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

Wednesday, April 29, 2026
7:40 AM – 8:55 AM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Bynum (Chair)
- Commissioner Davis
- 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 (Assistant County Administrator)
- Chelsee Chism (Economic Development Director)
- Reginald Lindsey (Budget Director)
- Shelly Kneuveaun (Chief Financial Officer)
- Troy Shaw (Director, Public Works

Call to Order

Commissioner Bynum called the meeting to order at 7:40 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.

Economic Development Strategic Plan Discussion
The Chair opened discussion on a $600,000 allocation for an economic development strategic plan. Chelsee Chism explained the plan would include:

- Geographic specific unmet market needs analysis
- Housing study focusing on land bank and projected housing needs
- Infrastructure strategic plan integration
- Community engagement components

Commissioner Davis expressed concern about the $600,000 cost, questioning the immediate and tangible impact for the community. He referenced criticism of previous plans and requested comparison costs from similar cities.

Ms. Chism noted the plan would be similar to Covington's plan and larger than Plan KCK, which cost over $1 million. She indicated other stakeholders including Bonner Springs and Edwardsville would participate in funding.

The Chair supported the strategic plan, emphasizing the need for housing components and infrastructure planning, particularly given new development patterns like data centers.

Mayor Watson raised questions about the development agreement language distinguishing between origination fee usage (economic development activities only) and annual payment usage (economic development, infrastructure improvement, or other beneficial UG purposes).

Infrastructure Project - Little Turkey Creek
Troy Shaw presented details on the Little Turkey Creek project ($250,000):

- Located around 82nd and Parallel area
- Part of Consent Decree requirements
- Replacement of 100 feet of pipe to address sanitary sewer capacity chokepoint
- Addresses overflow issues during heavy rainfall
- Would support future development capacity in the area

Downtown Grocery Store Support
The committee discussed $150,000 to replace general fund dollars committed to downtown grocery operator support. This item received consensus support.

World Cup and Small Business Support
Extensive discussion on business support for World Cup preparation, with the Chair expressing concerns about picking "winners and losers" in grant allocation. Alternative approaches were discussed.
Ms. Chism presented ideas including:

- Safety and security enhancements
- Corridor cleanup and facade improvements
- Signage and wayfinding
- Gateway signage into key districts
- Increased trash receptacle frequency
- Mural painting on boarded properties

Commissioner Davis suggested fee waivers for business licensing, SUP renewals, and permitting as an alternative to direct grants.

Mayor Watson mentioned meeting with Argentina's Consulate who indicated 100,000 Argentinians expected to visit Kansas, many planning to camp in public places.

Commissioner Burns shared examples from San Antonio's World Cup preparation, particularly welcoming banners throughout the city.

The committee discussed combining approaches and increasing funding for broader business support rather than individual grants.

Cultural Training Program
Mayor Watson referenced receiving information about cultural training needs for World Cup preparation, with $15,000 allocated for this purpose.

Commissioner Davis left the meeting at approximately 8:43 a.m.

Commissioner Kump moved to recommend to the full commission and fast-track the approval to the April 30, 2026, commission meeting:

- $150,000 for downtown grocery store support
- $250,000 for Little Turkey Creek infrastructure project
- $300,000 for economic mobility business support
- $150,000 for small business grant program enhancements
- $15,000 for World Cup cultural training

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

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

MEETING SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES

Next Meeting Scheduling

The committee agreed to meet **Friday, May 8, 2026, at 9:00 a.m**. **with a hard stop at 10:00 a.m. due to the Mayor's prior commitment.**

FUTURE MEETING PLANNING

Based on committee discussion, the following future agenda items to include:

- Economic development strategic plan further discussion
- District-by-district fund distribution
- Kansas Avenue Bridge project consideration and grant matching
- Bring back a list of projects and the total match requirements for each, so the committee can consider whether American Royal dollars should be used as match.
- Circuit breaker property tax relief program
- Allocating around $50,000 to the Clerk's Office for outreach and administration of tax rebate programs, and public communication and assistance
- Revolving loan fund exploration

- Building remediation and demolition funding
- Housing director position consideration

Adjournment:

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

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

MLS