

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

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Meeting, Thursday, April 24, 2025, with ten 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 (arrived at 5:17 p.m.); and Garner, Mayor/CEO presiding. Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Counsel; and Monica L. Sparks, Unified Government Clerk.

Mayor Garner said before I call the meeting to order I want to announce that we have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones 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 participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General Office. Please be sure to speak directly into the microphone to ensure your comments are heard and an accurate record can be made of this meeting.

Mayor Garner called the meeting to order.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, is scheduled to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. for a discussion with the Mayors and City Administrators of Bonner Springs, Edwardsville and Lake Quivira in the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building. Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Lopez, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane, 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 tonight's Special Session we have invited the Mayors from across Wyandotte County and three of our sister cities to join us in a discussion about the future of our county and continue open dialogue regarding items that we know are mutual interests for all the constituents, people that love and call Wyandotte County home. At this time I'll ask the Mayors and their Administrators to come to the podium and we'll start with Mayor Caiharr from the great city of Edwardsville to come to the podium and she'll give her remarks.

Carolyn Caiharr, Mayor of Edwardsville, Ks., said I didn't bring a big formal proposal or anything like that for this evening. I know it's a little bit more casual, so I just wanted to talk to you about a few of the things that I've talked with you all about before and some of the needs of the constituents in Edwardsville. Some things that would even cost less solutions that would come up for your constituents there.

One thing that we've talked about for a few years is PILOT and that is a fee, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes, basically a tax applied to the BPU bills of residents across Wyandotte County, but especially I bring your attention to the PILOT on the bills in Edwardsville. The reason I'm bringing this up is because that money is taken from your constituents in Edwardsville and placed right into the General Fund of Kansas City, Kansas. So, to your constituents in this part of the county, it doesn't seem like it's a fair taking. It's money that's taken from one community and directly deposited into another. That's been something that we've asked to be removed for quite some time. We brought that to Legal. They've said it violates Charter. I've not found anywhere in the Charter that requires a PILOT. In the Charter it does address revenue going from BPU to Kansas City, Kansas in a certain amount that ends up being a passthrough via PILOT, but I've not seen, and please correct me if I'm wrong because I could be, but I haven't seen anywhere in there that actually requires PILOT of residents in Edwardsville. So, I just ask that you address that and just give it some thought and how that might be resolved in the near future, specifically eliminating PILOT from residents bills in Edwardsville.

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CIFI is one thing that we had for a brief time and then it went away with budget cuts. That was something that was very instrumental in the budget of Edwardsville, but as well as Kansas City, Kansas, Bonner Springs, and the entire county. This was not an initiative that just helps the people of Edwardsville, but it was an infrastructure improvement. It was investing in infrastructure for the entire county, something that when we talk about a Unified Government, this was a unified investment because it helps people across the entire county. One of the main needs in Wyandotte County is infrastructure, maintenance, and improvement. This is an easy win. It's an easy win for something that is equitable across the county because it was divided up by lane miles and just goes into that infrastructure. Most counties do invest in infrastructure across their whole county. There's generally county roads and things like that. We don't have that as much in Wyandotte, but CIFI was a way to make a really meaningful investment throughout the county.

The last thing that I'll bring before you has no financial ask and that is to consider revising the Charter for the PET Board. Currently the PET Board, Wyandotte County Library Board, consists of 11 members. Of those 11 members, six actually live in the PET District, which is out—it's any resident who lives outside of the Kansas City, Kansas School District. So, it's primarily residents who live in Piper, Edwardsville, and Turner, but there's a few that live kind of in that middle ground, so you're looking at Piper, Edwardsville, and Turner residents primarily. So of the 11 members, six live in that area, five do not, but all 11 vote on the mill levy set by that board, so that means five people are voting to tax an area that they do not pay. So, they're voting on a bill that they do not pay. I would ask you to consider adjusting the Charter including all those voices, including 11 members, but having six ex officio members who their voices are still brought to the board, but only having five ex officio members. But the six who are going to actually pay that bill, the representatives from Piper, Edwardsville, and Turner be the voting members just as I don't come and set a mill levy for Kansas City, Kansas, those that aren't paying that and aren't voted in by those people shouldn't be setting a tax bill that they're not participating in paying.

That is a solution to something that would be really appreciated by those that live in our area. It doesn't cost the UG anything, but it's just bringing fair representation to those who are paying for that mill that's set by that board. If you guys have any questions, I know this isn't very formal, so I'd love to answer those for you. I'm not sure if I explained that very well, so if you have questions about that, please feel free to ask them.

Mayor Garner said before we get into questions, as part of your presentation of asks, what are some of the good things going on in Edwardsville you'd like to share with the Commission and the public as far as developments, opportunities, things you're looking at. What's the vision moving forward? **Mayor Caiharr** said we do have some great things coming forward in our city. So, last November our city was able to pass a vote of a half a cent sales tax increase that's going to bring a new City Hall, Police Department, Fire Department and the first time ever a city library to our city that we have not had yet. We were able to do that without increasing the tax burden on our residents, which is something that we were really proud of because we know that's an ongoing concern. So they voted that we needed these improvements of that half cent sales tax.

Our Fire Department has been in the same building for decades now. That was built for a volunteer Fire Department. It was not built for people to spend the night. We'd have men and women in the same area. It's very outdated, very obsolete, so it was time for them to get into a more modern structure, so we're adding on to that building to bring them up-to-date and get more of a professional building for them.

Our Police Department for 16 years has been in a mobile building that we bought from the city of Leawood for \$1.00. That was supposed to be a temporary solution almost 20 years ago now, about 17 years ago, and so we felt it was time that also with law enforcement, not to get too into the weeds, but it's not a very secure building. It's not the best place to house detainees, paraphernalia, things like that. It's just not set up for that.

We're really excited for some great things moving forward in the city of Edwardsville. The residents are really excited for some positive things coming ahead. I mean there's just—that's the primary thing. We have new events coming up. We've got our Police Department more engaged with the community than ever before. We've got community events coming up, so watch the calendar for that. I don't want to take a whole lot of your time going through every little event that's coming, but there are definitely great things coming ahead.

You are all welcome out to any event that we have, any meeting that we have to come and just meet your constituents from our part of the county. You guys are our county board and it's great anytime that we have the ability to visit with you and hear your heart and you guys are able to hear the needs of your constituents in Edwardsville.

Mayor Garner said thank you, Mayor, and I just wanted to highlight you got some new housing options as well that I see you all are building. **Mayor Caiharr** said yes. We have the

Highland Townhomes coming up right off of Highland in Edwardsville. There will be about 50 units, 52ish units. They are already under construction, but over the next year or so you'll see those popping up more and there's single family housing that just pops up sporadically in our more spread out areas all the time. So yeah, we're excited to see those coming up. **Mayor Garner** said where's a big warehouse that's under construction? **Mayor Caiharr** said that's in Bonner Springs. **Mayor Garner** said that's in Bonner, okay, I got it mixed up.

Commissioner Burns said welcome and thanks for all you do. I have a question for you. It was about this time last year that you appeared before us and because taxes were so high you recommended that we go revenue neutral. The junior college did and then I learned that Edwardsville didn't. Why not? **Mayor Caiharr** said the kind of easy answer to that is for years in a row beforehand the Unified Government has taken every bit that they could. They'd say, okay, taxes have gone up this much, appraisals have gone up this much, we're going to keep the mill levy level. Edwardsville decreased every single year for the last eight years. We decreased over seven mills over the last eight years, so we only take what we've needed every year.

In addition to that, as constituents had asked me before, our General Fund was not what was presented to us the year before and so we had some hard news with that with some auditing and things not to get too into the legal weeds of it. But we had to not bring our General Fund down to \$300K, which would have happened if we went revenue neutral because of numbers that were presented to us that were not accurate. So, we didn't have that ability last year. I think going revenue neutral is a great goal. I would love to be able to do that in our city. I know that's not something that is sustainable year after year after year because we have to pay increases and things like that. Once in a while it's not something that can be—especially if we don't have a lot of development, which we haven't had in our city unfortunately, a big boom of development. But that is definitely something I'd like to see coming in the future. It just wasn't—because we had only taken small bits and had been reducing, reducing, reducing for eight years in a row we couldn't go with the full revenue neutral last year.

Commissioner Burns said so, did you not promote it with your fellow council members? **Mayor Caiharr** said I was until I found out that if we went revenue neutral, our entire General Fund would be less than \$400K. I didn't feel like we could do that. **Commissioner Burns** said I just got the impression it was kind of a do as I say, not as I do. **Mayor Caiharr** said oh, absolutely

not. Absolutely not. Just like I had mentioned before, year after year and Commissioner Stites will probably remember this, that I've been on them every year and just taking what we need. He was a huge proponent for that as well and not over taxing every year, not taking everything just because we could. We would take—if we would do a mill decrease, sometimes a 2 mill decrease, a half, like every year it was a mill decrease, so we were showing our constituents we're not taking every bit just because we can to keep the mill levy. But we also got some hard news that we just couldn't responsibly make that decision, but I definitely would love to be able to do that. **Commissioner Burns** said I hope you can understand why I was curious. **Mayor Caiharr** said sure, absolutely, and you're always—if you have questions, feel free to send me an email. You don't have to wait a year to talk to me. If you have questions, I'm happy to answer them. **Commissioner Burns** said thank you for your response.

Commissioner Townsend said you mentioned first the BPU PILOT. Do you have any idea how much money you'd be talking about if—you're saying the fund of KCK and not into Edwardsville. How much money would you be talking about? **Mayor Caiharr** said that's a good question. I had asked. I believe the UG staff had looked into that because we don't see that BPU side of the bill. I only see the big bucket when I look at the county revenue, but that's something that I'd asked about three years ago and I don't believe I got that exact number from the UG, but I think we could probably get that in the near future. **Commissioner Townsend** said we could easily find that. It's good to see you again.

I am not familiar again with the PET Board. Could you once again say what that is and what the ask is? **Mayor Caiharr** said sure and I'm sorry. As I was saying it, I thought that probably wasn't the clearest way to state it. It's our Library Board or Wyandotte County Library Board. The Kansas City, Kansas Public Library is run through District 500. So, the constituents of Wyandotte County who do not live in District 500 are taxed through this PET District, Piper, Edwardsville, Turner is what it stands for and the members of that PET Board set a mill levy that taxes the residents in Piper, Edwardsville and Turner. There's 11 members on that PET Board, but only six of those members actually live in the area that have to pay the tax and so we have five people voting on a tax that they do not pay. **Commissioner Townsend** said okay, thank you.

Commissioner Stites said thank you for the presentation. So, what would be a fix on that PET? What was your—do you have any kind of thoughts on how that could be remedied or how we look at trying to address that? **Mayor Caiharr** said absolutely. So when I had asked some others about that, they felt like, you know, we still want to have a voice and be involved and I think that's fine. I would suggest that of the 11 members that the six who live in Piper, Edwardsville, and Turner be the voting members and the five others would be ex officio members so they can still come and contribute to the conversation, but they wouldn't vote on the actual tax that they are not paying. Those five members do get to vote on the board that sets the tax that they're paying through the school district, so they're getting to vote on that board already. **Commissioner Stites** said you may not know this, do we know how long this has been in place, this board, at this number at 11? Does anybody know that? **Mayor Caiharr** said I believe that was shortly after the—1997. **Commissioner Stites** said 1997 in the Charter. **Mayor Caiharr** said there was a Wyandotte County Library Board before that and that was established because the communities outside of Kansas City, Kansas didn't have their own library and so they said okay, well you guys are using our libraries, can you contribute and that's where the Wyandotte County Library Board was established, but the PET was 1997. **Commissioner Stites** said I'll add to that a little bit and the reason Bonner Springs is not involved in this district is because, and they may speak about it here in a little bit, but they have their own library, so that's why it's not PBET. **Mayor Caiharr** said they do have a member on the board and they do receive funds, so the Wyandotte County Library Board or the PET Board can work with any library within Wyandotte County and so they do contribute to Bonner Springs Library as well.

Commissioner Stites said do you remember when you talked about CIFI, do you remember what the contribution was to Edwardsville when CIFI was in place the previous year. Was it roughly \$500K? **Mayor Caiharr** said I think it was about 430. **Commissioner Stites** said so removing that from your budget could definitely play a role into why you were not able to go revenue neutral, correct? **Mayor Caiharr** said absolutely. In our budget, and this will seem probably a little bit foreign to the Unified Government, our entire budget is about \$8M a year. That includes our Police, Fire, Municipal Court, City Hall, Parks, Public Works, everything, about \$8M a year and so about half a million dollars off of that is a pretty significant chunk for us to have to incorporate back into the budget. **Commissioner Stites** said hopefully if we're able to

reinitiate CIFI, that might be a tool that gets you closer to being able to go revenue neutral, so appreciate it.

Commissioner Ramirez said I guess I never really fully understood how the PET worked. So, we all have an appointee on the Library Board and the mill levy that board sets is only for Piper, Edwardsville, and Turner. Is that correct? **Mayor Caiharr** said yes and so any resident who lives outside of District 500 is who pays that and so there's a little bitty portion that's, I think, Delaware Ridge, it's not District 500, but it's also not Piper, Edwardsville, Turner, but it's the PET Board Piper, Edwardsville, Turner. And so only the people who live in that PET District pay that tax. **Commissioner Ramirez** said okay, and the PET District is Piper, Edwardsville, Turner, okay. Then the libraries that are in KCK, those are set and funded by the USD 500 School Board. Is that correct? **Mayor Caiharr** said it's a part of their mill. It's a part of the money they collect that funds the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library. **Commissioner Ramirez** said, again, I guess I never realized how that worked until—I know this is probably like the third year—you've brought it to us before, but not until today did I really like—you explained it very well today where the lightbulb in my head was like oh sure. **Mayor Caiharr** said it's confusing. It took me a while to like, wait a second, how does this work and so it's pretty confusing.

Mayor Garner said Mayor and Commission, I meet with all three Mayors in Wyandotte County and Mayor Caiharr has brought the issues up and I did make a commitment to Mayor Caiharr that I would work with our Legal staff to formulate resolutions that would address the PILOT as well as the PET Board. So, that commitment remains. We've had a lot of other things as priority, but we will get that going and get it to a Standing Committee so they can start having those discussions. So, thank you for your time and your presentation. **Mayor Caiharr** said thank you all for having me out and for asking questions. Feel free to send me an email if you think of something later. I'm happy to answer those.

Mayor Garner said we've got Bonner Springs Mayor here, Mayor Stevens. I apologize, I tried to give Edwardsville your brand new facility out there, but they are in close proximity and so we're glad to have Mayor Stephens here.

Tom Stephens, Mayor of Bonner Springs, said I want to take just a moment to introduce you to our new City Manager, Amber Vogan, who has now been on staff—well, I shouldn't say staff, but has taken the position of City Manager three months now, two months. **Amber Vogan, City Manager for Bonner Springs**, said one month officially. **Mayor Stephens** said she acts like she's been here 10 years. I want to make sure we give her some opportunities to speak because she can really speak more at a staff level of the things. Many of the things I talked about the last time I was here about many of the projects going on, we have broken ground on a majority of those. There is one, unfortunately, that has fallen through and that was the apartments that were going to be built just north of Academy Bank because of an issue with the developer and the property owner. The property owner didn't want to wait as long as it was going to take to remediate the property for the wetlands and the group that was—the developer did not want to purchase the property until that remediation had been accomplished. It was approved by the federal government. They wanted to wait until that point in time, so because of that, the agreement fell through and they returned their money to the state, their LIHTC funding. All the other projects are going forward.

I was hoping that by the next time I saw you, I'd be able to talk about the Epic Resort. It is still moving forward. We are still working on that developers agreement. There are a few little things and hopefully within the next probably month, we're hoping to have something come in front of us.

I do have a few items I was going to address, but Ms. Vogan would like to speak on some of the things that might be happening in Bonner.

Ms. Vogan said we have several projects going on. He mentioned the Epic Resort. One thing that you'll probably see coming before you in the future is a partnership to update the agreement we have with you all about the sewer up in that corner of our city. I've been working with your Economic Development Department on that and with your Public Works Department, so we'll get that before you and before a Standing Committee once we get through all the development agreement stuff, then we can really start to work on that.

We have several projects going on. We have, for commercial, we have a QuikTrip that's going in right off I-70. This will be our second QuikTrip, so we have one as you get off I-70 north and this one will be as you're getting off I-70 south just near our Old Dominion that opened a

couple years ago. We have several housing projects. In our downtown we have almost 100 apartment units going in. There'll be half market rate and half median income, which is really great for our city. That's a gap that we don't have any median income housing right now and it fits really well with our median income levels in the city. So, that will be a really great project and bring some more people to our downtown, which we're very excited about.

We also have about 144 townhomes that are opening up near Azura Amphitheater right across the street there behind Feldman's. Some of those, they've started moving people in. They'll continue to work on the rest of the units and as they open people will move in there.

We have a few commercial lots that are still up by our QuikTrip location that we're hoping to bring in more businesses along there, along the I-70 and K-7 corridor. We have some senior apartments that are going in up near that Kansas Avenue K-7 corridor and those should be breaking ground anytime now. Then, of course, we have our warehouses at the corner of 110th & Riverview that are under construction. There's a couple of projects that have signed on to lease those spaces and then there's a few other buildings that will be coming in the future that right now are specs, but as they get proposals for businesses coming in, then they're happy to work with those businesses to kind of build to fit if they choose to.

Mayor Stephens said I think you covered pretty well, but you might talk about the use of the ARPA funds for the water. **Ms. Vogan** said we did use our ARPA funds to open a new water plant last fall. That was a great project for us. Our water plant was very outdated. I think it was from the 1950s, so we had very hard water and we recently opened our new plant and we're now able to get soft water between 150 and 170 is the rate where the soft water is, so we're very, very excited to be able to offer soft water to our residents now.

Mayor Stephens said wasn't ARPA also used for 2nd Street waterline? **Ms. Vogan** said yes. I forgot about our city projects that we've got going on. We've got 138th Street, which is a road that goes near our high school that a lot of kids use to walk to and from school. It's never had sidewalks on it. It's very hilly, it's got big ditches, so we're redoing that road right now and it'll be part of our Complete Streets Project, which means they'll have sidewalks and wider lanes and everything for that portion. Hopefully, in the future we'll be able to take that up to Kansas Avenue, but that's in two and three phases in the future. So, right now we're focusing on that first phase near our school and then we did use some ARPA funds for a waterline project near the

elementary school and we're putting in some sidewalks around there and some sidewalks on another street nearby, also using this funding, so that the kids that regularly use those areas to get to and from school can now do it a lot more safely on the sidewalks than they were using the roads.

Mayor Stephens said also I will use Amber as my go-to for information to make sure of specifics if I get something incorrect.

One of the things that was talked about was the library. Quite a few years ago Bonner Springs created its own Library Board, developed its own library. We do pass a mill levy that's incorporated in the city's mill levy, but part of the agreement that was made, and I don't know if that was made with USD 500 or the county itself, but to allow access to all of the residents of Wyandotte County to have access to the Wyandotte County—are for the Bonner Springs Library to participate in programs, checkout materials. That was part of the reason why we have someone on the Library Board as well as we receive some funding from the USD 500 Library Board to help pay for that access from non-residents into our library.

I know Mayor Caiharr already talked a little bit about the CIFI, so I won't beat on that horse, but I will tell you along that line of how impactful that can be such as we would be no different than—that is the ad valorem taxes is the last thing you pursue when it comes to budget. So, anything that's coming in revenue for us helps us reduce that load we have to put on the property tax owners with ad valorem taxes.

When I was here last time I also talked about the importance of optics and about the county having programs that they're sharing countywide and it looks like we potentially are moving forward with something new. I talked about the Health Department out there last time. We have something new that was basically really advocated by Commissioner Stites and before I say too much, I'd rather have Commissioner Stites speak on it if he would, if that's okay.

Commissioner Stites said well, thank you, Mayor. I didn't know if that was going to be brought up tonight, but one of the things that we've all been hearing is about the delays and things that occur out when you get your vehicles registered at both locations, the length, the time, the annex out west that parking is a problem, there's long lines that occur outside. So, one of the things that I thought that might help us resolve that would be if we could look at a satellite location out in western Wyandotte County. Bonner Springs just did their new City Hall, so they had—I

approached them and asked them if there would potentially be some space that we could do a remote location. I guess, and I don't know for sure about this part, but I guess we had to petition the state and ask them and get their permission that they would allow us to have another location.

I don't want to get way down in the weeds because I don't know that I know all of the details, but it sounds like what we're going to try to do is a pilot program that's going to be operated maybe two days a week out there to see what type of response that we get, how many people come in to be able to renew tags. We'll have a location out in Bonner Springs and, you know, it would be nice—I would like to see this happen sooner than later because it happens every month people are going to try to renew their tags.

If we could figure out an agreement tonight, I'd love to see it happen tonight. I really do appreciate it. We went out and did a walkthrough at Bonner City Hall with staff from the UG, Shelley, and Andrea Vinyard and we looked at multiple spaces inside the City Hall and they kind of found one that they landed on and they like it and think it's going to work. I think this is going to be a benefit to all of Wyandotte County and this is the kind of thing that I think that whenever we talk about what services do we get out in western Wyandotte County from the county side, this is one of them. **Mayor Stephens** said I appreciate that, Commissioner Stites, and yes, we were excited when Commissioner Stites reached out to us and asked us about possibly hosting a location even if it's just for renewals, it will still benefit all the western Wyandotte County, both Bonner, Edwardsville, as well as the Piper areas, so all of western parts of Wyandotte County.

I might just real quickly mention we are coming into our summer season, we put on a lot of community events during the course of the summer and May 9th or 2nd, which is it, Evening on Oaks? **Ms. Vogan** said Evenings on Oak is the second Thursday each month. **Mayor Stephens** said so, second Thursday coming up here in May, we will start our Evening on Oak. We'll have food trucks and vendors, so we invite all of you to come out if you would like to and show Bonner a little love. With that, I will stand for questions if you have any.

Oh, we got a little time for Tiblow Days. It doesn't come along until mid-August, end of August, so we got a little bit of time for that.

Commissioner Kane said just a comment. I just literally had staff reach out to someone that was having a problem at State getting their taxes redone or their tags redone. This would be huge for all of us because I think we could do it more than two days a week to take the pressure off 80th &

State. I think this is an outstanding idea and as soon as possible, that'd be great. **Mayor Stephens** said I will say this, your staff will probably be able to address some of those specifics a little bit more in-depth, but it's mainly for renewals at the current time, but any pressure we can take off from the other location will help facilitate.

Mayor Garner said that is a great idea with the satellite. I know that Mayor Harrington was involved in that conversation as well before he left and I think that's how we led to some of the satellite facilities as well.

Just to highlight some of the issues that led to the conversation, especially after COVID, and I know I've talked to our At-Large Commissioners about it in-depth, about trying to find solutions for those that may be watching to ease some of the concerns folks have with trying to pay your taxes or get your tags renewed at our satellite facility out there at 82nd & State. The Administrator in working with our CFO, they have a performance audit that's going to be done to look at how we do business when we talk about our Treasury Department and that operation. Hopefully, we come up with some good solutions and recommendations that can really ease that congestion that a lot of our residents are seeing.

For those that may be watching, that has not gone unnoticed to this Commission, to our staff, and we are looking for actionable solutions to make that process not as much of a hassle to get in and out of a facility to be able to actually pay your taxes for those that we know want to do so.

Are there any more questions for the Mayor? All right, thank you so much. Thank you, Mayors, for your time.

Commissioner Stites said, Mayor, I just want to say thank you for putting this together because we've been asking for quite some time that we bring all counties—it's unfortunate that Lake Quivira couldn't have been here. I'm not sure the reason, but I'm sure it was a good one. Just getting things that we get to talk about, just like Commissioner Ramirez said, it took a little while, but then we finally get to drill down and find out what really does that mean and that doesn't happen unless we have these sit-downs and talks about what's going on. When we vote on a budget, we're voting on a budget for the entire county and they are the rest of our county, so I thank you for that. I appreciate it and thank you guys and congratulations Amber.

Mayor Garner said that was one of the commitments I made as Mayor is, you know, I have to be the Mayor for the entire county. I kind of wear the hat of the KCK Mayor, but I'm also the CEO of the county, so I have to make sure that our residents in Bonner, Edwardsville, and Lake Quivira have their representation.

The Lake Quivira Mayor isn't here, but for those of you who don't know, they do have a lot of events that go on out there. Myself, the Administrator, I know some of our commissioners have gone and met with the new Mayor there as well as the City Manager. What I learned just going out there is that all the buildings to the north, so if you go into Lake Quivira, their gas station, their Municipal Office Buildings as well as their clubhouse and really the bridge over the lake all the way out to the middle of the lake and I think about four, maybe five houses in Lake Quivira are actually—that is all Wyandotte County and they pay property taxes to Wyandotte County. The other side of that going south where most of the residentials are, that is in Johnson County. They are a great partner. The Mayor there has been engaged as much as he can be and I know he wanted to be here tonight. He does invite us out to come visit his small community.

Every Fourth of July they have a huge Fourth of July celebration with fireworks, parade and I know the Sheriff has committed to get the Sheriff's Department more engaged with the parade they have. I went last year and I was just really impressed and it was almost standing room only for the amount of people that came out to watch the fireworks display and engage in the festivities and it's open to anyone. It's not a closed community like we think it is. It's a very friendly, welcoming and warm community and they really want to be more engaged and in tune with what goes on in Wyandotte County because they are a part of Wyandotte County and that goes in line with the messaging that I'm trying to say that, yeah, we are a Unified Government, but on top of that we are essentially one Wyandotte. Kansas City, Kansas, Bonner Springs, Lake Quivira, and Edwardsville, we are one Wyandotte, we are one community and the decisions we make impact everybody that loves and calls our awesome county home.

So, thank you Mayors for your time and commissioners. I don't have any other business for tonight, so I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Action: **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to adjourn.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Lopez, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane.

MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED

THE MEETING AT 6:46 p.m.

Monica L. Sparks
Unified Government Clerk

dt

April 24, 2025