



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

Finance Committee

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

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

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Monday, December 9, 2024

City Hall, Council Chambers

Immediately following Committee of the Whole at 7:00 PM on December 9, 2024

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Councilmember Michael Schnetzer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The agenda was published on December 6, 2024. All members were present for the meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

B. DISCUSSIONS:

Amended Budget Proposal

[ORD-0065-2024](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF GAHANNA DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025

Chair Schnetzer provided a recap of the budget process for the 2025 proposed budget, noting that the administration presented the budget in mid-October. Since then, there have been eight Finance Committee meetings, department-by-department breakdowns, and two public hearings to gather input. The current ordinance reflects reconciliations and adjustments made since the initial presentation in October. Councilmembers had copies of the ordinance and a fund-by-fund breakdown for review.

Director of Finance Joann Bury noted that most changes in the budget pertained to the General Fund and involved reclassifications rather than additions or removals. She offered to address any questions related to the reconciliation or other provided attachments.

President Bowers inquired about the staff additions in the proposed budget and the overall percentage increase for salaries and benefits. She noted the impact of the 4.5% increase agreed upon in the FOP contract and requested the percentage comparison of salary and benefit increases from 2024 to 2025. Director Bury agreed to calculate and provide the information via email

[Clerk note: requested attached with ORD-0065-2024].

President Bowers also asked about the inclusion of the service and parks garage study in the budget. Senior Director of Operations Kevin Schultz explained that \$100,000 had been allocated for planning work related to the parks and maintenance garage, including property investigations conducted in the past year. An additional \$50,000 was allocated for work related to the 200 South Hamilton facility. Schultz clarified that these amounts were reclassified from the Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund since studies do not meet the criteria for capital assets.

Director Bury confirmed that studies are categorized as operational expenses until they lead to the development of a capital asset. Director Vollmer confirmed that these items were presented during the facilities discussion before Thanksgiving.

Chair Schnetzer then asked about the financial impact of increasing the FOP wage adjustment from 4% to 4.5%. Director Bury reported that the additional half percent resulted in an increase of \$34,481 for the General Fund and approximately \$3,000 for the Public Safety Fund, which covers school resource officers and the community liaison officer.

Recommendation: Second Reading/Adoption; Consideration of Substitute Exhibit A (Amended Budget) on Regular Agenda on 12/16/2024.

C. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Finance Committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council

*APPROVED by the Finance Committee, this
day of 2024.*

Michael Schnetzer