

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL SESSION, MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017
5:30 p.m.

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Monday, July 24, 2017, with ten members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Walker, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Holland, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Murguia, Commissioner Third District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Angie Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Gordon Criswell and Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrators; Carol Godsil, Deputy Unified Government Clerk; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Finance Director; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Manager; Budget Staff; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Wilba Miller, Director of Community Development; Cecilia Anderson and Stephanie Moore, Community Development; Mike Tobin, Deputy Director of Public Works; Tim Nick, Public Works Dept.; Troy Shaw, County Engineering; Brandon Grover, Asset Coordination Manager for Public Works; Rocki Mayes, Executive Asst. to County Administrator; Logan Masenthin, Intern in County Administrator's Office; and Officer Doug Bailey, Sergeant-at-Arms.

MAYOR HOLLAND called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Holland.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Monday, July 24, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building for a Public Hearing on the final 2018 Unified Government and

Community Development Block Grant Budgets. Immediately following the public hearing will be a Budget Workshop in the 5th floor conference room.

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.



**Unified Government 2018 Budget Process
Community Development 2017 One Year Action Plan**

**Public Hearing
July 24, 2017**



Mayor Holland said I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. The way we work our public hearing you will have an opportunity to sign in if you would like to speak. There are opportunities to sign in on each door. People will be called to speak in the order in which you came in and the Clerk will call each person who is speaking and then the person who is next up so you can be ready. You will be given up to three minutes to make your presentation. You will be given a one minute heads up at the one minute mark that you have remaining.

We had a public budget hearing in February to get advanced information on our budget and then we are having this one immediately prior and we anticipate adopting the budget on Thursday. We always have a closing budget hearing as well now that the public has had a

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chance to see on television or online the priorities for our budget so you can comment on those as well.

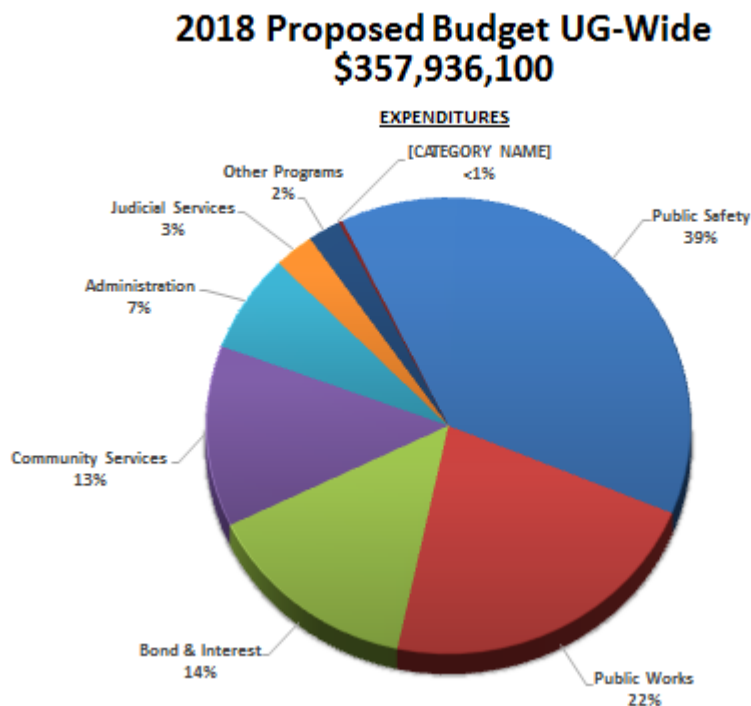
We have a brief presentation from Mr. Bach and then I will turn it over to the Clerk for the hearing.

PRE-JULY BUDGET CALENDAR	JULY BUDGET CALENDAR
• November 5, 2016 – Fall Commission Strategic Planning Session • February 23 – 1st Budget Public Hearing • April 20 – Spring Commission Strategic Planning Session • May 4 & May 18 – CMIP Special Sessions	• July 6 – Administrator’s Budget Presentation To Commission • July 10 – Budget Workshop/Set Maximum Mill Levy • July 13 – Budget Workshop • July 17 – Budget Workshop • July 20 – Budget Workshop • July 24 – Final Public Hearing/ Budget Workshop • July 27 – Budget Adoption

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said as the Mayor noted, one thing about our budget we will go through a few facts in our budget, but we’ve gone through and have given a lot of presentations and information about our budget leading up to tonight. Some point forward things on the calendar that we’ve done leading up. We really started our budget process—we work this thing for about three-fourths of the year so in November of last year we started going through and doing some strategic planning with the Commission where they really set forth the actions, which direction we’re going to go as we plan forward. We had our first public hearing on February 23rd and at that time members of the public are able to come in and throw new ideas and things toward us so we can start to formulate those as we go through and work our budget with our department heads. We did a Planning Retreat with the Commission in April, Special Sessions in the month of May and then as we worked through this month and done several Workshops as we lead up to tonight. It’s a public hearing that really falls into a lot of things

from a legislative perspective of timing, and as the Mayor said, if people are able to hear what we've planned and built into the budget after many months of work by the Commission that's what we're moving forward with toward the adoption on the 27th.

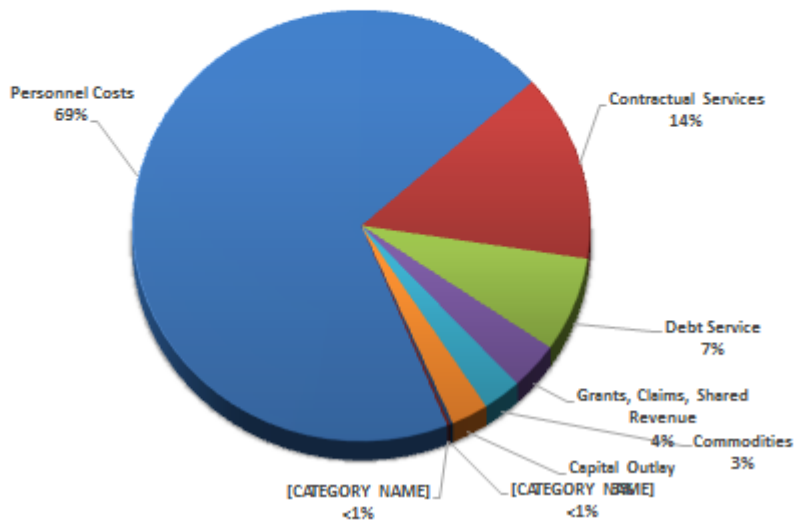
With that I'm going to ask my budget staff to come forward and offer just a few overall summary points on what we have for a total budget and then we will turn it back over for the public hearing.



Reginald Lindsey, Budget Manager, said this year we're proposing a \$357M budget that is made up of Public Safety, Public Works and also Community Service. Public Safety is the largest portion of the budget at 39%. That is the Police Department, Sheriff Department, Fire Department, and also Emergency Management. In Public Works we have Streets and we also have Buildings and Logistics. In Community Service we have departments like Community Development, Parks & Rec, Transit, and also Economic Development.

2018 Proposed Budget City General Fund: \$154,006,219

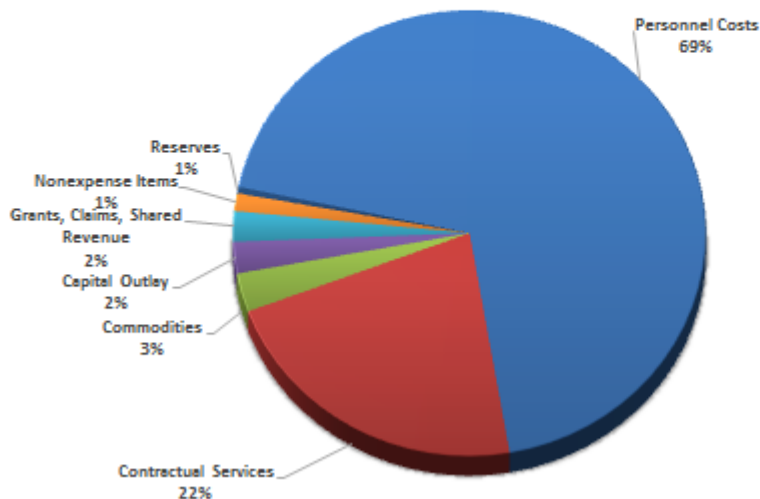
EXPENDITURES



Our 2018 Proposed Budget for the City General Fund is a \$154M budget. This is made up of expense categories that include Personnel which is 69% of the pie, Contractual Services, Capital Outlay and Commodities which come in at a close third and fourth.

2018 Proposed Budget County General Fund: \$59,231,973

EXPENDITURES



July 24, 2017

The County General Fund that we're proposing for 2018 is a \$59M budget. This portion of the budget accounts for outlying cities as far as Edwardsville and Bonner Springs along with the city of Kansas City, Kansas. The largest expense category there is Personnel costs at 69% just as in the City General Fund and then also Contractual Services at 22%. Commodities and Capital Outlay come in a close third and fourth.

I'm going to now turn it over to Wilba Miller our Community Development Director.

2017 Community Development One Year Action Plan



CDBG – Examples of Eligible Activities

- Planning & Administration
- Public Facility Improvements
- Rehabilitation of Housing
- Clearance and Demolition
- Acquisition, disposition, and relocation
- Public Services
- Economic Development
- Historic Preservation



Wilba Miller, Director of Community Development, said as you know the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas receives an annual allocation of Entitlement Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or HUD for the following programs: Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Investment Partnership Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant Program.

In order to receive these funds the Unified Government must submit a Five-Year Consolidated Plan which includes an assessment of housing needs for both affordable and special needs housing, a housing market analysis, housing priorities and strategies to address those priority needs, a Five-Year Strategic Plan and an Annual Action Plan. The UG has developed a new Five-Year Consolidated Plan for fiscal years 2017 through 2021 which includes the 2017 Annual Action Plan. In addition, the Plan includes the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Plan and the Lead-Based Paint Grant Program. The 2017 Annual Action Plan is the first year of the new Five-Year Plan.

The Annual Action Plan consolidates the three grant programs into a single application which includes a description of the projects and activities expected to be undertaken using grant funds and any expected program income. Examples of eligible CDBG activities are shown on

the current slide. The plan also includes actions that the UG expects to take during the program year to pursue strategies described in the Five-Year Plan.

The Unified Government must hold two public hearings to inform the community about the plan, the plan process and to obtain community input. The first public hearing for the Plan was held on April 6, 2017 prior to developing the draft Plan. We are fulfilling our second required public hearing tonight. The draft Plan was published on June 22 and citizens were given 30 days to comment. Since the draft Plan was published, we received final notice of our FY 2017 Grant Allocation from HUD.

The Plan budget is summarized by the following slides and is shown by categories and activities and includes the adjustments made due to the final grant allocation.

Community Development FY 2017 Grant Budget

Rehabilitation	\$787,614
Public Facilities and Improvements	381,066
Public Services	168,000
Section 108 Loan Repayment	280,000
Administration	404,169
TOTAL	\$2,020,849



The CDBG Budget was increased by \$9,863 and totals \$2,020,849.

HOME Investment Partnership Program Funds FY 2017 Grant Budget

HOME CHIP	\$293,717
Rehabilitation and New Construction	270,000
Administration	59,340
TOTAL HOME	\$623,057



The HOME Investment budget increased by \$25,380 and totals \$623,057 which also includes \$29,649 in HOME proceeds.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) FY 2017 Grant Budget

ESG Program Activities	\$167,466
Administration	13,578
TOTAL ESG Funds	\$181,044

The ESG or Emergency Solutions Grant budget was actually decreased by \$1,230 and totals \$181,044.

The Plan must be submitted to HUD 45 days prior to the fiscal year that starts October 1st which means submission can be absolutely no later than August 15, 2017. Failure to submit by August 15th will automatically result in a loss of funds.

A resolution calling for the adoption of the 2017-2021 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the 2017 Annual Action Plan and attachments will be presented for Commission approval during the July 27, 2017 adoption of the Unified Government budget. This concludes my portion of the presentation.

Mr. Bach said that concludes our presentation and we're ready for the recommended public hearing.

Mayor Holland said I will turn it over to the Clerk at this point to call on the speakers.

Carol Godsil, Deputy Unified Government, read a statement governing the public hearing.

Fonda Telthorst, 11124 Sloan Ave., said my husband and I moved to Wyandotte County in 1996. We have raised our children in this community and we both continue to work in Wyandotte County and we have seen tremendous growth and changes in the last 20 years; development of the Legend's area, revitalization projects, health & wellness programs in the city with partner organizations and the list goes on. All of this requires a strong tax base to sustain. One of the ways to attract families, taxpaying citizens, is to make sure that their tax dollars are not only paying for essential necessities but also for family, friendly amenities. In representation of many voices tonight we ask you to seriously consider exploring the building of an Aquatic Center in our community. Instead of listing several statistics and reasons why, I'm going to give you three simple facts. 1) An Aquatic Center is directly related to health initiatives begun by Mayor Reardon in 2010. Swimming is a lifelong sport that can provide physical activity for people of all ages, access to swimming lessons, water aerobics; lap swimming; recreational swimming and therapeutic recovery are all beneficial. 2) Access to a well-planned local Aquatic Center is appealing to current and prospective homeowners. It provides a fun environment that

attracts families. It is a positive and affordable outlet for youth to be active and social. Instead of families traveling to surrounding communities our revenue stays right here in Wyandotte County. 3) The final reason is probably one of the best kept secrets in Wyandotte County. For over 40 years our Piper district, our Piper community, has supported a summer swim team by volunteers. **Ms. Godsil** said you have one minute remaining. **Ms. Telthorst** said in fact our coach has mentored many of those swimmers and has coached for the last 34 years and she is here this evening. The Piper Swim Team currently has over 120 swimmers ages 5 to 18. The current rented facility is too small for the growing team. In fact, we are unable to host competitions because of the size of the facility.

In summary, we believe there is a strong community support and we encourage you to explore the options to make an aquatic facility in our community a reality.

Mark Sorenson said I'm here along with five other members from the Piper Soccer Club and then we also have some members of the KC Gaelic Athletic Club here with us tonight as well. What I'm going to talk about is the Piper Soccer Club, how it was formed a little bit and what the need is that we have in our community. The Piper Soccer Club is an independent nonprofit organization that consists of six Wyandotte County resident volunteers which are all here tonight. Each member has a vested interest in the development of youth soccer in the community of Piper, Kansas; but the Piper Soccer Club is not committed to just the Piper residents. We are open to what we call a united metro area so we would like to welcome players from any part of Wyandotte County but if they're surrounding counties that want to join with us, we welcome them as well.

The goals of the Piper Soccer Club include allowing children the opportunity to have fun while playing competitive soccer, but also teach children good sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment and provide a high quality professional soccer training for children to develop in their soccer interest in our community. We have Sporting KC right here in our backyard, but Piper, our residents; continually year after year have to send our players to Metro United that is in Shawnee County or Johnson County or Leavenworth County. Myself and other members said let's build something here that we can be proud of, that our community can be proud of. Since we built that we actually in the fall of 2015 Piper Soccer Club has grown over 400%. **Ms. Godsil** said you have one minute. **Mr. Sorenson** said that's four, zero, zero percent. We began

with just seven teams that had 65 kids in 2015 and already we have 37 teams with more than 450 kids just in our community alone. The ranges of their ages are anywhere from kindergarten all the way up to 8th grade. What we're asking for is basically some funds to build a practice field. We have no space to practice with these 450+ kids so what we're looking for is some help basically from you guys.

We actually have other members from our community that are asking to pitch in to help with this as well so that's what they're up next to talk about.

Jamie Becker said I'm with the Piper Soccer Club and from Kansas City, Kansas. Just to kind of piggyback on what Mark was saying we're about a 2.5 year old club that has grown tremendously over the last few years and recently we received some grant funds from the Hollywood Casino that we are looking to utilize toward building a practice facility for some of our teams. Currently we use like parks, private property, anywhere that we can get fields to play on and that's not really conducive to growing the club and getting these kids active. Piper has about 15,000 people in the community and like Mark said, we have 450 kiddos playing with us. That's 3% of our community playing soccer with our club that has nowhere to practice. That's why we're here tonight to ask for your assistance. Not only that, but Wyandotte County as you may know, is one of the highest ranked for obesity and health problems in the State of Kansas and with no public access to walking trails or a park. These kiddos in Piper are growing up with not a lot of opportunity to kind of get out of that.

Chris White said I reside in Kansas City, Kansas. Continuing on with what they're doing, what we're truly asking for is there is a land parcel at K-5 & Wolcott which used to be a go-kart track which is now owned by the city and not being used. It is in a floodplain; however, we have thrown around some ideas and talked to city officials to try to turn that area into soccer fields, walking trails and even expanding depending on how the funds work a Splash Park. I know these people are asking for an Aquatic Center which I don't know if that area would be great, but something for the community. West of 435 we have very few parks. I'm talking about green spaces, we're having to—some of our teams have to rent green space from either Wyandotte County Lake or Wyandotte County Park and we're also working with the Piper School District to use some of their spaces but we're butting heads especially right now with football season.

Like we're saying, there is very limited spaces for us to practice and also the opportunity to turn—I'm not sure the actual acreage, 30 some odd acres, into an opportunity to make this a community area. Like I said, walking trails; something the entire community can enjoy.

Currently if I want to take my kids to ride their bikes I have to go to the high school to ride in the parking lot, it's just not that conducive. I think that area that is being maintained by the city could be developed. We're not really asking for funds. We do have grant money. We're trying to do this on a limited lower burden, if any, to taxpayers themselves whether it's through donations. We've talked to companies about clearing the land but we know some of the commissioners and you are very creative when it comes to finding these funds and ways to do this without taxpayer burden. **Ms. Godsil** said you have one minute. **Mr. White** said however that may work whether it's a joint effort with Parks & Rec to clear it, to maintain it or whether it's the Piper Soccer Club itself purchasing that land and using it for what we want. We're just looking for your ideas.

Jill Gonzalez said I'm from Kansas City, Kansas. I am as well with the Piper Soccer Club and I appreciate you giving us the opportunity to speak. How would we fund this park and soccer concourse? We did receive a grant from Hollywood Casino. We do fundraising opportunities through our local communities, the local businesses, Fuddruckers and we have hundreds of volunteers that help us with our club. All of our parents are volunteers, all of the board members are volunteers and many of them own their own companies and have volunteered to help mow, grade the fields, even help take down the brush, the trees, anything that is there. We do know that there will be some expenses with grading and clearing the land, asphaltting the walking trails and the biking trails, putting up any amenities like a Splash Park if that's feasible, but this can all be done in phases through donations. We are putting up grant—going out and seeking these grants and donations. We want to do this with as little expense from taxpayers, if any, as possible. We are actively seeking money and doing this on our own. We would like to try to keep it in correlation with Wyandotte County Rec & Parks and see if they can continue to help us and maintain the land or we do know we have plenty of volunteers that would help maintain the land.

We would like to have any suggestions from you to keep this a reality, keep this a community. We also know that our soccer seasons are from March to May in the spring and

August through October in the fall. We have been in talks with Piper Optimist for their football season that they could come and join in. We have the Gaelic Athletic Association here that they could come and join in. We've have had mention of beach volleyball and other cheerleading that could come out and use the fields as well. Families could come out and safely walk and know that they are there. This is a huge opportunity for us to utilize land that is not being utilized for the children, for our purpose and for anyone else's that has sporting in mind, children for sure.

Mike Gonzalez said my part is kind of hopefully going to be short and sweet here. We as a soccer club really want our kids to come out and have a nice safe place to play. We want our entire community to have a nice safe place to play with it being a park. We work with a lot of different organizations, teaming up with Parks & Rec, teaming up with the Gaelic sports to not only make it Piper Soccer Club but make it a Piper Sports Club involving many different aspects of youth sports here in Wyandotte County to keep everything here in Wyandotte County. We work with, as we said before, mostly western Wyandotte County kids right now but we are also working with and talking to different groups like Stage Street Project, KCK Community College about bringing more inner city kids into the program to where something like this doesn't only affect western Wyandotte County, it will affect all of Wyandotte County. We really appreciate it. We want you to know that we are here; we're in support of everybody here on the commissioner board and the Mayor and if anybody else in the audience is in support of this, please stand up and let them know.

Marcia Rupp, 2816 No. 46th St., said first of all I want to say don't wait and say would of, could of, should of; get the body cameras for the police. This is something I would like for you and I ask all the commissioners to do especially all the commissioners that are in the area of Indian Springs to 65th. The reason that we don't have anything good coming into Indian Springs is because—I have really been driving State Avenue and because my husband told me to because Parallel needs to be fixed, the road, but Parallel is the best looking highway that we have for what's on the sides of the road. The best looking from 51st all the way out but it's the worst road. I've been driving State Avenue and I've been looking and everything that I see is either boarded up, torn down or unkempt. You know I'm not a lawyer, far from it, but I know you've got some smart heads up here and I know you can figure out a way to either do eminent domain

or give an incentive to fix up some of this property or tear it down. There are lots of spaces. That orange building that's across from the doctor's office at 57th, the Midtown Plaza Building; that is a huge lot for a QuikTrip; I mean a nice QuikTrip that we don't have there. The other thing is the West Haven needs to be all torn down, all of it. They have a For Sale sign on it. No one is going to buy it. This is no one's fault, believe me, I'm not blaming the commissioners because—**Ms. Godsil** said you have one minute. **Ms. Rupp** said this is a long going problem that has been just ignored. The middle of the street looks wonderful with all the flowers and everything but it's what is on the sides of the street and we have a motel that is in trouble there. It's a mess on 47th; we have a fireworks stand that needs to be torn down. We have a Miller Hardware that was torn down and all the debris is still laying on the side of the street. This is just pitiful. This is why we can't get anything. If you would just really concentrate on taking care of the buildings that are not being used that they can't sell, they've tried to, and just fix it up from that point, Indian Springs to 65th, you're going to see a lot of difference of what would come into Indian Springs. I'm talking something big here because it's not much space left out west. It's getting full. **Ms. Godsil** said your three minutes are up. **Ms. Rupp** said please think about it, just drive it, get in your car and drive it and really look.

Georgia Howlett, 10945 Oak Dr., said I've lived there for 30 years. I am an original Dotte and I'm very proud of it. I'm going to give you a little history so you know I care about my community. I'm a Past President of Grinter Place Friends. I spent five years of my life with the most wonderful man, Ray Byers, building the Grinter Barn and I am also the Past Executive of the Junior League of Wyandotte and Johnson County. I've worked with the Kids Voting Kansas, I've been a Director of Kids Voting Kansas, I've worked with the Teen Pregnancy Speaker's Bureau, I've worked with the Special Children's Daycare Center in Kaw Valley Center here in my own community because I love Wyandotte County. I believe as George Bernard Shaw said to us that your life belongs to your community and I believe my life does belong to my community. Many years ago I sit on a committee for the City of Kansas City, Kansas that said you can't be a suburb of no place, but the reverse is also true. The suburbs must belong to the city too.

We do not have a decent place for our kids to swim. My daughter who is 34 years old sitting right there swam on the Piper Swim Team when she was five years old. My

granddaughter who is 10 years old currently swims on the Piper Swim Team. There isn't a decent place for them to swim in Wyandotte County. We try to practice at the Saviour and it's a great place, but if you've ever been there, there is enough room for the coach to barely stand on the sideline while the kids are trying to practice. We have to shove the kids in and out in groups to get them there. When we host a meet we have to rent Lansing, we have to rent Tonganoxie, we have to rent other areas for our team to host a swim meet.

We need some decent things in Wyandotte County. I'm currently working with the Y on a program that I can't mention because it's part of a federal grant so I'm not allowed to mention it in a public forum, but we're trying to teach young people how to get out of poverty. We have to give young people places to go whether it is a soccer field, a swimming place; why do we have to drive 15 minutes to Shawnee or 15 minutes north to Lansing? Why do we have to drive to another community to enjoy some of the things that we know are available? Go to Lee's Summit, go to Blue Springs, go to any other community in this area and you know you have to provide things for your people to do. Some people say if you build it west, then the inner city people will come out there and swim; so isn't that wonderful? Shouldn't we all be swimming together? Shouldn't we all have a decent place for our children to go and enjoy? Why do we have to travel to do that? I believe there is longevity, 29 years; my kids have been swimming with Amy. **Ms. Godsil** said you have one minute. **Ms. Howlett** said poor Amy, I feel sorry for her, but at one time she had my 17 year old, my 14 year old, and my 5 year old swimming on their swim team. What I will say to you is that's longevity of a program that I think is important. When I went to Washington High School we had a swim team. We have nowhere for these kids to swim so I'm just asking you to consider that as part of your budget and look for the future of our kids in Wyandotte County no matter where they live.

Daniel Welch, 6221 Armstrong, said those who know me know I came to talk about parks. Again, I will say the proposed UG budget for parks is generally satisfactory. Unlike in some years in the 1920s we do have a real budget. I recall that some years ago one member of this Commission emphasized the importance for our parks by telling a story about losing his sons kite in a tree. We all have stories of important events like this in our parks. Parks are about life experiences and in this month's *Pitch* Arthur Lucas Wetzel tells us about his life experiences with Rosedale Park. Wetzel starts off by telling us, and I'm going to quote him, "by most

measurements Rosedale Park is one of the happiest places in the city. Families gather at the picnic shelter for barbecue's and birthday parties, children climb on the jungle gym, teenagers skateboard and couples play tennis. Also, from dawn to dusk every single day there is a disc off. Rosedale Park is a place of legion." Wetzel goes on but he changes his happy tone and he reminds us of Brock Barrett; the significant figure in advancing the design, landscaping and maintenance of the down under portion of the Disc Golf Course. Brock lost his life in a tragic 2007 family fireworks accident. Then Steve Baumgartner, a Navy Petty Officer, that crashed his steel luge into a Rosedale Park tree in 2008, but Wetzel is not done when he continues with a 2013 Rosedale Park tragedy for the electrocution of Nicholas Moeder by a downed power line.

I'm going to quote Wetzel again, "each time I play disc at Rosedale, Wetzel writes, I think of these three men who shared common ground in the park but never knew one another. I think about their families. I want to tell them that their sons are not forgotten." That's the end of the quote. **Ms. Godsil** said you have one minute. **Mr. Welch** said finishing a late disc round Wetzel reports that he thought about life as a Frisbee flight. You take aim as best you can, but there's no predicting where the thing will land. The arc can be long and graceful or unfairly interrupted by some unexpected force. Either way, there is flight.

Parks are about life experiences.

Kevin Winters said I'm here representing the Kansas City Gaelic Athletic Club. I'm also on the board of the Kansas City Irish Center and the Kansas City Irish Fest. The Kansas City Gaelic Athletic Club is a nonprofit organization promoting Gaelic games and community involvements in the greater Kansas City area and we have a number of adult amateur teams that practice in Wyandotte County Park. By quick way of a background, Gaelic games are the most popular sports in Ireland and are governed out of Croke Park in Dublin. To give you an indication of the popularity of these sports, Croke Park is the fourth largest sporting stadium in Europe behind London and Barcelona and Madrid. Last year in 2016 over Labor Day weekend we won a national championship and brought that national trophy back representing Kansas City. Of that success we've partnered up with Piper Soccer Club in the development of a youth program and are here to weigh in behind that request for a new field, a new practice facility off Highway 5.

Through that collaboration and through the media and success we've had we've entered into a number of conversations with the Kansas City Sports Commission and Visit KC and our

advance conversations with the US GEA of bringing regional, divisional and national championships to Kansas City none of which could be achieved without suitable fields and amenities like that. That would be enormous revenues for the county that would involve upwards of 1,500 athletes that would ascend over a weekend. **Ms. Godsil** said you have one minute. **Mr. Winters** said it's actually very impressive to hear what Piper has done with so little. If there is some kind of support or some kind of collaboration we can do there, I think we could go a lot further.

Ms. Godsil said that concludes the speakers that signed up.

Commissioner Kane said since I've been here I've talked about where there are no parks west of 435. I've talked to the swimming folks; I've met with the soccer players, the Piper Optimist Club. I've asked the Commission to give us \$100K seed money so when we find a proper place, and I think we have found it, so we would have something to work with. Melissa Bynum and I have met with them and I told Melissa and Doug that I have reached out to two contractors. I'm going to meet one of them at the field with our Public Works folks and I'm going to do exactly what you did, I'm going to say what can we do to fix this up and if you can only do so much how much will there be in-kind? We are working on it. It's important that we have parks out west, that we have paths out west. I don't know a lot about the pools yet, but I'm going to learn more; but we do deserve to have green space out west and we've got the golden place to do it. It's in the floodplain, so it floods, we will regrow the grass. I think it's very important, what they said was they're willing to groom the field and do a lot of work there and this will be used by not just the Piper folks but the folks from in town because when you have to pay money to practice, then you have less money to buy balls, nets, gloves and the transportation; the time you would save by not going to Johnson County to play. You would stay right here because we live here and we want to stay here and we want to play here and I think we've got an opportunity to do something here so I ask my fellow commissioners to listen to the folks tonight because I'm not the only one that says we need all this. They're telling you right now they need this.

Mayor Holland said I want to thank everyone for coming out. This marks the high point. This is my eleventh public hearing for the budget and this is the high point because 9 out of the 10

speakers were talking about parks and rec and that's a long time coming. It used to just be Dan and so, Dan, help has come. I just want to thank everyone. I ran 10 years ago on pools, parks, playgrounds and paths for exercise to try to grow parks and rec in this community and it's been a long time coming. The Parks Master Plan, this Commission backed 100%, and so our biggest challenge now is going to be funding that Master Plan and coming up with a funding stream that's sustainable that's going to be able allow every part of our community to have the parks and rec infrastructure that we deserve. We are well aware you don't have to look hard at a map to see the lack of greenspace in the Piper area. I appreciate everyone coming out today and sharing your vision with us.

I will close the public hearing now. We do have a short two minute presentation by our Public Works Department. I would invite everyone to stay for it. It's a presentation that's going to show how we're tracking Public Works Department projects into the future. Have you ever seen a road project going on and you wondered when it would ever end? I love to see the cones because its progress, it's money being invested in our community, but we're going to have a presentation to show what we're going to do on Leavenworth Road and it's going to be a model for how we're going to do presentations for Public Works in the future. It's a brief two to five minute presentation and I would appreciate you staying and taking a look at it if you would like to.

Mr. Bach said I will recognize Troy Shaw our County Engineer and the rest of his support team and they will give a presentation on our new Leavenworth Road website.

Troy Shaw, County Engineering for the Public Works Department, said what we wanted to do here real quick was just give you a brief explanation of what we're planning on doing with the website and how we want to inform the public in the future of projects we have and let them know what's going on to help them get answers to what we're doing and making it a lot more informative for them. I have our website up here. We will go to the Public Work's Department—we're revamping our website so it's under construction as we speak. We will have an area that's just for projects which is currently under construction. I'm working with Brandon, our Asset Management Division Manager, there is going to be an interactive map on this in the future so all of our projects we have under construction will be on this map. You can click on

that map and it will open up a little bit about the project. That's kind of where we're going with this portion of it, but we will also have an area for larger projects such as Leavenworth Road where we have a link.

Leavenworth Road Modernization Project

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS is investing in a variety of improvements to Leavenworth Road from N. 63rd Street to N. 38th Street. The goal of the project is to improve safety and modernize the roadway. The improvements include:

- Adding continuous sidewalks on both sides of the road
- Removing guard rail
- Upgrading the storm drainage system
- Updating street lighting
- Replacing curb and gutters
- Upgrading driveway entrances
- Adding new retaining walls at several locations
- Adding a new pedestrian crossing with a traffic control device at N. 61st Street
- Upgrading the pedestrian crossing and traffic control device at Welborn Elementary School
- Upgrading pedestrian signals and push buttons at N. 59th Street
- Upgrading traffic signals, pedestrian signals, and push buttons at N. 51st Street and N. 38th Street
- Adding and modifying turn lanes at the N. 38th Street intersection





July 24, 2017

Leavenworth Road (state highway K-5) is an older arterial road that was built and upgraded with limited consideration for pedestrians. Although it provides the only spine of transportation for a corridor greater than 1.5 miles wide, much of the infrastructure is outdated and in need of modernization. The existing roadway has many reaches without sidewalk, limited shoulders, and difficult terrain adjacent to the roadside. Two schools fall directly along this corridor as well as multiple senior citizen residential facilities, many residents of which lack vehicles. Without adequate sidewalks, the various communities along Leavenworth Road are, in a sense, isolated. Construction of sidewalks together with the other proposed roadway improvements are a primary strategy to address the basic connectivity needs between centers of activities, to support economy vitality, and to create a livable community.

The Unified Government in partnership with the Kansas Department of Transportation is undertaking the Leavenworth Road Modernization project to address these needs. In this first phase, new sidewalks on both sides of the street will provide connectivity between extensive residential areas and the commercial zones at 51st, 55th, and 59th Streets as well as to churches, schools, and other services along the corridor. The project will also will improve safety for children that walk to school, residents of the senior living facilities, and other residents and business patrons along the corridor. With upgrades to traffic signals and additional turn lanes at key locations, safety and efficiency for motorists will also be improved. The provision of sidewalks and a safe roadway area are essential permanent benefits that not only remain themselves, but permanently change the character of the area. It will lead to momentum for enhanced connectivity of sidewalk amenities in adjacent collector and local streets and prompt more pedestrian friendly redevelopment.

For questions or concerns please contact leavenworthroad@wycokck.org.

Contact Us

- (913) 573-5000
- 701 N. 7th St., Kansas City, KS 66101
- info@wycokck.org

This is specifically for Leavenworth Road type projects so you click on that and it will have basic information about what's going on, what we're doing, some pictures, a lot more information about the project in general and then some quick frequently asked questions that we will continue to update. As we get more questions we will keep adding to the list so people can get there and access those right away and see what's going on.

Then we also included a section about the Leavenworth Road full history and in this one we included an area an area with history so you can kind of scroll through and see different era's, what it has looked like and what has been going on.

We also have a link here to the Wyandotte County Museum—I don't think it's a link, it's just a website for now, but it can be linked to the Museum website. We will also include an interactive map on this as well, but it's under development right now. We're thinking about the interactive map for project specific things like when is a certain chunk of the road going to be closed, when is it going to be one-way going different directions that we will update throughout the process. Tim Nick is our website coordinator and we will work with Project Managers to get this information on.

One other cool thing we're kind of working into is if a change is made, residents can sign up to get notified when that change is made. We'll send either an email or text and we're working on developing that as well but it's still under construction. Our portion of Leavenworth Road actually starts—we bid it in October so our portion will start next spring. Right now obviously there is utility work going on which you can—project schedule we put in here. It's very general right now. As we get more into it we can update that when things are going on and we know specifics about timelines and then people can get on here to see it. Right now we've included a portion about utility relocations because that's what's happening right now.

I also want to point out there are multiple spots throughout here with this link right here which is basically an email. If you click on that and it forwards an email—it can be an email that goes directly to the Project Manager and I think there are four people. Dave Clark is copied on this, Tim, myself and then Brent Thompson is copied on this as well so we make sure we get that email and we want to make sure if someone sends that in that they get a response right away whether it's here's your answer or it's we've got this we will get you an answer within 24 hours or we're looking into this just to make sure people know we are responding to them right away. That link is multiple places throughout here that has that website definition.

Our plan in the future is to use this on projects such as this one, ones that affect a lot of people, not just the people that are living right there, but everybody that drives through the corridor, schools are involved. Merriam Lane would have been a good one for something like this. Like I said, we will have a general map that's for all of our projects going on throughout the county that you can kind of click on and see information about it as we go.

That's really all I have unless I've missed something that these guys are thinking, but I just kind of wanted to give you a heads up of what we're thinking and where we're going in the future. This is entering process so we're going to be changes as we go and we're learning as

we're doing it but we hope we can provide the elected officials and the public a lot more information in the future about projects.

Mayor Holland said this is great. I really appreciate the use of technology for this.

Mr. Shaw said one more thing, we have this contact information, we're going to put out six—I think we're looking at six smaller 30x30 signs that will say Leavenworth Road Modernization Project and then it will have for information see and it will have the link to this website to kind of direct people to this website to start with. So hopefully they can get their information sooner and faster, but also provide contact information so they can get ahold of us if they need to and the right people so they're not going through 311 and a bunch of different people to get to where they need to go. We're hoping we can streamline it and get an answer as quick as possible. We will have these six smaller signs throughout the duration and then when we start ours we'll have the big project sign at both ends as well so hopefully people can get information.

Mayor Holland said this is going from 38th Street to 63rd Street and this is a \$25M project. **Mr. Shaw** said \$14M I believe. I think overall because we will be doing another phase and so together it will be at \$25M. **Mayor Holland** said and it will be of the same caliber as State Avenue and Parallel Parkway only it will be two lanes instead of four. This is a great upgrade, sidewalks, everything for Leavenworth Road. Thank you to our Public Works Department. This has been a long time coming and to have this kind of public information because you know it wears people out when they have to sit and wait for their road to be finished—as much as we want it redone there is a big hassle to getting it done and this is going to go a long way to informing the public.

Commissioner Philbrook said I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you. That's going to be a big help. We're really happy to get started on Leavenworth Road finally after all these years. You guys are really taking us to the next level by keeping everybody informed as soon as you can get that up and running because I have a lot of inquisitive minds along Leavenworth Road. **Mr. Shaw** said like I said, hopefully it will be more than just this project and we will get enough out there so that information is available and people will learn that's where you go to get

it to start with. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I look forward to going to the community meetings and they don't have to ask me anything. They can get it all from you so thank you very much.

Mayor Holland said that concludes the meeting tonight. We are going upstairs to the 5th floor for the budget workshop. If you would like to join us you're welcome to come up to the 5th floor. There is a public viewing area there and that will start about 25 till (6:35 p.m.). We will take 15 minutes to go upstairs.

**MAYOR HOLLAND ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:20 p.m.**

dt

Carol Godsil
Deputy Unified Government Clerk

July 24, 2017