



Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas

Administration and Human Services Meeting

5th Floor Conference Room

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

Commissioner Melissa Bynum

Commissioner Mike Kane – Commissioner Christian Ramirez

Commissioner Andrew Davis – Commissioner Evelyn Hill

MINUTES

Monday, September 22, 2025

6:20 PM – 8:19 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Bynum (Chair)
- Commissioner Kane
- Commissioner Ramirez
- Commissioner Davis
- Commissioner Hill

Committee Members Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Brittne MacDonald (Unified Government Clerk's Office)
- David Johnston (County Administrator)
- Wendy Green (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- Alan Howze (Assistant County Administrator)
- SueZanne Bishop (Senior Counsel)
- Ruth Jones (Director Area Agency on Aging)

- Angel Ferrara (Director, Parks and Recreation)
- Chelsea Chism (Director of Economic Development)
- Dr. Shelley Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)

Call to Order:

Commissioner Bynum called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Revisions to Agenda (Discussion Begins: 1:09:47):

The Clerk reported a change in the order of the agenda. Item No. 4.1 would be heard as the last item at the request of the Chair.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

No previous minutes were presented for approval.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 4.1 - RESOLUTION: AREA AGENCY ON AGING AREA PLAN (Discussion Begins: 2:57:59)

Ms. Jones apologized for attendance conflicts. Ruth Jones, Area Agency on Aging Director, presented the area plan requirements:

- Federally mandated four-year strategic plan
- Kansas Planning Service Area 01 (Wyandotte/Leavenworth counties)
- Funded by the Older Americans Act
- Required components: information/referral, community services, nutrition, transportation, caregiver support
- Community input through public hearings and a 30-day comment period

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

Commissioner Kane made a motion to adopt the resolution and fast-track the item to the September 25, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carried 5/0

- Ayes: Kane, Hill, Ramirez, Davis, Bynum
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item No. 4.2 - RESOLUTION: 2025 BROWNFIELDS GRANT PROGRAM (Discussion Begins: 1:10:12)

Chelsee Chism, Economic Development Director, presented on behalf of Alyssa Marcy. The presentation covered:

- Overview of contaminated areas east of I-635 due to industry
- Current program utilizing three funding sources
- Over 400 parcels remediated in KCK since 2022 with \$2 million investment
- Final round of funding: \$1 million multi-purpose grant with no match requirement
- Focus area: east of I-435
- Fast track request due to approaching application deadline

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

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt the resolution and to not fast-track the item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kane.

Vote: Motion carried 5/0

- Ayes: Kane, Ramirez, Hill, Davis, Bynum
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item No. 4.3 - ORDINANCE: AMENDING LEVY OF TRANSIENT GUEST TAX (Discussion Begins: 1:17:53)

Deputy Chief Legal Counsel Wendy Green presented the current status:

- Current rate: 8% (chartered out of state statute in 2018)
- State statute limits to 2%, but UG chartered out
- Proposed ordinance initially at 10%, amended to 12% in committee

- 3% of receipts proposed for Parks and Recreation capital improvements
- Remainder for the convention and tourism fund
- Some hotels excluded due to bond pledges

Alan Carr, Executive Director of Visit Kansas City, Kansas, presented concerns:

- Rate competitiveness: Current 8% rate keeps KCK competitive regionally
- Earmark concerns: 3% allocation to on-tourism projects sets precedent
- Recommended temporary increase for World Cup preparation
- Total tax rates (including sales tax):
 - Current rates: 17.125% to 19.125%
 - A. At 1% increase: 18.125% to 20.125%
 - B. At 2% increase: 19.125% to 21.125%
 - C. At 4% increase: 21.125% to 23.125%
- Industry feedback indicated hotels want to remain competitive regionally. Visit KCK board vote to endorsed 1% increase.

Angel Ferrara, Parks Director, discussed Rock Island Bridge area development at the request of the chair:

- UG inherited 3.5-4 acres of riverfront parkland
- Applied for a \$13 million outdoor recreation legacy program grant
- Parks serve tourism purposes, including historical significance

The Chairman opened the public hearing. The following comments were received:

- **James Bain (Comments begin: 1:30:45)**
- **Terry Swineford (Comments begin: 1:34:47)**
- **Vimal Renault (Comments begin: 1:36:52)**
- **Mario Escobar (Comments begin: 1:40:20)**
- **Amanda Sabia (Comments begin: 1:41:30)**
- **Chris Patel (Comments begin: 1:48:02)**
- **J.D. Rios (Comments begin: 1:50:01)**
- **Andrea O'Hara (Comments begin: 1:52:57)**

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the ordinance with an increase on the transient guest sales tax from 8% to 10%, with 3% dedicated to Parks at a 4-year sunset. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kane.

Vote: Motion carried 5/0

- Ayes: Kane, Ramirez, Hill, Davis, Bynum
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item No. 4.4 - ORDINANCE: CALLING FOR ELECTION RELATING TO CITY RETAILERS' SALES TAX (Discussion Begins: 2:19:37)

Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Counsel, presented information on city retailer sales tax laws:

- Current general purpose tax: 1% (established 1980 and 1984)
 - A. 1% remaining capacity under general purpose cap
- Special purpose capacity: 0.375% remaining
 - A. EMS tax: 0.25% (no sunset due to grandfather clause)
 - B. Public safety/infrastructure tax: 0.375% (expires 2028)
- County sales tax: at maximum 1%

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, provided election timeline information:

- June 1, 2026: Deadline for August ballot
- September 1, 2026: Deadline for November ballot
- Constitutional amendments scheduled for August and November 2026
- Substantial staff resources required for ballot initiatives

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

No action was taken by the Committee.

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins: 3:05:20)

Commissioner Kane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carried 5/0

- Ayes: Kane, Ramirez, Hill, Davis, Bynum
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

MLS