

City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, July 15, 2013

7:00 PM

Council May Meet in Caucus Beginning at 6:45 p.m.

City Hall

City Council

Stephen A. Renner, President

Ryan P. Jolley, Vice President

Beryl D. Anderson

Karen J. Angelou

Brian D. Larick

David L. Samuel

Brandon Wright

Isobel L. Sherwood, MMC, Clerk of Council

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

Gahanna City Council met in Regular Meeting on Monday, July 15, 2013 at Gahanna City Hall, in Council Chambers, 200 South Hamilton Road. President of Council Stephen A. Renner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the invocation was led by Council Vice President Jolley followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Angelou. Agenda for this meeting was published on July 12, 2013.

Present 6 - President of Council Stephen A. Renner, Vice President of Council Ryan P. Jolley, Brian D. Larick, Karen J. Angelou, David L. Samuel, and Brandon Wright

Absent 1 - Beryl D. Anderson

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.**C. HEARING OF VISITORS.**

Bryan Alltop, 4618 Hoffman Farms Drive, Hilliard, OH addressed Council stating he was on the Board of the National Parkinson Foundation of Central & Southeast Ohio; goal is to provide awareness; local chapter's goal is to provide a well balanced life for Parkinson's patients while a cure is looking to be found; distributed power point presentation; over 1 million Americans have the disease; 30,000 to 50,000 in Ohio; Parkinson's is a progressive brain disorder that affects people's ability to move; common symptoms include tremors, stiff muscles, slow movement and trouble with balance or walking; affects men and women of all ages and ethnicities, our agency was founded in 1980; supports a network of support groups located throughout 33 counties; we have 26 support groups; send out 2000 monthly educational newsletters and 10 exercise and speech therapy programs; provide information on website, informational packets, local presentations and helpline; our annual walk is called Moving Day and is to be held on September 29.

Ed Francis, 1050 Harvest Ridge Ct., stated he has been a resident for over 20 years; not against growth or expansion; my concern is proposed Meadowbrooke water management system; its lack of stormwater management and reliance on rain gardens and retention ponds for water control; know of no other community that uses this type of system; nothing to compare it to for efficiency and handling of water; seems risky; mainly for flooding and runoff; with amount of rainfall we've had in the last couple of weeks, would like to have more assurance that this green system will work for the homeowner and for the surrounding neighbors; before you vote make sure you have all the answers; if it doesn't work, how do you fix it and who handles the cost of that; chose Gahanna because it is a strong reliable community; great place and how will this system measure up in 2 years or 5 years or more; we're not really sure; how can you make a decision not knowing; my home is on the back side of this area and we are connected to a storm water system; don't know about you but with the last rains, I'm glad I was; after raining all night have had no water in street and no standing water in my yard; are there even prospective buyers for this type of system; if this area is built the people will deserve the best and hope they will know they are not connected to the storm water system and must rely on this green alternative; will they call the City if it fails; hope this all works; don't want a black eye on the City of Gahanna; this will either be a shining example for our future community design that works well with the environment or at the first storm a story for the eleven o'clock news about flooding; hope not; all have heard discussion on water, soil, number of homes, traffic; bottom line is will it work; no one knows for sure; this is an important choice; hope it is right; hard discussion; let's make the right choice based

on what works and what is proven; owe it to the new owners and neighbors.

Pam Francis, 1050 Harvest Ridge Ct., stated she was here to also talk about Meadowbrooke; did send an e-mail to one member on my thoughts; as a homeowner wanted to acknowledge that I looked at the actual plans of the best management practices and there is a map that identifies the actual stormwater management would be done at the end of the project not at the beginning; what concerns me is during the interim while homes are being built; what happens if it takes 5 years to build out; how is the management of the water done at that point; currently the design is to have 3.5 homes runoff to my back yard; that would be lots 4, 5, 6, & 7; preserving the pine trees would only be temporary; the trees and land cannot absorb the water runoff from impervious areas which are the roofs, gutters, and sump pumps; would eventually cause the trees to die; there has been no perc test to identify this kind of setup; who from City of Gahanna knows that this will work; has only been one house from the 2008 City of Gahanna BIA Parade of Homes that has a rain garden; have done a drive by and that rain garden is an eyesore; apparently the homeowner doesn't know how to take care of it; the actual problem is stormwater management; if this is so great, why over the past 60 years have we asked the various builders to install curbs and storm water drains within the city; maybe this is a throwback year with building; would expect someone to show me on paper how many times this type of cluster homes with rain gardens has been built and actually works; person who is ultimately responsible is the City Engineer; not sure I would put that much blind faith into something that has not been proven to be successful; likelihood of increasing the density is adding to the stormwater management; how can one be positive without a doubt that rain gardens will withstand the heavy rains, the freezing and thawing, and even animals building homes in the rain garden; what is the advantage; please tell me it is not just to save money; only hope you will consider 8 to 9 homes which is pushing the limit; if you feel confident that stormwater with rain gardens is the way of the future then any new development in the City should be green as well; lastly just give you a map from FCSWD which shows a projection with the rain gardens; don't know who identified the rain gardens on this project when FCSWD projected a larger portion of rain gardens; think about this please; not against building; would like for the builder to build because right now it is not kept mowed and it is an eyesore.

Jeannie Hoffman, 708 Waybaugh Drive, asked what is it about the May 7 vote that the Mayor and majority of Council will not accept; do you only count voters decisions when it is what you want; in January people calling for a November vote were disregarded; you were all confident that voters would be heard in May; some quotes from This Week News in 2013 - "Voters must decide whether or not this is the time to reform our tax code; Council must vote to let this issue appear on the ballot but the decision to approve or deny such a change belongs directly to the citizens"; another quote is "they will get to tell us at the polls in May what type of Gahanna do you want"; another is "am not in favor of raising taxes but think the citizens of Gahanna should decide"; another is "there has been plenty of time to be educated and plenty of time to become educated; we either need to pass this tax increase or implement and come up with drastic measures to proceed without it"; our budget is due in June to the state; what happens if you get another no; how many times will you come back to the voters - until you get the answer you want; is not a secret that a May ballot always has low voter turnout; last Monday 6 of the 7 Council members said the issue should go back on the ballot; let the voters decide was echoed throughout Council's comments; what about the voters that did show up; they took time to educate themselves and to vote; did you think that they are disenfranchised; it is offensive to act as though their vote didn't happen; total disregard to the citizens is unacceptable; ask you over next two months to sit down and find places to cut so there is no shortfall, whether it is \$2 million or \$8 million, do what you were elected to do; do what the voters asked you to do in May and make tough decisions and make it work; if you have to tap into investments, so be it; the voters have spoken; really sorry you

are choosing not to listen.

Jack Schmidt, 351 Bow Drive, asked folks in opposition to Meadowbrooke to stand; (Clerk's Note: Approximately 15 people stood); also have petitions signed by 75 neighbors; there are more on line; last time I was here asked questions about economic and social impact of this project to the City; asked Jolley can you answer any questions I previously had; how many foreclosures are there in Gahanna.

Renner stated this is the time to present concerns; if you have specific questions please submit them in writing to the Clerk. Schmidt continued and asked if we have looked into the wildlife and effect on endangered species in the area; has anyone looked into the black nosed shiner, the blue spotted salamander, has city done study on those; on June 10 did submit these questions and have not gotten a response yet; can you tell me the difference between the grass roots in the rain gardens as recently changed from previous root structures of the plants and trees and how that will affect the perc of the soil. Samuel stated that in 2002 the University of Wisconsin conducted a study on grass roots and native plants; contacted Development Director in Madison WI and they said native plants are very important to rain gardens and that they do work; have been doing studies since 2002 and they say that is the way to go with combined grass and plants. Schmidt continued that the new proposal is with grass only and not plant structures or trees; do we have Planning Commission's report. Angelou stated we do have that; believe the native plants should be there from what I have read from Wisconsin and all the other information; however it was the neighbors in working with the Planning Commission that said they did not want those plants; Renner said it well in his comments from last week that root structures go down much deeper than those native plants and are more effective; that is one thing would like to see changed; all other things I have read outside of our area they are pretty successful. Schmidt asked if the City has done soil samples or drilling to see what soil makeup is and how it will perc; is that part of that report. Angelou stated she believed the developer did them; did see soil samples.

Christie Nickell, 244 Ashley Ct., said she was here discussing Meadowbrooke, you have each been tasked with upholding the City code which was put in place to provide a standard on which all your decisions are measured; our City code requires a maximum of 9.35 homes on this lot; your Zoning Administrator is on record saying the residential overlay density calculations take precedence over obsolete land use plan and SF-3 lot requirements; these calculations are real and finite; your decisions must uphold City code; you can't allow the financial needs of a developer make you fail in your duties to the residents of this City; what guarantees do we have if you do approve this request that he doesn't turn around and sell the property to another developer who will put in lower priced homes and not meet requirements; this developer hasn't built a home on this property in the 7 years he has had it at the current zoning; he also has the Clotts Road property and other lots sitting unpurchased; his financial issues are not our problem; you must follow code that you require everyone else to follow; if it is the rain gardens that make you like this proposal, great - follow the code and deny anything more than 9 lots and put rain gardens in; 14 homes is a 55% increase; in addition, there will be 1 lot that still will be 4 times larger than any other lot in the development; that is a huge disparity; in the instances where smaller lots were approved in 2001 and 2004, there were multiple acres of green space; this subdivision has no public green space; the preservation zone is not public green space and should not have a path through it; it is a preservation zone; current rain garden will completely encroach on that preservation zone which also should not be permitted to happen; so called traffic study was nothing more than looking at the numbers provided by Franklin County; never came out during the school year to do an actual study; we got the traffic accident numbers from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department; last year there were 45 accidents between Mann Road and Helmbright and 19 so far this year; this doesn't take into account fender benders and those who don't file a report; 14 more homes exiting and

entering directly on to Havens Corners will add to those numbers; your Planning Commission has been split on this decision throughout the whole time on the density issue; the men on the Planning Commission still opposed are on record as saying it is too much density for this site and had to vote for it this time or it would have reverted back to the 15 lots; Zoning Administrator says city code takes precedence over any so called homes per acre calculation; your citizens say this is just too much density; do your duty and uphold City code; on line petition through change.org has 30 signatures that oppose this and are asking specifically for you to enforce City code to protect the citizens from infill development; thank you.

Alicia Holloway, 962 Bryn Mawr Drive, stated she wished to address the income tax issue; read in last week's Rocky Fork Enterprise that you intended to put the same issue back on the November ballot; as you know I have started attending meetings and asking questions in the weeks since the defeat of the issue; can honestly say still don't know for sure how much additional revenue is needed to have the Gahanna I want; have spoken to many neighbors and citizens and only 2 people have said that they support because they work in Columbus and they would enjoy the benefits of the 100% credit without having to pay anything to Gahanna; all the other responses, including retired who would not be paying any tax, say they were offended by the promise of the 100% credit; since many, and perhaps a majority of Gahanna citizens work in the City of Columbus, I am surprised that our City found that although cuts were required in 2008 due to pending budget issues that there was no plan in place should this be defeated; took several weeks and hard work by Teal's office to come up with a plan; it appears that although leadership has been aware of this projected deficit, it has been able to buy a 50 year old pool from a private group who was planning to default on a \$600,000 loan; as Samuel pointed out recently the condition of the City maintenance facility is deplorable; can say that is true as my boys attended Camp Friendship 10 or so years ago and had to go into that maintenance facility during thunder storms; had many trips there to pick them up and it was decrepit at that point; have asked several of you why not put levies for specific major projects on so that these are clearly identified; response is that it does not give flexibility Council wants for using those funds; at this point will not support any tax increase that provides 100% credit; it appears that although facing the deficit the City has continued to take on projects that require spending in the future for which no money is budgeted; also appear to resist the limitations that would exist if levies were for these short term high dollar projects; leadership seems to believe that the financial crisis and economic issues that families in Gahanna face is over and I am here to tell you they are not; have been laid off; my husband's company laid off over 100 employees which is 50% of their work force over the last 5 years; does not seem like our leadership has provided the direction, knowing the circumstances that exists with our budget, that reflects a true understanding of what is happening at our kitchen tables; encourage you to reconsider at least the 100% credit issue; I and many other people will not support the issue just based on that.

Dewitt Harrell, Gahanna Jefferson Board of Education, stated they met on July 11; thank State Representative Heather Bishoff for her update on items at the state level in particular the biennial budget which includes a tax issue on the Homestead Exemption which will go away for certain folks as it relates to new levies; thank Anderson for her report; Superintendent just returned from China for a 2 week visit with 10 different schools and government officials; brought back some interesting findings for us to use on future decision making; one item we will not be adopting is that he learned school size is 40 to 50 kids per room based on budget restraints; board continues to hire due to significant turnover we experienced due to changes in STRS; over 100 teachers retired recently; hiring season is on; hiring the best and brightest.

D. INTRODUCTIONS AND ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE:

Ordinances - To Be Introduced and Assigned to Committee:

Ordinances introduced, by title, by Jolley.

[ORD-0105-2013](#) SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - TIZ Real Estate Escrow, Tax Payments

[ORD-0106-2013](#) TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319 GRANT AGREEMENT; NONPOINT SOURCE IMPLEMENTATION; FOR SYCAMORE RUN STREAM RESTORATION.

Attachments: [ORD-0106-2013.pdf](#)

[ORD-0107-2013](#) TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH ARGUS GROWTH CONSULTANTS, LTD. TO PROVIDE TAX INCENTIVE MANAGEMENT SERVICES; AND TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$20,000.

Attachments: [ORD-0107-2013.pdf](#)

[ORD-0108-2013](#) TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL

Attachments: [ORD-0108-2013.pdf](#)

[ORD-0109-2013](#) TO AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF A MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT AND A CITY LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY URBAN REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND THE CITY OF GAHANNA; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN A GENERAL WARRANTY DEED TO TRANSFER PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1125 GAHANNA PARKWAY (LOTS 7, 8 & 9 OF THE TIZ) TO ALLOY POLYMERS, INC.

Attachments: [ORD-0109-2013.pdf](#)

[ORD-0110-2013](#) TO ACCEPT GENERAL WARRANTY DEED FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON CLOTT'S ROAD CONSISTING OF 0.196 ACRES, FROM M & M MANAGEMENT CO.

Attachments: [ORD-0110-2013.pdf](#)

E. CONSENT AGENDA:**Minutes - To Approve:**

2013-0023 To Approve the Following Set of Minutes:
1) July 1, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes.

This Matter was Approved and Filed on the Consent Agenda.

Ordinances on Second Reading:

ORD-0102-2013 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - Water Purchases & Sewer Rental

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0103-2013 TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT MODIFICATION WITH MS CONSULTANTS, INC., FOR THE HAMILTON ROAD CENTRAL PROJECT TO ADD THE DESIGN OF A WATERLINE RELOCATION PLAN AND TO COMPLETE THE NEXT PLANNED PHASE OF DESIGN; IMPROVEMENT NO. 785; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Attachments: [ORD-0103-2013.pdf](#)

This Matter was Adopted as an Emergency on the Consent Agenda.

ORD-0104-2013 TO ACCEPT SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT NO. SA 1000 AND APPURTENANCES THERETO, FOR RESIDENCES AT CENTRAL PARK, 840 CLAYCRAFT ROAD.

Attachments: [ORD-0104-2013.pdf](#)

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Motion Resolution:

MR-0026-2013 To approve the year 2014 Tax Budget as submitted to Council on June 24, 2013 and to direct and authorize the Director of Finance to deliver said tax budget to the Franklin County Office of Budget no later than July 19, 2013.

Attachments: [MR-0026-2013-1.pdf](#)

This Matter was Approved on the Consent Agenda.

MR-0027-2013 Motion Resolution to appoint Andrew V. Piccolantonio to the Parks & Recreation Board for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2013.

This Matter was Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Passed The Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Wright , seconded by Samuel, to approve the Consent

Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel, Angelou and Wright

Absent: 1 - Anderson

End of the Consent Agenda

Newly Appointed Parks & Recreation Board member Andrew Piccolantonio was given the oath of office by City Attorney Shane Ewald.

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

G. STANDING COMMITTEES:

Committee of the Whole - Jolley: No Report.

Finance, Service & Safety - Larick: No Report.

Development & Parks - Wright: No Report.

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

Clerk: No Report.

Council: No Report.

I. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES:

Ordinances Reported Out of Committee:

[ORD-0083-2013](#) TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATED LABOR AGREEMENT TITLED "AGREEMENT BETWEEN OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION DISPATCHER UNIT AND CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO, JANUARY 1, 2013 - DECEMBER 31, 2015"; TO REPEAL ORD-0060-2011

Attachments: [ORD-0083-2013.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Vice President of Council Jolley, seconded by Angelou, to bring from postponement ORD-0083-2013. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel, Angelou and Wright

Absent: 1 - Anderson

Larick stated this was originally before us a couple of months ago; with tax issue on ballot, concern was whether we had a clear picture in appropriations and budget planning if they would accommodate this contract; while still much to look at with regard to the numbers that have been put in place, this contract is able to be accommodated.

A motion was made by Larick, seconded by Angelou, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel, Angelou and Wright

Absent: 1 - Anderson

ORD-0084-2013

TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATED LABOR AGREEMENT TITLED "CONTRACT BETWEEN CITY OF GAHANNA AND FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, CAPITAL CITY LODGE NO. 9, JANUARY 1, 2013 - DECEMBER 31, 2015"; TO REPEAL ORD-0165-2010

Attachments: [ORD-0084-2013.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Vice President of Council Jolley, seconded by Larick, to bring from postponement ORD-0084-2013 The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel, Angelou and Wright

Absent: 1 - Anderson

Larick stated he had similar comments to previous ordinance; plan that was put in place was to identify expenditures within the scope of revenue we have on the table; over the course of the next 18 months or so, this contract can be accommodated.

A motion was made by Angelou, seconded by Samuel, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel, Angelou and Wright

Absent: 1 - Anderson

ORD-0091-2013

TO REZONE 3.9+- ACRES OF PROPERTY AS ROD/SF3, RESIDENTIAL OVERLAY DISTRICT/SINGLE FAMILY 3; SAID PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5593 HAVENS CORNERS ROAD; KNOWN AS THE MEADOWBROOKE SUBDIVISION; BROOKWOOD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., DOUG MADDY, APPLICANT.

Attachments: [ORD-0091-2013 Revised.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Wright, seconded by Vice President of Council Jolley,

that this matter be Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel, Angelou and Wright

Absent: 1 - Anderson

Larick asked Council to consider the citizens that live around it, in the entire subdivision, and the entire area, as well as the concerns with regard to water retention at this scale, density of properties and general fit of this development for this area; it has been a long process; think there are better solutions for the property and would ask you to vote against.

Angelou said wanted to make comment based on an earlier comment tonight about protection from infill development; we only have infill development at this point; certainly need to be coming up with ways to fill in these little properties like this 3.9 acres; it becomes a difficult process; want to make sure everyone realizes that infill development will occur and how it occurs; may be the only way to be able to develop; is a necessity to continue development in this city; needs to be some ability to have infill development and hopefully we do it correctly.

Jolley stated that along the lines of process, heard tonight and previously that by adopting this plan, Council would not be respecting City code; couldn't be further from the truth; we have a variance process for a reason; Planning Commission has repeatedly approved these designs while extracting significant changes, concessions, and design changes to this development; also gone to Board of Zoning Appeals and now back before us; there are multiple layers of process; erroneous at best to say this does not respect the code or the process we have; point that out as a general comment regardless of whether we are talking about this development or any other; we have very specific processes and very dedicated individuals who serve on BZA and Planning Commission and throughout the administration and here on Council to review extensively these proposals and to put them through the proper process; no development project is ever going to satisfy everyone; there will always be people who are upset as well as those who will be happy; very clear that at every step of the way the process has been followed.

Renner stated he agreed with many things Jolley said; one of the toughest things being on Council is making sure you are weighing all citizens inside a debate especially when it comes to zoning which is a primary responsibility of local government; a lot of the speakers that stepped forth, and I understand their objection to this development, I from the beginning was standing up for the rights of the property owner; people who own property should have the rights to develop their property within the coordinates of zoning; to that matter we have checks and balances; it went through Planning Commission twice; workshops were held at Planning Commission; rhetorically are you asking us to second guess our colleagues who are duly sworn in to be sitting on Planning Commission, asking us to second guess engineering firms, asking us to second guess other government entities that have weighed in on this, most notably the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District, are you asking us to second guess everyone involved; don't think that is appropriate; our system of government is a system of checks and balances; definitely will be the first project of its kind; there are definitely concerns that have been noted on public record by myself and others including Angelou; do believe we have stop gap measures in place to watch this; there is still a process; if this passes does not mean it is 100% done; there are milestones that will have to be measured and will be watched carefully.

Larick stated he wished to remind Council that this is the last opportunity to drive any material change to this design.

A motion was made by Wright, seconded by Vice President of Council Jolley, that this matter be Adopted as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Samuel, Angelou and Wright

No: 1 - Larick

Absent: 1 - Anderson

ORD-0101-2013 TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH PROS CONSULTING FOR UPDATING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN TO ADD A COST OF SERVICES STUDY; AND TO SUPPLEMENTALLY APPROPRIATE \$10,000.

Attachments: [ORD-0101-2013.pdf](#)

Wright stated that after presentation last week, it set some ground work on viability of the actual contract; definitely appropriate to move forward on that based on presentation at Committee of the Whole; will support the supplemental.

Angelou stated she was not at meeting last week; have read all the minutes; presentation was a good one but will not be supporting.

A motion was made by Vice President of Council Jolley, seconded by Samuel, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel and Wright

No: 1 - Angelou

Absent: 1 - Anderson

J. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

ORD-0111-2013 TO AMEND SECTION 161.18, CREDIT FOR TAX PAID TO ANOTHER MUNICIPALITY, OF CHAPTER 161, INCOME TAX, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA

Attachments: [ORD-0111-2013.pdf](#)

Introduced, by title, by Jolley.

ORD-0112-2013 TO AMEND SECTION 161.03, IMPOSITION OF TAX, OF CHAPTER 161, INCOME TAX, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA, RELATED TO INCREASING THE CITY INCOME TAX RATE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA

Attachments: [ORD-0112-2013.pdf](#)

Introduced, by title, by Jolley.

K. MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS:RES-0011-2013

TO PROVIDE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA AT THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2013, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 75-76, PASSED AUGUST 17, 1976, SO AS TO INCREASE THE GAHANNA INCOME TAX FROM A RATE OF ONE AND ONE HALF (1-1/2%) PERCENT TO A RATE OF TWO AND ONE HALF (2-1/2%) PERCENT

Angelou stated I will be voting no as I did when we put it on the ballot in May; agree with Hoffman who very accurately said let the people decide; the people decided but it was not the right decision for some; don't think it should be on the ballot and will vote no.

Jolley stated he found it interesting that earlier this year we were told we should not put it on in May because people wouldn't be there to decide; we did put it on in May and now we are being told that people did decide; hearing two different things; this City is in dire need; used to teach middle school math; my students could look at the financial information we have and understand the need for additional revenue; very clear, very apparent, and we had a very detailed presentation not too long ago detailing exactly what would happen without those additional revenues; personally do not want to live in the Gahanna that was laid out in that presentation; don't believe the majority of our residents want to live in that Gahanna; for all those that continue to come here week after week and say cut more cut more, please give me your annotated copy of our budget indicating exactly what you want us to cut because there is not much left; wholeheartedly support putting this back on the ballot in November; whether or not it was the right decision to put it on in May is irrelevant; we have one more shot before we will be making drastic cuts in the function of this City; would be irresponsible not to put this before voters again; question has been presented tonight will we keep going back over and over; no, because starting January 1 we will be making severe cuts to City government, to the services we provide, to the quality of life of our residents; it is that simple; no grey area here as it is black or white; regarding the credit issue; anyone who wants to start talking about state policy, because our tax structure is a state issue, will be more than happy to have that conversation; we continue to elect state level representatives who do not act in the best interests of our local communities; is a simple issue; a huge percentage of our population work outside the City and shouldn't be penalized by paying additional tax revenue to Gahanna when they spend a large portion of their time outside the City limits while those living and working within the City limits are awarded an artificially low tax rate; additionally when these same folks come and just say create more jobs, we are trying; all of those jobs we have created are also paying that artificially low tax rate; we are subsidizing their use of our services; is a huge imbalance; it is wrong; doesn't meet the needs of the quality of life are residents expect; talked to many people since May who support it, thought it would pass, and didn't vote; we'll see in November and if I'm wrong, then I'm wrong; don't want to be wrong because think we will all be sorry if we turn into the Gahanna laid out in the presentation a few weeks ago.

Wright stated he did wish to speak to this resolution; definitely view this as necessary; break it down in its most simplistic terms; look at the 2 cities in Franklin County with 1.5% tax rate; Gahanna is one and Reynoldsburg is the other; which are the two cities suffering the most - the same two; is a systemic system that we need to take a look at and need to address and move forward; agree with what has been said; don't

want to live in Gahanna with major cuts and what I saw previous to moving into Gahanna; is not just the vitality of the City itself but the people; once people stop believing is not an easy task to believe again; to bring back the services and have people move into the city; look at the direction we are going, is not a path at this point we want to go; need to do a better job explaining; this is what you are going to get in services if you pass this; people working outside and all that money left on the table won't change; those cities getting those additional funds aren't giving a refund check that comes to this city; boil it down to where we are getting our fair share; also tax rate has been the same since 1976; no other city has had the tax leadership of Mayor Stinchcomb and previous Mayor who did an excellent job maintaining our services; main reason is something systemic I would like people coming here to have those same discussions with the people at state level; that's where the burden came from; they need to figure out how to balance what they take away from us; would need to be reexamined; we need to look at this; have an opportunity to vote on that; do believe it is a necessity we need to look forward on.

Larick stated that cuts are part of our job; planning is a part of our job; administration has presented a plan that provides expenditures within revenue as it exists today; along with that the inference of what can be funded with additional revenue; at this point in time based on that detailed plan, it is time for the citizens to determine where they wish to have those cuts put in place or something similar that Council would approve or whether those items not funded should be.

Samuel stated he wished to remind everyone that primary driver that caused this gap for the next 5 years was the fact that 49% of the City's income tax revenue is paid by people who work in Gahanna but live elsewhere; is an attractive place to work; huge burden to provide basic services for our aging infrastructure; that needs to be a reminder to all folks; that's why we need the 2-1/2%; just one of the reasons we need the increase.

Stinchcomb stated she wished to address once again the issue of May versus November; take full responsibility for that decision; thought if we put a money issue on the ballot people would come out; had 8 coffees, 22 public meetings that I went to, where people would come, would be interested and be educated about their City; had good attendance at public meetings but not enough; 12% of residents came out and voted; still can't believe it; thought people would come out; not personally ready to live in a City where 12% of the people make a decision for the entire city; will do my best personally, and hope Council and staff, on their own time if they wish, and citizens get people out to vote; let's have a decent showing this time; let's have a majority of our citizens make this decision; address what I have asked Council to do tonight; charter is crystal clear; am asking Council to let the people decide; not asking you to take a position; many of you have already and that's your choice; but the charter is clear, it is not 7 people who make this decision, it is all the voters; believe it is right for Council to make the decision to put this on the ballot; will we keep asking; hope not; one of the reasons I wanted this to pass in May was because I didn't want to have to deliver the report of a couple weeks ago; have we known; yes, we have been talking about it for 5 or 6 years; can't seem to get people's attention; this is real; passed the budget last year with nary a comment from Council; echo what Jolley said; expect all Council members as well as Council candidates to be suggesting what they would like to see cut; not just broad choices but educated smart choices; challenging everyone to do that; we have done that as your administration; that's what has to be done; serious choices to be made here; think many of the people speaking out against this have philosophical issues with tax increases; do get that; remember every penny we raise here stays here; gentleman told me he wanted to purchase a swing set for his kids and it was \$1,400; what if my neighbors and I went together and got one nice playset for the neighborhood; said that's a great idea but by the way that's what local government is all about; we all get together to collectively decide what to invest in for

the good of ourselves and our families; the issue was raised about should we go for dedicated percentage to specific needs; roads, safety and parks and recreation are big pieces of this; have discussed it; could do that for today; point out that this is not about today but the future; that percentage would have to go before the voters again to make any change; flexibility is needed not because that's not the way we are going to spend it but you will really limit 10 or 15 years down the road; may build out our parks some day; road maintenance will never stop but certain things may; costs aren't going down; asking Council to put this on the ballot and hope a decent majority of our citizens will come out this time; is Council's decision; my standard is do we have a representative decision; lost by 122 votes; do not feel it was representative of our citizenry.

Renner stated that as Council President thought that the word tax would actually bring people out to the polls; don't like taxes; don't like big government; one of the reasons I decided to run to represent my side of Gahanna is that local government is not the same as your frustrations with the federal government or state government; local government is where the power of deciding the fate of your investment in your home and family and the whole idea behind your quality of life; whole creation of suburbia was based on premise of a higher quality of life; if that's not something we cherish then why are we here; we should just fold up the City and annex; strongly believe that most of us invested here in our home and family and we believe we want something of a higher quality than we see next door in either direction; surprised that you are asking me to go on the basis of a 12% turnout; have lectured on my fundamental core being the United States Constitution; it says we have to have representation; it says if you follow along the thinking that 7 members of Council is not right to judge something that will take place for next 50 years; campaigned 2 years ago on sustainability in long term and focusing on 30 and 50 years out; not about right now; it's about this investment we have in something we believe should be higher quality than our urban centers; it's a matter of democracy; you want 7 members to choose, I don't; I want all of Gahanna to choose.

A motion was made by Vice President of Council Jolley, seconded by Wright, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - President of Council Renner, Vice President of Council Jolley, Larick, Samuel and Wright

No: 1 - Angelou

Absent: 1 - Anderson

L. REPRESENTATIVES:

Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) - Larick/Renner:

Larick stated meeting is tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. in committee rooms.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) - Angelou:

Angelou stated meeting was changed to the 3rd Thursday for this month and will be unable to attend; Jones will be there.

Bd. of Education, Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools - Anderson: No Report.

Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Jolley:

Jolley stated meeting is this Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in Committee Rooms.

M. OFFICIAL REPORTS:**Mayor:**

Stinchcomb stated many of you were able to attend the July 9 ribbon cutting for Niagara Bottling; Governor Kasich and State Representative Gonzales were present; was a nice day; got to see the inside of the plant; lot of work by a lot of people; worked hard with State and Columbus 20/20; real good effort to bring clean manufacturing to Gahanna; committed to 72 jobs and they are already at 89; occupying a building that had been empty for 4 years and made a \$50 million investment; good success for the City; still need a whole lot more than that; would take about 100 Niagaras at 1-1/2%; need to keep that in perspective; continuing to try to bring new businesses and working hard to get new jobs here; pleased to welcome Niagara; is a family owned business and they are committed to this community; think we will see them active.

City Attorney: No Report.**N. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Angelou stated the ribbon cutting was a wonderful day; felt fortunate to be there; need to be bringing more jobs like this into the city; know development works long and hard to do that; talk about the impact of jobs on community; everyone wants to compare to Dublin and Westerville; called Dublin and they gave me their W-2 daytime participation in the work force as 88,003; could vary a little bit; it was difficult to find for our City as RITA doesn't keep an accurate representation; however, Teal calculated the number of jobs in Gahanna as 18,400; if you want to know why we have to have more jobs and more jobs, it is those numbers.

Samuel stated he was impressed by Niagara; when large companies come to town I ask them why they are here; some talk about location by the airport and easy access to freeways; also mention infrastructure, streets, signage, look of the community, quality of life, parks; not of major concern to them was the size of the income tax.

Wright stated that I recently noticed that family member has started to forget things; very odd to see someone who has been active transition into someone who is starting to transition over to Alzheimers; never took that into consideration; when you meet someone in the process it is very sad sometimes to sit and watch that person; presentation on Parkinsons Disease brought that home to me; little bit more prevalent than I realized.

Larick stated he wished to echo comments about Niagara; facility is amazing when it comes to automation which allows 1800 bottles a minute from one line; was very fulfilling to be a part of their arrival; the facility's only fit is industry or manufacturing type work; at the end of the day we have limits to its draw because of the automation that exists, this is an exceptional fit.

Jolley stated he wished he could have been at ribbon cutting; everything I know about company is impressive; the way they invest in facilities and treat their employees; is a great fit; that's how we have always taken care of Gahanna; we invest in our neighbors, our city employees and in the city itself; hope everyone here will try to build something; try to stand up for something rather than be against everything; this is an exceptional community and we all want to see it stay that way.

Renner stated he did attend ribbon cutting; can't say enough; thank you to City for helping to bring them in; was a very impressive set up inside; very automated 1800 bottles a minute per line with 2 lines; lots of robots that even change their own batteries.

O. ADJOURNMENT: 8:26 p.m. - Motion by Jolley.

Isobel L. Sherwood, MMC
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2013.*

Stephen A. Renner
President of Council