

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

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

7:08 PM – 11:48 PM

Attendance:

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- David Johnston (County Administrator)
- Angela Lawson (Interim Chief Legal Counsel)
- Reginald Linsdey (Budget Director)
- Michael Peterson (Deputy Budget Director)
- Shelly Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)

Call to Order:

Mayor Tyrone Garner called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Mayor Garner requested an invocation given by Pastor Steveie Wakes who offered a prayer for the family of fallen Officer Hunter Simoncic and guidance for the commission's deliberations on the budget matters

Mayor Garner announced the tragic loss of Kansas City Kansas Police Department Officer Hunter Simoncic, age 26, who died in the line of duty. The Mayor noted this occurred exactly 30 days after the loss of Deputy Ming, and asked for continued community support for public safety professionals and their families.

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, August 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building regarding:

1. Public Hearing regarding the governing body's intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate and consideration of a resolution and ordinance approving the same.
2. Public hearing regarding the proposed 2025 amended budget and the proposed 2026 budget.

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.

Reginald Lindsey Budget Director, presented the 2026 budget proposal totaling \$509 million, consisting of general funds, tax levy funds, enterprise funds, and special revenue funds.
(Discussion Begins: 0:10:38)

Key highlights included:

- **City General Fund:** \$193 million balanced budget
- **County General Fund:** \$94 million balanced budget
- **Property Tax Revenue Increases:** 13.3% increase due to 7% assessed valuation growth plus proposed 2-mill increase
- **Current Mill Rate:** 67.921 total (34.462 city, 33.459 county)
- **Proposed Mill Rate:** 71.921 total (36.462 city, 35.459 county)

Revenue Neutral Analysis:

- Revenue neutral would create \$8.5 million structural imbalance for city
- Revenue neutral would create \$10.4 million structural imbalance for county
- Proposed budget with 2-mill increase creates \$1.1 million structural imbalance for city and \$833,000 for county

Clerk read comments submitted by:

- Emily Thornton **(Comments Begin: 0:33:34)**.
- Betty Schuler **(Comments Begin: 0:34:45)**
- Steve Sessions **(Comments Begin: 0:35:11)**
- J.D. Stanley **(Comments Begin: 0:38:08)**
- Maggie Watson **(Comments Begin: 0:40:28)**
- David and Darlene Hyatt **(Comments Begin: 0:41:49)**
- Dr. Nozella Brown **(Comments Begin: 0:41:59)**
- Kelly Nichols **(Comments Begin: 0:44:26)**
- Byron Williams (Churches United for Justice) **(Comments Begin: 0:46:12)**
- Kevin Drum **(Comments Begin: 0:49:29)**

Multiple residents spoke during the public hearing:

- Jermaine Howard **(Comments Begin: 0:50:25)**
- Ron King **(Comments Begin: 0:53:37)**
- Larry Clark **(Comments Begin: 0:56:44)**
- Kathleen Easterwood **(Comments Begin: 0:59:33)**

- Aaron Gabert (**Comments Begin: 1:02:57**)
- Derek Flint (**Comments Begin: 1:06:05**)
- Eva Garcia Meza (**Comments Begin: 1:08:36**)
- Jane Vogel (**Comments Begin: 1:12:21**)
- Steve Sessions (**Comments Begin: 1:15:00**)
- Jerry Vest (**Comments Begin: 1:18:49**)
- Alex Sanchez (**Comments Begin: 1:21:27**)
- Arthur Williams (**Comments Begin: 1:24:52**)
- Albert McComas (**Comments Begin: 1:27:12**)
- Denise Smitheisler (**Comments Begin: 1:30:49**)
- David Beauchamp (**Comments Begin: 1:33:15**)
- Kathy Jennings (**Comments Begin: 1:35:23**)
- Jonas Cruz (**Comments Begin: 1:36:57**)
- Alex Popp (**Comments Begin: 1:40:15**)
- Scott Harding (**Comments Begin: 1:42:48**)
- Fred Postlewait (**Comments Begin: 1:46:32**)
- Jennifer Spak (**Comments Begin: 1:48:33**)
- Joanne Garlington (**Comments Begin: 1:51:48**)
- Linda Smitheisler (**Comments Begin: 1:52:20**)
- Mike May (**Comments Begin: 1:55:42**)
- Anthony Iezzi (**Comments Begin: 1:59:06**)
- Ken Paulakovich (**Comments Begin: 2:02:26**)
- John Visnosky (**Comments Begin: 2:04:06**)
- Lisa Walker Yeager (**Comments Begin: 2:06:00**)
- Dan Smith (**Comments Begin: 2:10:42**)
- Charla Ford (**Comments Begin: 2:14:25**)
- Debe Birzer (**Comments Begin: 2:22:03**)
- Loretta Burton (**Comments Begin: 2:24:49**)
- Fannie Hill (**Comments Begin: 2:27:04**)
- Laura Sanchez (**Comments Begin: 2:30:39**)
- Richard Shahan (**Comments Begin: 2:34:41**)

- Nickie Richardson (**Comments Begin: 2:36:33**)
- Randy Nye (**Comments Begin: 2:38:41**)
- Matt Birzer (**Comments Begin: 2:39:30**)
- Cheryl Yates (**Comments Begin: 2:42:17**)
- Joe Cahairr (**Comments Begin: 2:46:11**)
- Alma Hall (**Comments Begin: 2:48:51**)
- CeCe Harlan (**Comments Begin: 2:51:51**)

The Commission went into recess at 10:10 PM.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:20 PM.

Comments made by Commissioners (**Discussion Begins: 2:54:39**)

Commissioner Kane made a motion to adopt the resolution and ordinance approving the Unified Government to exceed the revenue neutral rate for both the City of Kansas City and Wyandotte County, Kansas for the tax year 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bynum.

Vote: Motion carries 7/3

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

Adjournment (Discussion Begins: 4:30:35)

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

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

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

MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED

THE MEETING AT 11:48 P.M.

Monica L. Sparks, CMC
Unified Government Clerk