



Legislative Highlights

Bimonthly Updates: January-February 2025

In January and February, City Council passed several pieces of legislation, including resolutions, ordinances, and motions that support community priorities and improvements. The updates include the recent meeting held on:

- **Regular Meetings:** [January 2](#), [January 21](#), [February 3](#).
- **Committee of the Whole:** [January 13](#), [January 27](#) (workshop), [February 10](#), [February 24](#)
- **Special Meetings:** [January 2](#) (organizational meeting), [January 21](#), [February 10](#).



Highlights Include

- **Advocating for Local Rights:**[\(RES-0004-2025\)](#): Gahanna City Council joined other Ohio municipalities in passing a resolution supporting the Ohio Municipal League's challenge to AT&T's tariff application at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Organized opposition led to the application's withdrawal. Council continues to monitor developments to protect local interests. [January 13](#)
- **Economic Development Agreement** [\(ORD-0095-2024\)](#): Authorizing the Mayor to enter an agreement with the Gahanna Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) to promote economic activity in 2025. [January 2](#)
- **Discussing Official Salaries for Future Terms:** Council began [preliminary discussions](#) regarding salaries for elected officials, for future terms at the Committee meeting on February 24, 2025. Additional information is being gathered and subsequent discussions are expected later this year. [February 24](#)

*For the most current legislative updates, visit the **Council Member Updates** page. [\[bit.ly/4kAXZb3\]](#).[\[https://gahanna.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx\]](https://gahanna.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)*

*For complete agendas with legislative details and to sign up for agendas delivered to your inbox, visit our official portal on **Legistar** [\[bit.ly/3FCikg9\]](#). [\[https://gahanna.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx\]](https://gahanna.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx)*

2025 Council Leadership

During Council's annual organizational meeting, Council voted on various leadership and committee assignments. The 2025 selections are reflected in the chart below.

2025 Council Leadership & Committee Assignments							
	BOWERS	JONES	MCGREGOR	PADOVA	RENNER	SCHNETZER	WEAVER
President of Council	✓						
Vice President of Council							✓
Capital Improvement Plan Advisory Committee	✓				✓	✓	
Community Improvement Corporation Board of Trustees				✓	✓		
Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors				✓			
Finance Committee Chair					✓		
Gahanna-Jefferson Board of Education Liaison		✓					
Incentive Advisory Board	✓					✓	
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission							✓
Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependents Fund Board			✓		✓		

Organizational Meeting

[<https://gahanna.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1266992&GUID=91CD7E31-0977-4ACD-A1B3-E2E777BB74D2&Options=info%7C&Search=>] **January 2**
 [<https://gahanna.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1266992&GUID=91CD7E31-0977-4ACD-A1B3-E2E777BB74D2&Options=info%7C&Search=>]

Recognitions

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & National Day of Service [RES-0001-2025](#)
2. Cervical Health Awareness Month [RES-0002-2025](#)
3. Black History Month [RES-0003-2025](#)
4. School Resource Officers (SRO) recognition in honor of SRO Day - [February 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)



Cervical Health Awareness Month



Black History Month



School Resource Officers Day

Coming Together for a Cause

Council is proud to support enhanced safety measures in our parks. Through Council-approved funding and collaboration with the Parks & Recreation Department and City Administration, nine of our parks will soon be equipped with new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). These

devices provide an added layer of protection in the event of a cardiac emergency.

Council thanks the resident advocates who championed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and AED accessibility. Your advocacy helped bring attention to this important initiative and made a real difference in expanding emergency response resources in our community.

Resolution 0023-2024

[<https://gahanna.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6697186&GUID=A39209D5-D5C9-4553-AED9-9484D4B32508&Options=ID|Text|&Search=0023-2024>] was part of Council's recognition of **National CPR and AED Awareness Week**, a reminder of the importance of CPR training and quick access to AEDs in saving lives. **Learn more here.** [<https://www.gahanna.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=270>]



Council honoring certified CPR staff of the Parks & Rec Department.

[<https://gahanna.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6697186&GUID=A39209D5-D5C9-4553-AED9-9484D4B32508&Options=ID|Text|&Search=0023-2024>]

Member Spotlights

Councilmember Activities



Prioritizing Policy

In lieu of a traditional Committee of the Whole meeting, Councilmembers held a Workshop. The session focused on enhancing collaboration and prioritizing key policy opportunities for 2025 among Councilmembers - [January 27](#)

[<https://gahanna.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1269443&GUID=E7DF9D44-BC23-4F98-83AF-0269E49E8517&Options=info|&Search=>]

Advocating for Municipal Bonds

Councilmembers participated in national policy calls with the Bond Dealers of America (BDA), the American Securities Association (ASA), and the Ohio Municipal League (OML) advocating to protect tax-exempt municipal bond status for Gahanna and other communities. Council introduced [policy advocacy resources](#)

[<https://gahanna.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13746319&GUID=52EBA5DF-D2CF-464C-8B46-CC8D6FCAB266>] and [RES-0006-2025](#)

[<https://gahanna.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7146293&GUID=30F892E1-9D25-40D7-B0CD-F4F2A2AF2424&Options=&Search=>] in February, passing the legislation on March 3, 2025 - [March 3](#)

[<https://gahanna.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1284459&GUID=2608706B-6A1A-4070-A8FB-D8BC43FFA4B7&Options=info|&Search=>]

Contact for More Information: Vice President Weaver & Councilmember Schnetzer

Facilitating Community Dialogue

In their roles as Steering Committee members, President Bowers and Councilmember Schnetzer hosted Our Gahanna Strategic Plan *Table Talks* with neighbors, including with the Gahanna Moms Network, the 254 Youth Center, and sessions with the Gahanna Lions Youth Football League and Gahanna Junior League Sports baseball, gaining valuable feedback from residents in helping to shape the future of Gahanna.

Contact for More Information: President Bowers, Councilmembers Schnetzer

Inspiring Industry & Representation

Councilmembers participate in monthly Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) meetings, promoting the success of our community through local investments. Councilmembers also participate in regular Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) meetings and Gahanna Jefferson Public School Meetings.

Contact for More Information: Councilmembers Padova & Renner (CIC); Vice President Weaver (MORPC); Councilmember Jones (GJPS)

Data Driven Decisions

Council President Bowers attended the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) Data Day. There she learned about what the region is doing to promote data driven decisions and how best practices can benefit Gahanna .



City Council Workshop - January 27, 2025

From the Archives

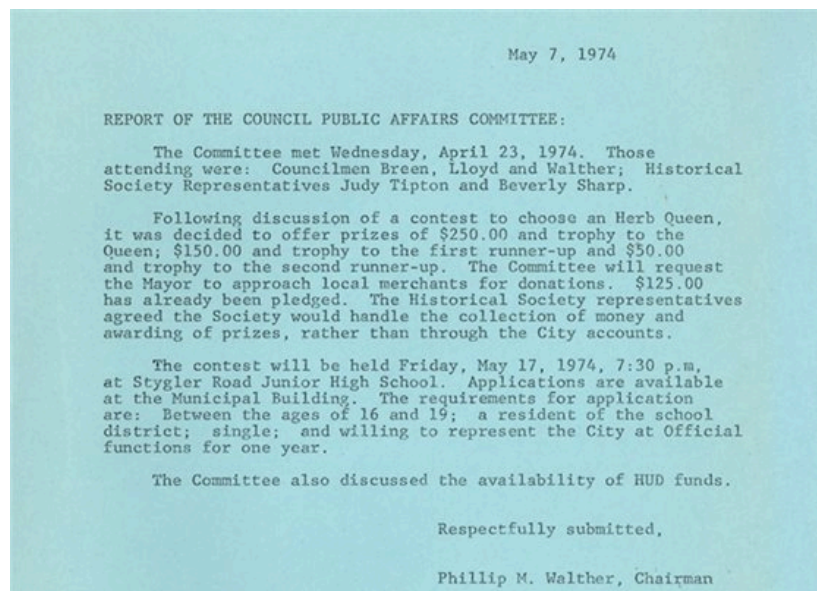
Ohio's Herb Capital



Mayor Leavitt (1972-1979) and Ruth Wilke. Per correspondence with the Columbus Citizen-Journal, it is inferred that this photo was taken at Herb Day events in 1974.

Gahanna was designated as the Herb Capital of Ohio in 1972. In 1974, City leaders began working on the first herb celebrations, including the Herb Queen pageant. Members of Gahanna City Council, the Gahanna Historical Society, and Gahanna Parks & Recreation Department were early contributors to the events. Our Herb Day-related holdings include a limited collection of photos of Herb Queens, correspondence, event planning documents, and newspaper clippings dating back to 1974.

Please reach out to **Deputy Clerk Sophia McGuire** to learn more. Sophia.McGuire@Gahanna.Gov [<mailto:Sophia.McGuire@Gahanna.Gov>] / 614-342-4092



Meeting notes from the Council Public Affairs Committee, which planned the first Herb Queen pageant in 1974.

Community Highlights

Celebrating Service and Engagement in Gahanna

From community partnerships to acts of advocacy and celebration, Gahanna City Council continues to champion community involvement and civic pride.



City of Gahanna Councilmembers Bowers, Jones, Padova and Weaver, City of Gahanna Attorney Tamilarasan, State Representative Lawson-Rowe, Reynoldsburg Council President Strickland and Reynoldsburg School Board Member McKay, at the Walk for Women - February 2, 2025

Walk for Women Weekend

President Bowers led the Walk for Women Weekend, a series of events focused on empowering women and promoting safety, solidarity, and wellness. In partnership with the Gahanna Police Department and Visit Gahanna, the weekend featured a safety talk, community walk, and an open house at the Ohio Herb Center. The Runner and Walker Safety Talk, hosted by Second Sole, was led by Community Liaison Officer Blair Thomas and Lieutenant Matt Kissel. Several local representatives were also in attendance of weekend events. Bowers thanked approximately 100 attendees, event partners, Council Office staff, City administration, and Mifflin Township for their support in making the initiative a success.

Weekend events inspired a generous donation of \$5000 from the White Castle Foundation and Second Sole to Girls on the Run! - February 1st and 2nd



Safety Talk



Community Walk



Self-Care Open House

More Connections

Championing Public Service

Vice President Weaver completed *The Mount Vernon Project: School of Public Service* training, ready to implement key governance principles and leadership in Gahanna.

Advancing Housing Solutions and Addressing Economic Challenges

President Bowers and Vice President Weaver explored legislative strategies to ensure housing affordability and accessibility in Gahanna. Councilmember Jones met with United Way's Melanie Hill to discuss ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) data and its impact on Gahanna families.

Aquatics Steering Committee

Councilwoman Padova attended the fifth Aquatics Steering Committee meeting. Final recommendations will be brought to Council. Recommendations are based on the feedback received from the aquatics survey and public engagement at events.

Mentoring Future Leaders

Councilmember Jones served as a panelist for *LEAD Ohio*, sharing insights with those considering a run for office.

Supporting Local Businesses

Councilwoman Jones and McGregor represented the City Council at the Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting.



President Bowers, Councilmember McGregor and Clerk VanMeter participate in a site visit of the future Gahanna Municipal Complex.

Thank you to all partners and volunteers for their continued dedication to making Gahanna a thriving and inclusive community!

In the Know

Stay Connected with Your City Council and stay informed about the decisions shaping Gahanna's future!

APRIL COUNCIL MEETINGS

7 APR
7 PM

REGULAR MEETING

14 APR
7 PM

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

21 APR
7 PM

REGULAR MEETING

28 APR
7 PM

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CONSTITUENT HOURS

12 APR

COUNCILWOMAN JAMILLE JONES

12:00 P.M.

The Bibliophile Candle Co.
5454 N Hamilton Rd. Suite B
Gahanna, OH 43230

8 MAR

PRESIDENT MERISA BOWERS &
COUNCILWOMAN KAYLEE PADOVA

12:00 P.M.

Gahanna Branch Library: Meeting Rooms 1 + 2
310 Granville St.
Gahanna, OH 43230

15 APR

VICE PRESIDENT TRENTON WEAVER

5:30 P.M.

City Hall: Lobby Conference Room
200 S. Hamilton Rd
Gahanna, OH 43230

Meet the Council Office

Your Representatives

- [Stephen Renner - Ward 1](#)
- [Michael Schnetzer - Ward 2](#)
- [Kaylee Padova - Ward 3](#)
- [Trenton Weaver - Ward 4](#)
- [Jamille Jones - Member at Large](#)
- [Merisa Bowers - Member at Large](#)
- [Nancy McGregor - Member at Large](#)

Council Office Staff

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Jeremy VanMeter CMC
Clerk of Council

Sophia McGuire CRA
Deputy Clerk of Council

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