**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

## Wednesday, January 28, 2026
## 5:05 PM – 5:26 PM

**Attendance:**

**Committee Members Present:**

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

**Committee Members Absent:**

- None

**Staff Present:**

- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Troy Shaw (Director of Public Works)
- Casey Meyer (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- Delaney Lankachandra (Legal Department)
- John Droppelmann (Fire Marshal, Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department)
- Wendy Green (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- Luke Terrell (Electrical Distribution Engineering III, Board of Public Utilities)
- Brandon Sisk (Project Engineer, Board of Public Utilities)

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Kump called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

**Revisions to Agenda:**

No revisions to the agenda were announced.

**Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins 2:17)**

Commissioner Ramirez moved to approve the minutes from the January 27, October 27 and November 27, 2025 meetings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

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

**Committee Agenda:**

**Item 4.1: RESOLUTION: CENTRAL AVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT GRANT APPLICATION (Discussion Begins: 02:54)**

Troy Shaw, Public Works, presented a resolution to apply for a BUILD grant for the Central Avenue bridge replacement project. Shaw announced that the state had confirmed they would replace the bridge in conjunction with their I-70 Central Avenue Bridge Project. The grant application would fund additional pedestrian facilities and accommodation not typically included in state projects. The grant amount is up to $25 million, with the intent to use state funding as the matching portion, potentially resulting in zero cost to the UG. Any required local match would require additional commission approval.

**Key Details:**

- (KDOT) has announced it will replace the Central Avenue bridge as part of the I-70 Central Avenue Bridge Project, aligning with public input and the desire to reopen the bridge.
- The BUILD grant (up to about $25 million) would fund enhancements beyond the state's basic project, such as additional pedestrian facilities and other accommodations not typically covered by KDOT.

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

Commissioner Burns moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

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

**Item 4.2: RESOLUTION: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 FEDERAL STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT GRANT (Discussion Begins: 5:27)**

Casey Meyer, Legal Department, requested approval to apply for and accept the federal STOP Violence Against Women Act grant. This annual grant supports the victim services coordinator and domestic violence prosecutor in Municipal Court. The grant value is $133,295.30 with a required match of $45,814.48 to be funded from existing funds.

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

Commissioner Burns moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

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

**Item 4.3: RESOLUTION: DECLARING THE NECESSITY AND AUTHORIZING A SURVEY OF LANDS TO BE ACQUIRED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (Discussion Begins: 18:18)**

Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Counsel; Luke Terrell, BPU Electrical Engineering; Brandon Sisk, BPU Water Department, presented the item. The resolution declares the necessity and authorizes a survey of lands to be acquired by the Board of Public Utilities. The project involves easements for installing a 12-inch water main line, an overhead pole line, and two 6-inch electric PVC conduits. The water main would tie into existing infrastructure off State Line Road, currently served by an interconnect with Kansas City, Missouri. The project involves easements only, not full property acquisition.

**Key Details:**

- The resolution authorizes BPU to survey land and obtain easements needed for utility infrastructure, and, if necessary, to use eminent domain following negotiation and court-based appraisal processes.
- BPU plans to use the easements to install a 12-inch water main, an overhead pole line, and two 6-inch underground electric PVC conduits, tying new water infrastructure into existing lines near State Line Road and avoiding the need to cross the Kansas River.

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

Commissioner Ramirez moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

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

**Item 4.4: ORDINANCE: AMENDING CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE IV, FIREWORKS (Discussion Begins: 7:58)**

Delaney Lankachandra, UG Legal Department, with Fire Marshal John Droppelmann appeared for questions. The ordinance discussed is extending fireworks sales dates from June 29-July 4 to June 27-July 4, with an option to extend sales past 10 PM. This item was returned from the Board of Commissioners on December 18, 2025, for further discussion. The ordinance offers two options: extending the start date two days early and softening the 10 PM sales end time to allow customers already inside tents to complete purchases.

**Key Details:**

- The committee considered an ordinance amending Chapter 15, Article 4 (fireworks) to:
    - Extend sales dates from June 29–July 4 to June 27–July 4, and
    - Adjust the 10:00 PM sales cutoff (original “soft close” concept for customers already in the tent).
- Fire Marshal Dropleman said the Fire Department can manage the extended dates, but there is a minor added cost and recommended a clear hard closing time instead of a vague soft closing, since staff cannot be at all stands at once.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. Comments were received.

- **Cory Hall (Comment Begins 15:25)**

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Burns moved to approve the ordinance for Option 1 (start June 27) with an 11:00 PM hard stop on sales. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carried 4/1

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

**Adjournment: (Discussion Begins: 23:34)**

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

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 PM

ML