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

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022
4:00 p.m.

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, April 28, 2022, with nine members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Townsend, Commissioner First District (arriving late); McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; and Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator; Misty Brown, Chief Legal Counsel; Brett Deichler, Unified Government Clerk; Bridgette Cobbins, Alan Howze, and Emerick Cross, Assistant County Administrators; Monica L. Sparks, Acting Unified Government Clerk; Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director; Chief Karl Oakman, Police Department; Chief Mike Callahan, Fire Department; Angel Obert, Director of Parks & Recreation; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; and Alley Porter, Commission Liaison.

Mayor Garner said before I call this meeting to order, I want to announce that we have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

MAYOR GARNER called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: McKiernan, Ramirez, Kane, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Garner.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, April 28, 2022. An Executive

Session to discuss security measures and litigation will begin at 4:00 p.m. immediately followed by a Special Session at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers for a presentation by Unified Government departments of potential projects to be funded by the potential half-cent sales tax measure.

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.

Mayor Garner said at this time the Commission will go into Executive Session to discuss security measures and for consultation with Legal Counsel regarding litigation. We have a motion for Executive Session.

Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, for the Commission to go into Executive Session until 4:30 p.m. to discuss confidential matters related to physical and information systems where an open meeting would jeopardize security, as permitted under the Kansas Open Meetings Act; and that staff designated by the County Administrator be present to participate in the discussion, and that we reconvene in open session at 4:30 p.m. here in the first floor Commission Chambers. Roll call was taken on the motion and there were seven "Ayes," McKiernan, Ramirez, Kane, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum.

Present for the Executive Session: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO presiding. **Staff present:** Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator; Misty Brown, Chief Legal Counsel; Alan Howze and Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator's; Brett Deichler, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Captain Grosko, Police Department (leaving at 4:15 p.m.); Monica L. Sparks, Acting Unified Government Clerk (leaving at 4:15 p.m.). At 4:35 p.m. the following were present for the purpose of pending claims and litigation: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO presiding. **Staff present:** Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator; Misty Brown, Chief Legal Counsel; Ryan Denk, Outside Counsel; and Spencer Lowe, Outside Counsel.

Mayor Garner adjourned the Executive Session at 5:03 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

Mayor Garner said we are back in normal session and I'm going to call this meeting to order. Clerk, can you give a quick roll call. Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," McKiernan, Ramirez, Kane, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Garner.

Mayor Garner said I want to announce that we have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

Mayor Garner said we are now in Special Session and as a subject of order, I'm going to do another roll call. Clerk, I'm calling this Special Session to order and please do a roll call. Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," McKiernan, Ramirez, Kane, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Garner.

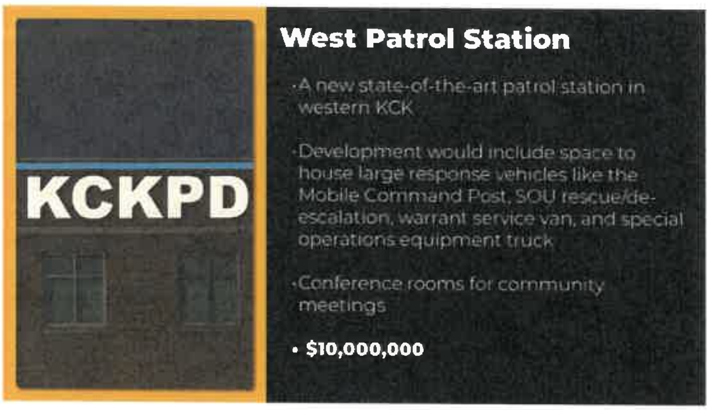
Mayor Garner said I will turn this over to the Finance team for a presentation.

Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, said I will start this presentation out tonight. We're here to provide some additional information on the Infrastructure Sales Tax Initiative. We have provided information in past meetings; however, this session is going to focus on potential projects that could be funded with this initiative. We also understand that future engagement with residents and elected officials will still be conducted.

Just to recap, this is a half-cent sales tax. It is over 10 years and the current projection is that it would generate about $200M, with about $17.5M in the first year. We have four departments here tonight that will present some potential projects that the funding could be used for.

We have representatives from Police, Fire, Parks & Rec, and Public Works here tonight. I will go ahead and turn the presentation over to the Police Department to start this off.

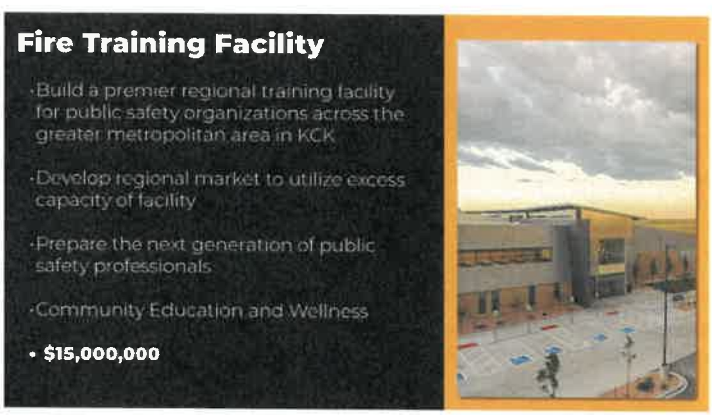
Chief Karl Oakman, Police Department, said on the projects for the Police Department, our two main projects would be a new Northeast Patrol Station. This would be a state-of-the-art patrol station and a development also to include community space and possible gym for public interaction. This is really important to build those bridges in the community to where the community is part of the police and some of the extracurricular activities that we would be able to do with the public to engage on a different level as well as quiet spaces for focus and improved work. One thing that we look at in policing, we need to make sure that not only are they sound with wellness and other issues, but part of wellness is having a positive work environment that is safe and up to standards and state-of-the-art. So, that's something that we really want to focus on with these projects. Then, a conference room for community meetings.



Next, is the West Patrol Station. I don't know how many people have actually been to the West Patrol Station, but that would be our number one priority. As I mentioned, we have to make sure our employees are in work environments that are conducive to getting the best performance out of them and I think our current West Patrol is not situated for the changing demands of policing as well as community engagement. The current square footage of that station does not allow for community members to actually go to the station to interact in any shape or form.

This new station would also include a large garage space for some of our larger vehicles such as mobile command posts, our SOU rescue and de-escalation vehicle as well as other special vehicles that we have. This building would also have conference rooms for the community meetings, so if you can see the theme here, it's making sure that our police stations are part of the community and not just saying we're a part of the community, but actually having events right there in the police facilities where the community can participate. There's other projects, but those are the two main ones from the Police Department.

Chief Mike Callahan, Fire Department, said our portion of this, the top priority for us is the reconstruction of fire stations. This sales tax would enable us to completely rebuild six fire stations, but it would end up touching ten fire stations with combining and consolidating different buildings into one.



Training Facility; this is a $15M facility. It's a regional training facility. The KCK Fire Department is the biggest fire department by number in the state. There's no reason why we can't brand our fire department and our community so that people want to come here to train. We want people in the region as well as the entire state of Kansas to come here to train and we want that to happen because we have the people who can train others. We want to brand KCK fire with this training facility and this is just one component of what we're looking to do. As I said, it would give us the ability to teach large classes, not just from KCK, but from other departments and we could charge a fee for doing that. It gives us that developmental regional market and we could use the excess capacity as I just mentioned to charge people to come here and learn.

It prepares us for the next generation of safety professionals. Training is a big, big important component in the fire service. There's also a community component in that there's going to be space for the community to come and interact with the fire department to see what the fire department does and there's, as Chief Oakman alluded to, there's a community component in terms of meeting rooms and access to the structure.

I started a little bit on this before, we'd like to reconstruct six fire stations and our fire stations are sorely in need of update and renovation and rebuild. These six stations would enable us to touch ten of the stations we currently have. Some of the improvements are obviously better sleeping facilities, bathrooms, and living spaces. Those are amenities that everybody can recognize, but in addition to that, what we require in our stations is a cancer cutting initiative and that involves what is up here; decontamination showers, extracting washers and dryers for the bunker gear, positive pressure room so that any carcinogens that are brought back from a fire aren't spread throughout the fire station when the individuals aren't—when they're in their resting areas.

Angel Obert, Director of Parks & Recreation, said we did have a menu of potential projects that we did take to the Park Board and worked with them prior to this meeting as well. One of the top projects that they were also in favor of was potentially looking at a new recreation center and what that would look like was a large new rec center, centralized location, in the county and that center could include amenities like an indoor walking track, a pool, fitness equipment, state-of-the-art multi-purpose rooms, showers, and also gym equipment as well. We do know that our newest rec center is 50 years old and the pandemic did also just outline how important it is to our community for us to have good parks and recreation services. So, a new rec center, potentially $35M.

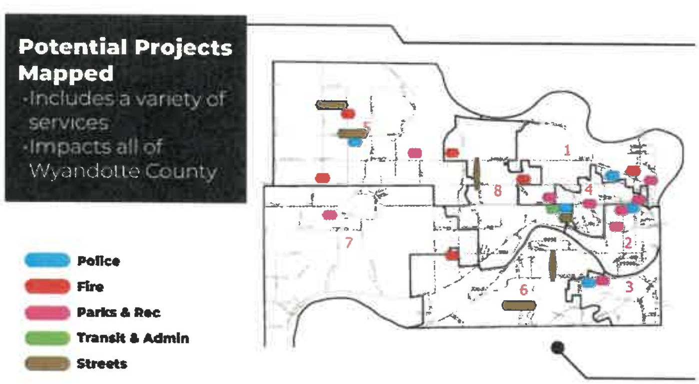
Along with that project, a second project that was highly favored was the spray park initiative throughout the county. What that would look like, taking a look at our current spray parks and where those are located currently in our county, would be an addition of five new splash parks. What that would look like is similar to the concept that we have at Eisenhower, which we know is a very popular concept. It's that spray park and playground combo that's very popular for families to come out in the summer and we know it's extremely hard right now to staff pools. It's a national shortage that everyone's dealing with so we do like that spray parks don't have to be manned. It's a lot easier for us to provide that service without having to staff it with personnel.

What that would mean for this initiative is that ideally every district would have a spray park. That means the neighborhoods of that district would have access to that amenity. Some possible locations that we listed here was Edgerton, Bill Clem, Waterway, Emerson, Clopper, Wyandotte County Lake, and Wyandotte County Park. Those locations were also determined by data from the 2017 Master Plan. That potential project would be roughly $2.7M.

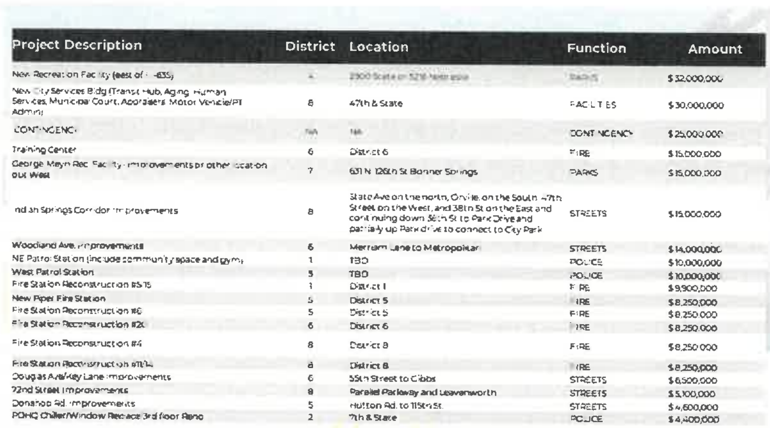
Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works, said this is an idea that has been kicked around in several discussions in the recent past. It's centralizing some government services and putting it in roughly the middle of the county. This might be a high value project. It might accomplish a few different objectives for those of you on the Infrastructure Subcommittees talking about reducing facilities or repurposing space, maximizing space, maybe selling or repurposing.

We know there are several challenges around this area of 635 & State Avenue over to 47th Street. Some infrastructure improvements in that area, clean up the corners, improved lighting, walkability might be more supportive of whatever development in that area may happen.

Douglas & Key Lane; this is a good project. Improve the driving experience and, of course, walkability, replace ditches with curb and gutter. A fairly standard project, but if you've ever driven this area, there's some needs there, anywhere from drainage to walkability representative of a lot of different road projects that we have a need for.



Ms. Jonscher said the next few slides are just some additional information that we provided. This is a map that would show all the potential projects that we have for the different departments and where they would be located in the county and just showing a different variety of services and how it impacts all of Wyandotte County.



Project Description	District	Location	Function	Amount
New Recreation Facility (east of I-635)	4	[illegible]	PARKS	$32,000,000
New City Services Bldg (Transit Hub, Aging, Human Services, Municipal Court, Appraisers, Motor Vehicle/PT Admin)	8	47th & State	FACILITIES	$30,000,000
CONTINGENCY	NA	NA	CONTINGENCY	$25,000,000
Training Center	6	District 6	FIRE	$15,000,000
George Meyn Rec Facility - improvements or other location out West	7	631 N 126th St Bonner Springs	PARKS	$15,000,000
Indian Springs Corridor Improvements	8	State Ave on the north, Orville on the South, 47th Street on the West, and 38th St on the East and continuing down 38th St to Park Drive and partially up Park drive to connect to City Park	STREETS	$15,000,000
Woodland Ave. Improvements	6	Merriam Lane to Metropolitan	STREETS	$14,000,000
NE Patrol Station (include community space and gym)	1	TBD	POLICE	$10,000,000
West Patrol Station	5	TBD	POLICE	$10,000,000
Fire Station Reconstruction #5/15	1	District 1	FIRE	$9,900,000
New Piper Fire Station	5	District 5	FIRE	$8,250,000
Fire Station Reconstruction #6	5	District 5	FIRE	$8,250,000
Fire Station Reconstruction #20	6	District 6	FIRE	$8,250,000
Fire Station Reconstruction #4	8	District 8	FIRE	$8,250,000
Fire Station Reconstruction #11/14	8	District 8	FIRE	$8,250,000
Douglas Ave/Key Lane Improvements	6	55th Street to Gibbs	STREETS	$6,500,000
72nd Street Improvements	8	Parallel Parkway and Leavenworth	STREETS	$5,100,000
Donahoo Rd. Improvements	5	Hutton Rd. to 115th St.	STREETS	$4,600,000
PDHQ Chiller/Window Replace 3rd floor Reno	2	7th & State	POLICE	$4,400,000

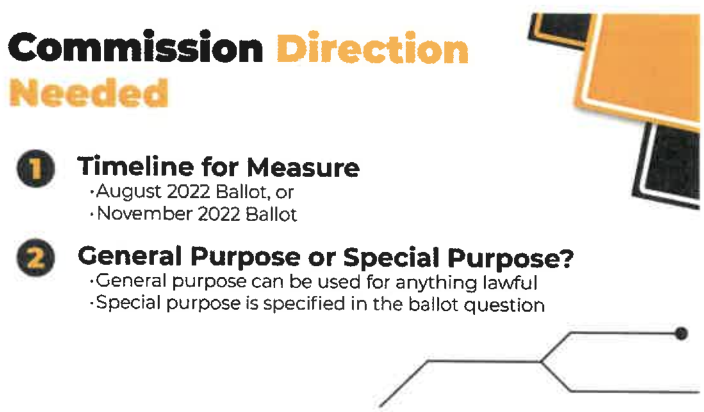
These next two slides are a more detailed listing of all the potential projects. In addition to the four departments that you just heard from, we do also have some projects on here for Facilities and for Streets.

Project Description	District	Location	Function	Amount
Hollingsworth Rd Improvements	5	[illegible]	STREETS	$4,000,000
Bruce Recreation Facility Renovations	2	[illegible]	PARKS	$3,000,000
Bethany Recreation Facility Renovations	4	1120 Central Ave	PARKS	$3,000,000
Real Time Crime Center (Hardware/Software/Renovations)	2	7th & State	POLICE	$1,000,000
Add community room for EPS (future COPPS location)	8	849 N. 47th Street	POLICE	$1,000,000
Edgerton Spray Parks	1	2049 Springfield Blvd	PARKS	$600,485
Waterway Spray Parks	2	703 Waterway Dr	PARKS	$600,485
Digitize Old Police Records	2	7th & State	POLICE	$500,000
Emerson Spray Parks	3	2717 Strong Ave	PARKS	$475,485
WyCo Lake Spray Parks	5	3488 East Drive	PARKS	$475,485
WyCo Park Spray Parks	7	631 N 126th St. Bonner Springs	PARKS	$475,485
Offsite Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity Plan (IT Infrastructure)	2	7th & State	POLICE	$399,000
De-Escalation & Rescue Vehicle	2	7th & State	POLICE	$241,000
Special Operations Unit Building Renovations	8	2151 S. 34th Street	POLICE	$100,000
Covered Parking @ Current East Patrol Station	8	849 N. 47th Street	POLICE	$25,000
Gated Parking @ South Patrol Station	2	7th & State	POLICE	$20,000

As a note, we do show that if you add up all the projects that are listed on these two slides, they do actually exceed the revenue projection by about $100M.

As next steps, we need to do a project review to obviously ensure that the projects meet the total revenue limit and that would require us to kind of look at the criteria and prioritize the projects that we have to make sure that they did fit into the—meet the revenue requirements. We looked at it as $170M in projects with about $25M in contingency, obviously, because we know that some projects have unexpected costs that come up once they start. Then, validate all the project cost estimates.

For communication strategy, plan for public engagement events and launch dedicated information webpage.



There are a couple extra slides on this. The last three slides are actually, I believe, scheduled to be presented during the 7:00 Commission meeting tonight. So that ends our presentation and we'll open it up for any questions or turn it back over to the Mayor or Administrator.

Mayor Garner asked, are there any comments or questions from the Commission?

Commissioner McKiernan said these projects are really cool. I mean they're cool, but we've been having Infrastructure Subcommittee meetings for the last many months, if not years, and the recurring theme that's come up in those meetings is we can't afford to maintain what we already have. So, am I understanding correctly we're going to build more when we can't maintain what we already have? It is kind of a rhetorical question. Evidently we are going to build more. The overriding question still is, how do we build more and maintain it all? We've been talking about strategic decommissioning of Unified Government physical assets. We do not have a plan that I'm aware of to decommission those.

We've been talking about the fact that if we don't increase the amount of money we spend on infrastructure like our built roads, that we will have gravel roads within a period of about 10 years. We've been talking about the fact that we need to invest more in what we already own and maintain and I can't wrap my head around how these projects are going to add to our maintenance costs. Yeah, the sales tax might pay for them, but how do we maintain them.

Speaking of these projects, how do these projects match or not match the CMIP schedules and the CMIP priorities, Capital Maintenance schedules and Capital Maintenance priorities, that we established last year as a function of our budget? And again, I'll make that rhetorical for now. I won't ask for an answer today, but I do want to know that answer. We spent a lot of time prioritizing projects. Where do these projects fall in those priorities or have they bubbled to the top of the list, and if they have, what happens to all those other projects. Do they fall off the bottom?

We currently have a 3/8 cent sales tax and it's supposed to be for Fire, Police, and Public Works. I would like to know how we're spending that current 3/8th, but what I really want to know is that current 3/8 generates roughly about $9M a year or so I have been told. How does a 4/8 cent sales tax generate $20M a year? If 3/8 generates 9, 4/8 shouldn't generate 20. I know it's been a long time since I did arithmetic, but that doesn't seem to play out.

Then, a follow-up to that, and again, you can follow up with me later, how are we spending that current 3/8 of a cent, on what, what projects? How is it insufficient for what it is we need to do? So, those would be the questions that I would have.

Ms. Jonscher said I will just state that on the—I can probably talk about how we're spending the current 3/8 cent. It is used for Police & Fire services, operations, as well as infrastructure and that is what it is being spent on. For Police & Fire, it can be anything. It can be Capital, it can be Operating. We do have personnel budgeted in that fund for both Police and Fire. There's a variety—there's Operating in Capital. On the infrastructure side, we are only allowed to expend that money for capital improvements. We do have, I think, several street projects that are budgeted within that fund.

Your other one, do these projects align to the CMIP. I haven't look specifically at all of the projects that has been presented there. I know some of them were probably on—they have been submitted in the past, but for whatever reason they were not funded, maybe due to the priority of other projects. I might have to have the department's answer that, but some of these are in the CMIP. For instance, the fire stations, we have already completed one. We have another one, I think, that is just starting. We had them budgeted every other year. I don't know that we've kept quite to that schedule because I think the first one took a little bit longer, but some of them are budgeted. It may be that some of these projects are budgeted in the outer years, but without looking at the CMIP, I can't answer that for sure.

The last one, I think, was your answer on how we came up with the projection for the current sales tax. I don't have that information with me. I would probably have to go back and check that. I think you are correct—I believe the sales tax, I haven't looked at it this year, but I thought in the past it was generating somewhere between $10-$12M, but you're right, it's not generating $20M. I will probably have to follow up with our CFO and look at the projections a little bit closer because I have not seen those, but we can definitely do that and come back with that answer.

Commissioner Bynum said I have a host of questions. We're going to see this again in the 7:00 hour, is that correct, so I may ask them again. I kind of want to go on record with all of my questions so for staff bringing forward your projects, really none of my questions are about whether you are doing anything appropriate or inappropriate. The projects are great, but I have a list of questions and I'm going to try to get them out in front of everyone on to the record, but Debbie, I'm sorry, I think the beginning for me is if you could give us the briefest summary explanation of what is our Consolidated Parks Fund. That might be a good kicking off point for me because I have questions specifically about the parks items and the swimming pool and things like that.

Could you provide that to us? Just a few sentences, what is the Consolidated Parks Fund and how is the Consolidated Parks Fund funded. Can you tell us that now?

Ms. Jonscher said the Consolidated Parks Fund is funded with the Alcohol Tax, the Liquor Tax, so when we get that money it is split—oh no, I'm sorry, that's the Special Parks Fund. I got confused there. The Consolidated Parks Fund is funded not only—there is a small mill levy. I believe it's about two mills that funds the Consolidated Parks Fund as well as there is an appropriation that comes from the City General Fund and then also any of the fees that are charged for shelter usage, any of the league fees, anything like that and that's what funds the Consolidated Parks. The budget is between $6-$7M, maybe closer to $6M.

Commissioner Bynum said and that's how our Parks & Rec Division is funded, yes? **Ms. Jonscher** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said and the two mills, county side or city side? **Ms. Jonscher** said the Consolidated is considered a county fund. **Commissioner Bynum** said it's a county. **Ms. Jonscher** said it is county. It is part of the county mill levy. **Commissioner Bynum** said thank you, that's a good starting off point for me because my original reaction to the presentation simply is that we're going to propose a half cent city of KCK sales tax and then we're going to do county projects with it. So, right away I have an issue, a legal issue in my mind, and I'm not asking you to—you don't have to stand and defend that. I'm putting this out to the universe and to our Legal staff because one of the projects listed was a spray park in Wyandotte County Park, which is situated in Bonner Springs, Kansas and that bothers me.

If we want to have a half cent county tax, then all this goes away and I'm fine, but I'm just saying I think out the gate, that's a problem. Any county park, our parks are county funded, so I'm struggling there. You may or may not have the answer.

Ms. Jonscher said I may be able to provide you some clarification. After we consolidated—you know, before we consolidated we had a separate City General Fund and then there was also a county mill levy. At some point, I think around 2008, they were consolidated into one because the Parks & Rec Department not only takes care of the county parks, but also city parks, so they're all included. I believe that is where the initial appropriation that is done from the city because it was combined into one and it's getting a county mill levy. There is an appropriation from the City General Fund to the county—the Consolidated Parks Fund, I believe, that helps to fund the repairs or maintenance for the city parks also.

Commissioner Bynum said thank you for that. I think it's important that we understand and I think the questions I'm asking are possibly in the weeds, right? We might be too early for delving into that sort of thing, but at the same time we're having a public conversation about asking our community if they want to pay extra for some stuff and I think it's critical that we all have clarity around how that would work. **Ms. Jonscher** said right, and I think I would probably defer to—we might have to have some information from Legal regarding the—because I know we did look at that when we did the 3/8 cent sales tax also as to what could be funded. Because it was a Kansas City, Kansas tax, we had to make sure that everything we were funding was falling under that, but I'm not exactly sure how that would work with a—because it is a Bonner Springs park if it's in Bonner Springs but it is a county park, but I think it's for sharing with the consolidation is the answer.

Commissioner Bynum said it sticks out for me, so I'm going to try to just flip through these. I'm not asking for answers necessarily. I'll probably flip through them again in our 7:00 meeting. Again, kind of a similar question, we're contemplating building us a city services hub and putting county funded agencies into it such as Motor Vehicle. We spend a lot of time delineating what is a city and what is a county function. I can assure you Bonner and Edwardsville have questions about whether they're paying for things that they don't receive. So, again, another, to me, technicality.

Indian Springs road repair, I'm just all over the board here, I would hope that if a development project were to come forward for that, we would be talking with that developer about participating and paying for road improvements there.

The rec center with the pool sounds magical. I'm going to want to know what is our staff's best idea of the ongoing maintenance costs of an indoor swimming pool because I think it's really high. That goes back to Commissioner McKiernan's question about, you know, deferred infrastructure and Public Works projects that we currently have right now.

The $200M total over, I guess, that's over the lifetime of the 10 years. If we were to place it on a ballot, let's say that it might start being collected January 1 of '23, but we've got projects that we want to do right now, we want to have some new spray parks by next summer, would we bond those projects and use the revenues from a sales tax to repay ourselves? That's a question I would like to—we will need to work our way through that, you know, because we already have a list of projects we would like to see happen and we don't have a dime yet to fund them.

In the slide presentation, and I don't know who to direct this question to, there's a whole list of—two pages of desired projects and I would like to know who added projects to that list like literally, specifically who created that list and were any commissioners involved in putting projects on that list. And if so, why were all the commissioners not involved in putting projects on that list. I'm going to identify that what I didn't see, and Commissioner Kane can tell me if I'm right or wrong, he's been asking for a park in Piper for a decade or more and I didn't see it, so I'm going to guess Commissioner Kane wasn't involved in putting projects on the list. Again, these are all just questions in my head, questions that I'm going to want answers to and I think the public who we're going to ask to decide needs to know the answers to all the questions that I am asking.

I'm going to reiterate one more time—I'm going to back up a step and I'm going to say on the record, Chief Oakman, I 100% want a Northeast Police Substation, so I will say that because I know Commissioner Johnson and I have been advocating for that for a while and I think Commissioner Townsend has joined us. I think it's on the unfunded CMIP, so I'm going to state for the record, I 100% support that. I'll just leave the rest of it there. I guess I'll let somebody else talk.

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you staff. You may have answered this, how much do we collect in the EMS tax? **Ms. Jonscher** said on the EMS one, that's the quarter cent sales, I think it might be—I don't have that number right offhand, I'm thinking it might be $12M. I don't know. He's thinking $9.5M. **Commissioner Ramirez** said that's the one that's split between Police, Fire, and—**Ms. Jonscher** said no. The EMS is just for EMS. The 3/8 cent is the one that's split between Police, Fire and Infrastructure. **Commissioner Ramirez** said okay, that's the one I'm speaking about. Sorry, I'm getting them mixed up. How much do we—**Ms. Jonscher** said I think that might be $10-$12M, probably closer to 12.

Commissioner Ramirez said correct me if I'm wrong, to my good friend, colleague Commissioner Kane, as long as I've been on this board, I believe he's been asking for a breakdown of how much we spend of the specific items, we spend that sales tax on. I'm going to make the request once again that we get a line item itemized list of everything that the Police, Fire, Infrastructure is spent with that tax. That we know what is being spent because if a constituent came and asked me what's being spent, I couldn't tell you. **Ms. Jonscher** said we can provide that. I think in the budget document we do provide a one page that shows the breakdown for each, but it doesn't—it may breakout the line items, but it may not show like if it has Capital—it's not going to show what the individual projects are, so we can provide that. **Commissioner Ramirez** said if you could, that would be great because it does not show the itemized individual projects or expenses. I would like to see that. I'm sure not just I, but the entire Commission as well, would like to see that.

Just a couple questions pertaining to some of the departments. The first one, and I know, Chief Oakman, this was before your time when you were Chief, when the South Patrol station was built, how much was that in total?

Chief Oakman said we talked about that and I think it was somewhere between \$4-\$5M. **Commissioner Ramirez** asked, so how did we build a—it's a beautiful facility in Argentine that's \$4-\$5M and now the two that is being requested is \$10M, so the two patrol stations \$20M in total for two when for one we built one for \$4-\$5M.

Chief Oakman said that's an estimate and I will tell you although South Patrol is a nice station, it still doesn't—it's still too small for the needs of the Police Department as well as the community. So, \$4-\$5M is pretty unheard of for a patrol station. Like I said, the size, it's pretty small. There is a community room in there, but it's really not big enough. So, this is looking at the future to make sure we can adequately staff what we have and so we're not coming later in 15 years talking about building a station to replace it. So, you want to spend that money appropriately to make sure that you have room to grow and then it's expensive to add community spaces to those buildings. I think it's very important that a police station is open to the community and not so small that the community cannot really—you know, each of you should go out to West Patrol and try to go in that station. I mean it's the size of a garage and we have a large amount of officers that have to work under those conditions daily. We tried to do some things to clean up the station, but it's been ignored for years and it's gotten to the point where oftentimes we have issues whether mechanical or just physical issues that oftentimes we have to shut the station down. No one should have to work under those type of conditions. Hopefully, that answered your question. **Commissioner Ramirez** said it did. That was the only question I had pertaining to the Police Department.

The other one I had was for Public Works. I think Commissioner McKiernan hit the nail on the head when I and the other majority of the commissioners have been serving on the Infrastructure Subcommittee to come up with a data-driven plan of outcomes and strategies to figure out how to fix our infrastructure. One of the things that came out that staff helped us realize, we build all of these projects, but we don't budget for O&M, for Operating & Maintenance. That doesn't just go for our infrastructure, that goes for our facilities as well. That's all facilities across the board. That's why some are in disrepair, some of our recreation centers are in disrepair because we don't put the—we put the investment to build it, but we rarely put the investment for the O&M.

As Commissioner McKiernan said, we're wanting to build more when we can't even upkeep what we currently have. I don't understand how we can make that happen, so with the Public Works projects that were part of this, Jeff, how were they chosen, if you don't mind me asking?

Mr. Fisher said they are from the unfunded list that have been scored and ranked. Public Works has been consistent; street preservation, bridges, street lights; we have a whole lot of facilities to maintain. But if there's desire to do road projects like Douglas and Key Lane, then that's a good candidate. Hollingsworth is good. They are from the unfunded list. They have been scored and ranked.

Commissioner Ramirez said I will say, later tonight we will be presented our community survey results and, once again, streets is the number one priority for our community. I'm not surprised. As most commissioners on this board have said, the community survey is our guiding star. It's our guiding document for when we do budget. I know we'll probably give direction later, but I'm going to give my direction now. I'll publicly state again that I support a sales tax to deal with some of the issues that we have, but not this year, next year. Let's bring everybody to the table, don't leave anybody out, and let's do the work and actually create a product that's best for our community. That's what I ask because if it's on this year's ballot, it will fail. People are still hurting post-COVID of the financial impact. Prices all around are still going up, inflation is crazy, and to add another tax on them, yes, we may be able to—we will provide tax for property tax relief, but sales tax is a regressive tax on our low income families.

So, that's the direction I give that we postpone, not the discussion, we can continue to have the discussion, but put it on the ballot next year. Let's have a robust open and honest conversation. That's all I ask and that's the direction I give.

Commissioner Townsend said thanks to all of you, the UG hardworking employees. It's just interesting to be here in the Chambers again after two years and one month, so just had to say that. Thank you for all your support of my district, the entire community during a pandemic for which there hasn't been really anything like it, so thank you all, it's good to see you. Having said that, I don't expect answers tonight. When I got the package I'm just going through and I swear some of my former commissioners—commissioners was here, were standing over my shoulder, so I don't expect answers, but I just wanted to kind of get this out and talk about the concerns or questions that I have before we would move forward with this.

I'll start similarly where I think Commissioner Ramirez left off, how does any of this coincide or not with the results that we're just reviewing of the community survey? How does any of this do it? A great wish list, but how does this really rank in terms of what the community has said they want to see?

One of the things I did see and didn't even need a community survey to know it, our constituents are concerned about the amount of taxes that they are paying, that they write the check for when they write their property taxes. So, just as a matter of tax for whatever it is in any other way, if we're talking about cutting taxes, how does it really look to the community at this point to be burdened with another tax, similar to what Commissioner Ramirez was saying.

Let me just go through some of these. I just wrote notes on the particular presentations. My apologies to those who presented, Chief and Chief, and anyone else, but I'll go back and look at this to see. So, I just kind of wrote notes. Commissioner Ramirez again looked over my shoulder with regard to the Northeast Patrol Station, what was the cost of the South Patrol Station? I think that was the last new one, so I've got the answer to that.

Reduction of crime is the real concern. How will building a $10M patrol station in the northeast area help us reduce crime in the city? I understand that the meeting places and our officers need places large enough to accommodate what they have to do, but how would this help reduce crime in the area and how will it be selected? I'm not quite sure that I'm all the way with this idea as Commissioner Bynum and Commissioner Johnson and to that I'm also looking at how the Northeast Patrol Station is described here plays or not with some open economic development projects in the northeast area that mentioned maybe not a station this large, but a community station that I bet would be a heck of a lot less money. So, again, I'm just putting out. These are the things that I'm considering.

With regard to the fire station, I saw details here that mentioned Station 5 and 15, and 15 was the one in Fairfax and 5 is holding things down, but I toured each of those stations back in my first term and 15 was the newest one of the group. So, I would be more interested right now in seeing 5 redone and 18 redone, but more importantly, how does this plan that I'm seeing here jive or not with the plan that was done that mapped out needs or made recommendations about our needs for fire for all of the districts. That would be another thing I would be concerned about.

With the Recreation Department or the Parks & Rec, love Parks & Rec, but I'm not sure I understand why we have spray parks pads with personnel. I wasn't quite sure about that. With regard to a new rec center with an indoor pool; love, love, love Parkwood Pool, but as I've said and continue to say you can't open a pool without lifeguards. So, why are we looking at building an indoor facility with a pool until we get this lifeguard thing straightened out? You know Mahomes needs that football before a touchdown can be scored, so I love the idea of it but I mean they're just some practical things. Where would that new rec center go? Would you use part of Parkwood, where would it go? These are the types of things that I would be interested in hearing more about because that may impact—what I'm seeing here is $35M, again, where did any of these numbers come from?

The Indian Springs corridor, I think my question of concern would be how does this impact what was the Scavuzzo Project or anybody who might come behind them? I mean, how is that going to better that area, how is it going to interfere with someone else who may want to make a bid or come to that property? Those were just some of the things that I had written down. I'm sure there will be more, that just kind of go on the record for some of the concerns I had.

Once again, as a member of one of the standing committees that dealt with infrastructure, I want to see that done before a lot of this other stuff is done. All of us drive up and down the street and thank you to the Public Works staff who last year gave us a tour and every time I'm going up and down the street now I'm thinking okay, that's 25 on the bumper meter. Every day I'm driving by lights that are out, streetlights that are out. These are the things I would like to see addressed first, but I promise that if and when I win the lottery, I'll be looking at this list again, but that's kind of where I am right now with this right now.

Commissioner McKiernan said I'm just going to go back and touch on a point that I did make earlier, and I don't want to pick on you Jack, but I think you were here when this happened. Back in the days of the housing crash, it's my understanding that we significantly reduced the annual operating budget for the Parks Department. Do I remember that correctly? And we have not yet, and it's a leading question because I know we did, and we have not yet to the best of my knowledge fully restored that funding, so we have not recovered our capacity to maintain the existing parks we have and this is just going to go back and touch on a point that I've already made. I have to be educated as to how we can add more when we are not routinely budgeting for the maintenance operation and ongoing repair of our existing facilities.

Commissioner Stites said in regards to the 3/8 cent sales tax where you said it was Police, Fire and what was the third? Was it Admin? **Ms. Jonscher** said infrastructure. **Commissioner Stites** said infrastructure, so something that you had said and, of course, this is my first go-around as commissioner, but could you explain why is it that—you said there was payroll included. **Ms. Jonscher** said payroll is included for police and fire because we are allowed to fund police and fire operations and capital, so I believe there are 25 police officers and 25 firefighters funded in the Dedicated Sales Tax. On the infrastructure side, it is only capital improvements. There's no personnel, there's no equipment, it's all capital. **Commissioner Stites** said so if we were to take those 25 and 25 out of this 3/8 cent sales tax fund and put them under the regular payroll, what kind of number—would that then adequately fund the needs for the Police and Fire Department for upkeep of the West Patrol or the fire stations, because to me that's what it seems like that is designed for, not to pay payroll, but to maintain our facilities. **Ms. Jonscher** said it would, yes, if we were to move the personnel out of the Dedicated Sales Tax and back to the General Fund, then all of that funding would be eligible for capital improvements. I don't have that number on what that personnel number is. **Commissioner Stites** said to me, and again, this is my first go-around seeing this, and I'm not here to be critical about it, but I'm just saying that cleans that 3/8 cent sales tax fund up. It lets it fund what it was designed to fund and I would be in favor of moving that in that direction.

Mayor Garner said thank you Chief's, thank you staff, Parks and thank you commissioners. I fall in line with our commissioners. This is something that I wanted to bring forward. A lot of you that know me in the community and staff here know that I worked in the Police Department going back to 1987. Some of these questions that were asked today I asked, where's the money going especially when you look at our crumbling bridges, roads, sidewalks. I worked in an environment on the Police Department where it took years for us to get police stations. Then you look at our neighbors when I was a public servant, our fire stations are in disrepair. You talk to the community, you talk about services, when you talk about rec centers and the programs and the fees that are charged, where is the money going? When you talk about crumbling facilities and upgrades that are needed and then tonight what we find out is, there's taxes there and our commissioners have been asking for years, if I'm correct, where is that money going.

This conversation I wanted to be brought forward to our Finance team and our CFO to hopefully answer some of these questions, but not just answer the questions that I had and I knew the commissioners had, but to also bring forward the needs that this community deserves, that our men and women in uniform deserve and some of these road projects that our community need and why is this so important. Because when you talk about investing in the disinvested and you're talking about trying to bring Wyandotte County back to a state of resilience, what do people look at. They look at schools, well, we know four out of our—three out of our four school districts have invested in redoing their schools. When you look at public safety, developers and people that want to move here, they look at schools, they look at public safety. We need to make sure that we support our men and women in uniforms so they have the resources and the facilities to be able to keep this community safe because a safe community creates a great community, in my opinion.

You look at amenities, what type of recreation facilities do we have for our seniors and our young people and everything in between and the fees and costs associated with those, sustainability is a good question and we need to talk about that.

This conversation and this presentation is just the first step as we move forward. What I would like to see, staff work with our commissioners and our community to define as we go through this budget process, as we look at our survey and really define and narrow down within that $200M what the priorities are. Then define if this is something that is not just something that we want, but something that is really needed in Wyandotte County. I think it is, so this is designed to get that process started, but there are a lot of questions that need to be answered. That's pretty much what you can look forward to moving forward is to have that conversation with our commissioners, with our community, and with our staff leadership to hopefully get something to our commissioners that is more strategic, that outlines all their concerns. I ask that if we can get there, that if we are asking our commissioners as we move through this budget process, to consider addressing our PILOT and addressing mill levy decreases.

I would like to see this community put some skin in the game and really look at these facilities and these things that really could spur reinvestment in Wyandotte County and make those decisions and I would like for the community to make that. Hopefully, this Commission will feel comfortable with putting a sales tax initiative on the board so the committee can debate it and make that decision moving forward.

Thank you all for the presentation. At this time I'll adjourn the Special Session and invite Commission and staff to attend the Fire Department graduation ceremonies at Memorial Hall. We will convene here at 7:00 p.m. for our full commission meeting.

MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:00 p.m.

Brett Deichler
U.G. Clerk/Interim County Administrator

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