

**Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas**



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

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

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**MINUTES**

**Monday, November 17, 2025**  
**5:34 PM – 6:09 PM**

**Attendance:**

**Committee Members Present:**

- Commissioner Bynum (Chair)
- Commissioner Kane
- Commissioner Davis
- Commissioner Burns, substituting for Commissioner Hill

**Committee Members Absent:**

- Commissioner Hill (absence memo provided)
- Commissioner Ramirez

**Staff Present:**

- Maiyee Lor (Deputy Unified Government Clerk)
- Wendy Green (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- Angel Ferrara (Director of Parks and Recreation)
- Dr. Shelley Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)

**Call to Order:**

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

**Revisions to Agenda: (Discussion Begins: 25:40)**

The Chair announced one revision to the agenda: Item 4.1 (Resolution of Adherence to Rules of Procedure and Civil Engagement) was moved to be the last item on the agenda, making it a total of three items.

**Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins: 26:00)**

Commissioner Davis moved to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2024, and October 28, 2024, meetings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

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

**Committee Agenda:****Item No. 4.2 - RESOLUTIONS: AMENDING HUMAN RESOURCES GUIDE (Discussion Begins: 26:28)**

The Chair stated this item concerned the Unified Government Human Resources Guide and noted it was a matter of long-lasting and critical importance regarding residency requirements.

Commissioner Kane moved to hold this item over for the next Administration and Human Services Committee meeting on January 26, 2026. The Chair concurred that the new mayor and commissioners should have a voice in the issue and that comments should be shared with the incoming administration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

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

**Item No. 4.3 - ORDINANCE: AMENDING LEVY OF TRANSIENT GUEST TAX (ADDED PER AGENDA UPDATE) (Discussion Begins: 32:25)**

Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Counsel, presented the changes to the transient guest tax ordinance. She clarified the distinction between "3% of receipts derived from the tax" versus "3% of the tax generated," explaining that 3% of the tax would generate more funds for both Park's capital improvements and Visit KC.

- The ordinance includes:
  - A. Increase in transient guest tax rate to 10%
  - B. Two-year sunset provision (rate returns to 8% after approximately 2.5 years due to implementation timing)
  - C. 3% allocation to Parks for capital improvement projects
  - D. 3% allocation to Convention and Visitors Bureau (Visit KC)
  - E. Remaining funds to the Convention and Tourism fund
  - F. Effective date: April 1, 2026

Commissioner Davis inquired about the language specificity and contract renegotiation with Visit KC. Ms. Green confirmed they would need to renegotiate the contract in good faith and noted that only the 10% rate would be sunset, while the percentage allocations would remain permanent.

Angel Ferrara, Parks Director, discussed capital projects and confirmed the department has a prioritized list of projects that go through the annual budget process. The Wyandotte County Lake rock wall repair project has an estimated cost of \$824,000 in the budget.

**Public Comment:**

- Steve Sessions (Kansas City, Kansas) (**Comment Begins 47:06**)

Upon conclusion of public comments, Dr. Shelley Kneuvean provided financial projections via Zoom:

- Current 8% rate generates approximately \$4.9 million annually
- Each 1% increase generates an additional \$620,000
- At 10% rate, total projected collections: \$6.2 million
- Parks would receive approximately \$1.86 million (30% of the total tax)
- Visit KC would receive approximately \$1.86 million (30% of the total tax)
- The remaining \$2.48 million would go to the convention and tourism funds.

Commissioner Kane moved to approve the ordinance and adopt the resolution with the clarification that the language would reference "3% of the tax" rather than "3% of the receipts". The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis with the same understanding regarding the language change.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

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

**Item No. 4.1 - RESOLUTION: ADHERENCE TO RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CIVIL ENGAGEMENT (Discussion Begins: 54:31)**

The Chair noted this item was requested by Commissioner Ramirez, who was unable to join the meeting. The Chair referenced a memo received from the Legislative Auditor's office in September regarding meeting decorum, civility, and professionalism, noting that maintaining order is the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners.

Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Counsel, confirmed she had reviewed the resolution language for Commissioner Ramirez as required by the Legal Department.

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

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

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

**Adjournment: (Discussion Begins: 57:51)**

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

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.

ML