



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

City Council

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Merisa K. Bowers, President
Trenton I. Weaver, Vice President
Jamille Jones
Nancy R. McGregor
Kaylee Padova
Stephen A. Renner
Michael Schnetzer

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, March 18, 2024

7:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

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

Gahanna City Council met in Regular Session on Monday, March 18, 2024, in Council Chambers. President of Council Merisa K. Bowers called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Councilmember Kaylee Padova delivered an Invocation and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was published on March 15, 2024.

Present 6 - Merisa K. Bowers, Jamille Jones, Nancy R. McGregor, Kaylee Padova, Stephen A. Renner, and Michael Schnetzer

Absent 1 - Trenton I. Weaver

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

President Bowers noted that ORD-0009-2024 would be moved off Consent Agenda to item J - Ordinances for Second Reading / Adoption.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

Vice President Weaver arrived at the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

1. Proclamation Presentation - Mayor Jadwin

Mayor Jadwin began by addressing the council, acknowledging a departure from the usual proceedings with proclamations. Instead of inviting someone from the audience to join her, she opted to speak directly to the attendees. The purpose of her address was to issue a proclamation for Women's History Month. She noted that Council had issued a similar resolution a few weeks prior, and she had deliberately waited until now to avoid overshadowing those efforts. The Mayor

highlighted the origins of Women's History Month, dating back to 1908 when over 15,000 women marched in New York advocating for various rights, including better working conditions, fair pay, an end to child labor, and suffrage. She emphasized that many of these issues still persisted today. Reflecting on the women who serve the City of Gahanna, Mayor Jadwin noted that currently, women represented 40% of the City's employee base. She pointed out that 12 women held positions as directors, managers, and supervisors. Furthermore, she highlighted that women held six out of nine elected positions in local government, a significant achievement. The Mayor recognized the efforts of Jazmine Patton, a new employee who assisted in gathering information from female City employees. She highlighted the educational achievements of several women, noting that four of them held Juris Doctorate degrees. Mayor Jadwin also praised the diverse roles and advanced certifications held by women serving the city, including positions on various boards and specialized accreditations. She specifically mentioned notable achievements of individual women, such as Officer Blair Thomas, a digital forensic examiner with the United States Secret Service. The Mayor also acknowledged groundbreaking roles achieved by women within the city, including the first Community Liaison Officer, Officer Kellie Moffitt, and the first woman and person of color to serve as City Attorney, Priya Tamilarasan. She recognized the contributions of retiring council member Karen Angelou and emphasized the importance of continuing to pave the way for future generations. Mayor Jadwin concluded by expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the city alongside her colleagues and announced her intention to issue a proclamation for Women's History Month. She invited women councilmembers, Ms. McGuire, Director Vollmer, and Ms. Patton to join her for a photo opportunity.

[2024-0065](#)

Mayoral Proclamation - Women's History Month March 2024

2. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update - MORPC

[2024-0054](#)

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update - MORPC Presentation 3.18.2024

Ms. Lauren Cardoni, the Active Transportation and Safety Program Manager at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to address the council meeting. She provided an overview of MORPC's role as the Regional Council for the 15 County Central Ohio area, emphasizing their services related to growth, development, transportation, and community sustainability. Ms. Cardoni highlighted the significance of planning for the

region's anticipated growth, projecting a population of over 3 million by 2050. She emphasized the importance of collaboration with local communities, such as Gahanna, to address housing and transportation needs. Ms. Cardoni explained the process of updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), a federal requirement conducted every four years, which guides transportation investment for the next 20 to 30 years. She outlined the stages of the planning process, including goal development, data analysis, and project evaluation. Ms. Cardoni invited feedback on the draft strategies and proposed projects, available for public comment on the MORPC website until the end of March. She encouraged participation in the public open house at MORPC's office the following afternoon. Additionally, Ms. Cardoni discussed the Link US initiative, a regional mobility effort aimed at improving transit infrastructure and accessibility. She concluded her presentation and welcomed any questions from the council members.

Vice President Weaver inquired about the process behind the creation of the project list and whether municipalities were involved from the outset or if the list was presented for feedback afterward.

Ms. Cardoni responded, explaining that the creation of the project list involved a combination of approaches. She stated that the process began by examining the previously adopted plan to identify ongoing projects and determine what still needed inclusion in the updated plan. Additionally, Ms. Cardoni mentioned that they reviewed new community plans, including local transportation, land use, and comprehensive plans, to identify any newly proposed projects since the last plan was adopted. Furthermore, she elaborated on the outreach efforts, indicating that individual outreach was conducted with every city and agency within the region to ensure comprehensive data collection. Ms. Cardoni mentioned that in early 2023, a project web map displaying potential projects, termed "project candidates," was launched. This map was shared with local agency partners for review before being made available for public comment. She highlighted that there was also an opportunity for the general public to suggest projects during this process.

D. HEARING OF VISITORS:

President Bowers addressed the attendees, providing some procedural guidance regarding the upcoming public hearings and the Hearing of Visitors. She clarified that those present to speak on the zoning ordinance or the creation of the new community authority would have the opportunity to do so during the respective public hearings later in the meeting. President Bowers explained that individuals unsure of their

stance or those who supported some aspects but not others could choose to speak during either the proponent or opponent segment of the hearings. However, she noted that Council would later vote on changes to the public hearing procedure, which would eliminate the proponent-opponent designation, streamlining the process. President Bowers expressed hope that this adjustment would lead to a more fluid process in future hearings. Regarding the Hearing of Visitors, she outlined the protocol, stating that any member of the public could speak on any matter for up to three minutes. Speakers were required to fill out a speaker slip and approach the podium when called upon. They were also reminded to state their name and address before giving their remarks. President Bowers informed the audience that there were three speaker slips in total for the evening: two for the public hearing on the zoning code and one for the general Hearing of Visitors.

Kathy McCorkle, Gahanna, OH spoke on Council comments.

Ms. McCorkle addressed the Council, focusing her remarks on Mr. Renner, who she identified as one of the three Democrat councilmembers. She referenced a previous incident on February 19th during Council comments where she alleged that Renner insulted and spoke negatively about her due to her dissenting viewpoints. Ms. McCorkle directed her comments to Renner, stating that she did not require him to apologize to Councilmember Jamille Jones for her First Amendment remarks. She asserted that she did not make any personal disparaging remarks toward Jones and therefore saw no reason to apologize. Ms. McCorkle expressed her refusal to accept false accusations from Renner or other council members. She denied personally attacking Jones and urged Renner to carefully reconsider her words, setting aside any personal emotions or political bias. Furthermore, Ms. McCorkle clarified that her comments regarding the association of Jones' group with the Black Lives Matter movement were based on information already publicly available on the group's website. She said the founders of the Black Lives Matter movement described themselves as trained Marxists and the movement called for national defunding of police. Ms. McCorkle indicated a fundamental disagreement with Renner, suggesting that if he couldn't stand against what she perceived as unrighteousness, they were on opposing sides. Ms. McCorkle accused Renner of falsely accusing her, claiming he misrepresented her statements and actions. She denied attacking Renner's colleague personally or speaking atrocities. She emphasized that she never mentioned values, integrity, or respect in her comments. Ms. McCorkle criticized Renner for allegedly threatening to violate her

First Amendment rights during the council meeting, despite his oath to uphold the Constitution. Furthermore, Ms. McCorkle questioned Renner's impartiality in discharging his duties as a city councilmember. She challenged his authority to judge the content of citizens' remarks during their allotted time and accused him of attempting to suppress constitutionally protected free speech. Ms. McCorkle asserted that by insulting, intimidating, and threatening her due to her expressed views, Renner had already violated his oath of office. In conclusion, Ms. McCorkle suggested that if Renner found it difficult to handle the truth about community issues or citizen complaints, or if he could not uphold his oath of office, he should consider stepping down from his Council seat.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Pursuant to Council Rules 9.10 & 9.11: The President of Council shall give a brief statement or explanation of the item under hearing. Prior to the opening of the public hearing, the administration may make a presentation of slides, videos, photos, staff comments, or combination thereof, regarding the application in question. The public hearing shall be opened with any proponents being allowed seven minutes, opponents ten minutes, then three minutes for rebuttal by the proponents. Such time schedule shall prevail unless extended by the President without opposition by a Council member. Everyone addressing Council will approach the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

[RES-0008-2024](#) A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE CREATION OF THE GAHANNA NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY DISTRICT WILL BE CONDUCTIVE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, CONVENIENCE AND WELFARE AND IS INTENDED TO RESULT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COMMUNITY, DECLARING THE NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY TO BE ORGANIZED AND A BODY POLITIC AND CORPORATE, DEFINING THE BOUNDARY FOR THE NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY, AND FIXING THE SURETY FOR THE TRUSTEES' BONDS

President Bowers announced the next item on the agenda, which was the public hearings. The first public hearing concerned the creation of the New Community Authority (NCA) district, as per RES-0008-2024. She noted that prior to the opening of the public hearing, the administration had the option to make a presentation, although it was not mandatory.

Mr. Sean McCarter, the outside legal counsel, addressed the Council, stating that they had previously reviewed the petition regarding the formation of the NCA. He mentioned that the petition outlined the legal requirements for its formation, including the necessity for the hearing to

be published and noticed three times beforehand. He confirmed that the clerk had provided him with the notice of publication, ensuring that this legal requirement had been met and was recorded. McCarter explained that the petition contained several general legal requirements, with the core concept being outlined in Exhibit C. This exhibit detailed the creation of a mixed-use new community, encompassing housing and commercial activities. He clarified that the new community authority charge could fund various public improvements. McCarter emphasized that this charge, up to five mills, was self-imposed. He further mentioned that the development was in accordance with a development agreement with the developer and associated improvements. The funds, combined with TIF funds, would cover the costs in the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan. McCarter concluded by stating his opinion that the proposal was legally sufficient, aligned with prior acts of the Council, and met expectations.

President Bowers thanked Mr. McCarter for his input and asked if there was anything further from the administration before opening the public hearing. Mayor Jadwin responded, stating that there was nothing further to add at that time and thanked the Council.

President Bowers opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

With no proponents or opponents or rebuttals on the item, President Bowers closed the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

[ORD-0007-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE PART ELEVEN - PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA

President Bowers introduced the next item on the agenda, which was the public hearing regarding Ordinance 0007-2024, an ordinance aimed at repealing and replacing part 11 of the Planning and Zoning code of the codified ordinances of the city of Gahanna. She invited the administration to make any opening remarks if they wished to do so.

Michael Blackford, the Director of Planning, addressed the council, stating that although the intention was not to present Redline changes to the proposed zoning code that evening, upon reviewing the code one final time, they noticed a few necessary corrections. He summarized the changes, categorizing them as inadvertent omissions or unintended changes in terminology. Blackford explained that the proposed changes included clarifying language related to plats, consolidating terminology regarding automotive uses, and addressing definitions related to outdoor

storage. He emphasized the need for consistency with the current zoning code and clarified each proposed amendment. Blackford concluded by stating that these changes summarized the staff's proposed amendments.

President Bowers thanked Director Blackford for his presentation, acknowledging the prior presentations and discussions on the zoning code update. She noted the importance of the topic and the extensive conversation it had already received. President Bowers then announced that there were two speaker slips for tonight's public hearing.

President Bowers opened the public hearing at 7:41 p.m.

Mr. Scott Hrabcak, Westerville, OH, President of Columbus Realtors, identified as a proponent:

Mr. Hrabcak, in his capacity as the president of Columbus Realtors, addressed the Council, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to speak. He highlighted Columbus Realtors' role as the leading voice of real estate in central Ohio, representing nearly 10,000 real estate professionals engaged in various aspects of the industry. Mr. Hrabcak commended the Council, Mayor, zoning division members, realtors, and residents for their efforts in bringing Ordinance 0007-2024, concerning the City's zoning, to the forefront. He emphasized the importance of modernizing zoning regulations, especially in a region like Gahanna, situated in the "Silicon Heartland" of central Ohio. Mr. Hrabcak underscored the need for diverse housing options and encouraged openness to smart growth and development. He pointed out the housing shortage in Franklin County and central Ohio, compounded by an increasing senior population seeking to age in place. Mr. Hrabcak suggested that easing restrictions on accessory dwelling units (ADUs) could contribute to the affordable housing stock, particularly in areas like Gahanna facing rising cost barriers. While expressing support for the zoning ordinance, Mr. Hrabcak urged the Council to reconsider the limitation of the definition of family within the proposed amendment. He argued that the definition, restricting family to individuals related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the owners of the premises, was too narrow. Mr. Hrabcak stressed that family could be defined differently by each individual, encompassing various relationships beyond blood ties. He thanked the Council for considering changes to the language related to the definition of family in the proposed ADU amendment. In conclusion, Mr. Hrabcak reiterated Columbus Realtors' willingness to partner with the Council and serve as a resource. He offered to address any questions

and expressed appreciation for the council's consideration of his association's perspective.

Mr. Hans Weisheimer, Gahanna, OH, identified as a proponent:

Mr. Weisheimer expressed his support for the revised zoning, noting the improvements in readability, which he appreciated as a layperson. He acknowledged the permission for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) under the new code, although he expressed some reservations about restricting them solely to family members. He anticipated that family ties would likely drive many people to install ADUs. However, Mr. Weisheimer raised a specific concern regarding renewable energy uses. He noted that the zoning code lacked restrictions on ground installations for renewable energy, which posed a challenge for him as installing solar panels on his roof was not feasible due to his lot's configuration. He explained that he had ample space in his backyard for a ground-mounted solar installation, which would occupy only a small percentage of his total lot coverage. Mr. Weisheimer highlighted a discrepancy in the new zoning code, which only permitted building-mounted renewable energy installations for residential areas while prohibiting ground-mounted installations. He suggested reconsidering this restriction, proposing options such as conditional use permits and adherence to setback requirements and maximum lot coverage. He reasoned that ground-mounted installations, though more expensive, should still be considered as an alternative for residents unable to install rooftop solar panels. In conclusion, Mr. Weisheimer emphasized the importance of having a pathway for ground-mounted renewable energy installations, particularly for individuals like himself who lacked the option of rooftop installation. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to voice his concerns.

With no further proponents, opponents, or rebuttals, President Bowers closed the public hearing at 7:49 p.m.

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Minutes - To Approve:

[2024-0051](#)

Council Regular Minutes 3.4.2024

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

[2024-0052](#)

Committee of the Whole Minutes 3.11.2024

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

2. Motions:

[MT-0007-2024](#) A MOTION TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA (EXHIBIT A)

The Motion was approved on the Consent Agenda.

3. Ordinances for Second Reading and Adoption:

[ORD-0011-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH STRAWSER PAVING COMPANY FOR THE TAYLOR STATION ROAD AND CLAYCRAFT ROAD ROUNDABOUT PROJECT (ST-1087); AND AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION - OPWC Capital Project

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0012-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORD-080-2020 CONTRACT WITH EMH&T FOR ENGINEERING AND DESIGN OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INTERSECTION OF TAYLOR STATION AND CLAYCRAFT ROADS TO INCLUDE COSTS FOR CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND INSPECTION

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0013-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH STRAWSER PAVING COMPANY FOR THE 2024 STREET AND SIDEWALK PROGRAM (ST-1110)

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0014-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH BRENNSTUHL CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE 2022 SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (ST-1109)

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0015-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Right-of-Way Special Revenue Fund for Professional Services

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0016-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Refuse Escrow from Grant Award

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

[ORD-0017-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS - Parks & Recreation Fund for Recreation Coordinator II Position Supporting Community Recreation

The Ordinance was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

End of Consent Agenda

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

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

G. RESOLUTIONS:

[RES-0006-2024](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GAHANNA TO BECOME A POWER A CLEAN FUTURE OHIO COMMUNITY AND ADOPTING A GOAL TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA

Councilmember Renner expressed his gratitude to the administration and his colleagues for their support in creating the resolution, emphasizing its significance in sustainability planning, particularly in energy planning. He highlighted the importance of understanding energy needs and options around power aggregation, citing energy, transportation, food, and construction as key areas for improvement. Renner expressed excitement about the opportunities presented by joining peer cities in passing similar resolutions and leveraging the expertise of organizations like Power Clean Future Ohio.

Councilmember Schnetzer, acknowledging his absence from the previous committee meeting, raised a concern regarding the commitment to reducing levels by a certain timeframe outlined in Section Two of the resolution. He expressed lingering concerns about associated costs.

In response, Councilmember Renner clarified that the 50% reduction target was an aspirational goal rather than a guarantee of achievement. He emphasized the learning process involved and assured that failing to meet the goal would not incur harm.

President Bowers thanked Renner for his work on the resolution and expressed gratitude to the administration, particularly Mayor Jadwin and her staff, for their collaboration with organizations like Power Clean Future Ohio. She highlighted the proven track record of such organizations and viewed the resolution as a crucial first step towards

investing in proven sustainability strategies while providing a framework for measuring outcomes. President Bowers acknowledged Schnetzer's concerns but viewed the lofty goals as inspiring and motivating, demonstrating the city's commitment to sustainability. She looked forward to benchmarking metrics and implementing community choice aggregation with the resolution's support.

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

Yes: 6 - Bowers, Jones, McGregor, Padova, Renner and Weaver

No: 1 - Schnetzer

[RES-0008-2024](#)

A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE CREATION OF THE GAHANNA NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY DISTRICT WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, CONVENIENCE AND WELFARE AND IS INTENDED TO RESULT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COMMUNITY, DECLARING THE NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY TO BE ORGANIZED AND A BODY POLITIC AND CORPORATE, DEFINING THE BOUNDARY FOR THE NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY, AND FIXING THE SURETY FOR THE TRUSTEES' BONDS

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

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

H. MOTIONS:

[MT-0006-2024](#)

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF PAMELA RIPLEY, DEPUTY CLERK OF COUNCIL, FOR THE PURPOSES OF RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE HER OFFICIAL LAST DAY APRIL 30, 2024

President Bowers expressed her appreciation and gratitude to Pam Ripley for her 17 years of service. She mentioned that they were looking forward to presenting Ripley with an honorary resolution the following month and expressed happiness for her as she moved into the next stage of her life to enjoy time with her family.

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Padova, that the Motion be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[MT-0008-2024](#)

A MOTION TO PROMOTE SOPHIA MCGUIRE TO THE FULL-TIME, EXEMPT, UNCLASSIFIED POSITION OF DEPUTY CLERK OF COUNCIL EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2024

President Bowers expressed her excitement about having a motion on the agenda for Sophia McGuire's promotion. She noted that Ms.

McGuire had been with Council Office for almost a year and had demonstrated her commitment, work ethic, creativity, intellect, and qualifications. President Bowers expressed her extreme pleasure in being able to promote from within and conveyed her gratitude that Ms. McGuire had accepted the offer for the position.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Motion be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[MT-0009-2024](#)

A MOTION TO APPOINT SYLVIA KRAMARIUS TO THE GAHANNA NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY INITIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SEAT 1, CITIZEN MEMBER, FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS

President Bowers announced the appointment of members to serve on the new Community Authority, which had been adopted by resolution moments earlier. She noted that the timeline for this appointment was tight due to statutory requirements. President Bowers explained that as the population of the new community grows, the appointed members, including the city's representative, will eventually be replaced by qualified electors residing within the new community district, as per the Revised Code.

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Schnetzer, that the Motion be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[MT-0010-2024](#)

A MOTION TO APPOINT ALAN OHMAN TO THE GAHANNA NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY INITIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SEAT 2, CITIZEN MEMBER, FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Jones, that the Motion be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[MT-0011-2024](#)

A MOTION TO APPOINT ROSS GOLDSMITH TO THE GAHANNA NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY INITIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SEAT 3, CITIZEN MEMBER, FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR

A motion was made by Padova, seconded by Renner, that the Motion be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[MT-0012-2024](#)

A MOTION TO APPOINT COREY WYBENSINGER TO THE GAHANNA NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY INITIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SEAT 4, AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Motion be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

I. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING:

[ORD-0019-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK LOAN AND PROMISSORY NOTE AGREEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000 WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO SUPPORT THE CRESCENT BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

[ORD-0020-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH BURNS AND SCALO OHIO LLC TO FACILITATE RELOCATION OF ITS CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS TO A NEW FACILITY ON TECH CENTER DRIVE, PART OF COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA #3

President Bowers noted that ORD-0020-2024 would be referred back to Committee of the Whole for continued discussion on March 25, 2024.

She noted that file exhibit attachments had been updated to reflect changes following the previous week's Committee of the Whole discussion prior to the first reading this evening.

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

J. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:

[ORD-0007-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE PART ELEVEN - PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA

President Bowers began by expressing gratitude to Mr. Hrabcak and Mr. Weisheimer for speaking on the zoning code that evening. She also thanked Mr. Blackford and the planning department for their efforts in creating a document meant to guide the city for the next 20 years.

President Bowers mentioned that Mr. Blackford had circulated changes identified in his presentation that day, and additional information had been received the previous week from the Columbus Realtors regarding *Yoder v. Bowling Green* and other concerns. She then addressed a request from the city attorney to table the vote on the zoning code. President Bowers invited City Attorney Tamilarasan to speak on the matter.

City Attorney Tamilarasan explained that upon reviewing the full redline for Part 11 of the code, she believed that some sections could have implications on ongoing or potential litigation. Therefore, she requested

to address this with the Council during an executive session before proceeding with the vote.

President Bowers acknowledged the request and proceeded to entertain a motion to table Ordinance 0007-2024 until a specified date. She proposed April 1st, with a referral to the Committee of the Whole on March 25th, anticipating a special meeting before or after to enter into an executive session. President Bowers then asked for a first on the motion to table the ordinance.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Ordinance be Postponed to Date Certain (April 1, 2024) and referred to Committee of the Whole for March 25, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[ORD-0009-2024](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GAHANNA BUILDING AND ZONING FEE SCHEDULE

President Bowers stated that she had requested the removal of the item from consent due to a prior request from the Department of Planning to maintain the ordinance consistent with the zoning code updates. She then proposed tabling Ordinance 0009-2024 to a specified date, April 1st, with a Committee of the Whole discussion scheduled for March 25th.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Ordinance be Postponed to Date Certain (April 1, 2024) and referred to Committee of the Whole for March 25, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

[ORD-0018-2024](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH JE GROTE COMPANY, INC. TO FACILITATE RENOVATION OF AN EXISTING INDUSTRIAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 1160 GAHANNA PARKWAY, PART OF COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA #3

Vice President Weaver expressed his gratitude to Director Hamons and the JE Grote Company for their presentation and the healthy discussion that ensued. He noted that the company has been a staple of the community for more than 50 years and expressed happiness in their presence and desire for them to continue growing in Gahanna. Vice President Weaver stated that he believed the terms made sense and reiterated his belief, expressed several weeks prior, that the company's success is synonymous with the community's success. He concluded his remarks by thanking everyone involved.

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

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

K. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & ADOPTION:

[ORD-0021-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS; WAIVING SECOND READING - Workers Compensation Fund

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

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

L. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk - None.

2. Council - None.

M. REPRESENTATIVES:

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

Councilmember Renner noted the meeting scheduled for the next day at 8:00 AM in the Committee Room.

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

Vice President Weaver provided an overview of the MORPC commission meeting held on Thursday, March 14th, describing it as a quick but comprehensive session covering various topics. He highlighted a few key points, starting with Money Mondays, a remote meeting held every Monday from 1:00 to 1:30, with the next session scheduled for March 25th, focusing on grant education. Previous topics included transit support of infrastructure and updates from MORPC's economic development director and innovation officer. Weaver mentioned upcoming events, including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan open house on March 20th and a virtual event titled "Public Service Perspectives: The Impact of Incarceration on Families, Children, and the Community" on March 20th from noon to 1:00 p.m., featuring guest speaker Gwendolyn Woods. He noted that registration was required for the latter event. Lastly, Vice President Weaver informed the Council

about the State of the Region event held on Friday, March 15th, expressing thanks to colleagues who attended. However, he mentioned that he was unable to attend due to traveling out of town.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) - Padova

Councilmember Padova announced several exciting developments regarding Gahanna's status as a tourism destination. She mentioned that Visit Gahanna was pleased to announce the inclusion of Gahanna's own Noble Cut Distillery and High Bank Distillery on the Ohio Distillery Trail. Additionally, the Big Walnut Trail, located in Gahanna, was featured in the Columbus Outdoor Trails Pass promoted by MORPC and Experience Columbus, which now includes suggested itineraries for visitors to explore Gahanna. Padova also highlighted that Lola and Guiseppe's was recognized for having the best lasagna in Ohio, according to a study completed by Love Food and published by *614 Magazine*. She expressed confidence that people would be flocking to Gahanna to try the lasagna from Lola and Guiseppe's, which she personally believed to be the best in Ohio.

4. School Board (SB) - Jones

Councilmember Jones began by acknowledging that there was no official school board report to provide. However, she expressed gratitude to Mr. Landon Smith, a teacher at Gahanna Lincoln High School, who invited councilmembers to speak to his class. Councilmember Jones mentioned that both Councilmember Renner and herself had spoken to seniors who are of voting age, and they hoped to spark their interest in local government. She noted that the students had asked great questions, and she thanked Mr. Smith for the invitation. Councilmember Jones concluded by extending well wishes to Councilmember Bowers and Councilmember Padova, who were scheduled to speak to the class the following day.

N. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Mayor

Mayor Jadwin expressed gratitude for Councilwoman Jones's report on her visit to Gahanna Lincoln High School. She acknowledged not receiving an invitation but anticipated intriguing discussions given her previous experiences speaking to elementary school students. The Mayor also thanked the speakers at the zoning code public hearing, highlighting the significance of the zoning code in shaping the city's

future. She mentioned recent open houses where residents could learn about street and sidewalk programs, emphasizing the importance of dialogue between residents and city officials. Mayor Jadwin provided updates on staffing, mentioning Melissa Jackson's impactful work as the Risk and Safety Administrator. She welcomed two new dispatchers and informed about ongoing police officer applicant testing. The Mayor also highlighted an incident involving a crash on the highway, underscoring the importance of road safety. Regarding city finances, Mayor Jadwin mentioned the commencement of the 2023 audit by state auditors. She discussed the kickoff event for Gahanna 175, which featured storytelling and short films about the city's history. Additionally, she shared her experience judging a speech contest hosted by the American Legion Post 797. Mayor Jadwin reminded about the upcoming State of the City event on March 28th, celebrating Gahanna's 175th anniversary. She invited residents to engage with city departments and leaders at the event. Finally, she handed over the floor to President Bowers to discuss the council table.

President Bowers thanked Mayor Jadwin and highlighted the efforts of the Council Clerk's office in preparing for the Council table. She mentioned that the table would showcase both the recordkeeping and legislative roles of the city council. President Bowers encouraged council members to attend the event and engage with the public to discuss their values and roles in local government.

2. City Attorney

City Attorney Tamilarasan expressed anticipation for the State of the City event and the opportunity to showcase historical trends in her office. She reported on the success of community service aspects implemented in Mayor's Court over a month ago, noting positive feedback from nonprofit partners. Additionally, she announced the initiation of a formal diversion process for certain traffic offenses starting this month, with the aim of addressing recidivism issues and preventing repeat offenders.

O. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember Jones expressed gratitude to the Mayor for the Women's History Month proclamation, highlighting the importance of recognizing the historic achievements of women in the community.

Councilmember McGregor shared her appreciation for the storytelling of historical stories by Tim Courlas and others, mentioning the popularity of the "Big Boy" story. Mayor Jadwin mentioned the videos will likely be

available on the Gahanna175.com webpage. She also noted seeing one about two sisters on Facebook and anticipated the release of other videos. Finally, she praised the story about Harry Bauer as excellent and thanked those involved.

Councilmember Padova extended her gratitude to everyone who participated in the discussion on the zoning code, particularly emphasizing the importance of finding a solution regarding ADUs. She also expressed appreciation for the applicants for the NCA Board of Trustees, noting the high quality of submissions and the community's dedication to serving. Additionally, she thanked Mayor Jadwin for the proclamation honoring Women's History Month. She highlighted the uniqueness of Gahanna having a majority female council, mayor, and city attorney, expressing pride in serving alongside them and acknowledging the hard work of all the women in the administration.

Vice President Weaver began by echoing Councilmember Padova's sentiments and expressing gratitude to the applicants for the NCA board, highlighting the importance of community service. He announced that he would be hosting a constituent hour and encouraged people to stop by and engage with him. Moving on to the zoning code, Vice President Weaver thanked everyone who participated in the public hearing, emphasizing the significance of gathering feedback from residents to ensure the code meets the community's needs. He extended appreciation to the director for his efforts in this regard. Lastly, Vice President Weaver shared his enjoyment of the Gahanna 175 event, particularly praising Tim Courlas's videos and the speakers. He humorously mentioned being unaware of who placed the Big Boy on the school roof until the event, adding to the enjoyment of the evening.

President Bowers began by sharing an anecdote about meeting the former city director of Public Service, Grant Crawford, at a MORPC event where he admitted to being part of the group responsible for placing the Big Boy on the roof, highlighting it as a fun piece of Gahanna history and a testament to their engineering skills. She also commended the kickoff event for Gahanna 175 and congratulated the organizers. President Bowers then announced that she would be hosting a constituent hour at the end of the month, welcoming residents to come and share their thoughts. She emphasized the value of both formal and informal conversations in shaping policy and expressed gratitude to constituents for their participation. Acknowledging the recent crash involving Mifflin Township Fire Battalion 131, President Bowers thanked the officers who responded and underscored the importance of paying attention while

driving, drawing from her husband's experience as a first responder. Next, she thanked the Human Resources Department and the Mayor for the Women's History Month Proclamation, recognizing the diverse skills and experiences of those she serves with. President Bowers concluded her remarks by encouraging participation in the Gahanna American Legion Post 797 annual Walk in our Boots 5K, which benefits homeless veterans, and provided details on registration. She also attached her constituent report for incorporation into the minutes.

[2024-0053](#)

Councilmember Merisa K. Bowers' Constituent Report - February 2024

P. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Bowers adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2024.*

Merisa K. Bowers