



City of Gahanna

Meeting Minutes

City Council

200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

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

Jeremy A. VanMeter, Clerk of Council

Friday, January 2, 2026

4:00 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

Organizational Meeting begins at 4:00 PM, immediately followed by the Regular Meeting

A. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE: Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin opened the organizational meeting of Gahanna City Council on Friday, January 2, 2026, at 4:01 p.m. and welcomed all attendees in Council Chambers. The agenda for the meeting was published on December 30, 2025. Councilmember Nancy McGregor delivered the invocation, followed by the Presentation of Colors by the Gahanna Division of Police Honor Guard and Pledge of Allegiance led by Deputy Chief Ethan Moffitt. Mayor Jadwin then announced and oversaw the administration of the oath of office to Councilmembers as follows:

- 1. Stephen A. Renner, Councilmember, Ward 1**
Administered by Jeremy A. VanMeter, Notary Public
- 2. Michael Schnetzer, Councilmember, Ward 2**
Administered by Hon. Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor
- 3. Kaylee Padova, Councilmember, Ward 3**
Administered by Hon. Merisa K. Bowers, City Councilmember
- 4. Trenton I. Weaver, Councilmember, Ward 4**
Administered by Hon. Beryl Brown Piccolantonio, State Representative

B. CALL TO ORDER (Organizational): Roll Call

With members having been duly elected, sworn, and seated, Mayor Jadwin called the organizational meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

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

C. ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

- 1. Open Nominations**
- 2. Close Nominations and Elect President**
- 3. Mayor Jadwin turns over meeting to President**

Councilmember Kaylee Padova nominated Trenton Weaver for President of Council. Mayor Laurie Jadwin asked whether there were any other nominations. Hearing none, Mayor Jadwin asked Mr. Weaver if he accepted the nomination, and he stated that he did. Mayor Jadwin then closed the nominations and requested a motion to elect Trenton Weaver as President of Council for 2026.

A motion was made by Renner, seconded by Bowers, to elect Trenton I. Weaver as President of Council for 2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

D. ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT:

- 1. Open Nominations**
- 2. Close Nominations and Elect Vice President**

Council President Trenton Weaver thanked the Mayor, his colleagues, and those in attendance. He announced the election of the Council Vice President and opened nominations for Vice President of Council for 2026.

Councilmember Merisa Bowers nominated Councilmember Jamille Jones. Council President Weaver asked whether there were any other nominations and, seeing none, closed the nominations. He asked Councilmember Jones if she accepted the nomination, and she stated that she did. Council President Weaver then requested a motion to elect Councilmember Jamille Jones as Vice President of Council.

A motion was made by Padova, seconded by Renner, to elect Jamille Jones as Vice President of Council for 2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

E. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES & OTHER ASSIGNMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT:

Council President Weaver announced the following appointments.

**Finance Committee Chair:
Councilmember Renner**

**Community Improvement Corporation Board of Trustees:
Councilmembers Renner and Padova**

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission:
President Weaver**

**Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors:
Councilmember Padova**

**Capital Improvement Plan Advisory Committee:
Councilmember Schnetzer (*Councilmember Renner and President Weaver
also serve ex-officio)**

**Gahanna-Jefferson Board of Education Liaison:
Vice President Jones**

**Incentive Advisory Board:
Councilmembers Bowers and Schnetzer**

**Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependents Fund Board:
Councilmembers Renner and McGregor**

**Rules Study Committee (ad hoc):
Councilmembers Bowers, McGregor, and Padova**

F. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

Motion(s) to approve the following reappointments:

- 1. Civil Service Commission, Seat 1 (1/1/26-12/31/28) - Brian Wright**
- 2. Landscape Board, Seat 3 (1/1/26-12/31/28) - Mark DiGiando**
- 3. Local Board of Tax Review, Seat 1 (1/1/26-12/31/27) - Betty Collins**
- 4. Local Board of Tax Review, Seat 2 (1/1/26-12/31/27) - Tricia Sprinkle**
- 5. Planning Commission, Seat 4 (1/1/26-12/31/28) - Michael Tamarkin**
- 6. Records Commission, Seat 1 (1/1/26-12/31/28) - Laura Dachenbach**
- 7. Public Arts Advisory Committee (1/1/26-12/31/27) - Rose Hawk**
- 8. Community Grants Review Panel (1/1/26-12/31/26) - Travis Polk**
- 9. Community Grants Review Panel (1/1/26-12/31/26) - Nancy Gurwin**

**A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, to reappoint members
to boards and commissions seats and terms as listed in reappointment items**

#1-9. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Motion(s) to approve the following appointments:

- 1. Board of Zoning and Building Appeals, Seat 1 (1/1/26-12/31/28) Paul Benson**
- 2. Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council, Seat 4 (1/1/26-12/31/28) Charles Holden**
- 3. Parks and Recreation Board, Seat 1 (1/1/26-12/31/28) Holly Haines**
- 4. Property Appeals Board, Seat 1 (1/1/26-12/31/28) Bruce Gurwin**
- 5. Charter Review Commission, Seat 1 (1/1/26-12/31/30) Karen Reynolds**
- 6. Charter Review Commission, Seat 2 (1/1/26-12/31/30) Ethan Barnhardt**
- 7. Charter Review Commission, Seat 3 (1/1/26-12/31/30) Edward Hill, Jr.**
- 8. Charter Review Commission, Seat 4 (1/1/26-12/31/30) Jamie Belisle**

Council President Weaver thanked everyone who submitted an application to serve on a board or commission and expressed appreciation for their time and willingness to serve the City.

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Schnetzer, to appoint members to boards and commissions seats and terms as listed in appointment items #1-8. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**G. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
(INFORMATIONAL):**

Appointments to the following:

- 1. Board of Zoning and Building Appeals, Seat 2 (1/1/26-12/31/28) Lorne Eisen**
- 2. Landscape Board, Seat 4 (1/1/26-12/31/28) Chris Schuett**
- 3. Parks & Recreation Board, Seat 2 (1/1/26-12/31/28) Donna Simmons**
- 4. Planning Commission, Seat 5 (1/1/26-12/31/28) Elizabeth Laser**
- 5. Property Appeals Board, Seat 4 (1/1/26-12/31/28) Sarah Pollyea**

To be announced at a later date:

- 6. Charter Review Commission, Seat 5 (1/1/26-12/31/30)**
- 7. Charter Review Commission, Seat 6 (1/1/26-12/31/30)**
- 8. Charter Review Commission, Seat 7 (1/1/26-12/31/30)**

Mayor Laurie Jadwin stated that the items were for informational purposes only. She announced the following appointments as listed for Board of Zoning and Building Appeals, Landscape Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning Commission, and Property Appeals Board. Mayor Jadwin stated that she would announce her three appointments to the Charter Review

Commission at the next Council meeting due to recently discovered conflicts and that she would return to Council on the matter at the next meeting, which she noted would be the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 12, 2026.

H. MOTION TO ESTABLISH TIME AND DAY OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETINGS FOR 2026:

[2025-0270](#)

Proposed 2026 Legislative Calendar - Regular City Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Schnetzer, that the proposed legislative calendar establishing the time and day for Regular City Council and Committee of the Whole meetings for 2026 be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

I. MOTION TO ESTABLISH BOARD AND COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS FOR 2026:

1. Landscape Board, Wednesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Parks & Recreation Board, Wednesday, January 14 at 6:15 p.m.
3. Planning Commission, Wednesday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m.
4. Civil Service Commission, Thursday, January 15 at 6:00 p.m.
5. Fair Housing Board, Thursday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m.
6. Records Commission, Tuesday, January 20 at 4:00 p.m.
7. Property Appeals Board, Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Padova, to establish board and commission organizational meetings for 2026 as listed in items #1-7. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

J. ADJOURNMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

President Weaver adjourned the organizational meeting at 4:22 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER (Regular):

President Weaver called to order the Regular Meeting of the Gahanna City Council at 4:23 p.m.

B. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None.

C. HEARING OF VISITORS:

Thomas Cartwright of 1016 Ridge Crest Drive, Gahanna, Ohio, addressed Mayor Laurie Jadwin, Council President Trenton Weaver, Councilmembers, and staff. He stated that he had researched Department of Homeland Security sources and, to his knowledge, neither the City of Gahanna nor the Gahanna Police Department had entered into 287(g) immigration enforcement cooperation agreements. He expressed hope that this information was correct and presented four questions. He asked whether the Gahanna Police Department had signed any 287(g) enforcement agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, whether the City had discussed or considered signing such agreements, what the City's position was regarding cooperation with ICE to investigate or arrest individuals based solely on immigration status, and whether the City would issue a formal statement on these issues. He thanked Council for the opportunity to speak.

Council President Trenton Weaver thanked Mr. Cartwright. Mayor Laurie Jadwin stated that it was not typically the City's practice to engage in such conversations during the meeting and said that Deputy Chief Moffitt and she would be happy to speak with him following the meeting. Mr. Cartwright expressed his appreciation and thanked them.

Sharon Montgomery of 572 Bonington Way, Gahanna, addressed Council. She stated that she was present to thank the City for several matters. She thanked the four ward members for their willingness to serve another term. She thanked Councilmembers Jamille Jones and Stephen Renner for their work in drafting, revising, and advancing a resolution affirming human dignity and thanked all Councilmembers for their suggestions to improve the language. She thanked Mayor Jadwin for making the final result a joint Council resolution and mayoral proclamation to demonstrate solidarity within City government. She thanked Council Clerk VanMeter for detailed meeting minutes that provided the public with a thorough account of the discussion of the resolution. She thanked City Attorney Tamilarasan for her efforts and courage in strengthening penalties for distracted driving that causes serious harm, noting that Westerville later followed that example, as well as Grove City and Reynoldsburg. She congratulated the Gahanna Police Department on earning unconditional advanced accreditation, which she described as the gold standard in modern professional policing, noting that the advanced level accreditation required meeting 461 standards, and that the approval was unanimous. She stated that she had worked with Deputy Chief Moffitt and Chief Spence and expressed pride in the department's achievement. She described Chief Spence's dedication to traffic safety, his responsiveness to her questions, and her support of his application to the Ohio Traffic Safety Council. She concluded by stating that she was glad to live in Gahanna.

D. CONSENT AGENDA:**1. Minutes - To Approve:**[2025-0271](#)

Council Regular Minutes 2025-12-15

The minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda.

End of Consent Agenda

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

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

E. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING / ADOPTION:**Recommended Amendment (Substitute EXHIBIT A):**[ORD-0055-2025](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ELITE EXCAVATING COMPANY OF OHIO, INC. FOR THE 2025 STREET REBUILD AND WATERLINE PROGRAM (ST-1116)

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Renner, that the Ordinance be Amended by Substitution of Exhibit A. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

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

Recommended Amendment (Substitute EXHIBIT A):[ORD-0056-2025](#)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SHELLY & SANDS, INC. FOR THE TAYLOR ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT (ST-1121)

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Bowers, that the Ordinance be Amended by Substitution of Exhibit A. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Councilmember Merisa Bowers stated that she wished to briefly note that the project constituted important infrastructure work. She acknowledged that the work likely would disrupt traffic and residents in the southern part of the community but expressed hope that, with good communication and patience, the community would be able to complete the work together.

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

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

Recommended Amendment (Substitute EXHIBIT A):

[ORD-0060-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED AT 110 N. HIGH ST., 120 N. HIGH ST., 130-140 MILL ST., 152 MILL ST., 153-155 MILL ST., 161-167 MILL ST., 169 MILL ST., AND 170 MILL ST. IN THE CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Renner, that the Ordinance be Amended by Substitution of Exhibit A. 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 Bowers, that the Ordinance be Adopted as Amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

F. ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING & EMERGENCY ADOPTION:

[ORD-0061-2025](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO THE UNITED STEEL, PAPER & FORESTRY, RUBBER MANUFACTURING, ENERGY, ALLIED INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE WORKERS INTERNATIONAL (USW) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 2, 2026 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2029; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

Councilmember Merisa Bowers asked the administration whether the item aligned with the discussions and expectations established during the recent budget process. Miranda Vollmer, Senior Director of Administrative Services, responded that it did.

A motion was made by Bowers, seconded by Schnetzer, 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

G. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION, WAIVER & EMERGENCY ADOPTION:

[ORD-0001-2026](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF A PERPETUAL EASEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY ACCESS TO THE OHIO POWER COMPANY (AEP) FOR PRIMARY ELECTRIC SERVICE AT 825 TECH CENTER DRIVE; WAIVING SECOND READING, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

A motion was made by Schnetzer, 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

Councilmember Merisa Bowers asked the administration to explain the request for an emergency designation on the item. Senior Director of Operations Kevin Schultz stated that without the emergency designation, the City would delay the construction schedule for the municipal complex.

A motion was made by Schnetzer, seconded by Bowers, 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

H. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

1. Clerk

Clerk VanMeter noted for the record that the Council Office received the annexation case known as the Toney Annexation for 4736 and 4722 Johnstown Road on December 12, 2025. He stated that, pursuant to statute, Council must observe a 60-day waiting period and that February 9, 2026, represented the earliest date on which Council could consider discussion of the item.

2. Council

[2026-0001](#)

Quarterly Update Newsletter Received 2025-12-30 - Strengthening Partnerships at the Gahanna John E. Bickley YMCA

Councilmember Merisa Bowers stated that Council had received a new quarterly update from the Gahanna YMCA earlier in the week. She said that she did not know whether all Councilmembers had received it and that she had asked Mr. VanMeter and Council President Weaver to attach it to the

minutes. She explained that the quarterly newsletter included staff introductions and statistics from the past year or the period during which the YMCA had operated in Gahanna. She stated that, as an informational point, it was worth noting in the minutes the receipt of the quarterly update email.

I. REPRESENTATIVES:

1. Community Improvement Corporation (CIC)

Councilmember Kaylee Padova reported that the last meeting occurred on December 16, 2025, at 7:30 a.m. and that Councilmembers had been invited to attend. She stated that Councilmembers Merisa Bowers, Trenton Weaver, and Nancy McGregor attended. She reported that Director Gottke presented a 2025 operations report followed by a 2026 look-ahead. She stated that the committee then proceeded with its regular meeting and that the most notable action involved a vote to move forward with Montrose Group as the vendor for the organization's strategic plan to be developed in 2026. She stated that additional information would be forthcoming. Councilmember Padova also reported that the meeting time for Community Improvement Corporation meetings had changed for the year. She stated that the meetings would occur on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. instead of Tuesdays and that the next meeting would take place on January 21, 2026.

2. Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)

Council President Weaver noted there was no formal report for this meeting but looked forward to delivering a full report at the next meeting.

3. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)

None.

4. School Board (SB)

Vice President Jamille Jones stated that Thursday, January 8, 2026, would be the organizational meeting for the School Board, during which all new members would be sworn in and the meeting schedule for the year would be confirmed. She also reminded Councilmembers and the community that Saturday, January 10, 2026, would provide an opportunity to tour the new high school. She stated that the doors would open at 9:30 a.m., the ceremony would begin at 10:00 a.m., and that additional details regarding parking and building entry were available on the school district's homepage. She concluded her remarks by stating that she hoped to see everyone on January 10.

J. OFFICIAL REPORTS:**1. Mayor**

Mayor Laurie Jadwin offered several comments as the City began 2026 and described the moment as one filled with progress, possibility, and promise for the community. She referenced Vice President Jamille Jones's earlier report and stated that, in the coming days, City leaders and community members would join partners from the Gahanna-Jefferson School District to celebrate the grand opening of the new Gahanna Lincoln High School. She noted recent construction fencing around the old building as preparations began for the next phase following student relocation and stated that the project represented a milestone and long-term commitment to education and future generations. She expressed anticipation for attending the event and supporting the school district. Mayor Jadwin stated that, in a few months, the City would celebrate the grand opening of the new Gahanna Civic Center, a project three years in development. She explained that the facility would house a new police headquarters and provide modern training and meeting space to support contemporary policing practices. She thanked Sharon Montgomery for her research on CALEA accreditation and recognized the achievement as a significant accomplishment for the Police Division and the community. She stated that the building would also include a new Senior Center with 116 percent more programmable space, address a community venue gap, and support City Hall operations with upgraded technology and professional workspaces. She stated that the Civic Center would stand as a visible symbol of good governance, accessibility, and community pride. Mayor Jadwin reported that redevelopment of the Creekside District continued to move forward, with the private development project progressing through the developer's due diligence period. She stated that the project aimed to transform downtown into a vibrant place to gather, shop, and connect. She also stated that, following adoption of the 2025 capital budget, the City would continue investing in public infrastructure, including parks, playgrounds, trails, streets, water and sewer lines, and public safety. She noted that these investments would benefit every neighborhood and resident and improve quality of life across the community. Mayor Jadwin stated that none of these efforts occurred in isolation and emphasized her role as chief executive officer of the City. She said that her team looked forward to working with City Council and the City Attorney's Office to implement the City's strategic plan, Our Gahanna, adopted in November. She stated that bringing the community's shared vision to life required partnership, respect, and collaboration and that collective efforts moved the City forward and delivered meaningful results for residents. Mayor Jadwin stated that administering the oath of office always held significance for her and that doing so for elected officials served as a reminder of the purpose of public service. She reaffirmed

the City's commitment to human dignity and the welcoming character of the community, referencing comments made by Sharon Montgomery. She stated that recent events had given additional meaning to the joint proclamation and resolution issued at the end of 2025. She emphasized the importance of kindness, inclusion, and mutual respect as guiding values for governance and community interaction and expressed pride in the community's unity. Mayor Jadwin thanked members of Council, the City Attorney, and City staff for their service, partnership, and dedication to residents. She stated that she looked forward to a productive and meaningful year in 2026 and concluded her remarks.

2. City Attorney

[2025-0272](#)

City Attorney's Annual Report to City Council 2026-01-02

City Attorney Tamilarasan presented her 2026 Annual Report in accordance with her Charter obligation. She stated that she had provided a written report detailing all pending and resolved litigation from 2025 and noted that she would not review it in detail because Council had received updates as each matter progressed. She reported that the City had resolved four multi-year litigations in favor of the City. She stated that three litigations remained pending and that the City actively participated in them. She noted that one matter involved a Board of Zoning and Building Appeals case that opened in November and remained in the initial stages, with an initial briefing schedule set for January 2026. She also reported that the City had resolved several recent Bureau of Workers' Compensation claims and that one claim remained outstanding. She concluded that litigation matters stood well in hand and remained favorable to the City.

K. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilmember Stephen Renner stated that he wished to acknowledge comments previously made by the Mayor regarding the oath of office. He said that he felt deeply moved each time he witnessed an officer's swearing-in and that the experience often brought him to tears. He stated that he felt similarly moved during his own oath and emphasized the powerful responsibility of serving as a trustee of the City and as a Councilmember for the people of Gahanna.

Councilmember Kaylee Padova thanked those present and noted that many families attended the meeting. She recognized the support systems behind Council's work and acknowledged the sacrifices made by families, including time spent waiting during meetings and community events. She thanked Council families for their support, stated that Councilmembers did not serve alone, and expressed gratitude for her family's daily support. She said she looked forward to the coming year and the next four years and wished everyone a happy new year.

Councilmember Michael Schnetzer extended New Year's greetings to colleagues, elected officials, City staff, residents, and attendees. He stated that he looked forward to another productive year and referenced milestones noted by the Mayor, including moving into the new municipal center and observing progress in the downtown area. He reflected on being sworn in for the fourth time and stated that when he first ran for office, he had not anticipated serving four terms. He said that his original goal involved improving the City's finances following the global financial crisis and stated that the City had made significant progress. He expressed his commitment to continued collaboration and to delivering exceptional services while maintaining Gahanna as a welcoming community with strong financial footing for future generations.

Councilmember Merisa Bowers congratulated her four colleagues who were sworn in for subsequent terms and stated that she felt honored to serve with them. She said she looked forward to at least the next two years of service. She noted the significant changes that had occurred since she first took office in 2020 and described the City as standing on the edge of major change within the community, school district, City operations, and private development. She emphasized the responsibility to remain focused on service to residents and to responsibly use the resources provided by the community to deliver infrastructure, services, and social support. She thanked her colleagues again and stated that she looked forward to a productive 2026.

Vice President Jamille Jones thanked her colleagues for appointing her as Vice President and stated that she appreciated their confidence in her leadership and ability to serve in that role. She expressed her commitment to collaborative work with Council, the administration, and residents to implement the City's strategic plan and to continue building a community where everyone belonged and thrived. She reflected on the start of the new year as a time for recommitment and encouraged care for one another through words and actions. She emphasized listening with the intent to understand, assuming positive intent, and working through differences together. She stated that the community would continue to grow stronger through collaboration, thanked Council again for their trust, and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council President Trenton Weaver thanked Vice President Jones and stated that his remarks focused on gratitude. He thanked those in attendance and expressed appreciation for public comment from speakers. He thanked the police officers and honor guard and stated that the presentation of colors remained a moving experience. He acknowledged recent losses within the

Gahanna community, including the passing of Mike Meeks, whom he credited with leading the Shepherd Nazarene basketball league and involving many young people in the sport. He stated that Mr. Meeks left behind a meaningful legacy. He also acknowledged a recent tragedy affecting another Gahanna family and noted that resources remained available for individuals struggling, including the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the Gahanna Police Department. Council President Weaver stated that it remained an honor to serve as a Ward Councilmember and thanked State Representative Beryl Brown Piccolantonio for administering the oath of office. He thanked his family for their support, including his parents, wife Aileen, and son Otto. He expressed gratitude to his colleagues and thanked Councilmember Merisa Bowers for her leadership during the previous years. He congratulated Vice President Jones and stated that he looked forward to working with her. He thanked City Attorney Tamilarasan for her continued partnership and guidance and thanked Mayor Laurie Jadwin for her collaboration as the City advanced major projects and initiatives. He expressed appreciation for City staff for their daily work on behalf of residents, businesses, and visitors and thanked residents for their continued trust. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and announced that Council would adjourn, noting that the Committee of the Whole meeting would occur on Monday, January 12, 2026, and that the regular Council meeting would move to Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

L. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Council, President Weaver adjourned the regular meeting at 5:00 p.m.

*APPROVED by the City Council, this
day of 2026.*

Trenton I. Weaver

Jeremy A. VanMeter
Clerk of Council