

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 – Commissioner Dist. 6 Phil Lopez –
Commissioner Dist. 7 Chuck Stites – Commissioner Dist. 8 Andrew Davis*

MINUTES

**Thursday, April 2, 2026
5:30 PM – 6:50 PM**

Attendance:

Commissioners Present:

- Mayor CEO Christal E. Watson
- Commissioner Melissa Bynum
- Commissioner Jermaine Howard
- Commissioner Bill Burns
- Commissioner Evelyn Hill
- Commissioner Carlos Pacheco
- Commissioner Phil Lopez
- Commissioner Chuck Stites
- Commissioner Christian Ramirez
- Commissioner Andrew Kump

Commissioners Absent:

- Commissioner Andrew Davis

Staff Present:

- Bridgette Cobbins (Assistant County Administrator)
- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Angela Lawson (Acting Chief Counsel)
- Terrie Garrison (Interim Health Director)

Call to Order

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The invocation was led by Chaplain Annie Erickson from Riverside Unity Church [NOVO Mission], followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Revisions to Agenda: (Discussion Begins 4:00)

The Clerk reported there was an agenda update issued, adding Section 13 for an Executive Session and removing the resolution regarding the Homefield community investment from the Consent Agenda to the Standing Committee agenda.

Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins 4:24)**Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: LETTER OF INTENT BETWEEN THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT AND SANTA FE GROCERS****Item No. 2 – RESOLUTION: TRANSFER OF FUNDS SENIOR CITIZEN TAX REFUND PROGRAM****Item No. 3 – APPOINTMENT: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS****Item No. 4 – MINUTES****Item No. 5 – WEEKLY BUSINESS**

Commissioner Ramirez made a disclosure regarding Santa Fe Grocers, stating that Mr. Estrada is family, but there is no financial interest. After consulting with Legal and the Ethics Code, Commissioner Ramirez confirmed there is no conflict of interest, but wanted to make the disclosure to the board.

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

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

Standing Committee's Agenda:(Discussion Begins 5:48)

Item No. 1 – RESOLUTION: HOMEFIELD COMMUNITY INVESTMENT (MOVED PER AGENDA UPDATE)

Commissioner Bynum provided remarks explaining that Homefield agreed to a multi-million dollar community investment as part of their development agreement. Commissioner Bynum thanked Homefield and the owners for their significant community investment and asked Mr. LaSala to provide an overview.

Todd Lasala explained that the resolution addresses a \$4.35 million community investment requirement from the Homefield development agreement, to be focused on downtown or historically urban areas. Homefield proposed investing in attainable housing.

Two changes were made to the letter agreement following committee feedback:

1. Language encouraging the use of land bank lots for homes
2. Requirement for quarterly reports to the committee on progress, lot locations, construction costs, and pricing

Mr. Knapper from Homefield was present to answer questions.

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

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to adjourn and reconvene as the Wyandotte County Board of Health. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kump. (Discussion Begins 9:45)

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

Board of Health Regular Agenda:(Discussion Begins 10:20)

Item No. 1 – QUARTERLY UPDATE: BOARD OF HEALTH

Assistant County Administrator Bridgette Cobbins introduced Terrie Garrison for the presentation. Terrie Garrison, Interim Director for the Wyandotte County Public Health Department, provided the following updates:

Key Points:

Infectious Disease Updates:

- **Measles:** One case previously identified through KCI; recent case in Kansas City, Missouri. No known cases in Wyandotte County
 - A. 2025 saw highest measles cases in US in three decades; 2026 projected to surpass that
 - B. Wyandotte County kindergarten MMR vaccination coverage for 2024-25 school year was 83% (up from 75% previous year), but 95% needed for herd immunity
- **Tuberculosis:** As of April 1, 2026: 13 active cases and 16 latent cases (up from 6 active and 13 latent when slides were prepared)
 - A. Higher than usual but not considered an outbreak. Typically see 10-15 active TB cases annually when no outbreak present
- **RSV:** Started later this year, expected to last longer into spring
 - A. Increases seen through mid-March in children under 13
- **COVID and Flu:** Decreased after earlier winter increases
 - A. Eight flu deaths this season compared to five and six in the previous two seasons

FIFA World Cup Preparations:

- Bi-weekly internal meetings across health department programs, monthly meetings with the state
- Collaboration with Mid America Regional Council on communications and regional coordination

County Health Rankings:

- No longer uses numerical rankings within the state; shows comparison to state and national averages
- Wyandotte County ranks in the middle range for population health and well-being nationally and statewide
- Challenges identified in primary care providers, dental care access, and social determinants of health

Key Statistics:

- Uninsured rate: 15% (improved from 24% in 2010), still below the Kansas state and national rates
- Primary care providers: Lower ratio than state and national averages
- Poverty and education: Below state and national standards

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

Commissioner Kump made a motion to adjourn and reconvene as the Board of Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez. (Discussion Begins 39:31)

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

Executive Session (ADDED PER AGENDA UPDATE): Discussion Begins 40:10

Motion made by Commissioner Bynum that the Commission convene into Executive Session until 6:40 p.m. in the 5th floor conference room to consult with our attorneys on matters relating to employer-employee negotiations whether or not in consultation with the representative or representatives of the public body to agency, as permitted under the Kansas Open Meetings Act; and that Angela Lawson remain as needed to participate in the discussion.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kump.

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

Present for the Executive Session: Kump, Howard, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Pacheco, Lopez, Stites, and Watson, Mayor/CEO; presiding. Staff Present: Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel.

Mayor Watson reconvened back into Special Meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Mayor Watson asked for a motion to go back into Executive Session.

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to extend the Executive Session until 6:50 p.m.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kump.

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

Mayor Watson reconvened back into Special Meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Adjournment:

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

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

MAYOR WATSON
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:50 P.M.
April 2, 2026

Monica L. Sparks, CMC
Unified Government Clerk

ML