

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commission Chambers

701 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS 66101

Mayor Tyrone Garner

Commissioner At-Large Dist. 1 Melissa Bynum – Commissioner At-Large Dist. 2 Tom Burroughs – Commissioner Dist.

1 Gayle E. Townsend – Commissioner Dist. 2 Bill Burns –

Commissioner Dist. 3 Christian Ramirez – Commissioner Dist. 4 Dr. Evelyn Hill –

Commissioner Dist. 5 Mike Kane – Commissioner Dist. 6 Phil Lopez –

Commissioner Dist. 7 Chuck Stites – Commissioner Dist. 8 Andrew Davis

MINUTES

Thursday, September 5, 2024

7:00 PM – 9:16PM

Attendance:

Commissioner's Present:

- Mayor Tyrone Garner
- Commissioner Burroughs
- Commissioner Bynum
- Commissioner Hill
- Commissioner Kane
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Stites
- Commissioner Townsend
- Commissioner Davis

Commissioner's Absent:

- Commissioner Ramirez (absence memo provided)
- Commissioner Burns (absence memo provided)

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- David Johnston (County Administrator)

- Angela Lawson (Acting Chief Counsel)

Call to Order:

Mayor Tyrone Garner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chaplain Annie Erickson of the Grandview Park Presbyterian Church led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Revisions to Agenda: (Discussion Begins 5:30)

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

VI. Mayor's Agenda:

Item No. 1 – Proclamation proclaiming August 6, 2024, as National Night Out Day. (Discussion Begins 5:30)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 2 – Proclamation proclaiming August 4-9, 2024, as Community Care Clinics Week. (Discussion Begins 5:35)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 3 – Proclamation proclaiming August 25, 2024, as M.O.M.S. Tour Day. (Discussion Begins 5:41)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 4 – Proclamation proclaiming September 14, 2024, as MWGM Day. (Discussion Begins 5:48)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 5 – Proclamation proclaiming September 20, 2024, as POW/MIA Recognition Day. (Discussion Begins 5:55)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 6 – Proclamation proclaiming September 28, 2024, as Good Neighbor Day. (Discussion Begins 6:01)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 7 – Proclamation proclaiming September 30, 2024, as 106th NAACP Kansas City, Kansas Branch Day. (Discussion Begins 6:05)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 8 – Proclamation proclaiming September 15–October 15, 2024, as Hispanic Heritage Month. (Discussion Begins 6:14)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 9 – PRESENTATION: POTENTIAL SAVINGS OF CONSOLIDATION OF BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES INTO UNIFIED GOVERNMENT (Discussion Begins 6:23)

Chris Steineger, a former Kansas State Senator, presented the consolidation options for the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). He discussed potential cost savings by identifying 13 duplicated departments between BPU and the Unified Government, estimating potential annual savings of \$22 million. Mayor Garner emphasized he does not support selling BPU but wants to explore cost-saving options, find ways to potentially consolidate services, reduce costs, and improve utility services for Wyandotte County residents without privatizing BPU.

This item was for information only, and no action was required.

Public Comments:

Written comment received:

- Rose Mulvany (BPU Board Member) Read by Commissioner Kane (**Comment Begins 29:46**)

Multiple residents spoke during the public forum.

- Ken Schnieder (No Residency mentioned) (**Comment Begins 32:32**)
- Pamela Penn-Hicks (Wyandotte County) (**Comment Begins 35:20**)
- Jill Coates (Kansas City, KS) (**Comment Begins 43:02**)
- Lisa Yeager (No Residency mentioned) (**Comment Begins 46:58**)
- Mike Yurich (Wyandotte County) (**Comment Begins 51:46**)
- Myra Romero Fermin (Kansas City, KS) (**Comment Begins 53:43**)
- Fanny Hill (No Residency mentioned) (**Comment Begins 58:04**)
- Cece Harlin (Wyandotte County) (**Comment Begins 1:01:58**)
- Louise Lynch (Wyandotte County) (**Comment Begins 1:04:43**)
- Dr. Hall (Kansas City, KS) (**Comment Begins 1:105:43**)
- Stephanie Barton (Wyandotte County) (**Comment Begins 1:14:05**)
- Ty Gorman (Kansas City, KS) (**Comment Begins 1:17:34**)
- Dr. Goodlow (Kansas City, KS) (**Comment Begins 1:21:21**)

Item No. 10 – PRESENTATION: CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER (Discussion Begins 1:49:18)

Doug Welch, Executive Director of Christmas in October, provided an overview of the organization's initiatives. He shared that the organization was established 41 years ago and is a nonprofit dedicated to repairing homes for elderly, disabled, and veteran homeowners. The focus is on assisting individuals who are unable to afford necessary home repairs. Pre-inspections are conducted to evaluate specific repair needs, with an emphasis on practical and essential repairs that enhance the safety and functionality of the homes.

- 2024 Event Details:
 - A. October 5th event day
 - B. Will repair 50 houses in Kansas City, Kansas (66104 and 66102 zip codes)
 - C. 20 houses by Black and Veatch
 - D. 20 houses by Burns and McDonnell
 - E. Additional houses supported by Rosedale Development, KU Med, Mayor's Office, Police Department, Sheriff's Department, and Public Works

This item was for information only and no action was required.

Item No. 11 – PRESENTATION: HOPE BUILDERS (Discussion Begins 2:01:50)

Gregory Wayne, a representative from Hope Builders, provided an overview of their organization's services. He highlighted their home repair and accessibility programs, which specifically support older adults and individuals with disabilities. Since 2000, they have assisted over 1,000 clients, with approximately 25% of their projects undertaken in Wyandotte County. In partnership with Community Housing and Livable Neighborhoods, they collaborate with other home repair organizations to maximize their impact. Their programs are funded through grants and donations, and they accept applications throughout the year.

This item was for information only, and no action was required.

VII. Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins 2:16:33)

Item No. 1 - RESOLUTION: FISCAL YEAR 2025 VICTIMS OF CRIMES ACT GRANT

Item No. 2 - RESOLUTION: EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM – KANSAS CITY KANSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Item No. 3 - RESOLUTION: EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT-SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Item No. 4 – MINUTES

Item No. 5 – WEEKLY BUSINESS

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burroughs.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

- Ayes: Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites, Davis
- Nays: None
- Absent: Burns, Ramirez

XIV. Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 2:17:23)

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

- Ayes: Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites, Davis
- Nays: None
- Absent: Burns, Ramirez

MAYOR GARNER

ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:16 P.M.

September 5, 2024

Monica L. Sparks, CMC
Unified Government Clerk