

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, November 20, 2025

7:08 PM – 10:24 PM

Attendance:

Commissioner's Present:

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

Commissioner's Absent:

- Commissioner Ramirez
- Commissioner Hill
- Commissioner Kane

Staff Present:

- David Johnston (County Administrator)
- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Wendy Green (Deputy Chief Counsel)
- Casey Meyer (Senior Counsel)
- Deputy Chief Kent Anderson (Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department)

- Sergeant Angela Joyce (Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department)
- Fire Chief Dennis Rubin (Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department)
- Patrick Holton (Division Manager of Property Maintenance Compliance)
- Sir Schad Hampton (Operations Superintendent)
- Irene Caudillo (Chief of Staff in Mayor's Office)
- J.D. Rios (Office of the Mayor)

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Tyrone Garner called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. The invocation was led by Monsignor Stuart W. Swetland, Donnelly College, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Revisions to Agenda: (Discussion Begins: 3:57)

Monica L. Sparks, Unified Government Clerk, announced several revisions to the agenda. Under the Mayor's Agenda, Item No. 5.5 will be heard first, followed by Item Nos. 5.2, 5.3, then 5.4, with items 5.1 and 5.6 finishing the Mayor's Agenda. Under the Administrator's Agenda, Item Nos. 9.3 and 9.4 are removed.

5. Mayor's Agenda:

Item No. 5 – PRESENTATION: FIRST PLACE WINNER OF GINGERBREAD CONTEST (Discussion Begins: 5:18)

Mayor Garner recognized the Human Resources Department as the 2025 winner of the annual gingerbread contest. The theme of their entry was a Disney-themed "Up House".

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

Item No. 2 – Proclamation proclaiming November 17-21, 2025, as American Education Week. (Discussion Begins: 8:59)

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

Item No. 3 – PRESENTATION: DOTTE PROUD HONOREES (Discussion Begins: 12:37)

J. D. Rios presented the Dotte Proud recognition for educators in Wyandotte County.

Educators Recognized:

- Bonner Springs Edwardsville School District, USD 204 (**Discussion Begins: 14:26**)
- Kansas City Kansas Public Schools, USD 500 (**Discussion Begins: 17:01**)
- Piper Unified Schools, USD 203 (**Discussion Begins: 20:02**)

- Turner Unified School District, USD 202 (**Discussion Begins: 21:54**)
- Donnelly College (**Discussion Begins: 24:04**)
- Kansas City, Kansas Community College (**Discussion Begins: 27:00**)

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

Item No. 4 – PRESENTATION: DOTTE PROUD HONOREES (Discussion Begins: 31:52)

Irene Caudillo presented the Dotte Proud recognition for representatives from the economic development, business and tourism fields in Wyandotte County.

Businesses Recognized:

- Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce (**Discussion Begins: 32:52**)
- Wyandotte Economic Development Council (**Discussion Begins: 35:40**)
- Visit Kansas City, Kansas (**Discussion Begins: 39:12**)
- Tanger KC at the Legends (**Discussion Begins: 42:28**)

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

Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: ELIJAH MING MEMORIAL FIELD (Discussion Begins: 45:14)

Mayor Garner recommended renaming the baseball field at Heathwood Park (1021 Parallel Parkway) to honor Sheriff Deputy Elijah Ming, who recently lost his life in the line of duty. J. D. Rios explained the policy typically suggests waiting 18 months, but the word "should" rather than "shall" allows for this exception. He emphasized Deputy Ming's connection to the field where he played and coached.

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

Vote: Motion carries 6/0

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

Mayor Garner called the meeting into recess at 7:02 PM. The meeting was called back to order at 8:06 PM.

Mayor Garner called the meeting into recess at 8:11 PM. The meeting was called back to order at 8:17 PM.

Item No. 6 – ORDINANCE: UNSAFE CAMPING (Discussion Begins: 1:03:19)

Casey Meyer, Legal Department, presented the unsafe camping ordinance. Other staff provided supporting information:

- Sergeant Angela Joyce (Kansas City, Kansas Police Department): Provided details about police outreach to the unhoused, procedures for encampment notification and cleanup, and challenges with identification and enforcement.
- Dennis Rubin (Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department): Shared fire department response data and described the community paramedicine program for the unhoused.
- Patrick Holton (Property Maintenance): Explained abatement and property maintenance issues related to encampments.
- Sir Schad Hampton (Buildings and Logistics): Discussed cleanup operations (referenced, less direct speech).

Key points:

- The ordinance proposes to replace the term "unlawful camping" with "unsafe camping" to better reflect the health and safety intent behind the policy.
- Public property camping requires a 48-hour notice to vacate (for due process). In practice, the city often gives seven to ten days but may act sooner if necessary.
- Immediate removal is permitted in locations with safety or infrastructure concerns (bridges, levees, near schools, etc.).
- Private property camping is subject to immediate removal if not authorized by the property owner—in part because absentee owners might be unable to provide direct notice.
- The ordinance updates penalties to employ "graduated sanctions": First offense carries no fine or jail but assigns 10–40 hours of public service and referral to an outreach provider. Only after repeated offenses would fines or jail time be considered. Indigent persons may complete public service instead of paying fines.
- Randy Callstrom (Wyandotte Behavioral Health Network CEO) shared stories of disabled individuals becoming homeless due to insufficient Social Security income, challenged the commission to commit to an emergency shelter in 2026.

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

Vote: Motion carries 6/2

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

6. Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins: 2:58:16)

Item No. 1 – ORDINANCE: TERMINATING VARIOUS TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Item No. 2 – RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO MASTER EQUIPMENT LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Item No. 3 – RESOLUTION: FISCAL YEAR 2026 DHS/FEMA COUNTER-UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (C-UAS) GRANT PROGRAM

Item No. 4 – MINUTES

Item No. 5 – WEEKLY BUSINESS

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bynum.

Vote: Motion carries 7/0

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

Mayor Garner left meeting at 10:19 PM. Commissioner Burroughs acted as Mayor Pro Tem in his absence.

9. Administrator's Agenda:

Item No. 1 - PRESENTATION: K5 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (Discussion Begins: 2:59:08)

The K-5 highway improvement project was presented by Jacob Dieder, Program Management Consultant for KDOT, and Jeff McKerrow, Kimley-Horn, with the main technical presentation given by Jeff McKerrow.

Key Points:

- The project involves the section of K-5 between I-435 and K-7, connecting Wyandotte and Leavenworth counties.
- Current corridor conditions: Traffic volumes are relatively low, and the highway operates at good levels of service (Grades A/B), which are expected to continue into the future even with modest traffic increases.
- The main issues identified are related to roadway design—numerous tight curves, limited or no shoulders, poorly banked curves, and physical constraints (such as proximity to federal cemetery, state prisons, floodplains, and a railroad).
- Crash rates are significantly higher than average for similar Kansas corridors, especially for severe injury and single-vehicle run-off-the-road crashes.
- The project's primary goals are to enhance safety, improve connectivity between communities (especially Leavenworth/Lansing and the metro), and modernize the corridor to current standards.
- There are currently no plans to expand the road to four lanes; the focus is on modernizing and improving safety for the existing two lanes.
- Next steps include gathering further feedback from public officials, holding public meetings in early 2026 (January/February), and returning to the commission with proposed alternatives in the spring.

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

Item No. 2 - APPOINTMENT: VOTING DELEGATE FOR KAC (Discussion Begins: 3:08:54)

Commissioner Stites made a motion to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carries 7/0

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

Item No. 3 - ORDINANCE: AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS FOR INFINITY WINDOWS/MARVIN LUMBER PROJECT (Removed from the Agenda)

Item No. 4 - ORDINANCE: TO TERMINATE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS IN A HOMEFIELD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT IN COMPLIANCE WITH A PETITION (Removed from the Agenda)

11. Adjournment: (Discussion Begins: 3:09:23)

Commissioner Stites made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carries 7/0

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

MAYOR PRO TEM BURROUGHS
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:24 P.M.
November 20, 2025

Monica L. Sparks, CMC

Unified Government Clerk

MLS