

City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

Committee of the Whole

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

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

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, July 20, 2026

City Hall, Council Chambers

Immediately following the regular City Council meeting beginning at 7:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Gahanna City Council met for Committee of the Whole on Monday, July 20, 2026, in Council Chambers. Vice President of Council Jamille Jones, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:57 p.m. The agenda was published on Friday, July 17, 2026. All members were present at the meeting. Ordinances 0027-2026 and 0028-2026 were added to the agenda for further discussion.

B. ITEMS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

ORD-0029-2026

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORD-0063-2000 TO REAFFIRM THE CITY'S TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL, ESTABLISH ITS MEMBERSHIP PURSUANT TO SECTION 5709.85 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Director of Economic Development Jeff Gottke explained that staff recently discovered a previously adopted ordinance that established the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC) appointment process under the incorrect section of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). He noted that, although the ordinance cited the wrong statutory authority, the City has consistently appointed TIRC members using the correct process. The proposed legislation repeals the outdated ordinance and replaces it with one referencing the appropriate section of the ORC. Director Gottke also explained that the legislation appoints alternate TIRC members, consistent with previous Council discussions, to ensure all required representatives are available if needed. He noted that the annual TIRC

meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2026, in Gahanna, with the specific location to be determined. The ordinance includes an emergency clause so the alternate appointments will be effective before the scheduled meeting.

Vice President Jones asked if there were any questions or discussion. Hearing none, the legislation was recommended for placement on the Consent Agenda. She noted the ordinance would receive a First Reading on August 3, 2026, with Second Reading and Adoption anticipated on August 17, 2026.

**Recommendation: Introduction/First Reading on Regular Agenda on 8/3/2026;
Second Reading/Vote on Consent Agenda on 8/17/2026.**

C. DISCUSSIONS:

ORD-0027-2026 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF GAHANNA CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 133.08 REGARDING COPY CHARGES TO AUTHORIZE FEES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT VIDEO RECORDS CONSISTENT WITH OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 149.43

Vice President Jones introduced Ordinance 0027-2026 regarding copy charges and turned the discussion over to City Attorney Tamilarasan to highlight the proposed revisions and answer questions.

City Attorney Tamilarasan explained that, following the discussion at the previous Committee of the Whole meeting, she incorporated the statutory exemptions for costs into the ordinance. She stated that the exemptions included victims as defined by the Ohio Constitution and the Ohio Revised Code, victims' attorneys, and insurance companies. City Attorney Tamilarasan explained that those statutory exemptions already existed in the Ohio Revised Code and should be reflected in the City's code. She added that he reformatted the exceptions to incorporate them into the same subsection.

Councilmember Bowers expressed appreciation for the attention given to the ordinance. She clarified that the intent of the ordinance was not to create barriers but to provide City staff with a way to proactively manage the increasing number of artificial intelligence-generated records requests and the potential for abuse. She stated that she recognized the benefit of the proposed changes.

City Attorney Tamilarasan confirmed that the code allowed discretion for the Chief of Police or the City Attorney to address individual circumstances involving different types of records.

Vice President Jones noted that Council had recently completed the First Reading of the ordinance and confirmed that it would appear on the August 3, 2026, Consent Agenda.

Recommendation: Second Reading/Vote on Consent Agenda on 8/17/2026.

ORD-0028-2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART 3, TRAFFIC CODE; TITLE 9, PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES; CHAPTER 373, BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA BY ADDING SECTION 373.11, "RIDING BICYCLES; HELMETS"

City Attorney Tamilarasan explained that the only change made since the First Reading was a revision to the section header and adding the word "electric" for clarity and consistency with the rest of the City Code. No substantive changes were made to the ordinance itself.

Vice President Jones noted that Council and the Administration had received resident questions regarding a potential religious exemption for helmet use and whether a helmet violation could affect civil liability or damages in the event of an accident. City Attorney Tamilarasan advised that the ordinance is neutral and generally applicable, serving the governmental interest of public safety, and therefore does not require a religious exemption. She recommended no changes related to that concern. Regarding civil liability, City Attorney Tamilarasan explained that the ordinance already provides that a helmet violation is not admissible in civil proceedings and is not considered evidence of contributory negligence. While she believed the current language was legally sufficient, she stated that the language could be clarified further to explicitly state that a helmet violation may not be used in determining liability or damages in a civil action. She indicated she would research the issue further and provide proposed amendment language before Second Reading.

Councilmembers Bowers, Schnetzer, McGregor, Renner, and Jones asked questions regarding the legal effect of the ordinance, the applicability of the proposed clarifying language, and how the provision would function in various accident scenarios. City Attorney Tamilarasan

clarified that the ordinance is intended to ensure a violation of the City's helmet requirement cannot be used against a child or parent in private civil litigation and would not alter how fault is otherwise determined.

Councilmember Renner expressed support for clarifying the language while emphasizing the importance of advancing the legislation as part of the City's broader mobility safety initiative. City Attorney Tamilarasan confirmed that any revisions could be adopted as an amendment during second reading without delaying the ordinance.

Vice President Jones concluded that the legislation would return for adoption at the next Council meeting and, because amendments were anticipated, would be placed on the Regular Agenda rather than the Consent Agenda.

Recommendation: Second Reading/Vote on Regular Agenda on 8/17/2026.

2026-0148

Resolutions/Recognitions Policy Research Materials

Councilmember Schnetzer introduced a discussion regarding Council's use of ceremonial resolutions and the potential development of a formal policy to guide future recognitions. He explained that ceremonial resolutions are symbolic in nature and do not advance legislation or City operations. He shared research compiled by Council Office indicating that the number of ceremonial resolutions had increased significantly in recent years, from an average of approximately six per year before the COVID-19 pandemic to more than 20 annually in recent years. He stated that the discussion was prompted in part by resident concerns regarding consistency and perceived inequities in the recognition process.

President Weaver asked whether the reported totals distinguished between ceremonial resolutions that included formal presentations and those that did not. Councilmember Schnetzer responded that the figures represented total ceremonial resolutions and did not differentiate between presentation formats.

Councilmembers Bowers and Padova expressed interest in reviewing additional research before considering any policy changes.

Clerk VanMeter clarified that the reported figures included ceremonial resolutions, including those issued jointly with the Mayor, but did not

include mayoral proclamations issued independently.

Vice President Jones emphasized that the purpose of the discussion was not to adopt a policy but to begin identifying considerations for future discussions. She acknowledged the value of recognizing individuals and organizations while also recognizing concerns raised by residents regarding fairness and consistency.

Councilmember Renner noted that any future policy should remain flexible enough to address changing community priorities and concerns.

Councilmember Schnetzer outlined preliminary concepts for a possible framework, suggesting that ceremonial resolutions generally be limited to recognizing meritorious or longstanding service to the community and significant local achievements. He emphasized that his comments were intended to begin discussion rather than propose a final policy.

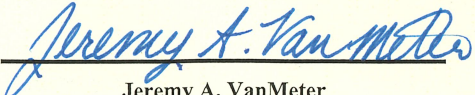
Councilmembers Renner, Bowers, and Padova expressed support for maintaining flexibility within any future policy. Councilmember Renner suggested including an additional category to allow Council to respond to evolving community issues. Councilmember Bowers noted the value of resolutions that raise awareness of public safety initiatives and community issues while bringing residents into City Hall. Councilmember Padova suggested aligning future recognition criteria with the City's *Our Gahanna* Strategic Plan.

Vice President Jones also suggested discussing how ceremonial resolutions are initiated, including whether residents should have a formal process for requesting recognition, to ensure consistency for future Councils.

President Weaver supported continuing the discussion and requested that Council Office research additional communities to identify any documented policies or practices. Councilmember Jones concurred, stating that Council Office would conduct additional research and that the discussion would return at a future Committee meeting for further consideration. No action was taken.

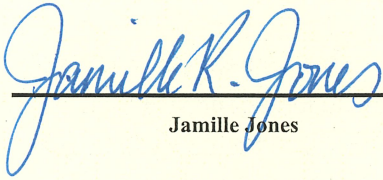
D. ADJOURNMENT:

*With no further business before the Committee of the Whole, the Chair
adjourned the meeting at 8:36pm.*



Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

APPROVED by the Committee of the Whole, this
3rd day of *Aug.* 2026.



Jamille Jones