CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. ______

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 Dr. Evelyn Hill –
Commissioner Dist. 5 Mike Kane – Commissioner Dist. 6 Phil Lopez –
Commissioner Dist. 7 Chuck Stites – Commissioner Dist. 8 Andrew Davis

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MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, September 4, 2025

5:05 PM – 6:55 PM

Attendance:

Commissioners Present:

- Mayor Tyrone Garner
- Commissioner Burroughs
- Commissioner Bynum
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Kane
- Commissioner Hill
- Commissioner Stites
- Commissioner Davis

Commissioners Absent:

- Commissioner Ramirez
- Commissioner Townsend

Staff Present:

- Monica L. Sparks (Unified Government Clerk)
- David Johnston (County Administrator)
- Angela Lawson (Interim Chief Legal Counsel)
- Reginald Linsdey (Budget Director)
- Michael Peterson (Deputy Budget Director)
- Alan Howze (Assistant County Administrator)
- Dr. Shelley Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)
- Chelsee Chism (Economic Development Director)
- Troy Shaw (Director of Public Works)
- Brandon Grover (Road and Bridge Program Manager)

Call to Order:

Mayor Tyrone Garner called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Notice and Consent to Meeting:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, is scheduled to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. for a budget workshop in the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building, 701 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, Kansas.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

The Mayor stated this was another series of budget workshops to help commissioners make informed decisions on finalizing the 2026 Unified Government budget. County Administrator David Johnston was given control of the meeting proceedings.

County Administrator David Johnston outlined the meeting objectives:

- Review the capital improvement program sent to commissioners
- Present further reductions in the city budget as requested by the commission
- Address items from the previous week's budget session

Budget Director Reggie Lindsey presented the reconciliation adjustments for the city general fund.

City General Fund Mill Reduction Proposal **<u>(Discussion Begins: 3:43)</u>**

Reggie Lindsey, Budget Director, presented a revised proposal to reduce the city mill increase from 2.0 mills to 1.5 mills, requiring $1,050,000 in reductions:

<u>Key Points:</u>

Revenue Adjustments:

- Bond and interest fund savings: $404,123 (hotel debt payment transferred to Community Improvement District)
- Remaining reduction needed: $646,000

Expenditure Changes:

- Fund frozen Animal Services position: $70,000
- Fund frozen streets division position: $91,000
- Eliminate Operations Business Officer professional assistant position
- Realign land bank position from city to county general fund
- Security cameras for illegal dumping: $100,000
- Move BPU water tower painting to tourism fund: $75,000
- Defer parking meter upgrades: $175,000
- Reduce technology data migration: $40,000 (from $82,000 to $42,000)
- Reduce building security upgrades: $25,000 (from $50,000 to $25,000)
- IT telephone savings: $80,000
- Shift Fire Department support vehicles to internal service fund
- Reduce Animal Services vehicles from $250,000 to $125,000 (one vehicle instead of two)

Commissioner Questions and Discussion **<u>(Discussion Begins: 6:17)</u>**

Commissioner Lopez: Questioned the $100,000 allocation for security cameras, suggesting alternative camera systems costing approximately $232 per unit with cellular service capabilities.

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator: Explained the cameras would integrate with the police department's real-time crime center and include both permanent and temporary deployments with license plate reader capabilities.

Commissioner Stites: Inquired about the Land Bank position realignment and expressed concern about funding allocation between city and county sides.

Michael Peterson, Deputy Budget Director: Clarified that the position oversees Land Bank lots maintenance and should properly be funded from the county side as it's a county function.

Commissioner Bynum: Confirmed the 1.5 mill increase would result in a city mill levy rate of 34.9.

Commissioner Hill: Asked for clarification on the Operations Business Officer position and the $404,000 bond payment transfer.

Dr. Shelley Kneuvean, Chief Financial Officer: Explained the Community Improvement District fund would pay the hotel debt, freeing up property tax revenue for four years.

County Administrator's Budget Assessment <u>(Discussion Begins: 23:00)</u>

County Administrator David Johnston provided context on the budget process:

- Initially recommended 5-mill cap, reduced to 3-mill cap per commission direction
- Presented 2-mill increase recommendation within the 3-mill cap
- Operations budget has been "cut to the bone" over recent years
- Departments have been denied various budget requests to reach current proposal
- Further cuts would require commission direction on discretionary services
- Capital improvement program provides additional savings opportunities through cash and debt schedules

Mayor's Comments on Budget Process

The Mayor commended staff for providing comprehensive information and emphasized this is the commission's budget decision. He noted staff's willingness to implement whatever cuts the commission directs, while acknowledging the county side budget is particularly constrained.

Additional Commissioner Discussion <u>(Discussion Begins: 31:34)</u>

Commissioner Kane: Asked about service restoration capabilities with the 1.5 mill proposal, including lot maintenance and Parallel Parkway improvements.

Reginald Lindsey: Confirmed no layoffs would be necessary with 1.5 mills, and pavement preservation work on Parallel Parkway would proceed.

Commissioner Burns: Questioned whether the commission could accomplish visible public improvements with 1.5 mills versus the original 2.0 mill proposal.

Troy Shaw, Public Works Director: Detailed Street improvement plans, including emergency repairs from storm damage and the expanded pavement preservation program using one-time Plaza to Speedway revenue.

Commissioner Hill: Asked about the $5 million American Royal revenue, which Dr. Kneuvean confirmed has not yet been received and will require commission direction when bonds are issued.

Commissioner Davis: Inquired about illegal dumping camera deployment and street preservation funding details.

Brandon Grover, Road and Bridge Program Manager: Provided cost estimates of $220,000-$230,000 per centerline mile for mill and overlay work.

Commissioner Stites: Expressed opposition to the $75,000 water tower painting project, preferring those funds be used for other tourism infrastructure needs.

Commissioner Burroughs: Provided extensive commentary on revenue streams, budget growth, and fiscal management concerns, noting:

- Multiple revenue streams including sales tax increases, special revenue, casino money, ARPA funding, and pilot fees
- No actual layoffs occurred in the previous year despite claims
- Questions about long-term fiscal sustainability

Commissioner Lopez: Asked about infrastructure funding sources and potential contract modifications for the American Royal agreement.

Angela Lawson, Legal Counsel: Confirmed contract modifications would require agreement from both parties and warned of significant repercussions for breach of contract.

Final Administrative Comments **<u>(Discussion Begins: 1:25:06)</u>**

Mayor Garner: Addressed questions about revenue streams and budget growth, noting the budget has increased from approximately $420 million to $509 million during the current mayor's tenure, plus approximately $100 million in CARES Act and ARPA investments.

Commissioner Burn: emphasized the need for timely budget completion, noting the County Clerk's deadline requirements.

Monica L. Sparks, UG Clerk: confirmed October 1st as the absolute deadline for the certified budget submission per state statute, with 32 state forms requiring certification.

Adjournment (Discussion Begins: 1:49:55)

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

Vote: Motion carries 6/0

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

MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED

THE MEETING AT 6:55 P.M.

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Monica L. Sparks, CMC
Unified Government Clerk

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