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 7, Chuck Stites
Commissioner, District 2 At Large-Andrew Kump, Mayor/CEO – Christal E. Watson

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MINUTES

Friday, April 10, 2026
8:01 AM – 9:27 AM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Bynum (Chair)
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Stites
- Commissioner Kump
- Mayor/CEO Watson

Committee Members Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Wendy Green (Legal Department)
- Rodney Lucas (Assistant County Administrator)
- Chelsee Chism (Economic Development Director)
- Reginald Lindsey (Budget Director)
- Mike Grimm (Research Manager)
- Shelly Kneuveaun (Chief Financial Officer)

Call to Order

Commissioner Bynum called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. Roll call was taken with all members present.

REVISIONS TO AGENDA

A hard stop time of 9:30 AM was requested and agreed upon. It was clarified that decisions did not need to be made during this meeting, only discussions were required. The committee must bring recommendations to the full commission prior to July 3, with a deadline to meet by May 1st.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

Discussion of $5 Million Disbursement Options

Commissioner Bynum presented a brainstorming list of potential expenditures that had been developed in a previous meeting with the Mayor, Commissioner Bynum and Commissioner Kump. The development agreement language specifies the funds should be used "for economic development" purposes, which was noted to be very broad in scope.

Key Discussion Points:

SCI-FI (County Infrastructure Financing Initiative) Funding

- Historical context provided: CIFI represents revenue sharing for infrastructure projects with three cities
- Current county mill value: Initially discussed as $1.2-1.3 million, later corrected to $2.3 million
- Formula previously used: 85.8% Kansas City, Kansas; 8.8% Bonner Springs; 5.2% Edwardsville
- Original 2005 resolution found to be very specific to capital improvements only
- 2023 resolution changed breakdown but program currently unfunded
- Money comprised of both City and County funds

Investment Strategy Discussion

Commissioner Stites proposed placing the entire $5 million in an interest-bearing dedicated fund rather than a one-time expenditure. Dr. Kneuvean confirmed via telephone that such a fund could be established with approximately 3% annual interest return (roughly $175,000 annually). This would provide sustainable funding rather than a one-time allocation.

Chelsee Chism, Economic Director, suggested providing funding to Bonner Springs and Edwardsville to assist them with grant funding.

Economic Development Strategic Plan

Discussion of allocating funds for a comprehensive economic development strategy including:

- Market analysis for different geographic regions
- Infrastructure needs assessment
- Housing study component
- Estimated cost: $500,000

World Cup Preparation Funding

Mayor Watson advocated for World Cup preparation funding, noting:

- Expected 200,000 visitors
- Need for business preparation
- Security requirements
- Infrastructure improvements needed

Commissioner Stites expressed strong opposition to World Cup funding, preferring focus on daily resident needs and infrastructure.

Legal and Administrative Considerations

Chelsee Chism clarified that the development agreement language allows funds to be used for "economic development, infrastructure improvements, or other beneficial public purposes," providing broad flexibility.

The 2005 CIFI resolution was found to have expired, and the 2023 resolution lacked funding and clear definitions. The committee agreed that new resolution language would be needed to encompass the broader economic development purposes being discussed.

MOTIONS AND ACTIONS

No formal motions were made during this meeting. The committee agreed that this was a discussion-only session with formal recommendations to be developed at the next meeting.

Action Items Identified:

1. Staff to draft new resolution language expanding CIFI scope to include economic development purposes
2. Finance Department to develop multiple scenarios for fund allocation formulas
3. Research specific World Cup funding needs and breakdown
4. Legal Department to prepare resolution amendments

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULED

The committee scheduled a follow-up meeting for **Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 8:00 AM** with all parties present at this meeting to attend to review draft resolution language and make final recommendations before the commission deadline.

Adjournment:

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

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 AM

MLS