



# City of Gahanna

200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

## Meeting Minutes

### City Council

*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*

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Monday, November 17, 2025

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

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

*Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, November 17, 2025, in Council Chambers. President of Council Merisa K. Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Vice President of Council Trenton I. Weaver delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on Friday, November 14, 2025.*

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

#### **B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

President Bowers announced that ORD-0052-2025 was withdrawn from the agenda per the request of the Administration, anticipated to return later in the year.

#### **C. PRESENTATIONS:**

##### **1. Swearing-in Ceremony - Division of Police**

**Macayla Fullum, Communications Technician**

President Bowers announced a special presentation, inviting Mayor Jadwin to initiate a swearing in ceremony for new Communications Technician Macayla Fullum.

Mayor Jadwin welcomed Ms. Fullum, noting Fullum's participation in a revamped training program administered by the city. Mayor Jadwin also recognized other Communication staff present at the meeting. She then invited Director Becker and Chief Spence to join her and Ms. Fullum at the podium for the administration of the oath. Mayor Jadwin then administered the oath of office to Communications Technician Macayla Fullum.

Following the oath, Director Becker described the advancements of the training program, including impactful leadership, high quality of participants like Fullum, and the critical role Communications professionals have in emergency services. Director Becker commended Ms. Fullum and other City of Gahanna emergency response staff.

Chief Spence echoed Director Becker's comments, further emphasizing the speed, efficiency and professionalism of the Communications Division. Chief Spence described Gahanna as lucky to have people like Ms. Fullum taking over the reins and joining the team.

President Bowers congratulated and welcomed Ms. Fullum to the City of Gahanna, expressing Council's appreciation for her service to the community.

#### **D. HEARING OF VISITORS:**

President Bowers opened the Hearing of the Visitors portion of the meeting, explaining the process, with each speaker given three minutes to speak.

##### **1. Patricia Kovacs**

Patricia Kovacs addressed Council regarding ORD-0042-2025 and proposed Creekside development. Ms. Kovacs referenced previously addressing Council with proposed Creekside development plan concerns. She thanked the city for an update to the plans, including the assurance that the public would receive a six-month warning if the Bauer House was determined to be demolished. She shared that she spoke with the previous property owner of the Bauer House who did not believe the property was blighted. Ms. Kovacs shared remaining reservations regarding proposed development plans for Creekside, including the City of Gahanna's financial commitments and the role of the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) and developers. Ms. Kovacs voiced her appreciation for President Bowers hosting a resident discussion regarding proposed Creekside development. There she learned about a strategic plan from 2022, including assessments and strategies for Creekside. Ms. Kovacs shared she was not previously familiar with the plan. She described some elements of the plan, questioning them and inquiring when the strategic plan was reviewed by the public. Ms. Kovacs noted she had also been unfamiliar with details surrounding the role of a CIC in community development. Ms. Kovacs explained her efforts to stay current with city initiatives, including participation in Gahanna's Citizens Academy as an example of her civic efforts. Ms. Kovacs stated she was chastised by someone for not being more familiar with the CIC. Ms. Kovacs recommended including a session on the CIC in future Citizen's Academies. Ms. Kovacs concluded her time by summarizing her discomfort with the proposed financials of

ORD- 0042-2025 and some CIC development practices, which she described as seeming to be “done behind the curtain.”

## 2. **Greg Bixler**

Greg Bixler addressed Council regarding holiday displays in Gahanna. Mr. Bixler introduced himself, sharing his connections to the City of Gahanna, including his residence, his business, his religious practices and his children's attendance of local public schools. Mr. Bixler shared his purpose in speaking to Council was to discuss what he described as a growing problem with inappropriate and excessive holiday displays. He shared examples of his objections as well as a conversation with a fellow concerned friend and resident. Mr. Bixler explained his view that holiday displays can negatively impact the mental health and safety of youth as well as home values. He referenced a Google search and an AI (artificial intelligence) overview, in his research. Mr. Bixler spoke on a range of decorations, which he described as sometimes merely annoying, with others characterized as distasteful, dark or gruesome. Mr. Bixler questioned if some displays have crossed a line. Mr. Bixler noted other community regulations, including zoning code designations of grass height or recreational vehicle location, questioning whether similar regulations for holiday displays were appropriate for the community. Mr. Bixler suggested a proactive role in the city updating local regulations related to front yard displays. Mr. Bixler spoke to the need for regulations for a healthy community, stating “let's not allow a few people to ruin it for everyone.” Mr. Bixler specifically asked Council to please consider three actions: 1) Limit the amount of time that holiday displays can be up; 2) Stop holiday display competitions in Gahanna; and 3) Help bring back G or PG-rated neighborhood regulations for children.

## **E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

### **Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget:**

ORD-0049-2025 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026

Pursuant to Council rules, President Bowers announced Council would discuss Ordinance 0049-2025, the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026. This process includes Public Hearings. In place of a presentation from the Administration, President Bowers invited members of the public to refer to a series of public Finance Committee meetings held over the past several weeks, along with the proposed budget posted with the agendas. The proposed budget was discussed in detail through the course of these meetings. President Bowers explained that individuals wishing to speak could

complete a Speaker Slip and submit that to Clerk VanMeter.

*President Bowers opened the public hearing at 7:22 PM.*

*Receiving no Speaker Slips, President Bowers closed the Public Hearing at 7:22 PM.*

President Bowers explained there would be a second Public Hearing opportunity, scheduled for the December 1, 2025, Regular Council Meeting. The budget is anticipated for adoption at the December 15, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

**F. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**1. Minutes - To Approve:**

2025-0234 Council Special Minutes 11.3.2025

**The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.**

2025-0235 Council Regular Minutes 11.3.2025

**The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.**

2025-0236 Finance Committee Minutes 11.3.2025

**The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.**

2025-0237 Council Special Minutes 11.10.2025

**The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.**

2025-0238 Committee of the Whole Minutes 11.10.2025

**The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.**

2025-0239 Finance Committee Minutes 11.10.2025

**The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.**

**2. Resolutions:**

RES-0054-2025 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO ENTER INTO THE DISCOVER CARD MERCHANT CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT.

**The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.**

RES-0055-2025 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISED ELECTRIC VEHICLE

CHARGING STATION FEES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 949 OF THE GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES

**The Resolution was adopted on the Consent Agenda.**

**End of Consent Agenda**

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

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

**G. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:**

[ORD-0051-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH UTILITY RATES AND AMEND RELATED PROVISIONS OF PART NINE, TITLE THREE - PUBLIC UTILITIES OF THE GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES

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

**H. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:**

**Recommended Amendment (Substitute EXHIBIT A):**

[ORD-0042-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH CONNECT REALTY LLC, BENSON CAPITAL, LLC, AND THE GAHANNA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF VACANT AND BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN THE CREEKSIDER DISTRICT

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

President Bowers invited Mayor Jadwin to provide a presentation on the ordinance.

Mayor Jadwin summarized the development agreement for the proposed mixed-use Creekside project. The agreement was first presented on September 22, 2025, with eight weeks of subsequent public engagement. Outreach efforts included: a community conversation on September 24, 2025, at the Creekside Conference and Event Center; focus groups with Creekside residents and businesses; meetings with resident groups, organizations, and business owners; individual discussions; email communications; seven weeks of public discussion in Council Chambers; and a Public Hearing. The City also established a dedicated project email address and published an FAQ (frequently asked questions) on CreeksideReimagined.Com, along with links to supporting documents.

Mayor Jadwin explained that planning for Creekside redevelopment was ongoing for more than a decade. She shared that Creekside first opened in 2007, with community members and businesses soon voicing concerns. Members of the public expressed a desire to see the Creekside district become more vibrant, more vital, teeming with people and businesses. In response to this feedback, the City of Gahanna initiated several projects to support community engagement. Mayor Jadwin detailed city efforts to solicit and incorporate community input into new development plans. The city partnered with industry leaders, including economic development professionals, placemaking specialists, private development representatives, business owners, and residents. These efforts helped staff understand what is needed to make the Creekside district successful. Major community engagement efforts included: a 2009 survey, the Gahanna Vision Plan, and the 2019 Land Use Plan. These projects informed the Creekside Redevelopment Strategy, initiated in 2021 and presented publicly in May 2022 on Herb Day. A Town Hall on the strategy was held in Council Chambers and remains available via the City's YouTube page. Mayor Jadwin asserted that the current proposed project remains consistent with what was outlined more than three years ago, describing it as a strategy informed by Gahanna residents, businesses, and the private development community.

Mayor Jadwin emphasized the necessity of a "marriage," blending private development investment goals with community priorities. She shared her assessment that the proposed project aligns with both the Creekside Redevelopment Strategy and the recently adopted Strategic Plan, which identified Creekside as a top community priority. While noting that a perfect plan is unlikely, she shared her belief that this project reflects what Creekside needs and what the community wants. She acknowledged that the proposed agreement represents a collaboration among the City of Gahanna, the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), and the residents. Mayor Jadwin also outlined the CIC's statutory role as a land-banking entity under Ohio Revised Code. She then invited Economic Development Director Jeff Gottke to provide final comments.

Economic Development Director Jeff Gottke provided closing comments. He acknowledged the complexity of the decision and referenced extensive analysis conducted over the past two months. He described the project as data-informed and responsive to long-standing public sentiment and market demand.

**Key points included:**

- **Current activity level:** Approximately 1,797 people are present daily in the district for work or residence.
- **Comparative context:** Dublin's mixed-use district has approximately 2,313 daily residents and workers.

- **Housing mix:** The proposed 287 residential units increase housing diversity and add visitors and residents to the district.
- **Estimated spending:** Based on projected rents, the average household is estimated to have approximately \$22,800 in disposable income. Across all units, this equates to an estimated \$6.5 million in potential new spending within the district, excluding hotel-guest activity.
- **Connectivity:** Walkability constraints from the creek, Granville Street, Shull Park, and Jefferson Elementary School necessitate vertical development.
- **Business mix:** While the project adds limited new commercial square footage beyond restaurant space, increased foot traffic is expected to support future retail opportunities.
- **Public space:** Companion public-space improvements would support events, gathering areas, and recreation, enhancing district vibrancy.

Director Gottke described the project as aligning with strategic goals, strengthening the local tax base, supporting businesses, and positioning the district for long-term growth. He anticipates rejuvenated civic pride will support local businesses and strengthen Creekside as a destination for locals and regional visitors alike. Director Gottke closed by describing this development's capacity to reflect Gahanna as an innovative, welcoming, and forward-looking community that builds on its past while making room for new opportunities. He requested Council's approval and expressed readiness to proceed with next steps.

President Bowers thanked the Administration for the presentation. She provided a quick overview of necessary procedural actions. First, she observed a need to identify a first and second on ORD-0042-2025. She then recommended proceeding with a vote on an amendment to for the substitute Exhibit A, as identified in the agenda. Next, President Bowers identified a second recommended amendment consisting of ordinance language corrections provided in a redlined document to Council, followed by a vote on that amendment. President Bowers explained Council would then return discussion to the underlying ordinance and open the floor for Council comments, followed by a vote.

**On the main motion to adopt:** Moved by Schnetzer and seconded by Renner.

By way of discussion, President Bowers suggested moving forward with the first recommended amendment to adopt Substitute Exhibit A which is identified in Legistar as Item 19 Final Proposed Substitute EXHIBIT A - City of Gahanna - Connect Real Estate - Gahanna CIC Development Agreement (Connect Review)(19689939.25) (1). There was no further discussion. She requested a first and second on the amendment.

**A motion was made by Weaver, seconded by Renner, that the Ordinance be Amended by Substitution (Final Proposed EXHIBIT A). The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

President Bowers introduced a second recommended amendment consisting of ordinance language corrections provided in a redlined document. Corrections included:

- Correct the title to strike “Gahanna” before “Community Improvement Corporation” and replacing it with “Community Improvement Corporation of Gahanna”;
- Making the same correction in the first and fifth “Whereas” clauses;
- In Section 1, adding the phrase “inclusive of its sub-exhibits together with any amendments or revisions as approved by the City Attorney,” along with the same CIC name correction.

**A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Weaver, that the Ordinance be Amended (Title and Body section language concerning legal name of Community Improvement Corporation of Gahanna and Section 1 sub-exhibits as approved by the City Attorney). The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

President Bowers returned discussion to the underlying ordinance and opened the floor for Council comments.

Councilmember McGregor reiterated her opposition to the ordinance, specifically citing concerns about Phase 2 of the project. She noted the city previously addressed parking complaints in Olde Gahanna by purchasing and demolishing two homes to create the public parking lot adjacent to the Sanctuary, which served nearby businesses and Sanctuary clients for approximately 25 years. She stated her appreciation that Phase 1 appears to self-park, while objecting to Phase 2 removing a vital parking area relied upon by Gahanna residents, without a viable replacement identified. She also cited the loss of the Harry Bauer home as a concern. Because the phases could not be separated for voting purposes, she stated she would not support the ordinance.

Councilmember Padova shared that, early in her term, she likely would have opposed a proposal involving transfer of land and significant public subsidy to private development. She expressed continued unease with public subsidies that provide limited public benefit and noted her past opposition to various abatements. However, she stated that Creekside does not have the luxury of time. She referenced declining visits and time spent in the district and expressed concern that selling land to the highest bidder would result in the city losing meaningful control over what is built. Councilmember Padova

described years of studying Creekside, attending conferences and workshops, and listening to experts whose guidance aligned with input from City of Gahanna staff and consultants. She acknowledged some discomfort without guarantees of success, empathizing with some residents who may remain unsure. Given current conditions, Councilmember Padova voiced a belief that this is the right solution, expressing confidence that the agreement represents the best path forward. She stated she would vote in favor of the agreement, characterizing her vote as one for “hope rather than fear” of what might be, alluding to previous comments made by President Bowers.

Councilmember Schnetzer echoed earlier comments by Mayor Jadwin, stating that no project can satisfy all 36,000 residents. He asserted that Council must distinguish between good and bad projects. He described the proposal as a private-capital undertaking with an estimated \$100 million investment, with the City’s contribution at approximately 5% in the form of several parcels. He noted the project would significantly increase housing units in the district to support local businesses and that it is a mixed-use, self-parked project including residential units, restaurants, a co-working component, and a hotel. He emphasized that the development agreement contains minimal contingent liabilities for the City and that the construction approach is expected to shorten build time and reduce disruption. He framed the vote as a binary decision: either advance the project or effectively maintain the status quo, which he assessed the community has repeatedly rejected. Councilmember Schnetzer expressed doubt that a more economically viable “Plan B” exists and stated he would support advancing the project as a “good” project, even if not a perfect one.

Councilmember Jones acknowledged that the proposal does not satisfy every concern raised by residents. Despite this, she affirmed that residents broadly agree Creekside should improve. Councilmember Jones voiced confidence that Councilmembers, the Administration and staff have deeply engaged with the community on establishing priorities for Gahanna and Creekside. She referenced extensive feedback received through formal meetings, informal conversations, and thorough review of social media comments. She acknowledged a need for Creekside improvements along with concerns about traffic, parking, and the scale of the development. Drawing on her experience in retail, Councilmember Jones observed that businesses are reluctant to locate in “empty” centers and that quality businesses are unlikely to invest if Creekside remains as it is presently. Councilmember Jones voiced her understanding that the current plan does not represent a complete “fix” for Creekside. She further elaborated that she does not subscribe unreservedly to a “build it and they will come” approach. She expressed appreciation for the developer Benson Capital and Connect’s sincere commitment to Gahanna, voicing her appreciation for their responsiveness and flexibility.

Councilmember Jones also thanked the Administration and residents for their engagement in the process. She emphasized that her support is not unconditional. Echoing her colleague Councilmember Schnetzer, she summarized that the decision before Council is whether to do business or not. Councilmember Jones estimated that if Gahanna does not want to be left with the current Creekside, then the alternative is to move forward. She stated she would support the ordinance to move toward a Creekside the community can be proud of.

Councilmember Renner described the vote as one of the most important decisions for Gahanna's future. He acknowledged the strong public engagement evidenced through multiple avenues of communication. Councilmember Renner celebrated the people of Gahanna loving their community, characterizing their passion as a strength. He noted that big projects, such as the proposed development at Creekside, naturally raise big concerns. He asserted Council's responsibility to closely review facts consider what works in other central Ohio communities. He referenced his long history in Gahanna, including attendance of public meetings preceding the original Creekside development. He recalled that development on both sides of Mill Street was always anticipated. He stated that residents expect a vibrant downtown that supports local businesses. Councilmember Renner highlighted that the agreement includes milestones, reporting requirements, performance expectations, and safeguards for the City, including land reversion provisions if financing or progress fails. He shared his strong respect for differing viewpoints, committing to continuing to listen to residents, including his "bosses" in Ward one. He stated that the agreement strengthens the City's position to achieve Creekside's long-envisioned potential, support the tax base, benefit local businesses, and secure long-term community value. He emphasized that Gahanna operates within a broader regional context, not a vacuum. After reviewing the facts, regional comparisons, and safeguards, Councilmember Renner expressed confidence that approving the agreement is the right step. He stated he would support the ordinance.

Vice President Weaver thanked residents for their input, emphasizing that public participation improved the proposal. He began by level setting, clarifying that Council was voting on the private development agreement and that discussions on public improvements would occur separately in the future. Vice President Weaver related with Councilmember Renner about remembering Creekside before major development efforts, reflecting on an evolution of proposals, anticipating additional steps in the development process following decisions made that night. He shared he previously served as a trustee on the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), recognizing other members of Council who served, as well as current CIC members in attendance at the meeting. From his perspective of service on

the CIC, Vice President Weaver explained that assembling sufficient parcels for redevelopment was historically a barrier to progress at Creekside. He credited the CIC's efforts in packaging properties as a key factor in attracting the current proposal. Councilmember Weaver described the project as potentially catalytic, while echoing Economic Development Director Gottke's assertion that there is no single "silver bullet" solution to Creekside development. He recognized the importance of addressing needs for additional housing and "feet on the ground" to support retail. He reiterated that retail typically follows rooftops and expressed his belief that the housing component would spur further investment. He cited the project's self-contained parking, anticipated restaurant additions, trail and recreation enhancements, and the opportunity for a boutique hotel as community benefits. He also noted the developer's commitment to public art, encouraging collaboration with the area arts council and community partners. He acknowledged ongoing concerns about traffic, while noting the willingness of the City and developer to work with ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) toward mitigation. He observed a history of the developer working to reduce construction timelines. Vice President Weaver concluded by thanking everyone for their efforts and participation along the way, including residents, Connect Real Estate and Benson Capital, and the Administration. He shared his intention to vote in support of the ordinance.

President Bowers thanked her colleagues and the community for their thoughtful engagement. She noted that the project evolved over several years, from earlier redevelopment proposals to the 2022 Creekside Redevelopment Strategy and the recently adopted Strategic Plan. She acknowledged the range of public feedback received through Public Hearings, small-group meetings, community events, social media, and individual conversations. Similar to Councilmember Jones, President Bowers asserted her commitment to listening to constituents. She summarized themes from the feedback, including concerns about traffic, parking, and character, as well as a shared hope for Creekside's future. President Bowers explained that the perspectives shared through community engagement, combined with Council's vetting and years of work by the Administration and the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation, have informed her decision to support this project. She expressed appreciation to Economic Development Director Jeff Gottke for providing data, including regional comparisons of public contributions to major projects and a fiscal impact analysis shared at the September 22, 2025, meeting. She also thanked City Attorney Priya Tamilarasan for ensuring the development agreement codifies expectations and protections for all parties. President Bowers stated she is optimistic about Creekside Reimagined's potential to meet critical housing and hotel needs, support public events and local businesses, and strengthen the broader economic ecosystem, including the event center and tourism efforts. She expressed confidence in the City's planning processes, the Planning Commission, and staff to ensure the final project reflects the expected quality

and scale. She also expressed her appreciation for the development team's commitment, noting in particular Frank Benson, whose vision, optimism, and personal connections to the area shine through his efforts to advance this project. She stated that the quality of work presented far exceeds prior redevelopment proposals in the Creekside district, and she is proud of what this project represents for the region. President Bowers reiterated her strong encouragement that Phase 2 townhomes be owner-occupied to support long-term neighborhood stability. She concluded that the ordinance represents a major step in reimagining and advancing Gahanna within a rapidly growing region and stated she would be proud to vote yes on ORD-0042-2025.

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

**Yes:** 6 - Bowers, Jones, Padova, Renner, Schnetzer and Weaver

**No:** 1 - McGregor

#### **I. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & ADOPTION:**

**Withdrawn at the request of Administration:**

[ORD-0052-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO GAHANNA CODE SECTION 133.02(c)(6), AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH TYEVCO INC. FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE BIG WALNUT TRAIL BRIDGE DECKING; AND WAIVING SECOND READING

#### **J. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & EMERGENCY ADOPTION:**

[ORD-0050-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AN EASEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AGREEMENT FROM OHIO POWER COMPANY (SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST TO COLUMBUS AND SOUTHERN OHIO ELECTRIC COMPANY) FOR FIBER-OPTIC INSTALLATION SERVING 825 TECH CENTER DRIVE; WAIVING SECOND READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

President Bowers introduced ORD-0050-2025 and Clerk VanMeter read it by title.

**A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Jones, that the Ordinance be Waived for Second Reading. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

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

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

**K. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:****1. Clerk - None.****2. Council - None.****L. REPRESENTATIVES:****1. Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) - Renner, Padova**

Councilmember Renner announced there would be a CIC meeting on November 18, 2025, at 8:00 AM in the Committee Room. Councilmember Padova noted that CIC meetings are always open to the public, with the only exception being Executive Sessions.

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

[2025-0233](#) Councilmember Weaver's MORPC Report to City Council 11.17.2025

Vice President Weaver thanked the Council Office for their support in preparing the report. He noted that the commission last met on November 11, 2025, highlighting several commission actions including adopting a mid-year revision to the 2025 operating budget, due in large part to federal cuts to grant funding. Vice President Weaver encouraged members of the public to look at the linked legislative summary and take advantage of various opportunities made available through MORPC.

**3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova**

Councilmember Padova highlighted several upcoming Visit Gahanna events. Some highlights included the 2025 Holiday Lights celebration lineup of events, and an announcement that the Ohio Tourism Lights Trail includes Gahanna this year. Councilmember Padova also noted several opportunities to volunteer with Visit Gahanna.

**4. School Board (SB) - Jones**

Councilmember Jones highlighted the November 6, 2025, board workshop meeting, where the school district updated several policies including a cell phone ban and attendance policies such as religious release times. Councilmember Jones encouraged colleagues and residents to look at the upcoming board meeting on November 18 and 20, 2025. Councilmember Jones shared her involvement in Superintendent Dr. Tracey R. Deagle's

communication ambassador team. In this capacity, she shared several safety features anticipated for implementation at the new Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools (GJPS) high school. Jones announced there would be a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new Gahanna Lincoln High School, anticipated on January 10, 2026.

**M. OFFICIAL REPORTS:**

**1. Mayor**

Mayor Jadwin reported that the Division of Police received its inaugural Advanced Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Accreditation, awarded without conditions. She noted this is rare among accredited agencies. A delegation including Chief Spence, Safety Director Becker, Deputy Chief Lawless, and Compliance and Program Administrator Stacey Morris attended the CALEA conference in Jacksonville, Florida. The accreditation followed a week-long virtual assessment, a three-day on-site inspection in August 2025, and a formal panel hearing on Friday. Mayor Jadwin observed that several agencies appearing before the panel received remedial mandates requiring corrective action plans; however, no such mandates were issued to Gahanna. The full CALEA Commission voted the following evening to grant Advanced Accreditation, initiating a four-year reaccreditation cycle with annual reviews. She recognized this as the culmination of more than three years of formal work, supported by division-wide commitment to professionalism, respect, commitment, and integrity. Mayor Jadwin expressed appreciation to all Division of Police personnel and extended thanks to the Information and Technology (IT), Human Resources (HR), Court, and Finance Departments; Senior Directors Vollmer and Schultz; and former leaders involved with earlier phases of work. She offered specific recognition to Stacey Morris and Deputy Chief Lawless for their extensive management of the documentation, policy development, and compliance verification required for accreditation. She also thanked Safety Director Becker and Chief Spence for their leadership throughout the process.

Mayor Jadwin then thanked Council for its approval of the Creekside development agreement. She reflected on guidance received years ago from an economic development consultant emphasizing the need for both a redevelopment strategy and control of key parcels, both of which the city pursued through the Creekside Redevelopment Strategy and the work of the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation (CIC). She acknowledged the difficulty of the decision for Council and the Administration and recognized former Economic Development Directors Nathan Strum and Shannon Hamons for their contributions to earlier efforts. She outlined the next steps now that the development agreement was authorized. The developer will begin a six-month due diligence period, followed by the city's planning process evaluating infrastructure, traffic, design, building, engineering, and public safety considerations. These steps will include multiple opportunities

for community input. Mayor Jadwin thanked residents, business owners, and community members for their engagement, including those who attended meetings, viewed online sessions, submitted questions, or provided feedback informally. She noted significant regional interest expressed during the recent *Columbus Business First Breakfast*, where attendees remarked positively on the project's significance for Gahanna and central Ohio. She emphasized that residents hold strong and varied opinions about the city's growth and that these perspectives will continue to guide future work. She stated that Council's decision represents a thoughtful step toward a more vibrant, connected, and economically strong downtown and expressed appreciation for Council's partnership. Mayor Jadwin also noted that CIC meeting minutes are publicly available at GahannaCIC.Com, and project information and meeting links are available at CreeksideReimagined.Com.

Finally, Mayor Jadwin thanked the Gahanna Veterans Committee for hosting the Veterans Day tribute at Veterans Memorial Park and encouraged residents to view upcoming events at Gahanna.Gov.

## **2. City Attorney**

City Attorney Tamilarasan provided an update on the Taglia litigation, a trip-and-fall case arising from an incident in Academy Park. She reported that the court granted the city's motion for summary judgment, finding the city protected under recreational- and political-subdivision immunity. The case is now closed. She noted she will keep Council apprised should any appeal be filed.

### **N. COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Councilmember Jones noted her Constituent Report for September-October 2025 was attached to the Council meeting packet.

Councilmember Padova congratulated Chief Spence and the Division of Police on achieving Advanced CALEA Accreditation and thanked all personnel involved in the multi-year effort. She announced the annual Ugly Sweater Party at Edison Brewing Company, scheduled for December 10, 2025. The event will include an ugly sweater contest with prizes and a 50/50 raffle benefiting Gahanna Residents in Need (GRIN). She thanked Edison Brewing and organizers for coordinating the event. Councilmember Padova reminded residents of Small Business Saturday and encouraged support for local businesses through holiday shopping, social media engagement, and word-of-mouth promotion. She concluded by wishing her father-in-law, Don, a happy birthday, noting he is a regular viewer of Council meetings.

Councilmember Renner congratulated MaCayla Fullum on her hiring and welcomed her to the city staff. He also commended Chief Spence on achieving Advanced CALEA Accreditation, noting the significance of the

accreditation as the international gold standard in policing. He thanked Safety Director Becker, the Deputy Chiefs, and Mayor Jadwin for their leadership, and recognized the collective support of administrative staff across the organization in achieving the accreditation. Councilmember Renner also thanked city staff for their work on the Creekside development agreement. He noted his appreciation for the responsiveness of Economic Development Director Jeff Gottke and staff throughout the process.

Councilmember Schnetzer congratulated the Gahanna Division of Police on achieving Advanced CALEA Accreditation. He recognized the significant effort required to meet the accreditation's rigorous standards and commended Chief Spence and division staff for their work. He stated that the Division of Police serves as a model of professional law enforcement and is a core strength of the community. He welcomed MaCayla Fullum to the city and noted the high level of service consistently provided by the Division of Police and the city's dispatch operations.

Vice President Weaver thanked all attendees and residents who provided feedback in recent months, as well as speakers during Hearing of Visitors. He welcomed MaCayla Fullum to the city. He congratulated Chief Spence, Safety Director Becker, the Deputy Chiefs, and the entire Division of Police on the Advanced CALEA Accreditation, acknowledging the leadership involved and the collective effort of division personnel. Vice President Weaver also expressed appreciation to the Gahanna Veterans Committee for hosting the Veterans Day ceremony, noting the strong community turnout despite the cold weather.

President Bowers noted that she echoed many of the sentiments shared by her colleagues. She reflected on one of her guiding quotes, stating that "you have to build community to move community." She observed that the evening's discussions demonstrated how the city continues to build community by creating opportunities for residents to engage. She stated that an engaged community is a strong, safe, and forward-looking community, and encouraged continued involvement as the city moves forward.

[2025-0230](#)

Councilmember Jamille Jones' Constituent Report - September-October 2025

**O. ADJOURNMENT:**

*With no further business before the Council on the Regular Meeting agenda, President Bowers adjourned the Regular Council meeting at 8:35 p.m. The meeting was followed by the Finance Committee Meeting after a brief break.*

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**Jeremy A. VanMeter**  
**Clerk of Council**

*APPROVED by the City Council, this  
day of  
2025.*

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**Merisa K. Bowers**