

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



## Board of Commissioners

Commission Chambers  
701 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS 66101

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***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*

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## MINUTES

**Thursday, May 7, 2026**

**5:31 PM – 9:23 PM**

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners Present:**

- Mayor CEO Christal E. Watson
- Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Bynum
- Commissioner Christian Ramirez
- Commissioner Evelyn Hill
- Commissioner Carlos Pacheco
- Commissioner Bill Burns
- Commissioner Phil Lopez
- Commissioner Andrew Kump
- Commissioner Andrew Davis

**Commissioners Absent:**

- Commissioner Chuck Stites
- Commissioner Jermaine Howard

**Staff Present:**

- Monica L. Sparks, Unified Government Clerk
- David Johnston, County Administrator
- Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator

- Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel
- Troy Shaw, Public Works Director
- Kristina Blevins, Public Works
- Diana Miles, Solid Waste Manager
- Jeff Miles, Environmental Services Director

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. The invocation was led by Commissioner Hill, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Revisions to Agenda:**

[ADDING ITEM 7.12 TO THE CONSENT AGENDA, SUBSTITUTING DOCUMENTS TO ITEM NOS. 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 UNDER THE STANDING COMMITTEES' AGENDA, AND REMOVAL OF ITEM NO. 10.1 UNDER THE ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA]

### **Public Announcements: (Discussion Begins 4:00)**

Mayor Watson announced several upcoming events:

- May 6: Sister city partnership ceremony with the Mayor from Concepción, Tucuman, Argentina
- May 29: One World Wyandotte Annual Festival at City Hall, 3:00 PM
- May 13: KDOT open house regarding Central Avenue Bridge, Memorial Hall, 4-6 PM
- May 16: National Day of Outdoor Play at Welborn Park with Sporting KC partnership announcement, a free event
- May 19: Quindaro Neighborhood Master Plan Meeting, Vernon Multi-Purpose Center at 3426 27<sup>th</sup> Street, 5-7 PM
- Dumpster Days Results: Diana Miles reported over 55.6 tons of trash collected, 17 dumpsters used, and 466 visitors. Next dumpster days are scheduled for the Fall.

### **Mayor's Agenda:**

#### **Item No. 1 – PRESENTATION: ELECTION OFFICE CONTEST AND CONTEST WINNER (Discussion Begins 8:11)**

Michael Abbott presented the winning "I Voted" sticker designs created by local students. The contest ran for three months and was open to all Wyandotte County students. This year's contest had 27 contestants compared to 14 in the first year.

Winners Announced:

- Rylee Adkins, Senior from Piper High School
- Melanie Estrada Quintero, Senior from Turner High School

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

**Item No. 2 – PRESENTATION: JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH (Discussion Begins 12:31)**

Allison Berry, Board of Directors, Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee (JCRB/AJC) presented information about Jewish American Heritage Month and the current challenges facing the Jewish community.

Key Points:

- JCRB/AJC has served the Kansas City area for 80 years
- Jewish population represents only 0.2% of world population, 2% in US, under 1% in Kansas City area
- Significant increase in antisemitic incidents since October 7, 2023
- 91% of American Jews feel less safe due to recent violent attacks
- 42% of American Jewish college students report experiencing antisemitism on campus

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

**Consent Agenda: (Discussion Begins 19:10)**

**Item No. 1 – ORDINANCE: STORMWATER ORDINANCE CHANGES**

**Item No. 2 – ORDINANCE: ALARM BUSINESSES AND SYSTEMS ORDINANCE CHANGES**

**Item No. 3 – RESOLUTION: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT GRANT**

**Item No. 4 – RESOLUTION: SELLING CERTAIN UNIFIED GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES TO THE PUBLIC**

**Item No. 6 – APPROVAL: HR GUIDE REVISION: 5.13 PAID CHILDBIRTH AND PARENTAL LEAVE**

**Item No. 7 – APPROVAL: HR GUIDE REVISION: 2.13 IDENTIFICATION BADGES**

**Item No. 8 – APPROVAL: HR GUIDE REVISIONS: 6.6 TAKE-HOME VEHICLE POLICY**

**Item No. 9 – APPOINTMENT: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Item No. 10 – MINUTES**

**Item No. 11 – WEEKLY BUSINESS**

**Item No. 12 – RESOLUTION: APPROVING ISSUANCE OF INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS (HOMEFIELD AND PARTNERS SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT) (ADDED PER AGENDA UPDATE)**

Commissioner Ramirez made a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda except Item No. 7.5. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kump.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

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

Set Aside Item:

A request was made by Commissioner Ramirez to set aside Item No. 7.5. **(Discussion Begins 20:28)**

**Item No. 5 – RESOLUTION: HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 244**

Casey Meyer, legal counsel, presented that this resolution adopts a policy for compliance with Kansas House Substitute for Senate Bill 244 regarding designation and use of multi-occupancy private spaces in public buildings.

Key Points:

- Bill requires designation of multi-occupancy spaces by gender
- Several exceptions listed including custodial work, medical assistance, children under 9 with caregivers
- Policy based on League of Kansas Municipalities template
- Violations subject to \$25,000 first offense, \$125,000 subsequent violations per day
- Current ACLU challenge pending in Douglas County District Court

Several Commissioners explained their vote to move the item forward.

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

Vote: Motion carries 6/3

- Ayes: Bynum, Kump, Burns, Hill, Pacheco, Watson
- Nays: Lopez, Davis, Ramirez
- Absent: Howard, Stites

### **Standing Committee's Agenda:**

#### **Item No. 1 – PRESENTATION: STORMWATER UTILITY RATES (SUBSTITUTING DOCUMENTS PER AGENDA UPDATE) (Discussion Begins 1:51:45)**

The Commission addressed proposed rates for stormwater utility, sanitary sewer, and solid waste fees, broken into separate discussions and votes.

Troy Shaw, Director of Public Works, presented three rate scenarios:

- **Scenario A** (Required): Current funding levels - regulatory compliance only
- **Scenario B** (Responsible): \$0.20 monthly increase (amended 2026), \$0.96 monthly increase (2027)
- **Scenario C** (Resilient): Higher increases for forward-thinking capital improvements and studies, \$0.20 monthly increase (amended 2026), \$2.21 monthly increase (2027)

#### **Key Points:**

- County has 50 drainage basins with estimated \$500 million in improvements needed in just 8 studied basins
- Scenario B includes \$1 million for emergency/high priority repairs
- Scenario C includes \$2 million for comprehensive watershed studies

Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve Scenario B. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

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

**Commissioner Lopez left the meeting at 8:18 PM.**

**Commissioner Lopez returned to the meeting at 8:21 PM.**

**Item No. 2 – PRESENTATION: SANITARY SEWER UTILITY RATES  
(SUBSTITUTING DOCUMENTS PER AGENDA UPDATE) (Discussion Begins 2:33:52)**

Troy Shaw and Jeff Miles presented sanitary sewer rate scenarios:

- **Scenario A:** Continue historical 3.5-4% increases (would not meet consent decree compliance)
- **Scenario B:** 1% increase in June 2026, 7% increase in January 2027 (meets consent decree requirements)
- **Scenario C:** Higher increases for additional future development preparation, \$1.13 increase in June 2026, 8% increase in January

Key Points:

- Scenario A would result in non-compliance with DOJ consent decree
- Construction cost inflation in public works sector running 10-15% annually since COVID
- Consent decree includes daily operations, maintenance, and specific projects
- Total debt authority increases to \$140 million under Scenario B

Commissioner Pacheco made a motion to approve Scenario B. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carries 7/0

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

**Item No. 3 – PRESENTATION: SOLID WASTE UTILITY RATES (SUBSTITUTING DOCUMENTS PER AGENDA UPDATE) (Discussion Begins 1:22:23)**

Diana Miles, Solid Waste Manager, presented three scenarios for solid waste rates:

- **Scenario A:** Continue current structure - KCK residents subsidize all services (\$1.31 monthly increase to \$21.46)
- **Scenario B:** KCK residents pay only for residential services (no increase, remains \$20.15)
- **Scenario C:** Stop subsidizing Bonner Springs/Edwardsville residents (\$1.20 increase to \$21.35)

Key Points:

- KCK residents currently subsidize \$669,000 annually for city/county facility collection, illegal dumping, graffiti cleanup
- Bonner Springs/Edwardsville residents pay \$3.54 per visit vs. actual cost of \$208 for services
- Only 21 of 466 dumpster day visitors were from Bonner Springs/Edwardsville
- 2026 rate remains at \$20.15 for all options

Commissioner Pacheco made a motion to approve Scenario C. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carries 7/1

- Ayes: Bynum, Burns, Lopez, Davis, Ramirez, Hill, Pacheco
- Nays: Kump
- Absent: Howard, Stites

**Administrator's Agenda:**

**Item No. 1 – PRESENTATION: DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESS (REMOVED PER AGENDA UPDATE)**

**Executive Session (ADDED PER AGENDA UPDATE): Discussion Begins 2:49:45)**

Motion made by Commissioner Bynum that the Commission convene into Executive Session until 9:05 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference room to consult with our attorneys on matters relating to consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship, as permitted under the Kansas Open Meetings Act; and that Angela Lawson, Casey Meyer, Dave Wimberly, and Daniel Soptic remain as needed to participate in the discussion.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kump.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

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

Present for the Executive Session: Bynum, Kump, Burns, Davis, Ramirez, Hill, Pacheco, and Watson, Mayor/CEO; presiding. Staff Present: Angela Lawson, Interim Chief Counsel, Casey Meyer, legal counsel, Dave Wimberly, Human Resources Safety Officer, and Daniel Soptic, Sheriff .

**Mayor Watson** reconvened back into Special Meeting at 9:05 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 9:20 p.m.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kump.

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

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

**Mayor Watson** reconvened back into Special Meeting at 9:20 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

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

Vote: Motion carries 8/0

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

**MAYOR WATSON**

**ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:23 P.M.**

**May 7, 2026**

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Monica L. Sparks, CMC

Unified Government Clerk

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