

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

Monday, September 15, 2025

6:00 PM – 8:54 PM

Attendance:

Commissioner's Present:

- Mayor Tyrone Garner (Arrived at 6:07 p.m.)
- Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Burroughs
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Bynum
- Commissioner Davis
- Commissioner Kane
- Commissioner Ramirez
- Commissioner Townsend
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Hill
- Commissioner Stites

Commissioner's Absent:

- None

Staff Present:

- David Johnston (County Administrator)
- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Angela Lawson (Interim Chief Counsel)
- Reginald Lindsey (Budget Director)

- Dr. Shelley Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)
- Michael Peterson (Deputy Budget Director)
- Jeff Miles (Public Works)

Call to Order:

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Revisions to Agenda:

No revisions to the agenda were reported.

Administrator's Agenda:

Item No. 1 – BUDGET ITEMS (Discussion Begins: 2:28)

County Administrator David Johnston provided an overview of the budget process, explaining the progression from an initial 5-mill cap proposal to the current 2-mill and 1.5-mill increase proposal. Budget Director Reginald Lindsey presented three items for discussion that were not included in the proposed budget and the BPU pilot reduction to 9.9%.

Budget Item Discussions:

- **Sheriff's Department Additional Personnel Request**

Budget Director Lindsay presented a request from the Sheriff for 10 additional sworn positions (reduced from an initial request of 15). The proposal included:

- A. 5 positions to be added in January 2026 (\$550,000 annual impact)
- B. 5 positions to be added in July 2026 (\$275,000 for 6 months)
- C. Total fiscal impact: \$825,000

- **Land Bank Mowing Frequency**

Budget Director Lindsay presented a proposal to restore Land Bank property mowing from once monthly (current 2025 budget) to twice monthly at an additional cost of \$625,000 to the county general fund.

- A. **Land Bank Governance Structure**

Commissioner Stites raised questions about the Land Bank being funded from county resources when most properties are located in Kansas City, Kansas. Legal Counsel Angela Lawson explained the Land Bank was established as a county Land Bank function in 1999 under state statute but could potentially be reconstituted as a city Land Bank function.

- **IRIS Transit Service Continuation**

Budget Director Lindsey presented options for continuing IRIS transit service after the federal grant expires in February 2026:

- A. Full-service continuation: \$890,000 (not recommended)
- B. Bare-bones service: \$207,000 (one driver instead of four)

3.1.A. Resolution setting the percentage of gross operating revenue to be set over by the Board of Public Utilities to the Unified Government for the fiscal year 2026 (the **PILOT**). Residential at 9.9% and non-residential at 11.9% of the gross revenues.

Commissioner Davis stated that “on record, that while we don't want to do this, there is a need to do this. There's the federal government that is saying we have to do this, and that many of these improvements are quite frankly east of [I-]635, which need the investment in infrastructure. Thank you.”

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

Vote: Motion carries 8/2

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

3.1.B. An Ordinance relating to **sewer service charges**, approving the regulation establishing the rate, effective January 1, 2026, as authorized by section 30-96 of the Code of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas, Kansas, and repealing any previously adopted regulations establishing such rates.

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the ordinance at 4% increase. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 7/3

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

3.1.C. An Ordinance relating to the monthly fee on residential units in the City of Kansas City, Kansas, to fund the Unified Government's **solid waste services**, amending Section 31-17(b) of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas Code and repealing original section 31-17(b).

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the ordinance at the adjusted \$20.15. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 7/3

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

3.1.D. An Ordinance expressing the property taxation policy of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas with respect to financing the 2026 annual budget for the **Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District** and approving, adopting, and appropriating the budget of the Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District and levying a tax for the year beginning January 1, 2026.

Mayor Garner wanted clarity of the amount on record. Legal counsel Lawson confirmed the “proposed budget is set at, the recommended mill levy was 8.9540... their budget, which you're also approving, is estimated at \$542,834.”

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bynum.

Vote: Motion carries 8/2

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

Commissioner Kane made a motion to reconsider the motion on the SSMID Item no. 3.1.D and set the item over to September 25, 2025, for further clarification. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bynum.

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

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

3.1.E. An Ordinance approving, adopting and appropriating the operating and capital improvement project budgets of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/ Kansas City, Kansas, for the **City of Kansas City, Kansas**, as submitted and amended by attachment A, for the fiscal years beginning January 1, 2025, and the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026; approving the five-year capital improvement program for fiscal years **2025** through **2029**.

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the ordinance with a mill levy at 35.962 mils. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 7/3

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

Mayor Garner called the meeting into recess at 8:20 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 8:34 p.m. All members were present.

Mayor Garner orally vetoes the approval of the Ordinance related to the mill levy for the City of Kansas City, Kansas citing commitments to hold the line on property tax increases and constituent requests for tax relief.

Commissioner Kane made a motion to override the veto. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 7/3

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

3.1.F. An ordinance approving, adopting and appropriating the operating and capital improvement project budgets of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/ Kansas City, Kansas, for **Wyandotte County, Kansas**, as submitted and amended by attachment A, for the fiscal years beginning January 1, 2025, and the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026; approving the five-year capital improvement program for fiscal years **2025** through **2029**.

Commissioner Kane made a motion to approve the ordinance with a mill levy at 35.459 mills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 7/3

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

Mayor Garner orally vetoes the approval of the Ordinance related to the mill levy for Wyandotte County for the same reasons cited for the city budget veto (commitments to hold the line on property tax increases and constituent requests for tax relief).

Commissioner Kane made a motion to override the veto. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carries 7/3

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

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 2:47:18)

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

Vote: Motion carries 10/0

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

MAYOR GARNER

ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:54 P.M.

September 15, 2025

Monica L. Sparks, CMC
Unified Government Clerk

MLS