional process, which resulted in Lieutenant Reuben Hendon taking over field services and Lieutenant Justin Sheasby taking over support services. Chief Spence credited the process as a group effort and thanked the internal HR team members. He also thanked Superintendent Dr. Deagle from Gahanna Jefferson for participating in the oral board process, Pete Casuccio representing the Fraternal Order of Police, and assistance from Upper Arlington Police Department and Columbus. Chief Spence stated that their efforts helped select the best candidates to fill those valuable positions. Mayor Jadwin then administered the oath of office to Officer Grant Hollaway.

Mayor Jadwin stated that the department made two lieutenant promotions largely due to the recent promotion of Lieutenant Moffitt to deputy chief. She said the community had been blessed with extremely qualified candidates and acknowledged the difficulty of the selection process. She added that the show of support from so many members of the division reflected the respect held for the promoted individuals. Mayor Jadwin then called Lieutenant Reuben Hendon forward and administered the oath of office. Director of Public Safety Tim Becker recognized family attending in support. He shared that Lieutenant Hendon was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, served in the United States Marine Corps, and became an Iraq War veteran. Mayor Jadwin stated that Hendon earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Defiance College and joined the Gahanna Division of Police in January 2009. He noted that Hendon valued developing officers and believed in creating a coaching environment rooted in professionalism, learning, and accountability rather than fear of discipline. Director Becker said Hendon expressed gratitude to supervisors throughout his career and looked forward to continuing to develop supervisors while supporting officers with clear leadership. Director Becker congratulated Lieutenant Hendon.

Mayor Jadwin then administered the oath of office to Lieutenant Justin Sheasby. Director Becker recognized family members in attendance. Director Becker stated that Lieutenant Sheasby was born and raised in Mount Vernon, Ohio, served in the United States Marine Corps from 1993 to 1997, became a reserve officer in Gahanna in 1999, and joined the department full-time in 2007. Director Becker said Sheasby appreciated mentoring from Chief Spence and Chief Warrant Officer Mohawk during his Marine Corps service. He added that Sheasby felt grateful for the opportunity to revise the training program and looked forward to connecting with police staff, city staff, and community members to strengthen internal and external relationships. Director Becker congratulated Lieutenant Sheasby. Before turning the ceremony back to Chief Spence, Director Becker recognized former Chief Murphy in the back of the room and noted that he had hired both lieutenants. Murphy expressed his enthusiastic support and congratulations.

Police Chief Spence thanked everyone and stated that the ceremonies held importance because promotions to lieutenant remained rare, especially two at the same time. He expressed confidence that both lieutenants would accomplish great things and said they had the passion and drive to take the organization to the next level. Chief Spence identified 2026 as a defining year for everyone in the room and said the department stood well-positioned because of what it achieved in 2025. He concluded by stating that the future looked bright and thanked everyone.

2. Awards Presentation - Division of Police & Sons of the American Revolution

Deputy Chief Moffitt explained that shortly after his promotion, a community group reached out to the Division. He identified the organization as the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, Ohio Society, Hocking Valley Chapter. He stated that he appreciated their outreach, especially because one of their members, Donald Miller, previously served as a reserve officer with the Division. Deputy Chief Moffitt said he felt grateful for the opportunity to have served alongside Miller and described him as a long-standing community member and an excellent reserve officer. Deputy Chief Moffitt shared that the organization expressed interest in recognizing a member of the Division, and he received the task of considering who should receive that recognition. Deputy Chief Moffitt explained that after the Division recently recognized

several officers through its own awards presentation, he decided to recommend a supervisor for this honor. He stated that any supervisor could have been recognized because of their daily hard work, but he selected Sergeant Ernest Choung, a long-time second shift sergeant. Deputy Chief Moffitt described second shift as extremely busy, explaining that it handled the combined call volume of first and third shift. He stated that despite that workload, Sergeant Choung consistently went the extra mile and took on various special projects because of the professionalism and quality of his work. Deputy Chief Moffitt noted that Sergeant Choung placed the team and division first, rarely spoke about himself, and always credited his officers. He described Sergeant Choung as a quiet professional and a humble individual who did not enjoy pomp and circumstance. Deputy Chief Moffitt added that he encouraged the SAR members to wear their Revolutionary War uniforms, knowing it would add to the occasion. He stated that Sergeant Choung remained a vital component of the division's operations and that the entire division benefited because of his service. Deputy Chief Moffitt then turned the presentation over to the Sons of the American Revolution representatives.

Steven Conrad, President of the Hocking Valley Chapter, thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing the organization to attend. He stated that the Sons of the American Revolution formed in 1889 and operated out of Louisville, Kentucky. He mentioned the organization's sister group, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and noted that SAR had approximately 50,000 members. Mr. Conrad introduced Donald Miller, a former Ohio Society president, and Bob Hill, the Ohio color guard commander and vice president of the Ohio Society. Mr. Conrad explained that the organization consisted of men with lineage to patriots who served in the Revolutionary War, including soldiers, sailors, militia members, statesmen, financiers, supporters, elected officials, and constables. He outlined the organization's four pillars: preserving patriotism, promoting United States history, advancing youth education, and supporting veterans and first responders. He stated that those values led to the purpose of the evening's presentation.

Bob Hill greeted the Mayor and Council and stated that it was an honor to present the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal Award to Sergeant Choung. He noted that SAR previously awarded the honor to former officer Todd Huffman several years earlier. Mr. Hill read the

recommendation and citation submitted through Deputy Chief Moffitt and Chief Spence. He stated that as the division's senior sergeant, Ernest Choung established himself as a skilled and competent leader. He explained that Sergeant Choung consistently oversaw critical incident responses and managed dynamic operations. Mr. Hill stated that Sergeant Choung also assumed specialized roles beyond his core duties, demonstrating initiative, commitment, and dedication to law enforcement. Mr. Hill shared that Sergeant Choung recently led a working group to re-engineer the division's field training program, resulting in a new program that enhanced probationary officer onboarding, coaching, professional development, and support. He stated that Sergeant Choung served as the architect of the division's drone UAS unit, facilitated pilot training, and procured equipment that expanded response capacity. Mr. Hill noted that the division deployed drones on numerous calls to enhance situational awareness and improve operational outcomes. Mr. Hill added that Sergeant Choung regularly contributed technical expertise to other technology initiatives, including those related to the new municipal complex, while supporting administrative operations. He stated that Sergeant Choung consistently leveraged technology to increase efficiency and maximize public safety goals. Mr. Hill emphasized that Sergeant Choung served as a coach and mentor, actively supporting the professional development of officers, providing guidance, and promoting financial literacy. He stated that Sergeant Choung supported fellow supervisors, peers, and command staff. Mr. Hill described Sergeant Choung as a quiet professional who placed the needs of his officers, the Division's mission, and the community's interests before his own without expectation of recognition. He concluded by stating that Sergeant Choung exemplified the Division's core values and principles of 21st-century policing, and he recognized Sergeant Choung for his contributions to the law enforcement profession, the Division, and the City of Gahanna.

Donald Miller presented Sergeant Ernest Choung with the Sons of the American Revolution Law Enforcement Award on behalf of the organization and offered his congratulations.

President Weaver thanked everyone and expressed congratulations to Officer Hollaway, Lieutenant Sheasby, Lieutenant Hendon, and Sergeant Choung. He stated that the recognition was well deserved and welcomed Officer Hollaway to the City. President Weaver said he felt struck by the

legacies of continued service not only to the community but also to the country. He noted that from the dais, the room looked awe-inspiring as it filled with colleagues showing support. President Weaver stated that the officers remained in good hands and that the community remained in good hands because of all of them.

3. Joint Resolution and Proclamation Presentation - Council and Mayor Recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and National Day of Service Recipient: Retired Judge James E. Green

President Weaver stated that City Council had one more presentation item for the evening: a joint resolution and proclamation recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the National Day of Service. He said Council felt honored to welcome retired Judge James Green. President Weaver noted that several of Judge Green's colleagues from the bench also attended, including Judge Thomas, Judge Skinner, and Judge Green's successor, Judge Hoque. President Weaver then turned the presentation over to Councilmember Bowers.

Councilmember Bowers greeted those in attendance and remarked that Judge Green represented a familiar face to many. She thanked everyone for remaining to recognize Judge Green's many years of service to the citizens of Franklin County. Councilmember Bowers stated that the meeting also served to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the National Day of Service under the 2026 theme, "Mission Possible Too: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way." She said the theme did not represent aspirational nostalgia and noted that value-driven community and mutual care remained desperately needed. She expressed hope that the moment of reflection and recommitment could provide comfort in a strained world. Councilmember Bowers referenced Dr. King, Coretta Scott King, and other civil rights leaders, including Bayard Rustin, Rosa Parks, Dorothy Height, John Lewis, James Farmer, Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, and A. Philip Randolph. She stated that they understood that lasting change required both people willing to push from outside institutions and people committed to building justice from within them. Councilmember Bowers emphasized that advocacy and protest mattered, as did integrity, courage, and fairness exercised inside courtrooms, governments, and systems of power. She noted that trust in institutions remained strained, division often crowded out empathy, and equal justice remained unfulfilled. She stated that building a beloved community never came easily, but people made it

possible through nonviolence, accountability, and service.

Councilmember Bowers said it felt fitting to honor retired Judge James Green during the observance. She stated that Judge Green devoted more than 40 years to public service, beginning as an assistant Franklin County Prosecutor, later serving as an administrator to the Supreme Court of Ohio, and ultimately spending 31 years on the Franklin County Municipal Court. She noted that the court first appointed him in 1994 and that he earned the trust of Franklin County voters repeatedly throughout his tenure. She said he served with fairness and integrity.

Councilmember Bowers stated that Judge Green demonstrated what justice from within government looked like through respect for the dignity of every person, commitment to accountability, and belief that the legal system must serve humanity as well as order. She said countless litigants and lawyers knew Judge Green listened and viewed each person and client first as an individual. Councilmember Bowers remarked that Judge Green's work reminded the community that institutional leadership represented a form of service and served as the heartbeat of an organized society. She emphasized that no public service occurred alone and recognized and thanked Judge Green's wife, Rhesa Green, for her steadfast support and shared commitment to the community.

Councilmember Bowers thanked Judge Green for his legacy of service. She also thanked other community members for attending to recognize a life's work dedicated to justice, community, and Dr. King's enduring vision. Councilmember Bowers then invited Judge Green to take a photo with Mayor Jadwin, City Attorney Tamilarasan, and City Council before turning the microphone over to Judge Green for remarks.

Retired Judge James Green thanked his colleagues who attended, including Judge Thomas, Judge Skinner, and his successor, Judge Hoque. He also greeted Gahanna residents and friends and said he brought greetings from "Green's place," where he spent much of his time, along with his wife, Rhesa, whom he described as the leader of "Team Green." Judge Green stated that many people had asked what he planned to do next. He explained that in 2019, when it came time for reelection, he felt envious of the delayed retirement option program available to law enforcement and fire personnel. He said he decided to create his own version by retiring and rehiring, and he noted that he and his wife had spent the last six years preparing for that transition. He

mentioned his neighbor and friend Dennis Murphy, whom he watched go through a similar process, and he said Murphy advised him to have a plan in place. Judge Green explained that in 2020, while working five jobs, he decided it was time for a change. He resigned from three jobs and kept two: his judgeship and garage and closet makeover work that connected to his roots as a carpenter. He stated that he continued that work. Judge Green also shared that he finished school the previous year and became an internationally certified life coach. He said he had begun starting a business as a life coach and planned to serve as a visiting or traveling judge around Ohio beginning in April. He remarked that he did not consider himself truly retired and instead called it "retooling," explaining that he wanted to continue serving as long as possible and believed retirement without a plan could become difficult. Judge Green stated that he and his wife decided in 2020 to downsize and move out of their neighborhood, but after observing many neighbors renovate and remain, they chose to stay. He said they loved living in Gahanna. Judge Green noted that Franklin County judges served 28 law enforcement agencies and said he believed the Gahanna Division of Police represented the best among them. He stated that he loved Gahanna officers. Judge Green expressed deep appreciation for the officers and the work they performed daily. Judge Green stated that he looked forward to the next chapter and planned to continue serving the community. He congratulated the recently promoted officers and welcomed the newest officer to what he called the best community to work in. He thanked everyone again for attending.

President Weaver thanked Judge Green and congratulated him on his next chapter.

Mayor Jadwin stated that she felt they should end the meeting at that point because she could not imagine anything better. She said it had been an honor to join Council in recognizing Judge Green. She noted that he had led for more than 30 years on the bench and demonstrated integrity, truthfulness, equity, compassion, and every trait desired in a leader. She stated that as a Gahanna resident, Judge Green represented the city well, and as a Franklin County judge, he made a meaningful impact on countless lives. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to thank him publicly and said it felt fitting to recognize him while also honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Mayor Jadwin added that she had additional tasks available for him if his list ever ran out.

President Weaver thanked Mayor Jadwin and shared that although he was not a litigator, he clerked for the Public Defender's Office after his first year of law school and quickly realized criminal law was not for him. He expressed respect for those who practiced criminal law. He noted that appearing in a courtroom as a first-year law student clerk could feel intimidating, and he said Judge Green always acted graciously and welcoming. President Weaver remarked on Judge Green's frequent bow tie attire and noted that Judge Green could uniquely take a straight tie and tie it into a bow tie. He said he hoped Judge Green would share that skill in addition to his other work. President Weaver thanked Judge Green again, offered congratulations, and thanked everyone for attending the evening's presentation.

D. HEARING OF VISITORS:

None.

E. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2026-0013](#)

Council Organizational and Regular Minutes 2026-01-02

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2026-0014](#)

Committee of the Whole Minutes 2026-01-12

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Motions:

[MT-0001-2026](#)

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GAHANNA BIDDING FOR THE 2026 STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[MT-0002-2026](#)

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GAHANNA BIDDING FOR THE 2026 STREET TREE PRUNING PROGRAM

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[MT-0003-2026](#)

A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GAHANNA BIDDING FOR THE ACADEMY PARK RENOVATION PROJECT

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[MT-0004-2026](#) A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GAHANNA BIDDING FOR THE 2026 STREET & SIDEWALK PROGRAM (ST-1122)

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

[MT-0005-2026](#) A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GAHANNA BIDDING FOR THE 2026 SIDEWALK LOOKBACK PROGRAM (ST-1123)

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

3. Resolutions:

[RES-0001-2026](#) A JOINT RESOLUTION AND PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 19, 2026 AS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY AND THE NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA AND COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING RETIRED JUDGE JAMES E. GREEN FOR HIS LEGACY OF SERVICE AND JUSTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

End of Consent Agenda

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

Yes: 5 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova and Weaver

Absent: 2 - Renner and Schnetzer

F. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0002-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING, APPROVING, AND RATIFYING THE SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL FOR TAX YEAR 2024

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

G. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & ADOPTION:

[ORD-0003-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION; AND WAIVING SECOND READING - General Fund Claims and Judgments Related to the Central Ohio Health Care Consortium

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

Senior Director of Administrative Services Miranda Vollmer provided an update regarding the City's withdrawal from the Central Ohio Healthcare Consortium. Director Vollmer recalled that in August, staff presented resolutions to end the City's participation in the consortium and to begin a self-funded employee health benefits program. She stated that Council approved the change, and the City submitted its withdrawal to the consortium in September 2025. Director Vollmer reported that in November, the consortium board held a vote to issue a \$1.4 million assessment to current members, and Gahanna remained a member at that time. She stated that the City of Gahanna voted against the assessment, but a majority of the board voted in favor. She said Gahanna's portion of the assessment totaled \$207,939. Director Vollmer explained that the City requested additional information from the board and did not submit payment by the original due date. She stated that staff later received additional information along with a new payment deadline of January 23, 2026. She said the City requested a waiver of second reading to avoid penalties and late fees from the consortium. Director Vollmer stated that based on the information received, staff recommended paying the assessment and moving forward from the consortium.

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Padova, that the Ordinance Waived for Second Reading. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova and Weaver

Absent: 2 - Renner and Schnetzer

Councilmember Bowers requested guidance from the City Attorney on whether paying the assessment represented an appropriate step rather than contesting it. City Attorney Tamilarasan stated that she reviewed the correspondence with the Central Ohio Healthcare Consortium board and participated in drafting the initial letter. She said she supported the ordinance addressing the matter.

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

Yes: 5 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova and Weaver

Absent: 2 - Renner and Schnetzer

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk - None.

2. Council

2026-0016

PUCO Rejects Changes to Net Metering Case 25-349-EL-ORD - Finding and Order Entered 2026-01-07

Councilmember Bowers thanked Council and stated that because Mr. Renner could not attend the meeting, she would provide remarks in his place. She noted that Mr. Renner held expertise on the issue.

Councilmember Bowers explained that the agenda item included an email circulated by Mr. Renner regarding a requested change from AEP to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. She stated that AEP requested a change to the credit provided to rooftop solar customers who sent excess power back into the grid, a system known as net metering. She said AEP asked PUCO to end net metering.

Councilmember Bowers reported that PUCO adopted staff recommendations to make no changes to Ohio's net metering rules.

Councilmember Bowers thanked Mr. Renner for his leadership in addressing a public comment in support of the staff recommendations. She expressed support for PUCO's decision, stating that the adoption of the staff recommendations supported 21st-century energy needs.

2026-0017

Updates from Franklin County Auditor's Office - Board of Revision Mobile Events for Property Values Questions and Dog Licensing Season Reminder

President Weaver then addressed the next item. He stated that Council and administration received correspondence from Beth Kinney, Director of Outreach in the Franklin County Auditor's Office, sharing opportunities for mobile filing events to challenge property values through the Board of Revision process. President Weaver encouraged anyone with questions, comments, or concerns to contact the Auditor's Office and the Board of Revision. He also disclosed that he worked as an employee of the Auditor's Office during the day but did not serve with the Board of Revision.

I. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Padova stated that, as previously mentioned at the last meeting, the Community Improvement Corporation meetings had moved

to Wednesday mornings instead of Tuesdays. She announced that the next CIC meeting would take place the following morning at 8:00 a.m. in the committee room. She noted that plans to avoid a late-night meeting had been affected by the holidays and added that the schedule would include a slight break moving forward.

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

[2026-0015](#)

Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 2026-01-20

President Weaver provided an update from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. He encouraged members to review the report and thanked the Council Office for its assistance in preparing it.

President Weaver stated that the commission did not meet in January but planned to meet on February 12, 2026. President Weaver highlighted a section in the report on winter safety awareness, including a link with information on assembling emergency kits and creating safety plans as colder weather approached. He also noted an events section with upcoming regional opportunities, including State of the Region on March 20 and Data Day on February 10. He encouraged anyone interested to notify Clerk VanMeter so arrangements could be made.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova reported that the Creekside Charity Chocolate Walk would take place on Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. She stated that proceeds would benefit Give to Gahanna and noted that tickets remained limited, with early bird pricing available until February 7. She shared that she attended the event the previous year and highly recommended it as a good way to get outside in February. Councilmember Padova also announced that the Convention and Visitors Bureau would contribute to the Ohio Local History Alliance annual meeting hosted by the Gahanna Historical Society. She stated that the CVB would welcome guests and provide branded swag bags to attendees from communities across Ohio. She said the meeting would take place on March 21, 2026. Councilmember Padova asked residents to save the dates for several upcoming events, including Herb Day on May 2, Herb'n Restaurant Week from May 2 through May 8, and the Creekside Blues and Jazz Festival from June 19 through June 21, 2026.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Vice President Jones shared two upcoming opportunities for engagement. She stated that the regular school board meeting would occur on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Clark Hall. She also announced a Coffee and Conversation event scheduled for the following afternoon, January 21, at 1:30 p.m. at Dunkin' Donuts located at 1111 North Hamilton Road. Vice President Jones said Dr. Deagle and select board members would attend for informal discussion with anyone who wished to stop by.

J. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin stated that she had intended to share additional comments for Judge Green, but he had already left. She thanked Council again for the opportunity to join in recognizing him. She remarked that it had been a long time since she practiced in a courtroom downtown and said she did not miss it. She noted that judges like Judge Green made the experience easier and demonstrated that public service meant leading by example and leading with heart. Mayor Jadwin commended Judge Green for how he carried himself on the bench and for the example he set. She described him as an amazing individual and said Council could welcome him back to speak anytime.

Mayor Jadwin congratulated the Gahanna Division of Police for an impactful evening and thanked President Weaver for recognizing the officers in the room. She stated that the visual of officers supporting one another remained overwhelming. She noted that the evening included internal promotions of two officers to lieutenant, the hiring of a new officer, and recognition of Sergeant Ernest Choung for his work. Mayor Jadwin said these events reflected the excellence with which officers served the community each day. She added that the evening reflected stability, experience, dedication, and commitment within the division. Mayor Jadwin stated that she believed the Division represented the best in the state of Ohio and appreciated hearing Judge Green share the same view.

Mayor Jadwin congratulated the Gahanna Chamber of Commerce on a successful annual meeting held the previous week, noting that more than 140 attendees came together in support of the local business community.

She thanked Director Brad Fisher and the Chamber's board of directors for providing the City an opportunity to share a brief update on the City's momentum and excitement for 2026. Mayor Jadwin highlighted recent and upcoming developments, including the opening of the new high school and the soon-to-open civic center. She said it felt wonderful to see business leaders, community partners, and employers celebrating the local business community and supporting the Chamber. She noted that the Chamber had upcoming events, including a Chamber Community Impact Fund fundraiser at Edison on January 31, 2026. Mayor Jadwin stated that the fundraiser would help support small businesses in ways the City sometimes could not because of limitations, and she described it as a valuable mechanism for the community.

Mayor Jadwin extended heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Deagle, her team, the Gahanna-Jefferson School Board, and district partners on the official grand opening of the new high school. She noted that many community members attended and described the day as incredible, filled with energy and enthusiasm. She said attendees celebrated the new building while also saying goodbye to the old one with a sense of nostalgia. Mayor Jadwin stated that the new facility reflected a thoughtful approach to modern learning with an emphasis on safety and well-being for students and staff. She recognized contributions from the City's building division and engineering team, noting Director Schultz's involvement in countless meetings. She also thanked Chief Spence and his team for their partnership with the district throughout the planning and building process that brought the project to completion by the deadline. Mayor Jadwin shared that Dr. Deagle expressed special thanks to Ken Fultz and inspector Ed Loper for their work in ensuring students could enter the building on schedule. She said the project represented a milestone investment in students and the future leaders of the City. Mayor Jadwin concluded by announcing that the Gahanna Lincoln High School Blackbox Theater would host special performances of *12 Angry Men* in Council Chambers. She stated that the students sought a unique venue and that the chambers suited the production. She said performances would take place January 29, 30, and 31 at 7:00 p.m. each night. Mayor Jadwin noted that the ticket link would be released soon and that the City would share it on social media to promote the collaboration. She expressed anticipation for welcoming the students into the chambers and thanked Council.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan thanked Council and stated that unlike others who mentioned they were not litigators, she worked as a litigator and spent time in the courtroom every day. She said she practiced in front of Judge Green throughout her entire career. City Attorney Tamilarasan shared that on her first day as a public defender, Judge Green put her on the spot by asking her to draft a judgment entry for her client, and she did not know what she was doing at the time. She stated that over the years, Judge Green served as a great role model and mentor. She noted that she tried cases in front of him in private practice, appeared before him as a prosecutor, and continued to appear in his courtroom weekly. City Attorney Tamilarasan said she appreciated Judge Green's remarks that evening and stated that the City's recognition of him represented a great and appropriate honor.

City Attorney Tamilarasan then provided litigation news on behalf of the City. She reported that the tobacco preemption litigation remained ongoing before the Ohio Supreme Court. She stated that the appellant brief was filed that day and that the City's brief as appellee would be filed soon afterward. She noted that the parties requested a 20-day extension to the normal timeframe and that the City received a reciprocal extension. City Attorney Tamilarasan stated that she would participate in drafting the brief and would keep Council informed of the case's progress.

K. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember McGregor congratulated Sergeant Ernest Choung on his award. She recalled that he did not begin his career with the City as a police officer and said she believed he started in information technology. She noted that he served as a City employee longer than he had served as a police officer. Councilmember McGregor also congratulated the newly promoted lieutenants and the new officer.

Councilmember Bowers noted that an OPERS news bulletin had been circulated and said many OPERS participants likely received it by mail. She stated that the bulletin indicated minimum earnable salary increases for all OPERS participants. Councilmember Bowers reported that beginning in 2026, members must earn at least \$770.77 per month to receive full pension credit and that the amount was scheduled to increase

by five percent each year through 2029. She requested that Clerk VanMeter scan the bulletin and include it in the record for the meeting. She also referenced additional information regarding OPERS and deferred compensation that Senior Director Vollmer could explain in greater detail. Councilmember Bowers again congratulated Officer Hollaway and congratulated Lieutenants Hendon and Sheasby on their promotions. She stated that Council looked to them for leadership, stewardship, and guardianship of every community member.

Councilmember Padova stated that she wanted to recognize Judge Green. She said she had not appeared in court with him, but her first experience meeting him occurred while canvassing. She recalled that Judge Green answered the first doorbell rung by her daughter. He went inside to get her candy and made her think canvassing resembled trick-or-treating. Councilmember Padova said she enjoyed sitting on the porch talking with him and described him as a great person. She stated that she felt glad Council recognized him that evening.

Vice President Jones reiterated congratulations to Officer Hollaway, newly promoted lieutenants Hendon and Sheasby, and award recipient Sergeant Choung. She said it felt meaningful to celebrate those who protected the community. She stated that she had not appeared in Judge Green's courtroom and had not met Judge Green until that evening but had heard many positive things about him. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to honor him and said she looked forward to getting to know him better. Vice President Jones reported that her constituent report from the end of 2025 was attached to the agenda. She encouraged residents to review information about warming centers and reminded everyone to check on neighbors during the season.

President Weaver offered congratulations to the entire Division of Police for an exciting evening. He also congratulated Judge Green and thanked the young people who attended and remained throughout the meeting. President Weaver thanked the Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce for a successful annual meeting luncheon and said it felt nice to see many small businesses highlighted and celebrated. He noted appreciation for board members who attended. President Weaver also congratulated the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools District and the community on the opening of the new high school. He said it felt fun to be part of the celebration, noting that his wife taught at the high school and that he was

an alumnus. He remarked that the completed project looked impressive and shared that he did not yet know his way around the building when asked to drop something off that morning. President Weaver stated that he enjoyed seeing the Sons of the American Revolution in chambers. He shared that his wife belonged to the Daughters of the American Revolution and could trace her lineage back hundreds of years, including an ancestor killed in the Battle for New York during the Revolution. President Weaver said he was the son of immigrants and found that ability to trace history far back fascinating and meaningful. He stated that he looked forward to enrolling their seven-month-old child in the Sons of the American Revolution and thanked the organization for attending.

[2026-0010](#) Councilmember Jamille Jones' Constituent Report - November-December 2025

[2026-0022](#) OPERS Minimum Earnable Salary Increases from Winter 2025-2026 Mailer - Received by Councilmember Bowers 2026-01-20

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Padova, to go into Executive Session under the Council Rules of Procedure for the following reasons:

Section 5.40(c) To confer with the City Attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

Section 5.40(a) To consider the appointment of a public employee or official.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova and Weaver

Absent: 2 - Renner and Schnetzer

President Weaver announced that Council would meet in Executive Session in the Committee Room. Mayor Jadwin confirmed Senior Director Schultz, Senior Director Vollmer, and Director of Economic Development Jeff Gottke would join Council and City Attorney Tamilarasan for part of the Executive Session.

Council rose to report to Executive Session at 8:06 p.m.

Council rose to report from Executive Session at 9:06 p.m. with no further action.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Weaver adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2026.*

Trenton I. Weaver