

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, October 2, 2025

7:04 PM – 1:00 AM

Attendance:

Commissioner's Present:

- Mayor Tyrone Garner
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Bynum
- Commissioner Burroughs
- Commissioner Davis (Arrived at 7:24 p.m.)
- Commissioner Kane (Left meeting at 12:57 a.m.)
- Commissioner Ramirez
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Hill (Left meeting at 11:09 p.m.)
- Commissioner Stites

Commissioner's Absent:

- Commissioner Townsend

Staff Present:

- David Johnston (County Administrator)
- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- Angela Lawson (Interim Chief Counsel)
- Irene Caudillo (Mayor's Chief of Staff)

- Reginald Lindsey (Budget Director)
- Dennis Rubin (Fire Chief, Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department)
- Casey Meyer (Legal Counsel)
- Kent Anderson (Deputy Chief of Kansas City, Kansas Police)

Call to Order:

Mayor Tyrone Garner called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The invocation was led by Chaplain Annie Erickson, Grandview Park Presbyterian Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Revisions to Agenda: (Discussion Begins 3:55)

The Clerk reported there was an agenda update issued, removing public comment under Camping Issue, Item No. 8.2 comments will be heard with Community Input at the beginning of the agenda. No further comments will be allowed when the item is reached in the agenda.

Mayor's Agenda:

Item No. 1 – PRESENTATION: DOTTE PROUD RECOGNITION (Discussion Begins: 4:21)

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Mayor Garner recognized:

- **Michael Aguirre (Discussion Begins 8:10)**
- **Martin Cervantes (Discussion Begins 10:45)**
- **Jalisco Restaurant Company (Discussion Begins 13:39)**
- **Fr. Peter Jaramillo (Discussion Begins 17:50)**
- **Spanish Gardens (Discussion Begins 21:04)**
- **Roger Villanueva (Discussion Begins 24:12)**

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

Item No. 2 - PROCLAMATION: DOMINIQUE EXPERIENCE DAY (Discussion Begins 36:44)

A Proclamation proclaiming October 5, 2025, as Dominique Experience Day.

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

Item No. 3 - PROCLAMATION: 107TH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS BRANCH (Discussion Begins 36:57)

A Proclamation proclaiming October 4, 2025, as 107th National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Kansas City, Kansas Branch.

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

Item No. 4 - PROCLAMATION: JUNIUS GEORGE GROVES DAY (Discussion Begins 30:44)

A Proclamation proclaiming October 4, 2025, as Junius George Groves Day.

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

Item No. 5 – COMMUNITY INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: (Comments Begin 37:17)

Multiple residents spoke during the public forum. Public comments:

- **Scott Harding (Comment Begins 40:02)**
- **Betty Schuller (Comment Begins 41:27)**
- **Kerry McCarthy (Comment Begins 41:35)**
- **Kelly Moran (Comment Begins 43:59)**
- **Adrienne Lyons Marks (Comment Begins 45:45)**
- **Grace Lamberton (Comment Begins 47:41)**
- **Michael Kelly (Comment Begins 49:32)**
- **Matthew Kleinman (Comment Begins 51:19)**
- **Marcus Wynn (Comment Begins 54:04)**
- **Beth Mercer (Comment Begins 56:02)**
- **Corey Stites (Comment Begins 56:19)**
- **Rhianna Moore (Comment Begins 57:55)**
- **Annie Fuhrman (Comment Begins 59:30)**
- **Brianna Ross (Comment Begins 1:00:00)**
- **Jessica Smith (Comment Begins 1:01:34)**
- **Rachel Russell (Comment Begins 1:04:32)**
- **Amber Bauer (Comment Begins 1:07:59)**
- **Nehemiah Roselle (Comment Begins 1:10:25)**

- Terry Quinn (Comment Begins 1:13:31)
- Reverend Mindy Fuelman (Comment Begins 1:15:59)
- Myra Ramira Fuhrman (Comment Begins 1:19:26)
- Lauren Klapper (Comment Begins 1:23:15)
- Dustin Hare (Comment Begins 1:26:48)
- William Rogers (Comment Begins 1:29:48)
- Josh Yocum (Comment Begins 1:32:30)
- Paris Mendoza (Comment Begins 1:36:59)
- Kathleen Gilbert (Comment Begins 1:40:17)
- Steve Sessions (Comment Begins 1:43:35)
- Chris Overville (Comment Begins 1:47:08)
- Emily Hayne (Comment Begins 1:50:39)
- Rob Santel (Comment Begins 1:51:53)
- Tracy Lockett (Comment Begins 1:54:44)
- Susan Ruiz (Comment Begins 1:58:40)
- Eva Garcia (Comment Begins 2:00:45)
- Michelle Davis (Comment Begins 2:04:34)

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

Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins 2:48:35)

Item No. 1 - COMMUNICATION: PROPOSED 2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Item No. 2 - RESOLUTION: 2025 BROWNFIELDS GRANT PROGRAM

**Item No. 3 - RESOLUTION: FY2025 KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ADULT YEAR END REPORT**

**Item No. 4 - RESOLUTION: FY2025 KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
JUVENILE YEAR END REPORT**

**Item No. 5 - ORDINANCE: THE CRIME OF BATTERY AGAINST A HEALTHCARE
PROVIDER TO THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES**

**Item No. 6 - ORDINANCE: RELATED TO THE HOURS OF SALE OF CEREAL MALT
BEVERAGE AT RETAIL**

**Item No. 7 - RESOLUTION: FIFTH AMENDMENT TO ASSIGNMENT, ASSUMPTION
AND SECOND AMENDED DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (HOMEFIELD PROJECT)**

Item No. 8 - RESOLUTION: SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING AND GIVING NOTICE OF CREATING A COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (5TH AMENDMENT FOR HOMEFIELD)

Item No. 9 – WEEKLY BUSINESS

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

Vote: Motion carries 9/0

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

Standing Committees' Agenda:

**Item No. 1 - ORDINANCE: AMENDING LEVY OF TRANSIENT GUEST TAX
(Discussion Begins 5:03:46)**

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to hold the item over to the November 6, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bynum.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

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

Item No. 2 ORDINANCE: THE VIOLATION OF UNLAWFUL CAMPING TO THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROMOTE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY (ITEM UPDATE PER AGENDA UPDATE) (Discussion Begins 2:49:20)

Commissioner Burroughs, in his role as chair of the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, explained that the item came from the standing committee with a unanimous vote.

Casey Meyer, Legal Counsel, presented the proposed unlawful camping ordinance, explaining it was requested following the U.S. Supreme Court case *Grants Pass* (2024) regarding Eighth Amendment protections. The ordinance is consistent with similar ordinances adopted by Topeka and Wichita. Key provisions include:

- 48-hour notice requirement for violations on public property
- Immediate removal allowed in certain areas (near schools, playgrounds, bus shelters, etc.)

- Impoundment procedures for personal property
- Maximum penalty of \$200 fine or 30 days imprisonment
- Alternative community service for indigent offenders

Police Department Data: Deputy Chief Kent Anderson reported 1,329 calls for service related to homeless investigations in 2024. The department runs street outreach teams, assists with winter shelters, operates a city ID program, and provides Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for officers.

Fire Department Data: Chief Dennis Rubin reported 254 fire department responses to homeless-related incidents in 2024-2025, including one fatality. The department operates a community paramedicine program and noted significant costs associated with encampment fires and related incidents.

Unified Government Operations - Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator: Presented comprehensive data on homelessness services, including:

- Point in Time Count showing 252 unsheltered persons in 2025
- Annual encampment cleanup costs of \$5,000-\$7,000 per site
- HUD Emergency Services Grant funding distribution
- Coordination with multiple departments and service providers

Task Force Chair Comments - Tom Lally: Tom Lally, representing the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness and Neighbors in Need, emphasized the need for comprehensive solutions involving government, nonprofits, and business community partnerships. He stressed that homelessness requires multiple approaches and significant private sector involvement.

Business Community Perspective - Aaron Ward: Aaron Ward, Kansas City, Kansas resident and business security manager, described daily challenges faced by downtown businesses, including public health and safety issues, property damage, and impacts on employees and customers. He advocated for enforcement tools while expressing compassion for individuals needing help.

Housing Authority Perspective - Andrea Tapia: Andrea Tapia, Executive Director of the Kansas City, Kansas Housing Authority, discussed ongoing efforts to provide affordable housing and remove barriers to housing access. She reported serving over 95 families in the previous year through Health Forward funding and emphasized the need for permanent housing solutions.

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to temporarily suspend Rule 5.17 at 11:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 7/1

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

Commissioner Lopez made a motion to return the item to standing committee for further discussion to include additional stakeholders, specifically requesting involvement of the police department and the task force work. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion fails: 4/4

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

Mayor Garner made a motion to deny the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bynum.

Vote: Motion carries 7/1

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

Mayor Garner announced the issue would be referred back to the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness with a 30-day timeline for additional work and recommendations.

Mayor Garner called the meeting into recess at 12:05 a.m. The meeting was called back to order at 12:24 a.m. All members were present as previously noted.

Mayor Garner stated “in the interest of the time, of everybody's time, we had a really robust debate over 8.2 the ordinance on the unlawful camping. It has taken us over the midnight hour, so I've agreed to cut down on some of the items, and we will circle back on those at our next meeting or our next subsequent meetings.” Mayor asked Clerk to make the statement.

Clerk Monica L. Sparks stated that “with the mayor's authorization, we will be asking for a motion to set over item 8.1 the ordinance regarding the transient guest tax. to November 6. We will hear item 9.1, the ordinance regarding the STAR bonds for Village East. We will also hear the Land Bank items.”

Administrator's Agenda:

Item No. 1 - ORDINANCE: AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SALES TAX SPECIAL OBLIGATION REVENUE BONDS (STAR BONDS, VILLAGE EAST PROJECT AREAS 2B, 3, AND 5) (Discussion Begins: 5:04:45)

Dr. Shelley Kneuvean, Chief Financial Officer, presented a request to authorize the sale of tax special revenue bonds not to exceed \$30 million to finance costs relating to the Village East project areas 2, 3, and 5.

Key details:

- Authorization follows 2021 Board approval for the STAR Bond program
- First issuance was \$116 million, which represents the second tranche
- Actual sizing will be based on revenue study (approximately \$16 million expected)
- Funds will reimburse the developer for verified investments exceeding \$400 million
- Baker Tilly independently verified developer investments

Richard Knapper, representing Homefield, explained the extension request:

- Investment commitment remains intact with funds held in escrow
- Six-month timeframe proved insufficient for identifying appropriate investments
- Multiple investment opportunities may be pursued
- All investments must be approved by the Board of Commissioners
- Developer has invested over \$430 million since the 2020 acquisition

Commissioner Davis stated, "I just want to get that on record, because I think there's been some confusion that it is a donation, or that someone's like, [well,] you all can build the shelter and stuff like that. And that wouldn't necessarily be what we're talking about, which is more of kind of a market driven activity that would be business related, and it could be multiple investments that just meet that \$4.35 million, correct?"

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

Vote: Motion carries 7/1

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

Commissioner Kane left the meeting at 12:57 a.m.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn and reconvene as the Land Bank Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns. (Discussion Begins 5:30:05)

Vote: Motion carries 7/0

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

Land Bank Board of Trustees Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins: 5:30:49)

Item No. 1 – LAND BANK OPTIONS

Item No. 2 – LAND BANK PROPERTY TRANSFERS

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

Vote: Motion carries 7/0

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

Commissioner Bynum made a motion to adjourn as the Land Bank Board of Trustees and reconvene as the Wyandotte County Board of Health. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis. (Discussion Begins 5:31:40)

Vote: Motion carries 7/0

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

Board of Health: (Discussion Begins: 5:32:05)

Item No. 1: QUARTERLY UPDATE: BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to hold the item over to the November 6, 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 7/0

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

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 5:32:40)

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

Vote: Motion carries 7/0

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

MAYOR GARNER

ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 1:00 A.M.

October 2, 2025

Monica L. Sparks, CMC

Unified Government Clerk