Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas

Public Works and Safety Meeting

5th Floor Conference Room

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

Commissioner Tom Burroughs, Chair

Commissioner Mike Kane – Commissioner Chuck Stites –

Commissioner Bill Burns – Commissioner Phil Lopez –

MINUTES

Monday, March 24, 2025

5:01 PM-6:30 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Burroughs (Chair)
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Stites
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Kane
- Ms. Gonzalez (BPU Board Member)

Committee Members Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Brittnie MacDonald (Unified Government Clerk's Office))
- Sheriff Daniel Soptic (Wyandotte County Sheriff)
- Dan Kuhn (Legal Department)
- Dr. Shelley Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)
- Phil Lockman (Director of Community Corrections)
- Mark Dupree (District Attorney)

- Troy Shaw (Director of Public Works)
- Chris Finger (Public Works Engineer)
- Diana Miles (Solid Waste Manager)
- Jeff Miles (Director of Environmental Services)
- Rodney Lucas (Assistant County Administrator)

Call to Order:

Commissioner Burroughs called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Revisions to Agenda:

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins 3:49)

Commissioner Kane moved to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stites.

Vote: Motion carries 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Stites, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Committee Agenda:

Item 1: RESOLUTION: RATIFYING PER DIEM RATES OF THE WYANDOTTE COUNTY SHERIFF (Discussion Begins 4:26)

Sheriff Daniel Soptic presented the item.

<u>Key points:</u>

- The Kansas Department of Corrections changed its process, now requiring the Governing Board to pass a resolution or ordinance to set per diem rates.
- Previously, the sheriff's office simply requested and received the maximum allowed rate from the state.
- The per diem rate increased from $95.17 to $107.02 per day.

- The new procedure is a formal requirement but does not substantially change reimbursement practices.

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

Vote: Motion carries 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Stites, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 2: UPDATE: REVISED INITIATIVES FOR STATE OF KANSAS OPIOID FUNDING (Discussion Begins 7:00)

Shelley Kneuvean, Chief Financial Officer, provided an informational update on modifications to opioid settlement fund allocations totaling approximately $1.1 million of $1.9 million received. Phil Lockman explained Community Corrections moved $40,000 from training to treatment programs. District Attorney Dupree reduced his request from $236,000 to $206,000, changing from a prosecuting attorney position to a coordinator and victim advocate positions.

Key points:

- The county received opioid settlement funds beginning in 2021, totaling about $1.9 million, governed by an MOU specifying eligible uses (victim support, drug abuse education, prevention).
- Funds cannot be used for supply/distribution enforcement (per the MOU).
- About $1.1 million was proposed for 2025 uses, but not all funds are appropriated at once to ensure sustainability.
- Personal hired under these funds are required to sign agreements acknowledging their position ends if funding ends.

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.

Item 3: RESOLUTION: SURVEY FOR 55TH & METROPOLITAN INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS (Discussion Begins 15:08)

Troy Shaw and Chris Finger, both from the Public Works Department, presented a resolution authorizing survey and property acquisition discussions for intersection improvements funded by KDOT grant.

Key points:

- The resolution is a procedural step authorizing surveys and the ability to negotiate with property owners to acquire necessary right-of-way and easements for the intersection improvement project.
- The project will upgrade the 55th and Metropolitan intersection, funded by a KDOT grant, with plans to widen lanes on all sides.
- Approval does not commit the city to spending or property acquisition; it simply allows staff to start discussions with property owners.
- Eminent domain authority is not granted at this stage; future commission approval would be required if condemnation is needed.

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

Commissioner Kane moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carries 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Stites, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 4: RESOLUTION: SURVEY OF 98TH & STATE AVE (Discussion Begins 20:02)

Chris Finger, Public Works, presented intersection improvements coordinated with KDOT's I-435 interchange project and related to Homefield development.

Key points:

- The project aims to upgrade the intersection with turn lanes, ADA improvements, and signal enhancements.
- Improvements are coordinated with a KDOT interchange project at I-435 and ongoing area development (e.g., Homefield).
- Preliminary design work considers the alignment and potential realignment of 98th Street to the south, in anticipation of future KDOT projects.
- The resolution allows the city to begin surveying and negotiating with property owners for necessary easements/land.
- No commitment to property acquisition or funding is made at this stage—action is for procedural authorization only.

- The project is designed to accommodate future traffic needs and safety concerns based on local input.

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

Commissioner Stites moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carries 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Stites, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 5: RESOLUTION: SURVEY FOR 99TH & PARALLEL (Discussion Begins 25:00)

Chris Finger, Public Works, presented ADA compliance and lane improvements triggered by development requirements. Troy Shaw, Public Works, noted developers contribute funds held in escrow ($120,000-$125,000 from recent gas station) to fund complete intersection reconstruction.

<u>Key points:</u>

- The project will add ADA-compliant features (like detectable warning panels) and lane improvements to the intersection.
- Improvements support accessibility and address issues identified in traffic/development studies for the area.
- The procedural resolution permits city staff to begin surveying and negotiating with property owners for any needed land or easements but does not obligate funding or acquisition yet.

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

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

Vote: Motion carries 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Stites, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 6: RESOLUTION: SURVEY FOR 10TH & GRANDVIEW (Discussion Begins 28:37)

Chris Finger, Public Works, presented safety improvements for the intersection. The project will eliminate the angled intersection approach and add parking for Northrop Park, funded by ARPA and 2023 debt funding.

<u>Key points:</u>

- The 10th and Grandview project targets safety improvements at an intersection with a history of frequent accidents (15–18 in recent years).
- The plan, still in design, may straighten or realign the intersection, eliminate hazardous angles, and add a new parking lot for Northrup Park.
- Safety enhancements include channelization (e.g., curb islands, bollards) to prevent dangerous turning maneuvers and reduce speeding.
- Public engagement, including input from district commissioners, is part of the ongoing design process.

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 Lopez.

Vote: Motion carries 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Stites, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 7: RESOLUTION: GRAVITY INTERCEPTOR FROM PUMP STATION 45 TO PUMP STATION 7 (Discussion Begins 33:38)

Chris Finger, Public Works, presented consent decree mandated sewer capacity improvements to address Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) during wet weather events, funded by sanitary sewer enterprise funds.

<u>Key points:</u>

- The upgrade increases capacity to prevent sewage discharge during wet weather events.
- The resolution is procedural—authorizing surveys and owner negotiations but not committing to acquisition or construction at this stage.

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

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

Vote: Motion carries 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Stites, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

Item 8: RESOLUTION: APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DEFFENBAUGH INDUSTRIES, INC., D/B/A WASTE MANAGEMENT7 (Discussion Begins 36:15)

Diana Miles, Solid Waste Manager, presented a comprehensive cart-based waste collection pilot program at no cost to residents or UG. The program includes 96-gallon trash and recycling containers, maintains current bulk item and yard waste allowances, and addresses service delays, blight, and low recycling rates (4% vs. 33% state average).

John Blessing from Waste Management explained two pilot areas: 6,500 homes north of State Avenue (83rd-86th Street area) and under 6,000 homes in the 18th Street to County Line area. The program includes new compressed natural gas trucks with camera systems for service verification.

Key points:

- The program retains allowances for 10 yard-waste bags and 3 bulky items per week, with advanced notice for bulky item pickup.
- New "smart" trucks with cameras and direct communication channels are part of the program, enhancing customer service and accountability.
- Public feedback included concerns about access for large trucks on narrow, on-street parked roads, future costs, and recycling contamination.
- The committee and public emphasized the importance of robust education and outreach, as well as ongoing monitoring of missed service, complaints, recycling participation/contamination rates, and neighborhood impacts.
- The initiative received strong support from the Solid Waste Management Committee and was unanimously endorsed at the committee level.

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

- **Nancy Zielke, Chair of the Solid Waste Management Committee (Comment Begins: 1:07:51)**

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Kane moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by BPU Board Member Gonzalez.

Vote: Motion carries 5-1

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Stites, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: Burns
- Absent: None

Item 9: REPORT: EARLY LEARNING DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM (Discussion Begins 1:14:20)

Jeff Miles, Director of Environmental Services, presented an informational report on the internal CDL training program implemented in 2022. The program reduced per-driver costs from $6,000 (external truck driving school) to $109 (internal program) with a 99.9% success rate, saving $646,600 total. The multi-departmental team includes staff from Fleet, Parks, Transit, and Environmental Services.

The program serves all UG departments and is available to partner cities (Edwardsville and Bonner Springs).

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 1:30:30)

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

Vote: Motion carries 6-0

- Ayes: Gonzalez, Lopez, Stites, Burns, Kane, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

MLS