

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



Administration and Human Services Meeting
5th Floor Conference Room
701 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS 66101

Commissioner Melissa Bynum
Commissioner Mike Kane – Commissioner Christian Ramirez –
Commissioner Andrew Davis – Commissioner Evelyn Hill

MINUTES

Monday, October 27, 2025
5:18 PM – 9:15 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Bynum (Chair)
- Commissioner Kane
- Commissioner Ramirez (arrived at 5:58 PM)
- Commissioner Hill
- Commissioner Davis

Committee Members Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Brittnie MacDonald (Clerk)
- SueZanne Bishop (Senior Attorney)
- Bridgette Cobbins (Assistant County Administrator)
- Shakeva Christian (Human Resources Manager)
- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Wendy Green (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- Captain Gregg Dorsett (Kansas City, Kansas Police Department)

Call to Order:

Commissioner Bynum called the meeting to order at 5:18 PM.

Revisions to Agenda:

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins 6:42)

Commissioner Davis moved to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

- Ayes: Hill, Davis, Kane, Bynum
- Nays: None
- Absent: Ramirez

Committee Agenda:**Item No. 4.1 - RESOLUTION: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT AND LEAVENWORTH COUNTY (Discussion Begins 7:18)**

Zee Bishop, Legal Department, presented a resolution codifying the long-standing relationship between the Unified Government and Leavenworth County for the Area Wide Agency on Aging. The Unified Government serves as the primary grant recipient with oversight obligations. Leavenworth County has already approved and signed the agreement.

Commissioner Kane moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

- Ayes: Hill, Davis, Kane, Bynum
- Nays: None
- Absent: Ramirez

Item No. 4.2 - ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION: REPEALING OR SUSPENDING ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES (Discussion Begins 9:52)

Zee Bishop, Legal Department, presented an ordinance to ensure compliance with new federal grant requirements. The presentation detailed federal executive orders and agency guidance affecting DEI programs and immigration initiatives. The ordinance proposed suspending enforcement of code provisions inconsistent with current federal interpretations, while recommending repeal of three specific code sections (18-61, 18-62, and 18-138b). Bishop explained the unified government received almost \$81 million in federal grant funds in the 2024-2025 budget period, with actual spending of \$28 million in 2023. Services funded include housing assistance, infrastructure improvements, senior services, and community health care.

Public Comments Received:

- Logan DeMond (Comment Begins 31:47)
- Matthew Kleimann (Comment Begins 34:50)
- Louis Lynch (Comment Begins 37:10)

Commissioner Kane moved to table item for the new administration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Commissioner Kane rescinded his motion. Commissioner Ramirez rescinded his second to the motion.

Commissioner Kane moved to deny. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Davis, Kane, Bynum
- Nays: None

Item No. 4.3 - RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE: MODIFYING ELIGIBILITY PROVISIONS FOR UTILITY/CITY SALES TAX REBATE PROGRAMS (Discussion Begins 54:06)

Monica Sparks, Unified Government Clerk, presented modifications to increase income eligibility thresholds for utility and sales tax rebate programs. The proposal would align with the state's Senior/Disabled Veterans program threshold of \$58,041, up from the current homestead threshold of \$43,389.

Sparks explained three state programs:

1. Homestead Program: \$43,389 income limit, rebates \$50-\$5,000
2. SAFE Senior Program: \$25,380 income limit, up to 75% tax rebate
3. Senior/Disabled Veterans Program: \$58,041 income limit, can freeze taxes to 2021 levels.

In 2024, the Unified Government rebated \$934,065 to 1,481 applicants through combined local and state programs.

Public Comments

- Eva Garcia (**Comment Begins 1:09:15**)

Commissioner Davis moved to approve the ordinance and adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Davis, Kane, Bynum
- Nays: None

Item No. 4.4 - ORDINANCE: AMENDING UNIFIED GOVERNMENT CODE OF PROCEDURES (Discussion Begins 01:12:42)

Monica Sparks, Unified Government Clerk, and Wendy Green Deputy Chief Counsel, presented amendments to Appendix C of Commission rules and procedures to align code with actual practices and improve efficiency. Changes included:

- Updating meeting locations from ninth floor to chambers.
- Correcting standing committee meeting order.
- Electronic notification options for commissioners.
- Establishing agenda deadlines for standing committees.
- Implementing summary minutes.
- Time limits for planning and zoning applicants (15 minutes)
- Updated delivery procedures.

Commissioner Bynum moved to accept with change to section 209 item b to remain as “shall assign” and 513 g removing strike through. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Davis, Kane, Bynum
- Nays: None

Item No. 4.5 - APPROVAL: REVISIONS TO HUMAN RESOURCES GUIDE POLICY - TRAVEL, TRAINING & MILEAGE (Discussion Begins 01:36:53)

Shakiva Christian, HR manager, presented revisions to align HR travel policy with Resolution R5-4-25 regarding meal and food policy, incorporating federal General Services Administration per diem guidelines and updated Workday processes.

Commissioner Davis moved to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Davis, Kane, Bynum
- Nays: None

Item No. 4.6 - RESOLUTIONS: AMENDING HUMAN RESOURCES GUIDE (Discussion Begins 01:45:04)

Shakiva Christian, HR Manager, presented three options for residency requirement modifications:

- Option A: 30-mile radius with one year to relocate.
- Option B: Wyandotte County residency with two years to relocate.
- Option C: 30-mile radius with two years to relocate.

Christian detailed recruitment and retention challenges, citing survey data showing 50% community support for eliminating residency requirements. She presented comparative analysis of 16 local jurisdictions, with most having no residency requirements or limited requirements for specific positions only.

Public Comments:

- Written comments summarized by Monica Sparks, Unified Government Clerk. Comments were received to this item for the period of October 1 through October 27 of 2025. 83 comments were received by the Unified Government Clerk's Office. All 83 comments were in support of the change as the policy is outdated. It increases the talent pool of qualified applicants and assists with staffing vacancies and retention of employees. Safety concerns of public safety employees and their families. We'll reduce turnover and improve morale, which improves customer service. Forcing workers to live in a geographic area denies them freedom to choose what is best for their families. Other local governments have removed the restriction, and moving can take time, extending to 24 months, recognizes moving challenges. That's a summary of the comments we received. **(Comment Begins 2:13:06)**

In Person Comments:

- Tim Carney (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:14:36)**
- Carlos Ulloa (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:17:12)**
- Jared Altic (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:19:34)**
- Rachel Erickson (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:21:44)**

- Quinten Johnson (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:24:00)**
- Devin Baird (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:26:09)**
- Cedric Saunders (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:28:00)**
- Robert Jansen (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:29:15)**
- Annie Erickson (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:31:44)**
- Austin Schuler (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:34:10)**
- Matthew Chastain (Bonner Springs, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:36:15)**
- John Stimach (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:38:29)**
- Katelyn Chaistain (Bonner Springs, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:40:31)**
- Jarael Hicks (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:42:48)**
- Brendon McEvoy (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:44:53)**
- Jordan Hill (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:47:12)**
- Katie Miller (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:49:52)**
- Adam Bond (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:52:08)**
- Jess Jansen (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:53:46)**
- Taylor Fithian (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:55:55)**
- Andrew Mayfield (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 2:58:54)**
- Tamara Wilson (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:00:34)**
- Steve Sessions (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:02:49)**
- Carolyn Wyatt (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:04:46)**
- Mike Achens (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:06:25)**
- Chris McCarthy (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:08:12)**
- Eva Garcia (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:09:53)**
- Kim Brown (Business owner in Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:11:32)**
- Nelson (Wyandotte County, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:14:18)**
- Sarah Brown (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:16:02)**

Commissioner Kane moved to table item for the next standing committee until new administration came in. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Commissioner Kane amended motion to move item to the next standing committee meeting. The amended motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carried 4-1

- Ayes: Ramirez, Davis, Kane, Bynum
- Nays: Hill

**Item No. 4.7 - UPDATE: HUMAN RESOURCES GUIDE (PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES)
(Discussion Begins 03:54:38)**

Shakiva Christian presented updates to public safety selection processes including:

- Ongoing recruitment for police and sheriff positions
- Monthly testing procedures
- Workday process integration
- Reducing minimum age for fire department from 19 to 18

Public Comments:

- Carolynn Wyatt (Kansas City, Kansas) **(Comment Begins 3:58:56)**
- Gina Nick (Public Safety Recruiter HR Department) **(Comment Begins 3:58:56)**

Commissioner Davis moved to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Davis, Kane, Bynum
- Nays: None

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 04:02:46)

Commissioner Kane moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Davis, Kane, Bynum
- Nays: None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

BM