Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas

American Royal Subcommittee

Fifth Floor Conference Room

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

Chair Melissa Bynum

Commissioner, District 2, Bill Burns - Commissioner, District 8, Andrew Davis-Commissioner, District 2 At Large-Andrew Kump, Mayor/CEO – Christal E. Watson

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MINUTES

Friday, May 8, 2026

9:04 AM – 10:10 AM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Bynum (Chair)
- Commissioner Davis (Arrived at 9:06 a.m.)
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Kump
- Mayor/CEO Watson

Committee Members Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Jeff Conway (Legal Department)
- Rodney Lucas (Interim Assistant County Administrator)
- Chelsee Chism (Economic Development Director)
- Reginald Lindsey (Budget Director)
- Shelley Kneuveaun (Chief Financial Officer)
- Michael Peterson (Deputy Budget Director)
- Alan Howze (Assistant County Administrator)
- John Kelley (Director, Buildings & Logistics)

- Rachel Miskec (Neighborhood Resource Center Administrative Division Program Manager)
- Alicia Deville (Chief of Staff, Mayor's office)

Call to Order

Chair Bynum called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Roll call was taken with all members present.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

No formal revisions to the agenda were announced. The Chair noted the agenda was fluid.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Discussion Begins: 00:53**)**
Commissioner Kump moved to approve committee minutes from April 10, April 16 and April 29, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

- Ayes: Burns, Kump, Bynum, Watson
- Nays: None
- Absent: Davis

OLD BUSINESS
Item No. 1. - FOLLOW UP: PROJECTS APPROVED BY COMMISSION Discussion Begins: 01:30**)**
Project Implementation Updates
Chair Bynum reviewed previously approved projects totaling $865,000:

- $150,000 downtown grocery store funding (replacement funding)
- $250,000 Little Turkey Creek infrastructure (Public Works handling)
- $300,000 economic mobility/business support
- $150,000 small business grant program enhancement
- $15,000 cultural training

Economic Mobility Project Coordination (Discussion Begins: 05:00**)**
Ms. Chism confirmed John Kelly will coordinate the $300,000 economic mobility funding, which includes:

- Trash and beautification efforts
- Security enhancements/cameras
- Signage and gateway improvements
- Mural painting
- Corridor cleanup

Mr. Kelly confirmed ability to execute the $300,000 in World Cup preparation activities, noting current camera installation progress on K-32 corridor with $60,000+ remaining from previous $100,000 allocation.

Dr. Kneuvean clarified this funding is specifically for before, during, and after World Cup activities, not ongoing programs.

Chair Bynum reported remaining balance of $4.135 million available for allocation.

Item No. 2. - REPORT: WORLD CUP CULTURAL TRAINING (Discussion Begins: 03:35**)**

Cultural Training Implementation

Ms. DeVille confirmed the Mayor's office will handle the $15,000 cultural training contract through Deputy Chief of Staff Daniel Silva, working with Visit KCK. Training may include security personnel pending Chief Oakman's input. Mr. Lindsey reported the funds are available immediately for distribution.

Item No. 3. - DISCUSSION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN (Discussion Begins: 12:36**)**

Ms. Chism reported ongoing research into costs for comprehensive economic development strategic plan, estimating $750,000+ based on complexity similar to the $1.2 million comprehensive plan.

Mayor Watson stated for the record desired study outcomes should target economic development competitiveness and a return on investment, and should include: Where should Wyandotte County grow? What infrastructure is needed? Which incentives produce real return? Workforce, housing and fiscal return measures. What land is truly development ready? How do we protect taxpayers? How do residents, small businesses and workers benefit?

Commissioner Kump requested implementation costs to put the plan in motion.

Commissioner Davis questioned departmental contribution possibility. Economic Development confirmed limited budget availability for contribution. In addition, staffing skills, needs and professional development should be included in the plan.

Discussion included a potential phased funding approach and RFP process requirements for projects of this magnitude.

Item No. 4. - UPDATE: KANSAS AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT CONSIDERATION AND GRANT MATCHING (Discussion Begins: 20:56**)**

Limited discussion due to absence of Public Works staff. ACA Howze reported earmark request submitted to Congresswoman Sharice David's office for planning funds.

Commissioner Kump moved to approve an allocation of $1M to be set aside as economic development grant matches, including infrastructure grants. The motion was seconded by

Commissioner Davis. The allocation will be included in a comprehensive package detailing remaining fund recommendations to the commission at a future date. **(Motion made at timestamp 1:06:49, after discussion of other items.)**

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Davis, Burns, Kump, Bynum, Watson
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS

Item No. 1. - DISCUSSION: SOAR/ ACCELLA (Discussion Begins: 31:54**)**

Mr. Peterson and Mr. Knapp presented a comprehensive overview of the previous SOAR (Strategic Operations for Area Revitalization) program, which operated as coordinated anti-blight initiative using data-driven approach.

Program Components Previously Included:

- Cross-departmental coordination (Code Enforcement, Land Bank, Public Works, Planning)
- Tax delinquent property targeting
- Accelerated tax sales (increased from 2-3 annually)
- Illegal dumping enforcement
- Vacant property identification using postal/utility data
- Neighborhood-specific interventions (Park Drive pilot project)

Proposed Restoration Budget - $1.6 Million Total:

- Abatement team: $900,000-$1,000,000 ($500,000 staffing + $400,000 equipment)
- Strategic performance management system: $100,000
- Coordinator position: $135,000
- Additional mowing funding: $300,000
- Illegal dumping enforcement: $100,000
- Livable neighborhood staffing: $100,000

Note: $1.1 million represents ongoing operational costs, with $700,000 in personnel expenses.

Commissioner Davis supported visible impact projects, specifically demolition funding for problem properties like Rosedale Ridge apartment complex. Mr. Talkin, Director of the Neighborhood Resource Center, sent an email that referenced average demolition cost of $22,000 per dangerous building, recommending additional $200,000 in demolition budget.

Commissioner Kump noted Rosedale Ridge is scheduled for the October tax sale, requiring several hundred thousand dollars for demolition. Mayor Watson recommended a discussion with Judge Martinez to investigate possible community service participation.

Mayor Watson suggested bringing SOAR presentation to full commission during budget discussions.

Due to lack of time, no substantive discussion was held regarding Accella. This item will be heard at the next meeting.

Item No. 2. - DISCUSSION: FEE WAIVERS (Discussion Begins: 1:02:26**)**
Commissioner Davis clarified fee waiver discussion focused on ongoing small business support rather than World Cup-specific relief.

Ms. Miskec reported business license and occupational tax generates over $3 million annually. Short-term rental fees are $50 per unit with approximately 60 applications processed for World Cup.

Item No. 3. - DISTRIBUTION: DISTRICT-BY-DISTRICT FUND DISTRIBUTION
Due to lack of time, no substantive discussion was held regarding this item.

Item No. 4. - FUTURE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (Discussion Begins: 1:00:56)
ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- Economic development strategic plan firm numbers
- ACELLA program presentation
- Small business enhancement programs (ongoing vs. one-time)
- SOAR allocations
- Senior property tax rebate education program
- Property tax circuit breaker program funding
- Drainage/ditch program improvements
- Public Works infrastructure updates
- Police fiber optic system upgrades
- Demolition funding for priority properties
- Additional illegal dumping enforcement cameras and messaging

MEETING SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES (Discussion Begins: 1:07:21**)**
Next Meeting Scheduling
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27 at 3:00 PM. [After the meeting, due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting date was changed to **June 2, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.]**

Adjourn (Discussion Begins: 1:14:02**)**
Commissioner Kump moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Davis, Burns, Kump, Bynum, Watson
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

MLS