

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



Public Works and Safety Meeting

Commission Chambers

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

Chair Andrew Kump

Commissioner, District 2, Bill Burns - Commissioner, District 3, Christian Ramirez

Commissioner, District 4, Evelyn Hill - Commissioner, District 6, Phil Lopez

MINUTES

Monday, April 13, 2026

5:00 PM – 6:26 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Kump (Chair)
- Commissioner Bradley-Lopez
- Commissioner Hill
- Commissioner Ramirez
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Lopez

Committee Members Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Bridgette Cobbins (Assistant County Administrator)
- Casey Meyer (Senior Counsel)
- Alyssa Marcy (Planning Department)
- Kristofer Finger (Public Works)
- Jonathan Wiles (Lead Engineer/Project Manager)
- Dilini Lankachandra (Legal Department)
- George Sims (Deputy Chief, Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department)

- John Droppelmann (Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal, Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department)
- Laura Cromwell (Fiscal Manager for Police Department)
- Jennifer Tarwater (Director of Emergency Management)
- Ian Hayes (Public Works Project Manager)
- Sarah White (Public Works Project Manager)
- Michael Pratt (Data and Technology Manager)

Call to Order

Commissioner Kump called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Revisions to Agenda: (Discussion Begins: 2:15)

The Clerk reported there was an agenda update issued: adding Item No. 4.1 and Item No. 4.2 to the committee agenda.

Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins 2:27)

Commissioner Burns moved to approve the minutes from the August 25 and September 22, 2025, and February 17 and March 16, 2026, meetings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Bradley-Lopez, Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Committee Agenda:

Item 4.1: ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION: VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN ADOPTION (Discussion Begins: 2:59)

Alyssa Marcy, Planning Department, Kris Finger, Public Works, and Anthony Gallo, Kimley-Horn, presented an ordinance/resolution approving the Vision Zero Action Plan with the request to fast track to the April 16 Board of Commissioners meeting. Anthony Gallo explained that the plan includes detailed safety and crash analysis of all intersections and roadways in the county, a robust public stakeholder engagement process, policy recommendations for a capital improvements program, and targeted safety infrastructure projects. The plan must be adopted by an elected body for eligibility for implementation funding.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Ramirez moved to approve the item with a fast track to the April 16 Full Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Bradley-Lopez, Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 4.2: RESOLUTION: VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN GRANTS (Discussion Begins: 8:09)

Anthony Gallo, Kimley Horn, presented a resolution approving the pursuit of the Safe Streets and Roads for All implementation program grant application for up to \$25 million with a 20% local match requirement. The grant funds both design and construction for safety infrastructure projects. The request includes pursuing the Build Kansas Fund for match funding. Applications are due at the end of May 2026.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Ramirez moved to approve with the fast track to the April 16 Full Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Bradley-Lopez, Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 4.3: ORDINANCE: STORMWATER ORDINANCE CHANGES (Discussion Begins: 15:46)

Jonathan Wiles, Lead Engineer/Project Manager, presented an ordinance making updates to stormwater ordinance Chapter 8 – 30. He explained that these are primarily housekeeping items including clarifications on definitions, flexibility for contractors in development community inspection frequency and permitting requirements, defining inspectors, and replacing “water pollution control” with “environmental services.”

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Ramirez made a motion to approve the item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Bradley-Lopez, Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 4.4: ORDINANCE: ALARM BUSINESSES AND SYSTEMS ORDINANCE CHANGES (Discussion Begins: 18:56)

Dilini Lankachandra, Legal Department, George Sims, Deputy Chief, Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department, and John Droppelmann, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal, Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department presented an ordinance amending Chapter 19, Article 7, regarding alarm businesses and systems to update for current alarm technologies and amend the fee structure. George Sims presented extensive data showing 98% of police alarm responses are false alarms, representing approximately 1.4 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) officers annually. The Fire Department is experiencing similar 98 – 99% false alarm rate with an estimated \$386,000 annual cost in personnel and assets.

Key Changes:

- Annual registration fee implementation.
- Fire department inclusion in alarm management program.
- Enhanced verification requirements for businesses intrusion alarms.
- Excessive alarm users must meet with personnel and complete training.
- Response suspensions after multiple false alarms.

- Outsourcing alarm management to third-party vendor.
- Maximum fee increase from \$500 to \$1,000.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Ramirez made a motion to approve the item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Bradley-Lopez, Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 4.5: RESOLUTION: FISCAL YEAR 25 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT – LOCAL FORMULA (Discussion Begins: 53:44)

Laura Cromwell, Fiscal Manager for Police Department, presented a resolution to apply for and accept fiscal year 2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant award in the amount of \$81,730 with a request to fast track to the April 16 Board Meeting. This non-competitive formula grant based on population and crime statistics will fund a taser training virtual reality program for patrol officers and a utility task vehicle for World Cup and Chiefs games events. Performance period extends through September 30, 2028, with no match requirement.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Burns made a motion to move approve the item and with a fast track to the April 16 Full Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Bradley-Lopez, Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 4.6: RESOLUTION: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT GRANT (Discussion Begins: 56:36)

Jennifer Tarwater, Director of Emergency Management, Ian Hayes, Public Works Project Manager, and Sarah White, Public Works Project Manager, presented a resolution approving the Federal Emergency Management Agency public assistance reimbursement grant for July 17-22, 2025, flooding and severe weather. Presidential declaration signed December 19, 2025. The federal government reimburses 75%, and the state of Kansas reimburses 10%, which leaves the Unified Government responsible for a 15% cost share.

Key Details:

- Emergency repairs and debris removal deadline: June 2026.
- Long-term repair and stabilization deadline: June 2027.
- Estimated costs: \$2.8 million for sanitary/storm utility, additional \$1.4 million for roads and bridges.
- Covers seven Federal Emergency Management Agency categories: debris removal, emergency protective measures, roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities, parks and recreation.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Ramirez made a motion to approve the item. The motion was seconded by BPU Board Member Bradley-Lopez.

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Bradley-Lopez, Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

**Item 4.7: PRESENTATION: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
(Discussion Begins: 1:03:45)**

Jennifer Tarwater, Director of Emergency Management, and Michal Pratt, Data and Technology Manager, made an informal presentation on two new mass notification systems for Wyandotte County: IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System) and Everbridge. Systems provide layered weather notifications with IPAWS reaching non-subscribers and Everbridge serving county subscribers.

Key Information:

- IPAWS requires FEMA memorandum of understanding, compatible alerting software, monthly test messages.
- Everbridge sends texts, emails, phone calls to work, desk, and home phones.
- The March 6, 226, tornado warning reached 90,000 through Everbridge with 86,305 confirmed deliveries.
- IPAWS covers all cell phones in the affected area regardless of subscription.
- Systems allow geofencing for specific emergency areas.
- The three-minute delay issue from March 6 has been resolved.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

This item was for information only, and no action was required.

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins: 1:26:37)

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

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

- Ayes: Bradley-Lopez, Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM

BJS