

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commission Chambers

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

Mayor Tyrone Garner

Commissioner At-Large Dist. 1 Melissa Bynum – Commissioner At-Large Dist. 2 Tom Burroughs –

Commissioner Dist. 1 Gayle E. Townsend – Commissioner Dist. 2 Bill Burns –

Commissioner Dist. 3 Christian Ramirez – Commissioner Dist. 4 Dr. Evelyn Hill –

Commissioner Dist. 5 Mike Kane – Commissioner Dist. 6 Phil Lopez –

Commissioner Dist. 7 Chuck Stites – Commissioner Dist. 8 Andrew Davis

MINUTES

Thursday, June 6, 2024

7:00 PM – 11:30 PM

Attendance:

Commissioners Present:

- Mayor Tyrone Garner
- Commissioner Burroughs
- Commissioner Bynum
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Ramirez
- Commissioner Hill
- Commissioner Kane
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Stites

Commissioner's Absent:

- Commissioner Davis (Absent memo provided)
- Commissioner Townsend (Absent memo provided)

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks (Interim UG Clerk)
- David Johnston (County Administrator)

- Wendy Green (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- Reginald Lindsey (Budget Director)
- Dr. Shelley Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)

Call to Order:

Mayor Tyrone Garner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Stella Ruiz of the Oak Grove Christian Church led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Revisions to Agenda: (Discussion Begins 3:19)

The Clerk reported there was an agenda update issued, adding Item No. 1 under Administrator's Agenda, adding documents to Mayor's Agenda Item No. 6, adding Public Hearing Agenda Item No. 1, and Replacing Documents for Standing Committee's Agenda Item No. 1.

6. Mayor's Agenda:

Item No. 1 – Proclamation proclaiming June 7, 2024, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day. (Discussion Begins 4:07)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 2 – Proclamation proclaiming June 9, 2024, as Mt. Carmel Church of God in Christ Day. (Discussion Begins 4:24)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 3 – Proclamation proclaiming the month of June 2024, as Raising KC Month. (Discussion Begins 4:40)

This item was read into the record of the meeting, and no commission action was required.

Item No. 4 – REQUEST: HONORARY STREET NAME TO HONOR CHESTER C. OWENS, JR. AND LILLIE OWENS (Discussion Begins 4:59)

Mayor Tyrone Garner led the tribute to Chester Owens. During the tribute to Chester Owens, multiple community members spoke about his significant contributions to Wyandotte County. Speakers highlighted his roles as a historian, civil rights activist, mentor, and community leader. They shared personal stories about how he preserved local history, supported young people, and fought for equality. Family members, including his daughters Karen and Cynthia, spoke about his dedication to civic duty and community service. Many described him as a walking encyclopedia of local history who was always willing to teach and support others. The tribute culminated with Mayor Garner presenting Chester Owens with a key to the city, recognizing his

lifelong commitment to Wyandotte County. At 91 years old, Owens was honored for his decades of service and impact on the community.

Mayor Garner made a motion to approve. The motion was unanimously seconded by all attending commissioners.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

- Ayes: Kane, Lopez, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Hill
- Nays: None
- Absent: Townsend, Davis

The Commission went into recess at 8:25 PM.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30 PM.

Item No. 5 – PRESENTATION: MAYORS OF BONNER SPRINGS, EDWARDSVILLE AND LAKE QUIVIRA (Discussion Begins 1:24:00)

Mayor Jeff Harrington of Bonner Springs gave a presentation on developments and initiatives in Bonner Springs, including:

- Transition to a full-time fire department
- Infrastructure improvements
- New water treatment plant
- Community events and initiatives
- Housing developments

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

Item No. 6 – UPDATE: MAYOR CAIHARR CONSOLIDATION INFORMATION SESSIONS (DOCUMENT ADDED PER AGENDA UPDATE) (Discussion Begins 1:34:46)

Mayor Carolyn Caiharr of Edwardsville gave a lengthy presentation on the results of community meetings regarding the Unified Government structure, including the historical context of the 1997 consolidation.

- Survey results from community meetings
- Concerns about transparency, efficiency, and tax burden.
- Suggestions for improvements to the Unified Government structure

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

7. Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins 3:13:26)

Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: FISCAL YEAR 2024 KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ALL HANDS-ON DECK GRANT

Item No. 2 – PLAT: MCKINNEY ACRES

Item No. 3 – PLAT: BETTIS BUSINESS PARK

Item No. 4 – PLAT: KELLY'S FARM

Item No. 5 – PLAT: MARTINY FARM

Item No. 6 – MINUTES

Item No. 7 – WEEKLY BUSINESS

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

- Ayes: Kane, Lopez, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Hill
- Nays: None
- Absent: Townsend, Davis

8. Public Hearing Agenda:

Item No. 1 – PUBLIC HEARING: 2025 BUDGET PROCESS (DOCUMENT ADDED PER AGENDA UPDATE) (Discussion Begins 3:14:05)

Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director, presented the 2025 budget process. He gave a presentation that covered budget initiatives from previous years, priorities for the 2025 budget, community engagement efforts in the budget process, and an overview of budget workshops and public input sessions.

Mayor left meeting at 10:10 PM; Burroughs Acting Mayor Pro Tem. Mayor returned to meeting at 10:41 PM.

Multiple residents spoke during the public forum. Public Comments:

- Trina Crawford **(Discussion Begins 3:27:13)**
- Samantha Osorio and Daniel Angel Franco (Kansas City, KS) **(Discussion Begins 3:38:45)**
- David Haley (Kansas City, KS, Vice President of the Board of Public Utilities Board) **(Discussion Begins 3:30:53)**
- Fannie Hill (Wyandotte County, KS) **(Discussion Begins 3:34:00)**
- Robert Carl (Kansas City, KS) **(Discussion Begins 3:36:57)**
- Carolyn Wyatt (Kansas City, KS) **(Discussion Begins 3:40:36)**
- Pamela Penn-Hicks (Kansas City, KS) **(Discussion Begins 3:41:42)**

- Angel Ferrara (Kansas City, KS) (**Discussion Begins 3:43:22**)
- Rose Eilts (Kansas City, KS, Strawberry Hill Association) (**Discussion Begins 3:45:15**)

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

9. Standing Committee's Agenda:

Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: WAIVING INFILL HOUSING FEES (DOCUMENTS REPLACED PER AGENDA UPDATE) (Discussion Begins 4:09:08)

Commissioner Bynum presented the resolution on infill housing fees for new residential construction east of 78th Street. She explained the resolution would waive building permit, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, driveway, and sewer connection fees for a five-year period, with a planned two-year review to assess its effectiveness.

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 7/1

- Ayes: Kane, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Hill
- Nays: Lopez
- Absent: Townsend, Davis

10. Administrator's Agenda:

Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL #53 (ADDED PER AGENDA UPDATE) (Discussion Begins 4:21:27)

David Johnston, County Administrator, presented the resolution on International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #53. He explained the negotiations focused on developing a three-year pay raise program and what has been agreed by the union and management. The three-year agreement includes calendar years 24, 25, and 26 for each year with a 3% raise.

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

- Ayes: Kane, Lopez, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Hill
- Nays: None
- Absent: Townsend, Davis

13. Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 4:23:03)

Commissioner Burns made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

- Ayes: Kane, Lopez, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Hill
- Nays: None
- Absent: Townsend, Davis

MAYOR GARNER

ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:30 P.M.

June 6, 2024

Monica L. Sparks, CMC
Interim Unified Government Clerk