

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 Evelyn Hill –
Commissioner Dist. 5 Mike Kane – Commissioner Dist. 6 Phil Lopez –
Commissioner Dist. 7 Chuck Stites – Commissioner Dist. 8 Andrew Davis*

MINUTES

Thursday, March 6, 2025

7:0 PM – 9:45 PM

Attendance:

Commissioner's Present:

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

Commissioner's Absent:

- Commissioner Ramirez

Staff Present:

- David Johnston (County Administrator)
- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Wendy Green (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- Irene Caudillo (Mayor's Chief of Staff)

- Reginald Lindsey (Budget Director)
- Zach Hunt (Deputy Election Officer)
- Reed Partridge (Legislative Auditor)
- Dr. Shelley Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)
- Terrie Garrison (Health Department Director)
- Dr. Allen Greiner (Health Department)
- Wesley McKain (Health Department)
- Jennifer Stewart (Environmental Health Manager, Health Department)
- Ashley Lause (Women, Infant, Child (WIC) Manager, Health Department)

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Tyrone Garner called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The invocation was led by Chaplain Annie Erickson of the Grandview Park Presbyterian Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Revisions to Agenda:

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

5. Mayor's Agenda:

Item No. 1 – RECOGNITION: GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD (Discussion Begins 3:10)

Mayor Garner recognized the Budget Department, led by Director Reginald Lindsay, for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. County Administrator David Johnson noted this marks 15-17 consecutive years of meeting these national standards for financial reporting and budget excellence. Mr. Lindsay acknowledged his staff's dedication, working 70+ hours per week during budget season.

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

Item No. 2 – Proclamation proclaiming the month of March as Women's History month (Discussion Begins 11:20)

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

Item No. 3 – PRESENTATION: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONORS (Discussion Begins 13:26)

Chief of Staff Irene Caudillo presented detailed biographies and recognition for seven women honorees.

Women Recognized by Mayor:

- Cindy Cash **(Discussion Begins 22:39)**
- Loretta Colombel **(Discussion Begins 30:36)**
- Annie Der **(Discussion Begins 35:35)**
- Elnora Jefferson **(Discussion Begins 40:50)**
- Veda J. Monday **(Discussion Begins 46:55)**
- Teresa C. Pacheco **(Discussion Begins 51:59)**
- Carolyn Wyatt **(Discussion Begins 59:27)**

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

6. Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins 1:09:20)

Item No. 1 – MINUTES

Item No. 2 – WEEKLY BUSINESS

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

8. Standing Committee's Agenda:

Item No. 1 - ORDINANCE: APPROVING PARTIAL RELEASE OF MORTGAGE AND REMOVING PROPERTY FROM STAR BOND PROJECT DISTRICT (BUC-EE'S PROJECT) (Discussion Begins: 1:09:59)

Commissioner Burroughs, chair of the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, reported the committee heard testimony on this item involving a sliver of property on the north side of the Speedway/Buc-ee's development.

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

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

9. Administrator's Agenda:

Item No. 1 - APPOINTMENTS: WITNESS DESTRUCTION OF ELECTION BALLOTS AND RECORDS (Discussion Begins: 1:11:05)

County Administrator David Johnston explained that state law requires two commissioners to witness the destruction of expired election documents. Deputy Election Commissioner Zach Hunt requested Commissioners Bynum and Lopez to serve as witnesses for the March 19, 2025, destruction.

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stites.

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

10. Commissioner's Agenda:

Item No. 1 - ORDINANCE: ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO UNIFIED GOVERNMENT ETHICS CODE (Discussion Begins: 1:13:03)

Reed Partridge, Legislative Auditor, introduced the item, noting the Ethics Commission presented proposed changes at a 5:00 P.M. special session. He acknowledged the late Ethics Administrator Ruth Benien's significant contribution to this work before her passing in January 2025.

Ethics Commission Chair Pastor Ricky Bragg and Commissioner Joe Whitman were present for questions.

Key Points:

1. Discussion of Employment Restrictions:

- Section 2-260 gained attention, specifically regarding restrictions on former unified government representatives accepting employment within one year of leaving office.
- Debate centered on an exception for commissioners (and possibly the mayor), allowing them to return to government employment within a year.
- Concerns were raised (especially by Commissioners Townsend and Stites) that different rules for commissioners versus staff create an appearance problem and lack of parity.

2. Procurement Code Consistency:

- Part of the rationale for the exception was to maintain consistency between the Ethics code and the Procurement Code, particularly regarding contract awards and the cooling-off period.

3. Request to Revisit Language:

- The Ethics Commission, led by Chair Pastor Ricky Bragg, agreed to revisit the post-employment restriction language for greater consistency and pledged to bring a revised recommendation before the new Commission.

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the ordinance, except Section 2-67(c)(3)(a), and 2-67(d)(3) to remain the same. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stites.

Vote: Motion carries 8/1

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

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to adjourn and reconvene as the Land Bank Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stites. (Discussion Begins 1:29:15)

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

11. Land Bank Board of Trustees Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda (Discussion Begins 1:29:57)

Item No. 1: LAND BANK OPTIONS

Item No. 2: LAND BANK PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Commissioner Stites made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burroughs.

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to adjourn and reconvene as the Land Bank Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burroughs. (Discussion Begins 1:30:34)

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

12. Board of Health Agenda

Item No. 1: UPDATE: PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND DIVISION OVERVIEW (Discussion Begins 1:31:10)

David Johnston, County Administrator, introduced the Public Health Department and team to provide an update on the division and services.

- Public Health Department Role & Readiness
 - A. Health Officer Dr. Allen Greiner remarks:
 - a. 20+ years serving Wyandotte County.
 - b. Commitment to science-based decisions.
 - c. Department remains on call 24/7 and ready for future emergencies, even amid funding and political challenges.
- Division Overviews – What the Health Department Does

- A. Clinical Services: Vaccinations (childhood and adult), prenatal and women’s health, STI testing/treatment, limited primary care, lab services, Narcan and fentanyl test strip distribution, referrals, and a Bonner Springs clinic.
 - B. Community Health: Peer recovery with Drug Court, tobacco retail licensing enforcement, school sexual-health education (USD 500), and health-related policy work.
 - C. Environmental Health: Air quality monitoring, childcare licensing, pool/spa/spray park inspections, septic permits, and lead hazard home interventions.
 - D. Epidemiology: Disease surveillance, Communicable disease investigations, social determinants data, mapping (e.g., heat mapping project).
 - E. Emergency Preparedness: Planning and response for outbreaks/disasters; regional coordination; includes coroner’s office administration.
 - F. Strategic Operations & Communications: Accreditation and re-accreditation work, AmeriCorps placements, communications, 5-year strategic plan, and performance/quality improvement.
 - G. WIC & Early Intervention: ~5,365 WIC clients/month, Healthy Families home visiting expansion (56 → 134 families), teen mom YES program, and diaper distribution (Happy Bottoms).
- Funding & Staffing Snapshot
 - A. Funding is grant-heavy (majority federal/state), plus a dedicated health tax levy.
 - B. Revenue also comes from service fees and licenses.
 - C. Several hard-to-fill vacancies, especially in nursing and provider roles.
 - TB Outbreak Progress
 - A. TB response shifted to KDHE in late 2024.
 - B. Active TB cases related to the outbreak reduced from 67 to 30 by January 2025.
 - C. Some additional latent TB cases remain under treatment.
 - D. County leadership stressed that the joint response is working, even if that progress wasn’t widely reported.
 - Threat of Federal/Medicaid Cuts
 - A. Serious concern about potential federal cuts to Medicaid/CHIP/CDC-type funding.
 - B. Greatest impact would be on:
 - a. Children, pregnant women, and older adults.

- b. Clinical services that currently bill Medicaid (immunizations, prenatal/postpartum, etc.).
- C. Mitigation: sliding-fee scales, grant support, and free “Be Wise Monday” vaccine clinics for children.
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) & Social Determinants
 - A. Current CHIP (2024–2028) relies on partner agencies (e.g., Vibrant Health, Cross-Lines, WYEDC) with the Health Department as “backbone.”
 - B. Many early efforts were funded with American Rescue Plan dollars; now there is a funding gap.
 - C. A Year 2 CHIP progress report with metrics is being prepared for the commission.
 - D. County’s last-place state health ranking is driven largely by poverty, housing, jobs, smoking, environment, not just clinic care.

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

13. Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 2:39:28)

Commissioner Bynum moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burroughs.

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

MAYOR GARNER

ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:45 P.M.

March 6, 2025

Monica L. Sparks, CMC

Unified Government Clerk

MLS