

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Meeting, Thursday, August 15, 2024, with eleven members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; Burns, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Hill, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Lopez, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO; presiding. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel; Shelley Kneuvean, Chief Financial Officer; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director; Michael Peterson, Assistant Budget Director; Diana Miles, Solid Waste/Recycling Manager; and Monica L. Sparks, Interim Unified Government Clerk.

Mayor Garner said before I call the meeting to order I want to announce that some commissioners, staff, and the public are attending remotely via Zoom, by phone, or on-site. All participants joining by phone, please mute their phones at this time when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is observing knows exactly who is speaking and please be sure to speak directly into the microphone so the public can hear your comments and an accurate record can be made of this meeting. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is also current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General's Office. There will be no public comments tonight unless a request or a question is made from one of your commissioners. If a request is made for an individual in the audience to speak, please make sure that you abide by the Commission Rules of Procedures that do not violate any ordinance regarding disorderly conduct that respects the integrity as well as the decorum of this Chamber.

Mayor Garner called the meeting to order.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. to formalize adoption of the Amended 2024 and Proposed 2025 Unified Government Budget in the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building. Roll call was taken and there were eleven “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites, Garner.

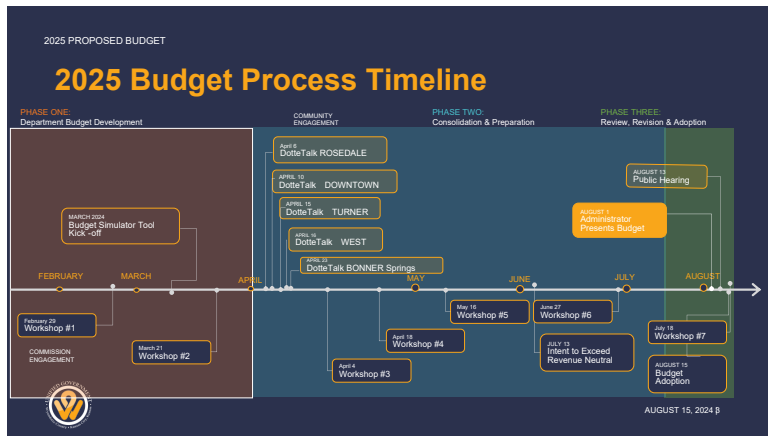
CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Garner said there is just one item on tonight’s agenda although there are various items that you will see that coincides with this item. Each one of those items, just so you know, will be going through in a separate vote for your approval after you consider it. At this time I’ll turn this portion of the meeting of the Administrator’s item, which we’ll talk about the budget items for you all’s consideration. As far as those recommendations and vote, I’ll turn it over to our Budget Director, Reginald Lindsey.



Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director, said in the first quarter of the year the Commission set out four priorities for our organization to concentrate on which included Uphold Fiscal Sustainability, Foster Economic Development, Focus on Service & Communication, and Improve Infrastructure.

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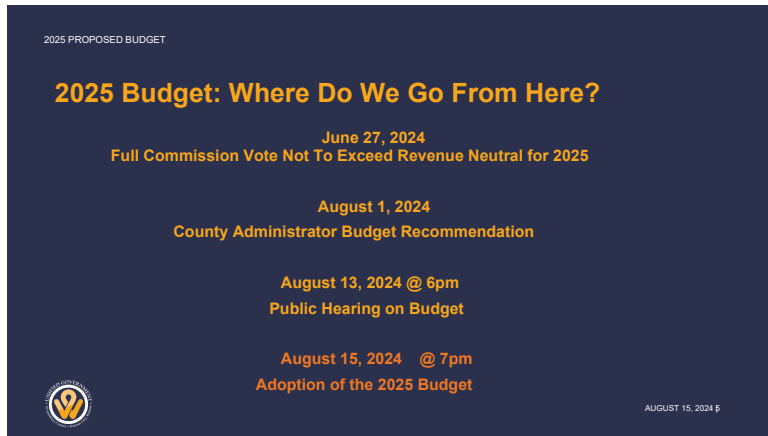
We started our 2025 Budget process in February and it started out with Department Budget Development and then also Community Engagement and then we took information from the community and also the departments and consolidated and prepared them for the County Administrator. From there, the County Administrator proposed his budget. Since he's proposed this budget, we've reviewed it with the Commission and we've also revised it and tonight we're here to adopt it. We've gone over a timeframe from February to now where we've been working the budget pretty hard.



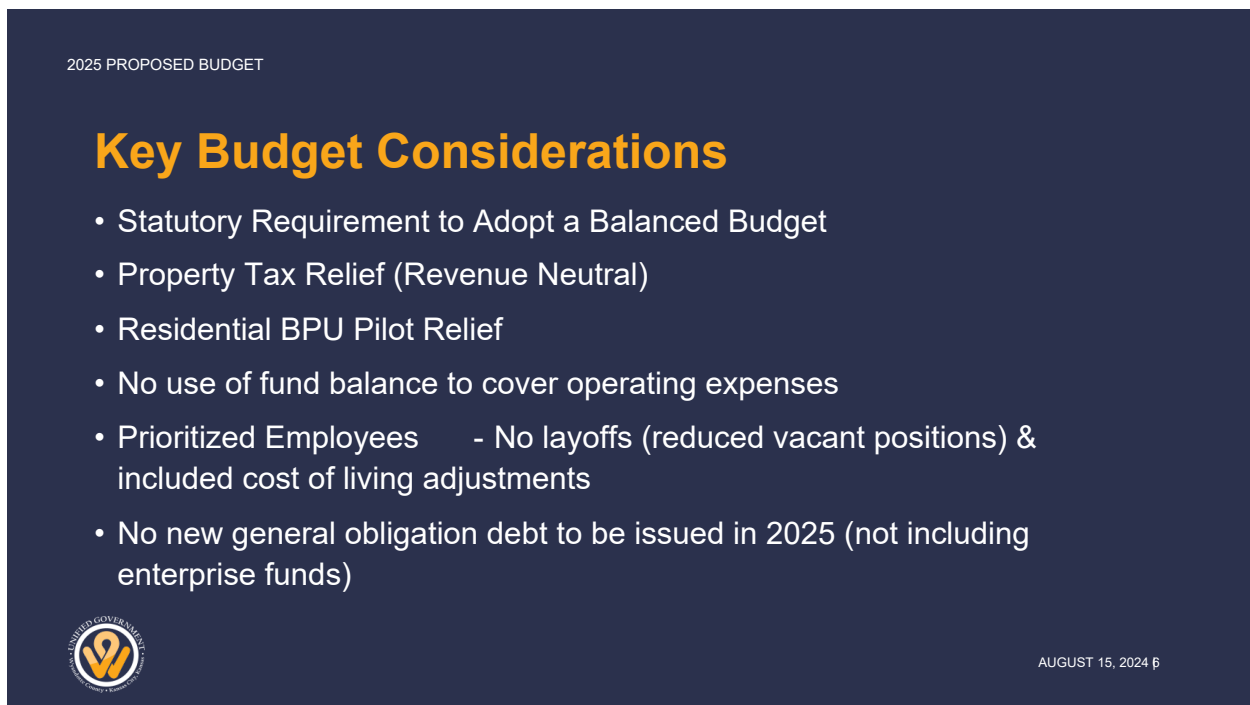
We've had a record number of engagements with the public and also the Commission. We've had nine Budget Workshops, we've also had five DotteTalks Conversations across the community. Last year we had three and we expanded two. We also had a 2025 City and County Budget Simulator. In the past the budget simulator had only been for the whole Unified Government. This year we broke it out into city and county where we got 118 responses for the city and 79 for the county.

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Also, within that, we did have three public hearings which included the exceed revenue neutral public hearing which the Commission voted to not exceed revenue neutral.



We have gone from June 27th where the full commission voted not to exceed the revenue neutral for 2025. Then, August 1st County Administrator Johnston proposed his 2025 Budget, then August 13th a little earlier this week, we had our last public hearing which was our third one and tonight we're here to vote on adopting the budget.

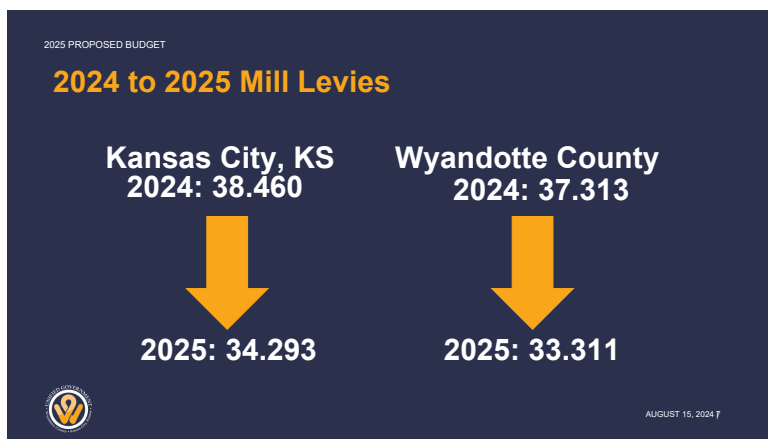


Some key budgetary considerations that we took during this budget cycle were statutory requirement to adopt a balanced budget. Then, property tax relief where the Commission voted to

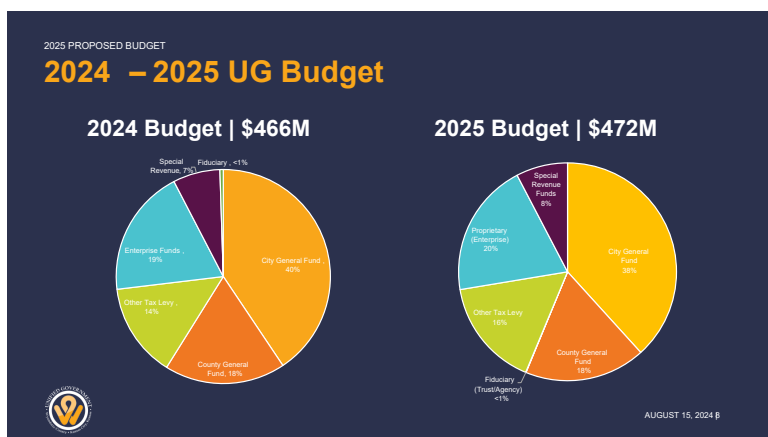
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go revenue neutral. Then, we do have residential Pilot Relief for residential customers with BPU and we are dropping the PILOT from 11.9% to 10.9%. One of the things that we are doing, we are not using fund balance to cover operating expenses. We do have a truly balanced budget where we are not dipping into our fund balance. Also, one of the things that happened during this budget season is we prioritized employees, so we didn't have any layoffs, but we did reduce vacant positions and we also did include cost-of-living adjustments for all employees.

Also, one of the things that I haven't seen in all the budgets I did, we had no new general obligation debt to be issued using property tax funds for 2025.

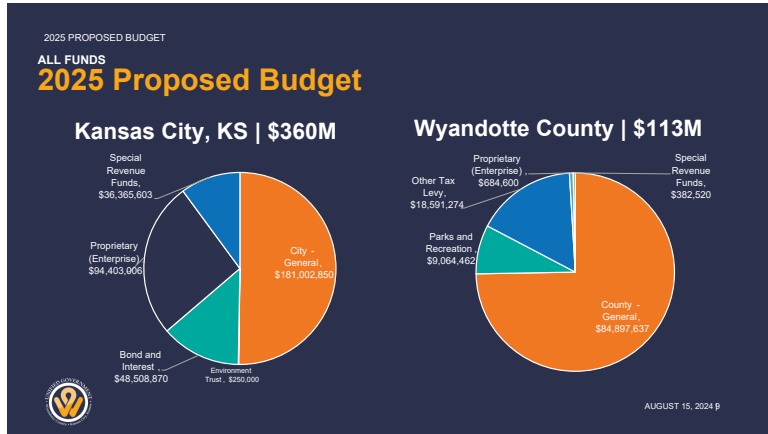


Also, for 2024 compared to 2025 mill levies would involve going revenue neutral, the city of Kansas City, Kansas did drop over 4 mills, went from 38 mills down to 34 mills and then the county of Wyandotte County did drop 4 mills there. We went from 37 mills to 33 mills.



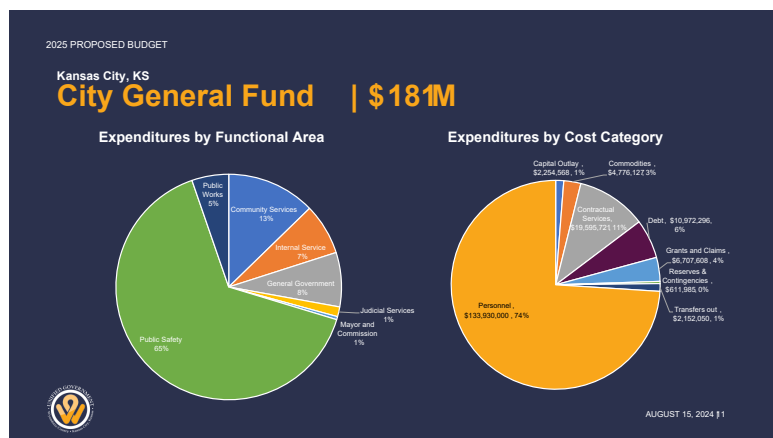
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The 2025 Budget is a \$472M budget. It did grow 1.5% from last year. Last year's budget was \$466M, which is about \$6M it grew and this includes 31 different funds.

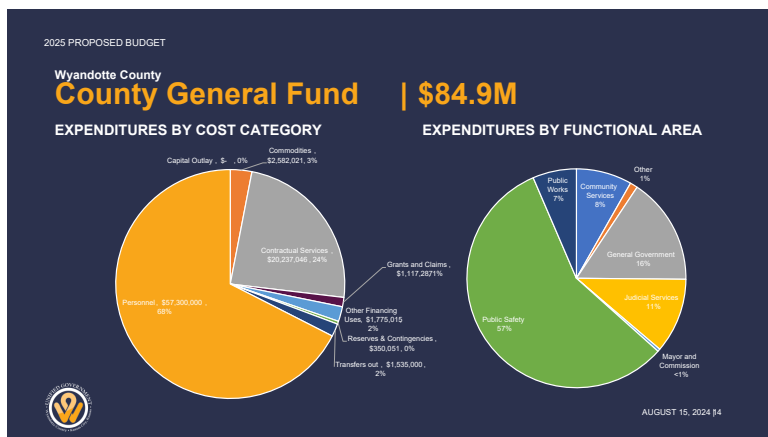
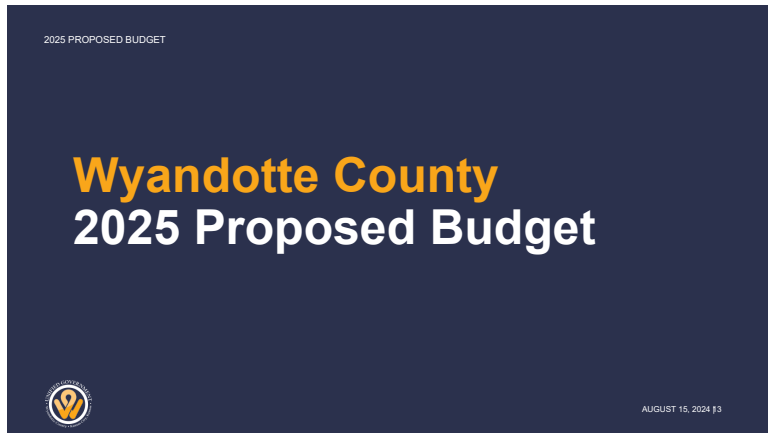


The proposed budget for Kansas City, Kansas with the different funds that are there is a \$360M budget and then the Wyandotte County budget is a \$113M budget.

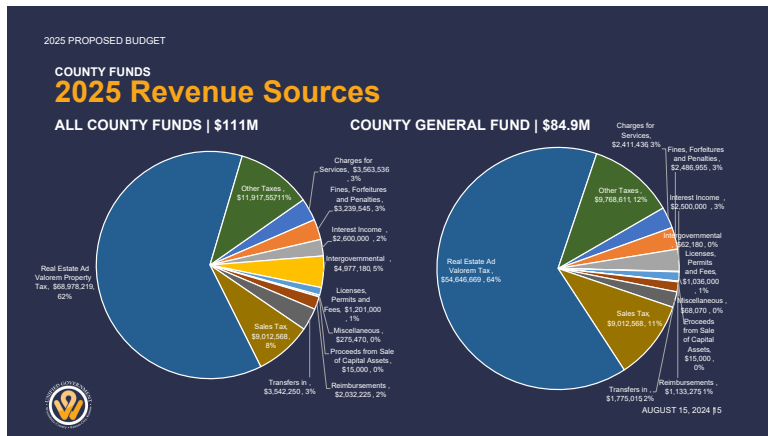




One thing you'll notice about the city is when we get to the county is that the City General Fund it has a diverse pot of revenue, which is just doesn't depend on property tax. It does have Sales Tax, it does have the PILOT, and does have Other Taxes also.



The Wyandotte County General Fund budget is a \$84M budget. This budget was almost the exact same last year. It was like \$84.2M. Personnel is the biggest piece coming at 68%. We look at expenditures by Functional Area. Public Safety is the largest at 57%.



2025 Revenue Sources on the county side include \$111M in revenues for all funds and then with the County General Fund, it's \$84.9M that is coming in and we can see—talked about a little earlier as far as on the city side how diverse the revenues are. So, we see we do have property tax coming in at 64% of the pie for revenue in the County General Fund, but we can see that it is the largest piece. The revenues here aren't as diverse as over in the city and you can see the sales tax don't make up the biggest pieces of the pie and, again, property taxes at like 64% which it doesn't give us a lot to lean on when going revenue neutral.

2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET ADOPTION

- Action Items:
 1. Ordinance: Self Supporting Municipal Improvement District
 2. Ordinance: Sanitary Sewer Rate
 3. Ordinance: Solid Waste Fee
 4. Resolution: BPU PILOT
 5. Resolution/Ordinance: Adopting the County Budget & Capital Improvement Plan
 6. Resolution/Ordinance: Adopting the City Budget & Capital Improvement Plan
 7. Resolution: Wyandotte County Library

AUGUST 15, 2024 #6

The budget adoption tonight that we're bringing forward is an ordinance for Self-Supporting Municipal Improvement District. They also did go revenue neutral. We have an ordinance for Sanitary Sewer rate. We're looking at a 4% increase and then the ordinance for Solid Waste, we're looking to stay the same. A resolution for a BPU PILOT where we will reduce a residential PILOT from 11.9% to 10.9%. Then, numbers five and six are resolutions to adopt the budget for the

county and then a separate one to adopt for the city. This is the first time that is being done. Then we have a resolution for the Wyandotte County Library and they also did go revenue neutral.

2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET ADOPTION: YELLOWSHEET

Adjustments to Proposed Budget	CITY GENERAL FUND		COUNTY GENERAL FUND	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
City General Fund:				
Closure of Armourdale Fire Station #3 (18 FTE)	\$ -	\$ 2,246,273	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Overtime Reduction	\$ -	\$ (2,246,273)	\$ -	\$ -
County General Fund:				
Ending Extension Council Building Lease Agreement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (151,800)
Extension Council New Facility Capital Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,800
DA Victim Advocate Position (1 FTE)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 93,000
Sheriff Correctional Cadet Program (Adding Back Into 2025 Budget)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Sheriff CIP Requests (Adding CIP back in that had been removed)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 336,000
Increase County General Fund Vacancy Rate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (336,000)
TOTAL:	-	-	-	-

 AUGUST 15, 2024 #7

This is our yellow sheet for changes to the budget from when we first proposed it to everyone. On the city side when we originally proposed the budget, we had proposed to close the Armourdale station. We're not doing that now. The Fire Department has come back with some efficiencies in overtime instead of closing the station. Over on the county side our new CFO, Dr. Kneuvean, worked with the Extension Council to look into their lease and we will be canceling a lease for the Extension Council's current location at \$151K. With that happening, we'll have a contingency for the Extension Council to be able to move into their new location and then also we'll be able to fund a DA District Attorney Victim Advocate person at \$93K. Also, we originally took the Sheriff's Correctional Cadet Program out of the 2025 Budget and we'll be able to work that back in with the \$151K that was found with the building lease agreement.

Within our original Proposed 2025 Budget we had removed all the Sheriff's capital so we have built that back in and we're going to take additional vacancies to fund that and that is our presentation.

Mayor Garner said thank you to our Budget Director and to our CFO and staff that worked on this budget. Thank you to our Administrator who brought this proposal forward. Do any members of the Commission have any comments or questions?

Commissioner Kane said this is my opinion and only my opinion. You know this is my 19th budget. It's the most unusual budget that I've seen since I've been here. There were ways to do

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what some of the folks wanted to do without this big a hit. This hit is going to continue on for a couple more years. This isn't just going to happen in 2025. It's going to affect us in 2026. We're going to have to recoup it.

I don't remember what year it was, it might have been 2008 when one of the commissioners said do not lower the mill levy and we did lower the mill levy and the next year we had to raise it back up. I have deep concerns about what's going on like we're not going to be able to get the roads done like State or Parallel. I had the concerns about how their going in Public Safety and I know that's one of our biggest hits, but we had a Senator here the other day that talked about there's 50 some odd cities that went revenue neutral. I looked it up, not one of them was our size and if you go around the metropolitan area, not one municipality has went revenue neutral. Some of them got close, but we could have lowered the mill levy, lowered the PILOT without doing this to staff in short order because this is fast, it's cramped. I don't like it. I will be voting against some of the pieces of the budget, some of them I will be voting for.

Some of the people ask for this sometimes. Be weary of what you ask for because you might get it and in this case it's here and by the time it gets to me, my vote's not going to count, but it counts to me.

Commissioner Ramirez said I'll be quick. You can go back and see my passionate discussion on this and my thoughts, but I'm just going to be quick. As I stated before, at that time I cannot with good conscience support this budget. My district does not want me to support this budget. I've got enough calls, texts, and messages asking me to not vote for this and I'm going to honor that because they are my constituents. They're the ones who put me in this seat to be their representative. This is a blow to our Public Safety, to all departments and I commend staff for doing the hard work of doing their best to lighten the blow of this. I've said it before, this is a fiscally irresponsible policy directive that we have done. Yes, I voted for. I regret my vote, but I'm correcting it tonight by saying no and I want staff to know that my no doesn't mean it's against you. It's a no because I support our law enforcement, I support our Public Safety, I support our neighborhoods, I support all our departments. As long as I'm still in this seat, I will continue to fight for you and fight for my district and my community.

Mayor Garner said we'll now proceed to take action on the various items.

Commissioner Townsend said my apology, I hit the wrong button. I just have one question for clarification. We just received from our Administrator, and I believe these changes were incorporated into Mr. Lindsey's presentation. It looks to me as though, and I'd like to confirm this, what you have proposed is a balanced budget, a structurally balanced budget, so for all the changes received, even so some things are moved around, the net impact to that is zero. We are passing or being asked to pass a structurally balanced budget. Is that correct? **Mr. Lindsey** said that is correct.

Commissioner Lopez said real quick, we're on this pie chart here. The transfer in \$19,312,724M, is that from last year's, 2023 what was left over or just a percentage of what was left over. **Mr. Lindsey** asked, which pie chart—**Commissioner Lopez** said city funds, 2025 Revenue, transfers in on the brown. All city funds—oh, there we go, page 12, I'm sorry. **Michael Peterson, Assistant Budget Director**, said a lot of that is going to be the transfers for Debt Service. There's also transfers between several of our funds like the EMS Fund makes a transfer to the City General Fund to support the City General Fund so those are interfund transfers that happened within the year. That's not from prior year. **Commissioner Lopez** said I do not regret my vote for going revenue neutral, but I'd like to see the numbers that you guys see, not the numbers that we're being presented. That's where I'm at with that.

Commissioner Stites said I had asked several times now about this TIF for Plaza at the Speedway and I was told we were going to get those numbers. I don't know if they're incorporated into this or not. I guess that would be my question. It's a million dollars that would go 500 to the city and 500 to the county and I've yet to receive those. I don't know if they're incorporated into this or not. **Mr. Johnston** said they are not incorporated. That revenue stream is part of an economic development negotiations that we can't talk about further, so it's not incorporated until those negotiations are done and a decision about that project is made by this Commission.

Commissioner Stites said okay. I guess I wish I would have been told that when I asked for it multiple times that we're not allowed to talk about it. What I was told is that we would bring that number back to you and see if it was in here, but if we're not allowed to talk about it, I'll stop talking about it.

CIFI was one of the infrastructure programs that was for all of the county and what that was, was a certain amount of money. It was one mill on the county side that would go towards infrastructure needs. Half of it would go to the city, another quarter of it would go to Bonner Springs and another quarter would go to Edwardsville and I see that was just one of the things that we just automatically—we didn't reduce it, we eliminated it. I hate that it is something that is a benefit to everyone in this county to see the infrastructure—crumbling infrastructure and this was a mechanism that would help us minimally fund some of those projects. That's all I have.

IV. Administrator's Agenda:

Mayor Garner said that takes us to actions on the various items. The first action is the adoption of the 2024 Amended and the 2025 Budget for the city of Kansas City, Kansas including Capital Improvement projects. If any amendments are added, including attachments—I believe there's an Amendment A. I will now entertain a motion for approval.

Item No. 1 – Budget Items

Synopsis: Request adoption of the following resolutions and ordinances regarding the Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District, the Sewer Service Charge, Solid Waste Fee, the BPU PILOT, the 2024 Amended city of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County, Kansas Budget, and the 2025 Proposed Budget for the city of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County, Kansas.

Commissioner Bynum said I just want to make sure, so in the body of our agenda packet is the actual order in which we're taking these. Is that correct? **Mayor Garner** said I believe so. **Commissioner Bynum** said so what you're asking for a motion on is the city of Kansas City Kansas Annual Budget. **Mayor Garner** said yes commissioner.

Action: **Commissioner Bynum** said so moved.

Mayor Garner said there is a motion for approval. Is there a second?

Commissioner Burroughs said maybe I'm on the wrong site tonight, but I see the first item up on the budget is the request adoption of the Municipal Code, the BPU and the PILOT. We're not

going to vote for them separately. We're going to take this right up front. I think that's some of the confusion Mayor. Okay, we're going to break them out even though the synopsis is what I think that was some of the confusion. We were looking at the synopsis and it's going to go Item 1 after that. Okay gotcha. I just wanted to clarify.

Action: **ORDINANCE NO. O-96-24**, “An ordinance approving, adopting and appropriating the Operating and Capital Improvement Project budgets of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas for Kansas City, Kansas as submitted and amended by Attachment A for the fiscal years beginning January 1, 2024, and the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025; approving the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”
Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs, to approve the ordinance. Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Hill; and four “no’s,” Ramirez, Kane, Lopez, Stites.

Item No. 2:

Synopsis: Resolution approving, adopting and appropriating the Operating and Capital Improvement Project Budgets of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas for Wyandotte County, Kansas, as submitted and amended by Attachment A, for the fiscal years beginning January 1, 2024, and the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025; approving the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Action: **Resolution No. R-49-24**, “A resolution approving, adopting and appropriating the Operating and Capital Improvement Project Budgets of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, for Wyandotte County, Kansas, as submitted and amended by Attachment A, for the fiscal years beginning January 1, 2024 and the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025; approving the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”
Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.

Conversation was inaudible.

Mayor Garner said for clarity, the synopsis is not really what you're voting on. I believe some of the commissioners asked for each item to be voted on separately, so what I'm actually reading to you is what you will be voting on that is an alignment with your synopsis if that makes sense.

Conversation was inaudible.

Commissioner Stites said I'm thinking that the request that we're talking about is what I asked for and that was a request that we vote on a city budget separate and a county budget separate, not on individual items being broken down. **Mayor Garner** said correct. **Commissioner Stites** said okay, just making it clear.

Mayor Garner said I do believe I have and I'll repeat it. Item No. 2 that I'm reading to you is the adoption of the 2024 Amended and the 2025 Budget for Wyandotte County, Kansas including Capital Improvement Projects. I believe I had a motion from Commissioner Bynum. Is there a second? **Commissioner Davis** said I second. **Mayor Garner** said there's a second from Commissioner Davis. Is there any more questions? Okay, Clerk, roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Hill; and four "no's," Ramirez, Kane, Lopez, Stites.

Item 3:

Synopsis: A resolution setting the percentage of gross operating revenue to be set over by the Board of Public Utilities to the Unified Government for the fiscal year 2025, the PILOT.

Mayor Garner said we have the approval of a resolution setting the BPU percentages of gross revenues set over by BPU to the Unified Government for 2025 and our Budget Director listed that. I believe it's going from 11.9 to 10.9, so I'll entertain a motion.

Action: **Resolution No. R-50-24**, “A resolution setting the percentage of gross operating revenue to be set over by the Board of Public Utilities to the Unified Government for the fiscal year 2025.” **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs, to adopt the resolution.**

Mayor Garner said just for clarity, and I apologize, that is merely just for residential, not including the business or commercial. I believe last year this Commission chose to separate those two to be able to take the type of action that you’re seeing tonight. There’s a motion I believe that Commissioner Bynum made and is there a second? There is a second from Commissioner Burroughs. Clerk, roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites.

Item No. 4:

Synopsis: Resolution expressing the Property Taxation Policy of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, with respect to financing the 2025 Annual Budget for the Wyandotte County Library and approving, adopting, and appropriating the budget of the Wyandotte County Library Board and levying a tax for the year beginning January 1, 2025.

Mayor Garner said the fourth item is the approval of a resolution financing the Annual 2025 Budget for the Wyandotte County Library. I’ll entertain a motion for approval.

Action: **Resolution No. R-51-24**, “A resolution expressing the Property Taxation Policy of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, with respect to financing the 2025 Annual Budget for the Wyandotte County Library and approving, adopting, and appropriating the budget of the Wyandotte County Library Board and levying a tax for the year beginning January 1, 2025.” **Commissioner Bynum made a motion to approve with a note that we can’t really change this. This is purely ceremonial. Commissioner Burns seconded**

the motion. Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites.

Item No. 5:

Synopsis: An ordinance relating to Sewer Service Charges, approving the regulation establishing the rate, effective January 1, 2025, as authorized by Section 30-96 of the Code of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and repealing any previously adopted regulations establishing such rates.

Mayor Garner said the next is Item No. 5. I’ll entertain a motion for approval. There is a question from Commissioner Burroughs.

Commissioner Burroughs said I just wanted to ensure that this is part of the Consent Decree requirement that we are required to pay otherwise the community can be penalized heavily if we don’t continue to follow with this. Correct? **Mr. Lindsey** said yes sir.

Action: **Ordinance No. O-97-24**, “An ordinance relating to Sewer Service Charges, approving the regulation establishing the rate, effective January 1, 2025, as authorized by Section 30-96 of the Code of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and repealing any previously adopted regulations establishing such rates.” **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites.

Item No. 6:

Synopsis: An ordinance relating to the monthly fee on residential units in the city of Kansas City, Kansas, to fund the Unified Government’s Solid Waste Services, amending Section 31-17(b) of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Code and repealing original Section 31-17(b).

Mayor Garner said that takes us to the sixth item. We have the approval of the ordinance setting the Solid Waste Fees for single family residents and residential units in buildings not containing more than four dwelling units, effective January 1, 2025.

Commissioner Kane said I brought up the other day that it was \$1.07 and Cycling Yard Waste, Household Waste. Is there any leeway with my commissioners to give at least .75 cents so we can open a couple days a week? I realize three days is a little bit of a deal, but there's going to be a lot of trash and a lot of dumpster stuff that wouldn't be picked up and I'm asking, if possible, if you guys—the Commission would accept .75 cents. That's a motion.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve with increase of .75 cents for Cycling Yard Waste/Household Waste.**

Mayor Garner said before we do that, according to our Administrator, Commissioner, that was never taken out. Is that correct? **Ms. Kneuvean, Chief Financial Officer,** said we left in the budget what was proposed, which was keeping it flat looking for direction. So, in the ordinance, as I understand it, Legal has drafted it. If you look at the actual ordinance, they've got a blank so that you can put the \$17.94 that it is now, which is what was proposed or you could increase it. There's been different things thrown out. I think the suggestion was .75 cents so we could plug in the number that you guys want to ultimately adopt.

Mayor Garner said what I'm getting is there's a blank, so this Commission, if there's a motion to make, can make the determination on that fee at this point.

Commissioner Bynum said I thought the \$17.94 proposed monthly fee for 2025 included the \$1.07. **Ms. Kneuvean** said the \$17.94 is what we currently pay in '24 and it was keeping it flat in '25 so we would have to reduce some services. I think the question is do we want to keep it flat or do you want to increase it some, which is at the pleasure of the Commission and with whatever is decided, then we could bring back an adjusted plan of what could be accomplished. **Commissioner Bynum** said the fee would be \$19.01 a month if we add it to keep Household Hazardous Waste, Recycling, and Dumpster.

Action: Commissioner Bynum made a motion for the \$19.01.

Mayor Garner said before I entertain that, we've got more question.

Commissioner Townsend said—**Mayor Garner** said before I do that, I'm going to take five minutes. We've got some technical difficulties and interference, so we'll take about a five minute break so staff can work on that. **Someone** said well, now we're good. **Mayor Garner** said okay, we're back. No we're not. We'll take a five minute break. We'll take a slight recess so we can get that corrected. Recess started at 5:36 p.m.

Mayor Garner reconvened at 5:39 p.m. I believe we have the technical situation resolved. Before we go back to the motions, we've got more questions from our commissioners.

Commissioner Lopez said that trash deal is \$17.94, correct? What does Waste Management hit us for. What is their bill, is it like \$15 or something? **Ms. Kneuvean** said for 2024, current year, it's \$15.01 and for next year part of the 2025 it's \$16.04, so you do still have some difference that we're charging that we collect and that helps to fund some of these other services, the staff that administers the program and so forth. **Commissioner Lopez** said they always go this hazard waste, it's got to charge you extra which is—that needs to be questioned because that goes in the same truck and it goes in the same hole. It all goes in the same hole, so I don't understand why they say we've got to charge extra because it's hazardous waste. It all goes in the same hole, so that needs to be questioned.

Ms. Kneuvean said, Commissioner, are you talking about curbside? **Commissioner Lopez** said no. I'm just talking about Waste Management, what they charge. So, there's a little over \$2 difference, almost \$3 difference. How can we kind of take it off of there, that .75 cents? **Ms. Kneuvean** said in the contract that we have that goes for eight more years, it's predetermined and it's based on a formula, based on the CPI which is independently verified and that's mathematically what the increase comes out to, to be a small increase from \$15.01 to \$16.04. **Commissioner Lopez** said I know it's a small increase but at the end of the day that's a large amount of money, but is it possible for us just to take the .75 cents and just go—if they're hitting

this for \$15.01, then now—and that’s almost a \$3 difference so now we’re at \$2.25 basically is quote, unquote is what we’re turning.

Ms. Kneuvean said let me be clear real quick. So, \$17.94 is what we pay in total for each—the citizens pay for residential and of that \$15.01 goes to Waste Management. The extra \$2.93 helps fund Dumpster Days, Recycling, all these other programs and the staff and some money that we’re required to spend on—I forget the name of it, but it’s—we had a landfill that was in place for two years so we have environmental monitoring requirements so it pays for that. If we did the .75 cents or .50 cents on top of what currently is paid, \$17.94, so .50 cents would make the bill \$18.44 a month, .75 cents would be \$18.69 and then the full amount would be \$1.07 more, so it would be \$19.01. We would have to come back to you. Whatever your direction is ultimately on the monthly rate, we would bring back then here’s the proposal of the most we can do with whatever resources are provided and then you would be able to see the changes there.

Mr. Johnston said if I may interject, I think to answer your question, as our CFO said, is that the base Waste Management rate is in our current contract and it’s calculated annually and so we’re obligated to pay Waste Management, that’s increased to \$16.04 a year. Then, on top of that is the extras, Hazardous Waste pickups, special pickups, etc., Dumpster Days and all that. So pretty much the only variable cost that you have influence on is the extra and so that’s what—we can’t do anything with the Waste Management rate. That’s contractually obligated by us.

Commissioner Lopez said so the Dumpster Days, are those roll offs, are those Waste Management roll offs or do we own those roll offs. **Ms. Kneuvean** said I believe Waste Management and then we pay to have the roll off. We turn through them pretty quick. **Commissioner Lopez** said I get that. **Ms. Kneuvean** said yeah, so then they come and they take them so they can be refilled. We pay for that service separately because that is not in the base contract, so that’s why you have to pay for that separately. **Commissioner Lopez** said what I’m saying is if we owned them, it would be so much cheaper for us just to truck them right over there off—right where they’re at and dump them. It’d be so much cheaper and we can still save money and it would be cheaper on the taxpayers. **Ms. Kneuvean** said we can look into owning our dumpsters and what the cost comparison would be to take them and dump them, what the tipping fee would be at the landfill. We can certainly look at that.

Commissioner Davis said I recall, and please correct me if I'm wrong, the request from staff was an increase of \$1.07, not \$1. **Ms. Kneuvean** said it's \$1.07, so it would go up to \$19.01. We're at \$17.94 now. It would go up to \$19.01. **Commissioner Davis** said okay, but it was \$1.07 not \$1. **Ms. Kneuvean** said correct. It was \$1.07 then there's discussion going on about options in between, keep everything as is, it would be \$1.07 more. **Commissioner Davis** said which would be \$19.01. **Ms. Kneuvean** said correct.

Commissioner Townsend said I understood when I came in here it's the last minute changes that always gets us. So, \$17.94 is what our residents currently see on their BPU bill. **Ms. Kneuvean** said that's correct. **Commissioner Townsend** said staff's initial recommendation was not to pass on an increase of how much? **Ms. Kneuvean** said \$1.07. **Commissioner Townsend** said \$1.07, okay and our current budget is predicated on the \$17.94, but that does come with reduction of services. That is right, so now the motion, please correct me if I'm wrong, is to add how much? **Mayor Garner** said that hasn't been determined because there were two motions, so I have to work through that process. There were two conflicting motions, so we got to backpedal, work that back. **Commissioner Townsend** said all right. I'll have to hold my question because the question attended to that was will either of those dollar figures that are being proposed be enough to—what will it be enough to do? I want clarity on that. Will it be more Dumpster Days, more to totally cover and will any of this impact what we've already said we were presented with tonight, a balanced budget? So, those are my questions.

Ms. Kneuvean said to answer both of those questions, first I'll answer the second one. No, it does not impact a balanced budget. What's being proposed is what should the fee structure be, not taking money from any kind of fund balance, so we are still structurally balanced and then depending on the dollar amount, we would bring back some options of what would we be able to afford instead of maybe—like right now, we still—because there is some difference even still we reduce down to two Household Hazardous Waste events a year instead of seven. So, if there's more resources approved, then we'll figure out and bring back, okay, we could do four and we could do one Dumpster Days. It depends on how much is approved and then we could bring back a plan. We still have time. None of this would go in effect until January, so everything that's funded in the current year, all of the Household Hazardous Waste events, the Dumpster Days that are scheduled, those all proceed as they are. This would all be next January through December.

Commissioner Townsend said okay, good explanation. So, whatever may or may not be approved, will dictate what services come back, but this extra revenue would be coming from passing on additional cost to the citizens—**Ms. Kneuvean** said to the residents, that's right.

Commissioner Stites said this may be for—well yeah you're there. It might be staff that's here that might be able to answer. I want to be clear about just a couple different things. As far as Dumpster Days, the location of Dumpster Days and where are they at and who has access to those. Is that countywide and then also on the Hazardous Waste dumping location, is that also open to all Wyandotte County residents or is it just KCK? **Ms. Kneuvean** said it's only to KCK for those services because the cities of Edwardsville and Bonner Springs opted out, so they're passing along only their cost of the Waste Management services. **Mr. Johnston** said Edwardsville has its own trash contract. Bonner Springs piggybacks on our contract, so that's the dynamic of the base trash services in the county, so each city is responsible for their own obligation.

Diana Miles, Solid Waste/Recycling Manager, said each city should provide their Dumpster Days and Hazardous events; however, currently all Wyandotte County is able to access those services. **Commissioner Stites** said so like the Hazardous Waste they're able to come at no additional charge because I know last year there was an email or a letter that went out that actually threatened the charge to be charged a la Carte to each resident in Wyandotte County, an additional charge to Bonner Springs and Edwardsville to use the Hazardous Waste dump site. So, you're saying there's not any additional charges—and I understand that Bonner—I don't know about Bonner, but Edwardsville for sure does their own Dumpster Days, right? **Ms. Miles** was inaudible. **Commissioner Stites** said I appreciate the email that you sent to help clarify this and I appreciate you answering right now. **Ms. Miles** said yes, so Edwardsville does have their own residential services with a different company. They have not in the past paid for any other additional services and do utilize the services that KCK residents fund.

Last year when we did the rate study that's where we did speak with Bonner and we shared the information to understand what was funded from that 2.93 extra from the monthly rate. So, in realizing that those were the extra charges, Bonner I don't think submitted payment—full payment, was just submitting payment for Waste Management because they piggyback off our contract with Waste Management. Right now I was working with Edwardsville, the City Manager there, and

we were going back and forth with the Legal Department to figure out the cost for Edwardsville residents and it would be a slight charge like our residents in KCK paid 2.93 extra for the services and Edwardsville will be around that or a little less just because we wouldn't be doing additional services like for Bonner or the billing with Waste Management and the calls.

Commissioner Stites said I appreciate that clarification because I think that there was some misinformation or just unknown I guess that this was a county service is what it appears, a Unified Government county service and then when they are being told these are citizens of our county, they just happen to reside in Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, that there would be an additional charge to them. I think that's where that was getting a little bit muddled up, so thank you very much for that.

As far as the Dumpster Days, and I'm not saying out west in Bonner and Edwardsville, I'm excluding them. I happen to also represent KCK, but as far as I know the only Dumpster Days locations were like at 47th & Orville and we have a whole lot of KCK that is west of 47th & Orville. **Ms. Miles** said yes, so we've had them out west. We had one event out west in the past and that was before I was in the department. **Commissioner Stites** said like how many years ago? **Ms. Miles** said probably like two years ago. **Commissioner Stites** said a couple years, okay. **Ms. Miles** said yes, but from the number we had a lot more participation on 47th & Orville. **Commissioner Stites** said that's because they use 98th Street under the bridge down by where I live as that dumpster. They continue to just dump that—so they don't really—they don't, you know, but what I'm saying and I didn't mean to interrupt you, but I just think that there is a need for that. I understand that you may have got a little more bang for your buck, but there also are needs further west for people to not utilize under the bridges.

Ms. Miles said the very first event that we held was on 78th & State, so that was the biggest event and then after that we did try different areas in the city and that's when I think they did the one out west. But comparing the numbers, the one on 47th & Orville just had a lot more people. **Commissioner Stites** said I like the idea of 78th & State too. That seems real centralized. Thank you for that and I appreciate your answers.

Commissioner Bynum said I just want to clarify one more thing because I forgot that the other thing that we learned as we were talking about the various reductions was, did you not share with us that we would—we have two graffiti abatement teams and we would lose one of those as a

result of the \$17.94 a month? **Ms. Miles** said we currently have one person that's part-time that does graffiti removal. This person works closely with the NRC and Community Policing team to tackle all those areas. Is that what we're talking—**Ms. Kneuvean** said the abatement teams are not part of Solid Waste. **Commissioner Bynum** said oh, it's separate, but I thought that was one of the things that was happening with this budget was that we were moving them out of Parks. **Ms. Kneuvean** said we were removing them from Parks supervision and putting them to NRC. **Commissioner Bynum** said but you're saying they're funded. **Ms. Kneuvean** said they are funded. One of the two are funded. **Commissioner Bynum** said so we did lose one. **Ms. Kneuvean** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said it has nothing to do with this. **Mr. Kneuvean** said it has nothing to do with the Solid Waste.

Commissioner Kane withdrew his motion.

Mayor Garner said Commissioner Bynum you had a motion. I think you might need to modify that or clarify that. Before you do that if it's a change, you might need to withdraw your first motion to get to where you need to be if there's a change with your motion going forward. **Commissioner Bynum** said the motion that I made stands, \$19.01. That is the motion.

Action: **Commissioner Kane** seconded the motion.

Mayor Garner said there is a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Clerk, roll call.

Commissioner Townsend said so the increase being proposed, was it \$2 or was it .75 cents? **Ms. Kneuvean** said it's \$1.07 more than what people currently pay and that is a charge that KCK residents pay just to be clear with what was just shared. Bonner Springs does not pay that. They pay only the Waste Management contract cost. **Commissioner Townsend** asked, is that the full amount that you were trying to avoid passing on under the initial plan? **Ms. Kneuvean** said yes. **Commissioner Townsend** said okay, so we're talking about the full amount. **Ms. Kneuvean** said yes.

Commissioner Burroughs said I guess the question I would have or the comment I would have is we all realize the amount of litter that is in our community and the amount of trash in our community and the questions we get about Waste Management missing pickups and there's much discussion in reference to how Waste Management does their business, yet we're talking about passing on a fee to the residents to keep the trash down. We're paying that fee now and the trash is not kept down. I don't know how much worse it can get and I think that's the message I'm getting that if we don't do this, it's only going to get worse. It really pains me to think that our community thinks that this is a dumping ground for the refuge when we have the best trash pickup contract in the metropolitan area.

Waste Management will pick up anything and everything in Wyandotte County, so I would hope that we would also consider better enforcement of littering and that we would consider raising the fees and fines associated to those that violate that public trust in Wyandotte County. That's what I struggle with. I don't like to see it put back on the backs of the people of this community when a lot of the dumping is from those that come in to dump in our community because their fees are so high in other parts of the region. I understand the request, but I just would hope that the people in this community understand that many of us do value how our community is viewed when you come in and see the amount of trash and refuge on the side of the road. I'm all for keeping it off the street. I'm all for punishing those that choose to use our community as a dumping ground.

Mayor Garner said any other discussion? I believe there's a motion and for the record Commissioner Kane seconded. Clerk, roll call.

Action: **Ordinance No. O-98-24**, "An ordinance relating to the monthly fee on residential units in the city of Kansas City, Kansas, to fund the Unified Government's Solid Waste Services, amending Section 31-17(b) of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Code and repealing original Section 31-17(b). **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve at \$19.01.** Roll call was taken and there were seven "Ayes," Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane; and three "no's," Townsend, Lopez, Stites.

Item No. 7:

Synopsis: An ordinance expressing the Property Taxation Policy of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas with respect to financing the 2025 Annual Budget for the Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District and approving, adopting, and appropriating the budget of the Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District and levying a tax for the year beginning January 1, 2025.

Mayor Garner said that takes us to the seventh item and I'll entertain a motion for the Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District budget.

Action: **Ordinance No. O-99-24**, "An ordinance relating to the monthly fee on expressing the Property Taxation Policy of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas with respect to financing the 2025 Annual Budget for the Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District and approving, adopting and appropriating the budget of the Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District and levying a tax for the year beginning January 1, 2025." **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Stites; and one "no," Lopez.

Mayor Garner said thank you all. I would just like to make some closing comments, so please bear with me. John F. Kennedy notice, he has a famous quote on leadership in his presidential nomination acceptance speech that he gave on July 15, 1960 and he stated for courage, not complacency, is our need today. Leadership, not salesmanship, and the only valid test of leadership is the ability to lead and lead vigorously. To hold the line on burdensome tax increases, to responsibly cut and to look forward at embracing a call to action for a streamlined more efficient Unified Government, the 2025 Budget approval is a big deal for Wyandotte County. It took leadership from your elected body to say not only will we be revenue neutral, but we will freeze our elected official pay increases, cut our elected official budgets, and give back our elected official discretionary funds to contribute in doing our part in the shared sacrifices that I've spoken about.

I want to applaud our CFO, our Budget Director, and our department heads for getting us to a balanced budget that safely secures commitments to our employees, but most importantly seeks to sustain essential services for our hardworking residents to include putting a pressure point on potential future property tax increases from your Unified Government.

We cannot spend more than we bring in. It totally goes against the narrative of being fiscally responsible, yes, that part, because I've personally never seen a community taxed into economic prosperity or individuals taxed into generational wealth. We must move past the notion that taxing, spending, borrowing, and depleting our reserve funds on the backs of our residents has been the only viable option. To do so ignores the reality that many of our people are being pushed deeper into despair, desperation, and financial ruin.

This 2025 Budget is not necessarily ideal, but considering the short amount of turnaround time staff had to work on getting us to where we are today, the 2025 Budget is a monumental step in the right direction for many of our residents.

What I can champion is that police cars will still be patrolling, firefighters will still be responding, office staff will still be serving our community, major infrastructure projects will still be prioritized for completion and trash will still be picked up at least most of the time.

As your Mayor the joys and tears changes and challenges, trials and trumpets, failures and setbacks, debates and sometimes debacles, successes and sacrifice have all taught me lessons on trying to project vision and leadership and the vast bureaucracy of government. Like many governments, government that often is completely comfortable with a status quo resistant to change. From my executive, managerial experience, the phrase this is how we've always done it shouldn't be an acceptable excuse for any of us. I share in the belief with many that we cannot keep doing the same things and expect a different result. As I said in another meeting, our residents don't expect us to solve all their problems, but they are very smart and the overwhelming consensus is that they believe and they know we can do better.

At the heart of these observations what has stood out is the ever growing watchful eye of residents who have rightfully expressed that we can ill afford to be complacent or ordinary in our service to them. I'm constantly reminded that we are all public servants beholden to our residents with the reality that there would be no Unified Government without our residents. This government is the community and the community is this government. As such, the amazing people of Wyandotte County are demanding that we give them our best and rightfully insisting that our

best always reflects excellence. To that end, my Unified Government friends, we must continue moving in a direction of being bold, strategic, intentional and consistent in our partnership with the community as we plant seeds for a bright future. A future that starts right now with an unwavering willingness to collaborate and positively contribute for future Wyandotte countians keeping in mind a humble question. Not just what we want for today, but better yet, what do we want to leave for those many Wyandotte countians in the future. I for one will join everyone—will join everyone that loves our great community in taking this opportunity to look for the good and reject the things that have consistently divided us.

I encourage all of us to openly embrace all that unites us in the betterment of our great community. We need to be mindful to plant seeds to prosperity, equity, unity, opportunity and hope and avoid planting seeds of decay, disinvestment, disenfranchisement, desperation, and hopelessness. The hope of a better day in Wyandotte County starts with all of us, elected, non-elected, stakeholders, and most importantly our value residents who depend on us to get things right, not just today, but every day.

To be honest, we all know that this isn't just about the future of our community, it's about people's lives and I know we all believe as public servants that failure is never an acceptable option when it comes to people's lives.

Listening to the desperate pleas from residents in this Chamber and the 2022 outside independent soft audit was a monumental wakeup call that business as usual at City Hall at some point must change. That realization removed the smoke screens that yes Wyandotte County has challenges, but challenges is not what defines us. Challenges are not just isolated to us and challenges are not something we should never shy away from because we all know challenges can be overcome.

We must continue to find the root causes of problems, face the reality of these problems, and take swift steps to fix the problems with actionable solutions. I have to challenge our residents as well when we talk about shared sacrifice and to take specific notice to President John F. Kennedy's again inauguration quote where he says that we ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country. That call to action challenged every American to contribute in some way for the public good and to me that holds true for all of us today.

Certain cuts will call for all of us to take extra steps to care for our neighborhoods and for us to all do our part to create the vibrant community that we want to see. For our residents, I have

a call to action to you to do the simple things like getting to know your neighbors, joining your local neighborhood group, join the countless groups that donate their time and resources to beautify their neighborhoods and see value in working with Community Policing to address blight, disorder and decay. Wouldn't it be awesome to have a community army of blight and beautification volunteers dedicated and committed to that cause because in times like these any help for the betterment of our community is always welcome.

I also challenge our non-for-profits and faith-based organizations to seek out renewed opportunities to tear down any known silos, to promote efforts of working together and to create an ecosystem of collaboration that will mitigate the competitiveness out of numerous groups clamoring for the same financial crumbs to include reimaging options for funding streams that can save transformative programs and services. Why is this so important? The answer is simple. It's because we all value the blessing organizations have on improving the lives of our residents and again in times such as these improved relationships will be key. Specifically, as many look beyond government and reimaging leveraging the power of our community to accomplish set out goals.

From a great depression, war rationing, massively destructive floods, segregation and hate, devastating tornadoes, unprecedented waves of crime, crippling financial setbacks and most recently in an unwanted invisible invasive virus, those that call Wyandotte County home have risen above and overcome every single challenge coming out more resilient, committed, confident and most importantly unified. That is the true spirit of being a Dotte. Knowing that as a tight-knit community we are built just a little bit differently than everybody else. Having a proven ability to withstand whatever may come our way.

In time we'll get through our financial difficulties. It won't be easy, but eventually we will get to where we need to be as an even stronger community. As we continue the journey of balancing our budgets and providing essential services with necessary tax relief, it's obvious we cannot continue to have revenue neutral forever. With that being said, we also cannot continue to be unrestrained on increasing taxes, spending uncontrollably, borrowing irresponsibly and dangerously depleting our reserve funds year after year because let's face it, both are unsustainable.

If we take a hard look at successful Fortune 500 business models, streamlining, cutting costs, innovating, improving customer service, reducing debt, seeking out efficiencies, reducing wasteful spending and saving money allows these companies to remain competitive and extremely successful in providing whatever good, services and resources in their chosen industry. I inherited

this financial challenge with you and I just want you to know I will do everything I possibly can in partnership with you to improve the financial health and stability of our Unified Government.

For starters we must take a hard examination of our financial situation so we won't repeat the proverbial merry-go-round of mistakes that will keep us stuck here. Secondly, we have to expand our tax base with an unprecedented commitment to attracting quality development and I stress quality development, prospects and high value growth opportunities that can anchor the working middle class in our community with the good services, resources livable wage jobs and amenities that will be attractive to people looking for a community to call home. This will require the removal of unnecessary bureaucratic barriers to include restructured attractive business-friendly policies designed to attract and retain entrepreneurs and businesses without having to give away the farm to greed as opposed to those most in need. Thirdly, we must continue to streamline, innovate and find ways to responsively, but effectively cut cost to bring about efficiencies and fiscal responsibility that can be of considerable tax benefit to all that want to call Wyandotte County home. That will require us to stave off the temptation of finding more things to spend taxpayers dollars on as opposed to finding more ways to innovate in a manner that promotes fiscal responsibility. We must avoid historical failed policies and developments that import poverty into our already struggling economy, which I believe is key to our economic survival and revitalization strategy to include taking action to move towards reducing our debt as opposed to increasing it.

We must take unprecedented action to reexamine what should be one of the greatest assets created for the people of Wyandotte County, which is the utility we own known as the Board of Public Utilities, specifically to ensure that it remains the benefit it was created to be and not the burden on many of our working families that in the minds of many people the entity is perceived to have become.

We must always be mindful that we are a multifaceted community that's diverse of great people and ensure that the perceptions of disenfranchisement from some of the good people in Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, and Lake Quivira is eradicated with reaffirming our commitment to all that call Wyandotte County home through our actions and our deeds.

Finally, we must be intentional about rejecting and modifying failed policies and misguided decisions that have kept pockets of our awesome community from reaching and realizing its full potential. With massive growth and building all around the eastern portion of Wyandotte County

we can ill afford to miss the boat on opportunities for creating a resurgent and revitalized eastern Kansas City, Kansas.

This year the voices of many overwhelming, overburdened, hardworking to include those on fixed incomes resonated and we've watched many of those voices in this Chamber. Those voices resonated definitely with your elected body—definitively with your elected body this year. The reality taken from those voices is that they wanted something exceptionally different from their government and not just as a one-off, but as a positive opportunity to move things forward in a manner that will put the people first in continuing efforts to find ways to operate a more refined innovative, efficient and fiscally responsible municipal government. The work of our maintenance staff is a testament of what can be achieved when given the call to action.

When put to the test, this Unified Government has shown we can work together to get valued and positive things done for our community in short order. Together we have proven positive progress can happen. We can have a responsive Unified Government that works equitably for all those that love and call our great community home.

To meet the reasonable expectations of our residents revenue neutral was passed to mitigate property tax increases in 2025. Unfortunately, it will not be a tax cut, nowhere near, but rather a prevention of another year of tax increases at least from this Unified Government. This Commission should be commended for taking the bold steps to support the demands of countless residents demanding relief. Relief that will allow working families to have just a little more money to try and make ends meet. Our CFO, Budget Director, department heads identified responsible budgetary cuts approved by this elected body tonight. To silence the chatter of pundits, there will be no layoffs or reductions for our employees. Yes, Public Safety and prioritized infrastructure projects will be protected. Yes, the PILOT fee will be removed from the utility bill starting this fall and no essential services identified by your Commission will not be severely impacted.

This is a budget that gives the relief residents demand and deserve while also prioritizing the role of your government in providing the essential services our community has come to expect. These bold steps taken by your Commission has opened the door to start taking a hard look at how we are measuring up in our service to the great people of Wyandotte County, but these are just the first steps. Commission, staff, and community as we know much more work needs to be done, much more for the residents that said that will lose their homes if we continue to indiscriminately year after year raise their taxes. Much more for the residents in the northeast who have begged for

and deserve a grocery store to include investments that have far long been denied. Much more for our valued residents in Bonner Springs and Edwardsville who feel they have been disenfranchised with very little voice. Much more for the minority and women entrepreneurs that they feel they are treated with inequity and inequality. Much more for small businesses, entrepreneurs and developers who want opportunities in Kansas City, Kansas, but are far too often stifled with unrealistic, unreasonable bureaucratic barriers. Much more for those young people who say they do not see a future in our community. Much more for the 70% of high wage earners who work in our community, but then go home in another community because we simply do not have the right housing, goods, services, resources and amenities for them to want to live here. Much more for some of our own employees who envision living outside of our community for improved quality of life. Much more for those demanding to see exactly how and where every tax dollar is being spent. Much more to ensure that our excessive debt does not become totally insurmountable. Much more for our seniors on fixed income who are struggling to pay for their medications or deciding to pay their property tax bill. Much more for the hardworking families struggling to pay their mortgage or rent also trying to keep their utilities on. Much more for the working poor who are trying to keep food on the table and clothes on their backs.

I could go on and on, but the reality is much more can be done. I am, however, confident in saying that with a continuation of committed leadership as has been shown this year by our Commission and staff and the countless courageous community members much more will be done and no, we cannot afford to go back. Moving forward away from business as usual at City Hall has to be our call to action. We are public servants. Collaboration works. Hard work works. Neighbors helping neighbors works and that work can translate into all of us realizing shared success for our great community.

Together we can find real solutions to the real problems that we know impact the lives of real people every single day. It's no secret that the opportunities and hope abound to make Wyandotte County a resurgent city second to absolutely none anywhere in the nation. This has to involve taking every responsible opportunity to hold the line on excesses year after year burdensome tax and fee increases to include a proposal I'll bring forward to this Commission to use 25% of all future revenues for property tax or debt relief. Taking a hard look at home real possibilities for an earnings tax that could be used to bring about actual tax decreases and debt reductions that will be imposed on those individuals that do not live or reside in Wyandotte County.

August 15, 2024

Grabbing the low hanging fruit of implementing policies to make the Unified Government of the most business-friendly municipalities anywhere in the region and creating a vibrant city center that people will want to visit over and over again.

I just want to take this time to personally thank our community members for your contributions and your resilience in making your demands known in a manner that reaffirms the principles of our democracy that dictates government being beholden to the people and not the people being beholden to the government.

Thank you Unified Government staff for your hard work and making reasonable requests a reality. Thank you to our Administrator for bringing forward a balanced budget proposal and thank you commissioners for being involved, engaged for the debates and no matter what your vote was tonight for at least taking a leadership position that hopefully indicates at least a willingness to work together collaboratively to move our community forward.

With all that said, colleagues, I'm confident that if we lead with purpose and continue to put service above self we can build upon making a lasting profound positive difference in the lives of our residents. To all of you, stay tuned that are watching. The best is yet to come for Wyandotte County. Thanks again to all those that made good things happen and I will continue to make—that are willing to work to make even better things happen here in the weeks and months ahead.

We are Wyandotte County strong and because we are always Wyandotte County strong, we've always been that, we'll always continue to be, that's what makes us Dotte proud and I believe that Commissioner Townsend had a—**Commissioner Townsend** said no, you've said it all Mayor. I was going to let you have it, but you've outlined a second term, you have outlined a second term, but since I have the mic I do want to applaud and be respectful of our Administrator for the guidance he's shown to all of the staff, our CEO, Budget Director, every head of the department here, not here. I heard from some after our last budget meeting on five you're not going to be happy. This is a living document, it's a living issue. We've just passed it. Now we have to live it, so we'll see what this looks like in a year, but we're going to do our best to get through it as the Mayor's already outlined. So, you said it all, Mayor, but thank you.

Commissioner Lopez said I just wanted to say I love everybody here. I love my community and I love that Dotte proud. I just want to say I do know two individuals that moved out of Wyandotte County into—or they built a house over in Lenexa. These two individuals don't know each other

either, but they know me and they regret moving. They do. It's a trip. They're like I have these yuppie neighbors. All they do is cry, cry, cry and I miss Turner, I miss Wyandotte County. I said well then sell the house, burn it down or whatever, sell the house and move back. I know what we're going through. We're going to get through it, but we're going to work together, but I just wanted to say that there's individuals that regret moving out of Wyandotte County and I'm begging them to come back.

Mayor Garner said thank you all, thanks community. Again, thanks staff for your hard work. I can't say enough about our CFO, Budget Director, and their teams for really bringing this about and thank you Commission for your leadership again. We are Dotte strong and we are Dotte proud. The best is yet to come for Wyandotte County. Bear with us as we work through these challenges and stay tuned. I'll entertain a motion.

Action: Commissioner Stites made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adjourn.

Roll call was taken and there were ten "Ayes," Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites.

MAYOR GARNER AJOURNED

THE MEETING AT 6:24 p.m.

Monica L. Sparks
Interim Unified Government Clerk

dt

August 15, 2024