CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. ______

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas

Board of Commissioners

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

Mayor Christal E. Watson
Commissioner At-Large Dist. 1 Melissa Bynum – Commissioner At-Large Dist. 2 Andrew Kump – Commissioner Dist. 1 Jermaine Howard – Commissioner Dist. 2 Bill Burns – Commissioner Dist. 3 Christian Ramirez – Commissioner Dist. 4 Evelyn Hill – Commissioner Dist. 5 Carlos Pacheco III – Commissioner Dist. 6 Phil Lopez – Commissioner Dist. 7 Chuck Stites – Commissioner Dist. 8 Andrew Davis

MINUTES

Thursday, December 18, 2025
7:00 PM – 10:03 PM

Attendance:

Commissioner's Present:

- Mayor Christal E. Watson
- Commissioner Hill
- Commissioner Pacheco
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Stites
- Commissioner Davis
- Commissioner Bynum
- Commissioner Kump
- Commissioner Howard
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Ramirez

Commissioner's Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks (UG Clerk)
- Angela J. Lawson (Acting Chief Counsel)
- Wendy Green (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- David Johnston (County Administrator)
- Terrie Garrison (Interim Health Director, Health Department)
- Wesley McCain (Community Health Division Manager, Health Department)
- Dr. Shelley Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)
- Chelsee Chism (Economic Development Director)
- Troy Shaw (Public Works Director)
- Dwayne Smith (Street Department Manager)
- Dilini Lankachandra (Legal Department)
- Captain Barton Richardson (Fire Department)
- Chief Chad Womble (Fire Department)

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Christal E. Watson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The invocation was led by Commissioner Hill, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Revisions to Agenda:

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

Commissioner Ramirez made a motion to adjourn and reconvene as the Wyandotte County Board of Health. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis. (Discussion Begins 19:53)

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: None

5. Board of Health Agenda (Discussion Begins 21:23)

Item No. 1 – QUARTERLY UPDATE: BOARD OF HEALTH (Discussion Begins 21:23)

County Administrator David Johnston introduced Terrie Garrison, Interim Director of the Unified Government Public Health Department, for a quarterly report on substance abuse response, infectious diseases in the metro area, substance use, and opioid information.

Infectious Disease Update. Terrie Garrison presented program details:

- Terrie Garrison reported that the TB outbreak was declared over on November 14, 2025, by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Total tuberculosis cases in 2025 in Kansas: 49 active cases, 337 latent cases
- Wyandotte County: 12 active cases, 159 latent cases
- Pertussis (whooping cough) cases increased five times over 2024 levels
- Measles exposure reported at Kansas City International Airport in November

Substance Misuse and Peer Support Program. Wesley McCain, Community Health Division Manager, presented program details:

- Wyandotte County was identified as having the biggest difference between treatment need and treatment capacity in Kansas
- One in five Kansans meet criteria for substance use disorder, including alcohol and drug use (approximately 25,000 adults in Wyandotte County)
- Distributed 2,000 doses of Narcan in 2025
- Distributed 250 harm reduction kits containing Narcan, hygiene supplies, first aid supplies, condoms, and other supplies
- Peer support specialist available to provide peer support services funded through the Department of Justice grant

Opioid Awareness Campaign. Nordia Epps from Mid America Regional Council presented results of the $170,000 "Today's Drugs Are Different" campaign:

- 30.3 million impressions across the multiple media platforms used
- Campaign included outdoor ads, radio spots, streaming audio, online advertising, and social media
- First Call KC website visits doubled during the campaign period
- Calls to First Call KC tripled during the campaign period

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

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn and reconvene as the Land Bank Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez. (Discussion Begins 55:25)

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: None

<u>6. Land Bank Consent Agenda</u> (Discussion Begins 55:30)

Item No. 1 – LAND BANK OPTIONS

Item No. 2 – LAND BANK PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve all items on the Land Bank Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: None

Commissioner Kump made a motion to adjourn and reconvene as the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns. (Discussion Begins 57:01)

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: None

<u>7. Regular Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins 57:35)</u>

Item No. 2 – RESOLUTION: CASH INVESTMENT POLICY ANNUAL UPDATE

Item No. 3 – APPOINTMENT: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Item No. 4 – MINUTES

Item No. 5 – WEEKLY BUSINESS

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to approve all remaining items on the consent agenda except set aside Item No. 7.1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stites.

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: None

A request was made by Commissioner Ramirez to set aside Item No. 7.1.

Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: UPDATED PURCHASING POLICY (Discussion Begins 58:50)

Dr. Shelley Kneuvean explained the policy required a cleanup.

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kump.

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: None

8. Standing Committee's Agenda (Discussion Begins 1:05:00)

Item No. 1 – ORDINANCE: AMENDING CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE IV, FIREWORKS (Discussion Begins 4:54:40)

Dilini Lankachandra from the Unified Government Legal Department explained the ordinance would:

- Extend fireworks sales period from June 29-July 4 to June 27-July 4
- New language "soft-close" will allow customers who enter by 10 PM to complete purchases after the cutoff time

Captain Barton Richardson and Chief Chad Womble, both from the Fire Department, presented operational challenges:

- Five fire inspectors currently handle 31 stands
- The additional two days would require overtime at $75/hour for 14-hour days
- "Soft close" language creates enforcement difficulties
- Security concerns with multiple robbery incidents at stands

Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stites.

Vote: Motion fails 3/7

- Ayes: Lopez, Stites, Burns
- Nays: Hill, Pacheco, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Ramirez

Commissioner Kump made a motion to send it back to the Public Works & Safety Standing Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bynum.

Vote: Motion carries 7/3

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Ramirez
- Nays: Lopez, Stites, Burns

<u>9. Administrator's Agenda</u> (Discussion Begins 1:57:45)

Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: SETTING PUBLIC HEARING (BUC-EE'S PROJECT TIF PLAN) (Discussion Begins 1:57:52)

Key Points:

- The resolution was introduced to set a public hearing date regarding the redevelopment project plan and TIF (Tax Increment Financing) for the Buc-ee's Family Travel Center.
- The proposed hearing date is January 29, 2026.
- This step is part of the standard process for establishing a TIF district, as required by state statute; it is a procedural (not substantive) action within the previously approved development agreement.

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

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: None

Item No. 2 – PRESENTATION: SNOW OPERATIONS (Discussion Begins 2:00:14)

Troy Shaw, Public Works Director, introduced Dwayne Smith, Street Department Manager to do the presentation.

Key Points:

- Overview & Priorities:
    - A. The public works department's main objective is to restore safe traction to roadways after a snow event.
    - B. Priority is given to "hot routes" (major arterials), then secondary routes (collectors, schools), then neighborhoods.
    - C. Goal: hot/secondary routes cleared within 12 hours after snow ends; neighborhoods within 24–48 hours.
- Materials & Methods:
    - A. Use salt, sand, and treated brine, applying each based on storm intensity and environmental needs.
    - B. Sand is used only when necessary because it can clog stormwater infrastructure and, if used on ice, can polish it and make roads slipperier.
- Workforce & Coverage:
    - A. The street department has 31 staff and 8 supervisors; seasonal help comes from parks (10 employees) and environmental services (3 employees) departments.

B. Many staff are new (67% have one year or less experience in snow plowing); ongoing CDL certification is required for new hires.

C. Compared to Overland Park, which covers 2000 lane miles with 139 employees, Wyandotte County covers 2400 lane miles with 39 core employees.

- Challenges:

  A. Major infrastructure is old and deteriorating, making plowing difficult and sometimes causing more rapid road damage.

  B. Limited workforce and extended shifts lead to risk of burnout.

  C. Growing population increases demand.

- New Initiatives:

  A. Introduction of a new fleet tracking system (“Precise”) for better data collection and route monitoring.

- Community Requests:

  A. Residents are encouraged to avoid driving during storms and not to park on roadways.

  B. Secure mailboxes, push snow to the driveway’s right side, and avoid playing/sledding in streets.

  C. For emergencies, use 911; non-emergencies, use 311.

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

Item No. 3 – PRESENTATION: PUBLIC WORKS ACCREDITATION (Discussion Begins 2:18:20)

David Johnston, County Administrator, introduced Troy Shaw, Director of Public Works, to introduce his team. APWA Regional Director Bill Stogsdale attended and highlighted the rarity and significance of the accreditation, honoring the department for exceptional achievement.

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

<u>10. Mayor's Agenda</u> (Discussion Begins 2:34:00)

Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: ADOPTION OF 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM (Discussion Begins 13:44) (Discussion Begins 2:34:02)

David Johnston, County Administrator, introduced Paul Davis, lobbyist, to introduce the proposed state legislative agenda.

Key Points:

1. **Protecting Medicaid Funding:**
    - Urges the state to maintain Medicaid funding (especially as federal support changes) and continue working toward Medicaid expansion.
2. **Local Revenue Flexibility:**
    - Opposes new legislative limits on local governments' ability to raise necessary revenue (especially affecting sales tax exemptions and property taxes).
3. **Property Tax Relief & Local Control:**
    - Seeks meaningful reductions in property tax but defends against state-imposed caps or valuation restrictions that would undermine local budget authority.
4. **Infrastructure Funding:**
    - Supports continued adequate funding for the state transportation plan ("IKE program"), critical for local bridge and road repairs.
5. **Access to Childcare:**
    - Advocates for expanded state support and regulatory streamlining to address workforce and family needs.
6. **Prevailing Wage/Local Labor Control:**
    - Supports the ability of local governments to determine prevailing wage requirements for local projects.
7. **Increased Funding for Mental Health and Substance Abuse:**
    - Pushes for additional support to address growing behavioral health crisis and addiction issues.
8. **Housing Availability & Support for the Unhoused:**
    - Opposes further restriction of the LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credit) program; calls for more housing and homelessness solutions.
9. **Reauthorization of STAR Bonds Legislation:**
    - Seeking continuation of this economic development tool, important for major local projects.
10. **Adequate Funding & Fair Formula for Public Education.**
    - Monitors any changes to the statewide school finance formula to protect local schools.
11. **Cannabis Legalization:**
    - Supports safe and legal access, with local regulatory authority and a focus on medical access.
12. **State Support for Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure:**
    - Seeks additional funding for needed improvements and repairs.

13. **Motor Vehicle Services Funding:**
    - Requests a greater share of fees stay local to support service modernization.
14. **Protecting SNAP (Food Assistance):**
    - Opposes state or federal changes that would reduce support for vulnerable residents.
15. **Illegal Tire Dumping Enforcement:**
    - Urges more robust state enforcement of tire hauler regulations to prevent blight and local cleanup costs.

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 9/1

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: Stites

Item No. 2 – RESOLUTION: APPROVING TWO-YEAR MEETING SCHEDULE (Discussion Begins 2:57:43)

David Johnston, County Administrator, introduced Monica L. Sparks, Unified Government, to present the calendar.

Key Points:

- The resolution set the official Board of Commissioners and standing committee meeting schedule for the next two years.
- Two options:
    A. Option A: Two meetings per month (first and last Thursday), both for regular business, with the last meeting also covering planning and zoning.
    B. Option B: Three meetings per month (first/third Thursday for regular business, last Thursday for planning and zoning—with mayoral option to add critical business).
- Discussion included rationales for more vs. fewer meetings, balancing efficiency, public accessibility, and keeping long planning & zoning hearings manageable.
- The commission discussed—and approved—a change to move the regular start time earlier, from 7:00 PM to 5:30 PM, making meetings more accessible and aiming for improved efficiency.
- The calendar schedule will begin in February and requires ordinance amendment at the next meeting to formally codify the change.

Commissioner Ramirez made a motion to adopt the resolution, option B, and change time to start at 5:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 7/3

- Ayes: Hill, Lopez, Stites, Bynum, Kump, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: Pacheco, Davis, Howard

Item No. 3 – PROCLAMATION: VERDIS JEUNE ROBINSON DAY (Discussion Begins 3:13:30)

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

<u>13. Adjournment:</u> (Discussion Begins 3:17:53)

Commissioner Kump made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stites.

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

- Ayes: Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez
- Nays: None

MAYOR WATSON

ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:03 P.M.

December 18, 2025

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Monica L. Sparks, CMC

Unified Government Clerk

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