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, August 25, 2025
6:00 PM – 7:34 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Bynum (Chair)
- Commissioner Kane
- Commissioner Ramirez (Arrived at 6:06 p.m.)
- Commissioner Davis
- Commissioner Hill

Committee Members Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Brittnie 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)
- Jacqui Watts (Fiscal Analyst, Area Agency on Aging)
- Emma Fonseca (Area Agency on Aging)

- Lesley Strohschein (Deputy Chief Financial Officer)
- Lupe Valdovino (Grants Administrator)
- Reginald Lindsey (Budget Director)

Call to Order:

Commissioner Bynum called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Revisions to Agenda:

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins: 59:42)

Commissioner Kane moved to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carried 4/0

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

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 4.1 - RESOLUTION: BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF AGING (Discussion Begins: 1:00:03)

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, and Ruth Jones, Director of Area Agency on Aging, presented the adoption of a resolution approving a budget amendment for the Area Agency on Aging Department. The budget amendment seeks to repay $429,000 to the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) based on a recent audit. This was the first audit by KDADS in the department's 33-year history.

Key Audit Findings Discussed:

- **Late Monthly Financial Reports:** Reports were submitted quarterly instead of monthly due to staff transitions and new financial systems.
- **Sub-ledger Reconciliation:** Accounting ledgers weren't matching with the new Workday system implemented in 2023.

- **Single Audit Delays:** Federal grant audits were behind schedule but are now back on track.
- **Volunteer Stipend Issues:** Long-standing practice of paying volunteer stipends was found non-compliant; volunteers are now part-time employees.
- **Time and Activity Records:** The primary cause of the $429,000 recoupment - lack of signed daily/weekly activity sheets despite having payroll records and documented work serving seniors.
- **Supporting Documentation:** Monthly financial reports and cash receipt documentation issues.
- **Annual Audit Review:** Leavenworth County sub-recipient monitoring was overlooked but has been completed.

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. 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 - ORDINANCE: AMENDING LEVY OF TRANSIENT GUEST TAX (Discussion Begins: 1:38:18)

David Johnston, County Administrator, and Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Counsel, presented approval of an ordinance to increase the transient guest tax from 8% to support World Cup 2026 preparations and ongoing tourism infrastructure needs.

Original Proposal: Increase from 8% to 10% for calendar year 2026 only, with 1.5% to Parks and Recreation capital projects and 0.5% to the convention and tourism fund.

Discussion Points:

- World Cup 2026 expected to bring 670,000 visitors
- Other cities have increased their rates: Lawrence (6% to 8%), Olathe (6% to 9%)
- Each 1% generates approximately $600,000 in revenue
- Tax applies only to hotel stays and short-term rentals (Airbnb, VRBO)
- Does not impact residents unless they stay in local accommodations

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 at a 10% rate. The motion was rescinded.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt the resolution increasing the tax from 8% to 12%, no sunset date, and 3% allocated to Parks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kane.

Commissioner Davis amended his motion to increase the tax by 4%, with no less than 3% allocated to Parks, with no sunset date. The amended 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: CALLING FOR ELECTION RELATING TO CITY RETAILERS' SALES TAX (Discussion Begins: 2:01:45)

David Johnston, County Administrator, and Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Counsel, presented approval of an ordinance calling for an election to consider increasing city retailer sales tax by 1% for general purposes, generating approximately $35-37 million annually.

Current Tax Structure:

- State: 6%
- County: 1%
- City: 1.625% (1% general + 0.625% special purpose)
- Proposed total: 10.125%

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: 2:33:05)

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 7:34 PM.

MLS