

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

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, November 20, 2025

5:04 PM – 6:32 PM

Attendance:

Commissioners Present:

- Mayor Tyrone Garner
- Commissioner Burroughs
- Commissioner Bynum
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Townsend

Commissioners Absent:

- Commissioner Ramirez (absence memo provided)
- Commissioner Kane (absence memo provided)
- Commissioner Hill (absence memo provided)
- Commissioner Stites (absence memo provided)
- Commissioner Davis (absence memo provided)

Legislative Delegation Present:

- Senator Pat Petty, District 6
- Senator Jeff Klemp, District 5
- Representative Lynn Melton, District 36
- Representative Carolyn Caiharr, District 33 (left at 6:04 pm)
- Representative Melissa Oropeza, District 37
- Representative Pam Curtis, District 32

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- David Johnston (County Administrator)
- Alan Howze (Assistant County Administrator)
- Wendy Green (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- Shelly Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)
- Paul Davis (Unified Government Lobbyist)

Call to Order:

Mayor Tyrone Garner called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

Notice and Consent to Meeting:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, is scheduled to be conducted on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the fifth-floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building for discussion of the draft UG State Legislative Agenda.

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.

The legislative agenda was introduced by Assistant County Administrator Alan Howze, who explained its development, and then Paul Davis, the Unified Government Lobbyist, began walking through the agenda items with the group. **(Discussion begins 08:17)**

The agenda items covered in the meeting included:

- Medicaid expansion and related funding (**Discussion begins 11:04**)
- Flexibility for local government revenue sources (including earnings tax and property tax relief) (**Discussion begins 13:12**)
- Property tax issues, appraisal process, and potential reforms (**Discussion begins 16:44**)
- Infrastructure needs, especially bridges (Central Avenue, Kansas Avenue, 18th Street, Turner Diagonal) (**Discussion begins 44:19**)
- Childcare access and funding (**Discussion begins 1:01:05**)
- Prevailing wage and local control over public project wages (**Discussion begins 1:01:43**)
- Funding for mental health and substance abuse services (**Discussion begins 1:02:10**)
- Housing needs and tax credits (including LIHTC and senior housing) (**Discussion begins 1:02:49**)
- STAR bonds and economic development tools (**Discussion begins 1:08:45**)
- Public education funding and school finance formula (**Discussion begins 1:11:37**)
- Legalization and decriminalization of cannabis (**Discussion begins 1:14:04**)
- Funding for combined sewer and storm water infrastructure (**Discussion begins 1:14:51**)
- Funding for motor vehicle services and county treasurer's office (**Discussion begins 1:16:28**)
- SNAP benefits and support for low-income residents (**Discussion begins 1:17:56**)
- Illegal dumping and tire disposal enforcement (**Discussion begins 1:18:30**)

Adjournment (Discussion begins 1:28:21)

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 6/0

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

MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED

THE MEETING AT 6:32 p.m.

Monica L. Sparks, CMC
Unified Government Clerk