

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

**REGULAR SESSION
NOVEMBER 3, 2022**

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Regular Session Thursday, November 3, 2022, with eleven members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District (left at 7:56 p.m.); Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. The following officials were also in attendance: Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator; Brett Deichler, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator; Misty Brown, Chief Counsel; Casey Meyer, Senior Assistant Counsel; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Jon Khalil, Assistant Counsel; Monica Sparks, Acting Unified Government Clerk; Yvette Miller, Community Development; John Kelly, Director of Buildings & Logistics; Greg Wooton, Building & Logistics Manager; Angel Obert, Director of Parks & Recreation; Sharon Reed, Director of Procurement & Contract Compliance; Alley Porter, Commission Liaison; Ashley Scott, Director of Animal Services; Terrie Garrison, Health Department; and Brittanie MacDonald, UG Clerk's Office.

Mayor Garner said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that some commissioners, staff, and the public are attending remotely via Zoom, by telephone, or on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that's observing knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and its current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General. I will now call this meeting to order. I'll ask the Clerk to call the roll, please.

Roll call: Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Garner.

Mayor Garner said the invocation is being given by Chaplin George Kemper, Ebenezer Ministries.

Mayor Garner asked I'll ask the Clerk if there are revisions on tonight's agenda.

Monica Spark, Acting Unified Government Clerk, said, yes, Mayor. We have a blue sheet that was issued removing Item 3, Ordinance relating to term limits under the Mayor's Agenda. Also, we have a reminder of the Downtown Holiday Lighting Ceremony that will take place November 18th here at City Hall at 4:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 211539...COMMUNITY INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Synopsis: Public forum to allow citizens to express concerns, compliments and present solutions relating specifically and solely to the Unified Government's span of interest and control.

Mayor Garner said I will now open the public comment and turn this portion over to our Unified Government Clerk.

Monica Sparks, Acting Unified Government Clerk, said we have received no written comments for this evening. We have one individual who signed up to speak. As your name is called, we ask that you please come to the podium in the order that you signed up. Once you've been acknowledged, we ask that you provide your name and city of residency for the record. Thirty minutes will be allocated for those appearing here in the Commission Chambers. You will be given three minutes to state your comments. Staff will announce that you have one minute remaining to give you time to wrap up your comments. This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and if remarks are determined to be out of order, the speaker will be instructed to stop making remarks and declare them out of order. Derogatory and improper language or actions will not be tolerated. If the behavior persists with such derogatory statements, the speaker will be asked to leave or the comments will not be entered on the record.

On advice of Counsel the following rules have been put in place and will be the standard going forward. It is important that we have an orderly and efficient meeting and ensure that

everyone has an opportunity to speak. It is also important that everyone has an equal amount of time to speak; therefore, speakers will not be allowed to cede their time to another speaker.

We would like to remind everyone that the public has the ability to attend Commission meetings in person or virtually to provide written comments about items already scheduled, to attend meetings, to speak on a topic, to request that items be placed on an agenda, and to communicate directly with their elected officials.

Rogelio Martinez said I reside in Wyandotte County in Kansas City, Kansas. I'm a Kansas Citian at heart. I love my city, both sides of the city. Today I came to speak about a concern, a very deep concern of neglected buildings, burned buildings, buildings that have been for sale for a while that if there's no future in them, we need to find the future and revitalize the inner city. The crimes will continue if the buildings do not get fixed and modernized. I'm not saying—I don't know how that came out, but it was with no ill intention. I don't like seeing crime.

Also, I would like to request that this be a top priority in Wyandotte County that this issue gets taken seriously. Also, similarities to Jackson County on Truman Road, I was noticing how they were doing that over there. I don't know how that can happen over here, and if not, how can we make that happen. These are my concerns and I thank you very much for the time.

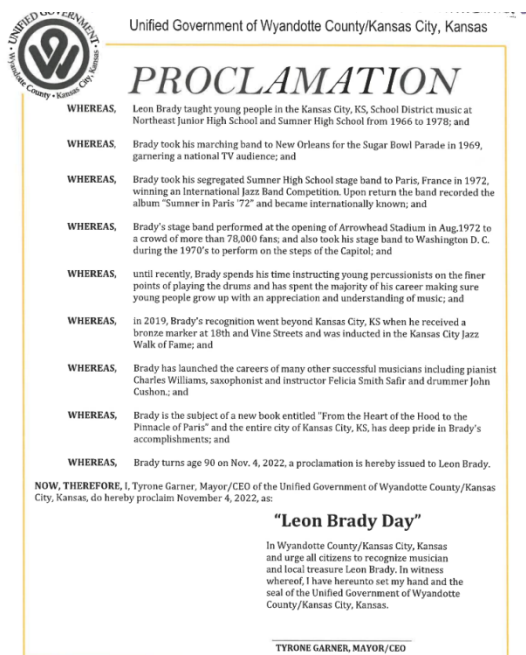
Ms. Sparks asked, is there anyone else in the Chambers that would like to speak? At this time I will ask if there is anyone online who wishes to speak? Mayor, there are no hands raised.

Action: **Community input received.**

Mayor Garner said Clerk, I believe you had an item you wanted to move up. If you could proceed with that as far as proclamations. **Ms. Sparks** said yes, Mayor. You had requested that the proclamation for Leon Brady be our next item.

Item No. 6 – 212094...PROCLAMATION: LEON BRADY DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming November 4, 2022, as Leon Brady Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.



Leon Brady said I would like to thank you very much for that. I'm very proud to be able to accept it and proud of my students, which a lot of them are still around. Thank you very much.

Mayor Garner said I would just like to thank Mr. Brady formally for everything you've done for Wyandotte County and the icon you've been in and, hopefully, we're wishing and congratulating you early and wishing the best for your 90th birthday. Thank you for the honor for the presentation to you.

Commissioner Townsend said before they leave quickly, as one of the few Sumner Spartans in the room, we used to have a saying, all my life I wanted to be a Spartan and people like Leon Brady were the reason that adage still holds true today. Mr. Brady, you heard some of the accolades about what a great teacher he was and how he touched so many, too many names to count, whether they were in the instrumental music department of the school or some other school, so he put Sumner way out there. I just had to call that out in some level of detail as a witness, so thank you Mr. Brady and thank you, Mayor, for recognizing him tonight.

I also want to recognize Mr. Penn who has taken it upon himself to be an author. We need to call Oprah and get that on the best seller list, that talks in more detail about Mr. Brady's activities

and experiences. He would bring greats like Clark Terry up to Sumner High School, so thank you again from all the other thousands of students that you impacted and to your family, thank you.

Commissioner Johnson said I want to acknowledge Chester Owens, so let's just go ahead and acknowledge him now.

Chester Owens said thank you. Just a comment, Mr. Brady took the Sumner High School band to Paris, France in 1972 and we had to raise \$25,000 in the northeast area and did by themselves. The band went to Paris. We went to International Jazz Festival and only six bands from America. This band was the only one from the Midwest. They won every award you could win and was voted the most outstanding band from the whole International Jazz Festival. We have this man right here in Kansas City and we walked together for years and he is just like my brother. That's why I'm here with him.

Commissioner Johnson said I just wanted to also acknowledge Chester Owens as well who is a gem in our community and has done so much for our community. I appreciate you being here with your brother, your friend. God bless you all.

Mayor Garner said thank you and God bless you all.

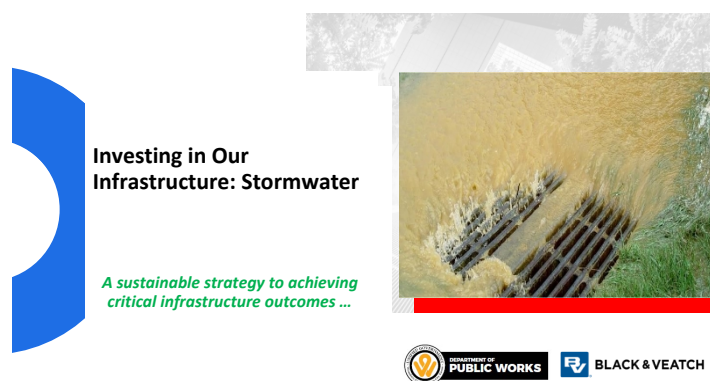
Action: Proclamation was read and presented to Mr. Brady.

Mayor Garner said, Mr. Fisher, this takes us to our next order of business. It's the approval of two separate ordinances relating to Storm and Surface Water Utility Fees.

Item No. 2 – 212016...ORDINANCES: AMENDING THE STORM AND SURFACE WATER UTILITY FEE

Synopsis: Approval of the following ordinances, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works:

Item No. 1 - An ordinance amending Section 30 of Article VIII of Chapter 30 of the 1988 Code of Ordinances City of Kansas City, Kansas.



Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works, said I have Prabha Kumar from Black & Veatch and Anna White. They have been with us throughout this and Prabha is going to highlight the proposal for the Storm Water Rate Structure in a minute. Before that, I just want to remind us of the infrastructure crisis and you all have already begun to take steps to confront that. You've adopted a resolution with outcomes and strategies, a written document for all of us to follow in each budget. You've increased Street Preservation dollars in 2023 by 25% with the intent to increase that 25% each year. We've discussed the importance of stormwater management to those street conditions, so we're going to protect that investment doing an effective job with stormwater management and then meeting all the needs of the community around stormwater. I'm going to pass it over to Prabha and have her quickly highlight the proposal and then I'll have some closing remarks and entertain questions.

Prabha Kumar said it's really a pleasure for me to be here today to seek your support for three key issues that are facing the community. Number one is really having a sustainable path for stormwater services that the community really needs. Second, is having a sustainable funding resilience to provide those operations and maintenance services and the much needed Capital Improvements. Third, securing that funding in a manner that is equitable to all ratepayers, so that's really why we are here in front of you all today.

Proposed Rate Structure: Individually Calculated

Proposed Monthly Rates - Individually Calculated				
	2024	2025	2026	
Monthly Base Charge	\$ 4.15	\$ 4.67	\$ 5.38	
Monthly Rate per 500 sq feet of Impervious Area	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.81	\$ 0.85	

Proposed Approach

- Under this structure monthly charges will be based on parcel impervious area.
- All properties will be assessed a stormwater charge that aligns with their impervious Area
- Will provide higher level of equity in cost recovery across parcels with varying levels of impervious area

Residential Monthly Bill Examples				
	Hard Surface Area	2024	2025	2026
Small	1,200 square feet	\$5.83	\$6.61	\$7.42
Medium	2,500 square feet	\$7.65	\$8.72	\$9.63
Large	4,000 square feet	\$9.75	\$11.15	\$12.18

Non-Residential Monthly Bill Examples				
	Hard Surface Area	2024	2025	2026
Small	5,500 square feet	\$11.85	\$13.58	\$14.73
Medium	12,000 square feet	\$20.95	\$24.11	\$25.78
Large	75,000 square feet	\$109.15	\$126.17	\$132.88

Effective January 1 of each year

2

So, how do we address these three issues. In terms of the three issues here, the way we are going to address it here is based on the extensive technical analysis and the financial due diligence that we did, what we really find is having a rate structure transition from the existing flat monthly charge for stormwater to a mechanism where we have an impervious area based rate structure will help three things again. One is improve the services, improve the financial resiliency, and improve the equity, so that is why we are talking here today about the rate structure transition.

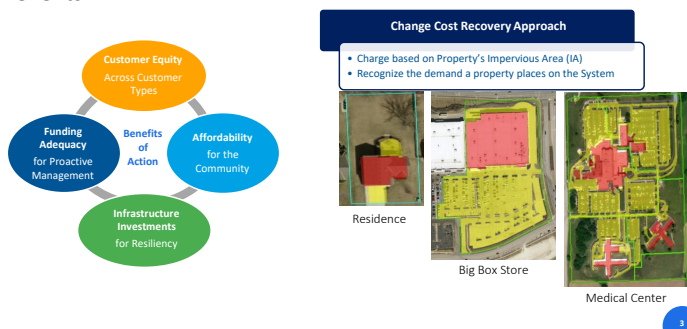
What we are recommending is a rate structure where there is a monthly base charge, as you can see in the chart here, and the monthly base charge goes from \$4.15 where each parcel will pay the same monthly charge. In 2024 it is \$4.15 and then it goes up to \$5.38 by 2026. In addition to the monthly charge, also having what we call the impervious area based chart where every property, depending on the amount of impervious area the property has, the charge will be calculated individually for each property based on the rate of 70 cents per 500 square feet of impervious area in 2024 and that rate goes up to 85 cents by the time of 2026. So, the sum of these two charges really makes up the total of stormwater monthly charge.

Why is this really important to us? It's really important to us because this way properties that have small amount of impervious area that contribute small amount of stormwater runoff, they pay for what they contribute. Properties that have larger impervious area that send a lot of runoff, they contribute for what they place on the system. So, really in this approach, if you look at what does it do to the customer's bill, what will they see in their bill, if you look at a small home that is 2,200 square feet, the stormwater charge, the sum of \$4.15 and the 70 cents per 500 square feet rate based impervious area, the sum of the two, the charge will be \$5.83 on the bill.

If you take a larger home at 4,000 square feet, the charge will be \$9.75. What is important here is that it doesn't matter whether the 1,200 square feet is on a small home or if it is on a small business that is having like a bakery or a small business, they both will pay the same charge of

\$5.83. Similarly, if there is a business that is 5,000 square feet or 5,500 square feet, or a residential home that is a large residential home at 5,500 square feet, they will pay the same charge of \$11.85, so it really doesn't matter whether they are residential or a non-residential. You pay for the impervious area that you have in the property because that's the stormwater you contribute to the system. That's how we are trying to have a much higher level of equity rather than having a large property which is 10,000 square feet of non-residential property right now will pay \$14.00 whereas a small 5,000 square of non-residential small business will also pay the same \$14.00, so that's the equity we are trying to address today.

Rate Structure Transition Benefits



What really is the benefit of this rate structure transition. There are four benefits. First is funding adequacy. Having the ability that each customer ratepayer pays for what they contribute to the system actually helps the overall community in the overall funding capacity. So, first is the funding adequacy to meet the infrastructure needs to meet the operations and maintenance needs.

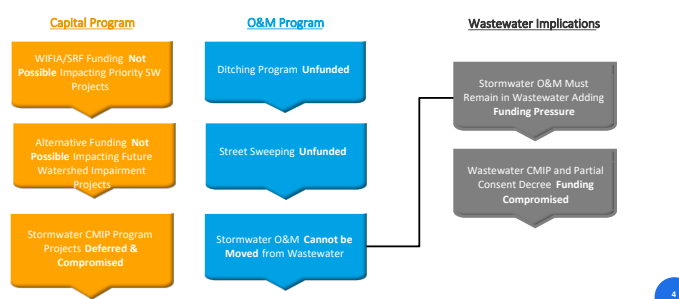
Second, as we talked about just now is really equity. Everybody tries to pay their reasonable fair share for what they contribute to the system.

The third element is affordability. So, if you are wondering what does this rate structure transition has got to do with affordability because properties that have larger impervious are going to pay more. Properties that are smaller impervious are going to pay less, how do we bring affordability for the community. It's really because with this rate structure transition we can go in for a much better borrowing—lower cost borrowing, which is not possible when you just have a flat fee because everybody's flat fee will go up significantly, so now we are able to leverage the low-cost funding like the WIFIA funding, the State Revolving funding for the capital projects. When we leverage those funding mechanisms, because you have the funding capacity to do that, then that reduces the cost of borrowing for everybody. So, without that leveraging, the average

annual borrowing cost for the county is going to be something like \$3.1M per year without the low-cost funding. If you have the low-cost funding, then the average debt service per year goes down from \$3.1M to 2.5, a \$600K saving every year. Those things are possible only if you can have the rate structure change in the transition.

When we have the funding adequacy, when we have customer equity, when we have affordability and those three things are in place, then finally the county will be able to move and do the much needed infrastructure investments not only in the seven priority watersheds that we are talking about initially, but also more priority problems that the county really needs to solve. So at least that is how we are establishing a sustainable pathway.

If Rate Structure Transition Does Not Occur . . .



Then the question really becomes what happens if you don't go down this path, what happens if you don't make the choice to go down this path of a rate structure transition. There are certain significant consequences that are there in front of us. Number one, the Capital Program totals about \$56M is what is planned between 2023 through 2027 of which \$27.8M is really for seven priority projects that the county needs to do and for that to reduce the cost of borrowing, the county is planning to go for the WIFIA/SRF combination funding. That repayment is possible only if we have the funding capacity through this rate structure transition, so that will get affected if we don't have this rate structure transition.

Second, especially in this current climate where we have this infrastructure funding that is coming from the federal government, the Inflation Reduction Act. All of that alternative funding and funding for grants, much of the funding is still competitive. To be competitive they are relying on having a funding mechanism. They are also looking at does the utility have a funding mechanism to provide that to pay the debt service back. So, looking for alternative funding is also

possible only when we demonstrate that we do have a sustainable funding path, so that's the second thing that will get affected if we don't have this.

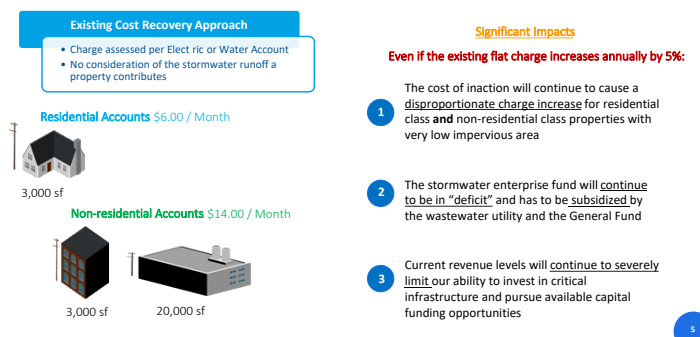
The third is that one of the historical challenges that the county has always had is not being able to do the Capital Program, so constantly it has been deferred and the more the program gets deferred, the more the infrastructure deteriorates and then it becomes more costly to do that program. All that also gets compromised if we don't have this transition program. So, those are all on the Capital side.

What happens on the Operations & Maintenance side. At this point in time currently the way we have the flat charge, there is no Ditching Program. There is no money to do the Ditching Program so there is no Ditching Program which needs to be done, so that would remain unfunded because in the transition we are accommodating \$600K of Street Sweeping and \$750K annually for Ditching Program and we are setting a pathway to do that. That will get affected if you don't have that funding. Both of them will continue to not be funded and then the Street Sweeping will remain back in the General Fund.

Also, in this funding mechanism we are trying to move about \$2.5M of stormwater cost that is currently buried in the wastewater sewer cost. We are trying to transition that to stormwater. That will also get affected if this rate structure transition doesn't happen.

So, overall the implications then is that if we are not doing this transition to stormwater, then the \$2.5M will remain in sewer putting additional pressure on the sewer utility that is already having the funding pressure because of consent decree. You can see the magnitude of challenges that would happen if this rate structure transition really doesn't happen in a timely manner.

Risks of Status Quo Rate Structure



In a nutshell, what we are really looking for is what are the risks of status quo. I'll turn it over back to the Director to talk about that.

Mr. Fisher said thank you Prabha. I think the simplest way to put this is there are needs and unless the UG makes these changes, the Stormwater Fund can't meet those needs and the needs don't go away, so the UG will have to fund the needs in some way which the only alternative is really taxes, General Fund. I don't think the elected body is really interested in that considering the other challenge the General Fund faces. By the way, this is a KCK proposal, Commissioner Stites, not county. We know the challenges. We've talked about this many times. We've had many community meetings, we've had many Commission meetings.

We presented a proposal that we think is viable based on all of the input. We've ran 40+ iterations of this and we believe this is ready for your consideration.



We Can and We Must

Mayor Garner said we have questions starting with Commissioner Kane.

Commissioner Kane said if I have over 75K square feet, for 2024 it's going to cost me \$1,398. Is that correct? **Mr. Fisher** said I'm going to ask Anna to run that math for me. **Commissioner Kane** said I guess what I'm really trying to say is anything over that still pays that. **Ms. Kumar** said correct. If somebody has 75,000 square feet of impervious area, then they will pay according to that. **Commissioner Kane** said but if they have 100,000, they're still going to pay what, 75,000. **Ms. Kumar** said no. If somebody has 100,000 square feet, they will pay for the 100,000 square feet of impervious area they have. So, every property is going to pay exactly—that impervious charge is going to be calculated for every property based on the exact stormwater impervious that particular property has. So, every property will have a different charge depending on the amount of impervious area square footage they have on the property.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anybody online. **Ms. Sparks** said there are no hands raised.

Mayor Garner said there are two parts to this. I'm going to entertain a motion to approve.

Action: **Ordinance No. O-157-22**, "An ordinance relating to a Storm and Surface Water Utility fee; amending Section 30-324, 30-229, and 30-330 of Article VIII of Chapter 30 of the 1988 Code of Ordinance, City of Kansas City, Kansas."
Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve.

Commissioner Burroughs said approving this ordinance this evening, does this put the formula in place that the community worked with the Chamber of Commerce and dealt with the fee structure? I know there was a number of fee structures that were offered and that's my first question and then I'll have a second question. I want to ensure that this is the fee structure that was brought forward in unison with the discussion with community leaders and the Chamber. **Mr. Fisher** said, Commissioner Burroughs, in April there was a discussion about two different structures. One that the Chamber endorsed and then the individually calculated. In that meeting there was consensus to move forward with the individually calculated, which is what we're proposing tonight. **Commissioner Burroughs** said this is not the one that the Chamber agreed to support. **Mr. Fisher** said that's correct.

Commissioner Burroughs said the next question that I have, are these dollars in any way, shape or form going to be utilized to pay for the biosolids development and projected project? **Mr. Fisher** said no. Actually it will help the Wastewater Fund pay for improvements to wastewater including biosolids because of the point problem made earlier, which is right now waste of stormwater is dependent on wastewater at about \$2.5M a year. **Commissioner Burroughs** said just for clarification, I thank you for that answer, I'm just really trying to ensure that the fee structure goes in place because we're going to have to come back and find out how we're going to fund the biosolids, so I just want to ensure that we're not putting these funds in place for the biosolids. The public should know that if these funds are being earmarked for wastewater and stormwater, that they're not going to be earmarked for the \$100M proposed project of the biosolids facility. **Mr. Fisher** said that's absolutely correct. **Commissioner Burroughs** said thank you. I appreciate it very much.

Commissioner Stites said although I am very glad that it does not affect Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, I do represent a large area of Kansas City, Kansas also. For the residential side of this, a large residential, the 12.18—well, let's go to 2024, the 9.97 a month, that won't change except for the incremental change no matter how large their residential lot is, correct? It's not based on square footage or it is. **Mr. Fisher** said is what you're referring to, that one slide that has the table? **Commissioner Stites** said I got here one that says Residential Monthly Bill Example. It just says 4,000 square feet is the largest.

Ms. Kumar said this is just an example. If it is a residential property at 4,000 square feet of impervious area, that property will have a \$9.75 charge. If a residential property is greater than 4,000 square feet—let's say it is 4,500 square feet, then that charge \$9.75 will go up to \$10.40 because every 500 square feet of impervious area is 70 cents into 2024.

Commissioner Bynum said I just want to say for a future conversation that one thing that we might look at in the future, not tonight, Johnson County took their stormwater a long way as a county government with a very, very small stormwater sales tax. It's less than a quarter of a cent I think and it is benefitting the entire county and it's just something for us to maybe put in the parking lot and think about at another time, but I think it's been really effective for them. That's all I wanted Mayor.

Mayor Garner said I like that. I think that is a good proposal alternative. Hopefully we can have that discussion with this Commission moving forward into 2023.

Just real quick for clarity, what is the current rate that both business and residential are paying now. **Ms. Kumar** said residential property, at the current time in 2022, it's a flat monthly charge of \$6.00 and for the non-residential property regardless of size, the flat monthly charge in 2022 is \$14.00. **Mr. Fisher** said the budget for 2023 included a 5% increase to each of those.

Mayor Garner said there is a motion and a second on the floor to approve this.

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were nine "Ayes," Stites, Davis, Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley and one "No," Burroughs.

Mayor Garner said this takes us to the second part of this topic. I'll entertain a motion to approve an ordinance amending stormwater and surface water utility fees.

Item No. 2. An ordinance amending the Storm and Surface Water Utility fee and providing an effective date. This item was previously before the Commission on December 2, 2021, and April 7, 2022.

Action: **Ordinance No. O-158-22**, “An ordinance amending the Storm and Surface Water Utility fee and providing an effective date.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Stites, Davis, Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, and one “No,” Burroughs.

Item No. 3 – 212092...ORDINANCE: TERM LIMITS

Synopsis: An Ordinance relating to term limits and prohibition and Commission members holding office, submitted by Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Action: **Item removed per blue sheet.**

Item No. 4 – 212096...PROCLAMATION: GATEWAY HIGHSTEPPERS DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming October 24, 2022, as Gateway Highsteppers Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

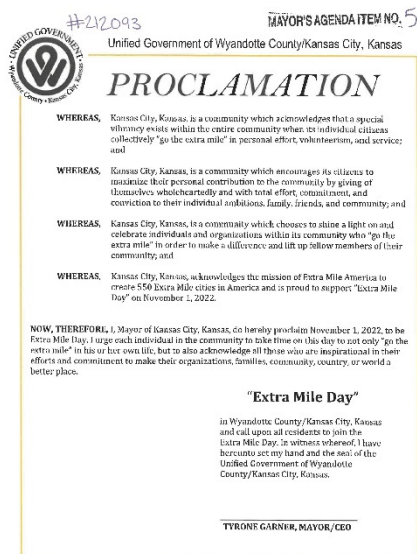


Action: Proclamation was read.

Item No. 5 – 212093...PROCLAMATION: EXTRA MILE DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming November 1, 2022, as Extra Mile Day, submitted by Tyrone

A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.



Action: Proclamation was read.

November 3, 2022

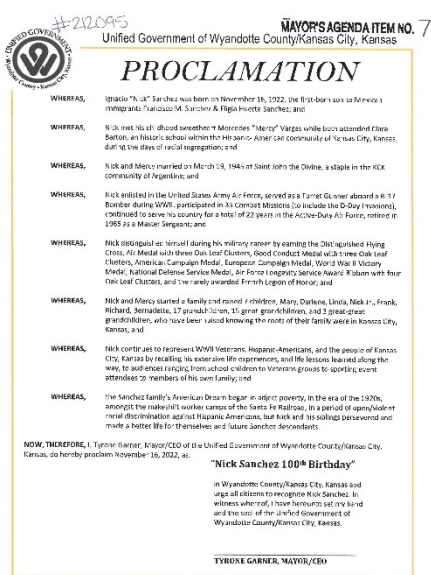
Item No. 6 – 212094...PROCLAMATION: LEON BRADY DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming November 4, 2022, as Leon Brady Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Action: Moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Item No. 7 – 212095...PROCLAMATION: NICK SANCHEZ 100TH BIRTHDAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming November 16, 2022, as Nick Sanchez 100th Birthday, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.



Action: Proclamation was read.

Commissioner Markley left the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Garner asked if any member of the Commission or County Administrator wish to set aside any item on the Consent Agenda. If any item is not set-aside, all items on the Consent Agenda will be voted on by one vote. I'll entertain a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 1 – 212028...ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES

Synopsis: Requesting approval for amendments to Chapter 7 of the Animal ordinances: Sections 7-2 (Penalty), 7-79 (Cruelty and Neglect of Animals), 7-216 (Dangerous Animals), 7-217 (Vicious Animals), and adding new Section 7-82 regarding a Reckless Pet Owner declaration and violation, submitted by Casey Meyer, Senior Counsel, and Ashley Scott, Director of Animal Services. On October 24, 2022, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **Ordinance No. O-159-22, “An ordinance relating to Chapter 7 – Animals-amending Article I, Section 7-2 – Penalty; Article III, Section 7-79 – Cruelty and Neglect of Animals; Article VI, Sections 7-216 – Dangerous Animals; 7-217 – Vicious Animals; and adding a new Section 7-82 in Article III – Reckless Pet Owner Declaration and Violation, of the Code of Ordinances for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.”** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 2 – 212022...RESOLUTION: ACCEPTING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MCH) UNIVERSAL HOME VISITING EXPANSION FUNDS GRANT

Synopsis: The UGPHD has been awarded a \$75,000 dollar grant through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, to expand Universal Home

Visiting by adding 1 FTE Community Health Worker (CHW) to the MCH population, submitted by Terrie Garrison, Health Department. On October 24, 2022, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **Resolution No. R-70-22**, “A resolution for the acceptance of the Universal Home Visiting Expansion Program Grant.” Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 3 – 212027...AMENDMENTS: ORDINANCE AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Synopsis: An ordinance relating to amendments to the Teen Advisory Council of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the Unified Government, submitted by Misty Brown, Chief Legal Counsel. On October 24, 2022, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **Ordinance No. O-160-22**, “An ordinance relating to amendments to the Teen Advisory Council pertaining to its name, purpose, composition, qualifications, and responsibilities; amending original Sections 2-481, 2-482, 2-483, 2-484, 2-485, 2-486, 2-487, 2-488, 2-489, and 2-490 of the Code of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 4 – 212077...NOMINATIONS: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Synopsis: Nominations for Boards and Commissions:

- Joe Caiharr to the Wyandotte County Library Board, 11/3/2022 to 12/15/2025, submitted by Mayor Garner.
- Laura Flores to the UG Park Board, 11/3/2022 to 12/15/2025, submitted by Commissioner Davis.

- Gregory Todd to the Wyandotte County Library Board, 11/3/2022 to 12/11/2023, submitted by Commissioner Bynum.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 5 - WEEKLY BUSINESS

Synopsis: Weekly business materials dated October 13, 2022.

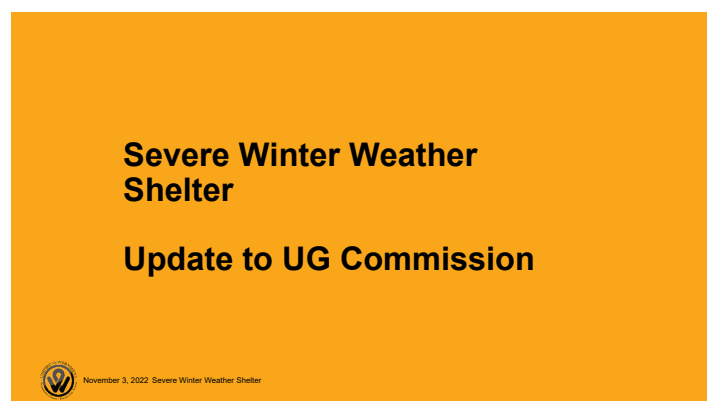
Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane.

ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212091...UPDATE: WARMING SHELTER

Synopsis: An update on the stand-up of a Severe Winter Weather Warming shelter for the 2022-2023 winter season, submitted by Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator.

Mayor Garner said I’ll ask Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, to lead the conversation.



Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, said this evening we want to provide an informational update to the Commission and the community on the standing up for the Winter

Warming Shelter for the upcoming winter. Before we get started I want to recognize that the effort to protect some of the most vulnerable in the community is a collective effort and has included a number of UG Departments that have been meeting regularly for several months now; Community Development, Community Policing, EMS, Building & Logistics, Human Services, Health, Budget, Procurement, Parks & Rec., and Legal.

More importantly, it's also a broad community effort that's brought together a number of community organizations and there have been people working on the issue of unhoused for a number of years, so the UG is seeking to support those efforts whether that's through the Mayor's Unhoused Task Force under Co-Chairs Tom Lally and Dr. Hill, the Community Health Improvement Plan, as well as Regional Unhoused efforts.

Tonight, we'll hear first from Yvette Miller, UG Homeless Coordinator and Community Development as well as Cross-Lines Community Outreach, on how we are approaching the stand-up of the Winter Weather Shelter for the 2022-2023 winter season.

The Need

- Weather under 25 degrees is a life and safety issue for those living unsheltered
 - Exposure for more than 15 minutes can lead to cold-weather injury, loss of limbs, hypothermia or death.
 - ER capacity is limited when beds are filled with preventable cold weather injuries
- This extreme weather project is not just a winter band aid but a vehicle to get people into permanent housing

KCKPD Contacts with Unhoused Persons (2021)	
Gender	
Female	137
Male	352
Race/Ethnicity	
White	269
Black	188
Asian or Pacific Islander	4
Hispanic or Latino	28
Total	489



November 3, 2022 Update on Severe Winter Weather Shelter

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Yvette Miller, Community Development, said this screen is just basically talking about the data from the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department from last year. It's showing that it's a great need for the shelter. Last year the police had contact with 489 homeless individuals, but we're not really sure how many more are out there. The cold weather shelter has been a bridge for the homeless to get into permanent housing. I do believe you guys have a handout and on the back—I don't know if you have a two-page or a front and back, but it has some data as far as how many people were assisted. You don't have it. **Mr. Howze** said it was part of the agenda packet. **Ms. Miller** said on the back on this slide it shows how many people were assisted due to being in a cold weather shelter.

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This slide is just about the history of it. It started in 2017 with the Bridge of Hope of solely operating the cold weather shelter from 2017 through 2020. In 2020 a coalition came together of staff of volunteers serving 100 individuals. Because the staff wasn't getting paid and this limited the capacity, last year we became partners, when I say you, I mean the UG, Community Development through a grant funding project with the CARES Act.

2021-2022 Cold Winter Shelter

- Location: Jack Reardon Center (5th and State Ave)
- Dates: December 31, 2021- March 11, 2022
- Over 18 Community Partner organizations involved
- Open on nights the temperature was expected to be 25 degrees and below. Guests could call a hotline number by 8am each day for notification of shelter opening. Homeless service providers and emergency service providers were also notified.
- Guests arrived between 6 - 9pm and left at 7am
- 38 nights - average of 35 guests per night
- 275 unique individuals served
- When reached capacity, guests were diverted to other temporary options including hotels.
- The project had a total of 1,606 bed nights between shelter and hotel



This is just an overview of what was done last year. As you know, we were at the Jack Reardon Center from December to March with 18 community partner organizations involved. The operations of the shelter was operating for two months and 11 days. Out of those days they were open 38 days with 35 guests per night serving a total of 275 guests.

Funding

- Federal grant funding was available for the City of Kansas City, KS through Community Development ESG - CV CARES ACT HUD funding, to support the winter weather shelter in the winter season.
 - 2021-22 Cold Winter Shelter
 - 2022-23 Cold Winer Shelter
- This funding source will not be available for 2023 - 2024
- There is currently no UG General Funds allocated for severe winter weather shelter



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The CARES Act funding is how we funded the shelter last year and how we will fund it again this year. Next year the grant fund expires in August 2023, so it won't be available for the 2023-2024 funding.

Funding

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This year we sent out a Notice of Need or the Purchasing Office did. On the 29th it was published in the papers, notification was sent out electronically through emails. We only had one respondent and that respondent was Cross-Lines, which took the lead last year as well.

Mr. Howze said I'll just add on this procurement piece too that we wanted to run an open and transparent process for the Management Services for the shelter. With the support of procurement, we went out with this Notice of Need to procure those services and, as noted, Cross-Lines Community Outreach submitted and was awarded that in late October and we have been working closely with them since that time as well on both the shelter operations as they're planning for that, but also on location selection decisions which we'll talk to here in just a minute. So I'd ask Cross-Lines and partners to come forward and speak to a couple of slides here.

Rob Santel, Cross-Lines, said it's good to be here. Thank you Mayor, Commission and all the Unified Government partners that have been involved in this process. It's very interesting, for the last three years we've pulled more and more people into this project and so it's very hopeful this year, especially seeing how many different entities within the Unified Government have been involved in the conversations that we can really be successful in not only meeting these emergency needs, but also those long-term plans that we have around really ending homelessness here in Wyandotte County.

Shelter Operations

- Activation will begin when location is finalized and service provider has hired and trained staff – likely in December
- Open when temperatures projected **25 degrees or below**
- **Shelter Operations take place from 4:30 pm to 9 am the following day**
 - Guests will be on-site **6pm-7am**
- Dinner and breakfast is provided
- Cross-Lines will partner with other local agencies to use a **collective-impact** model to provide a variety of support services to participants including:
 - Case management
 - Basic Needs (hygiene, clothing, etc.)
 - Health and behavioral health services
 - Housing resources and Coordinated Entry Assessments
- This project is for adults only; families and unaccompanied youth will be connected to appropriate resources



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Just to share a little bit about the shelter, this is a cold weather operation, so it is temperature based, so we will operate on nights when it's 25 degrees and below. Last year we operated for 38 nights. We didn't start till the end of December so we anticipate potentially, depending on when the start date is, serving a little bit more dates than that. If there is inclement weather, especially when it comes to precipitation and it's kind of on the line, we always kind of go towards being on the side of let's open rather than being closed especially with how dangerous being wet in cold can be on individuals.

We operate in the evening time through the morning, so starting about 4:30 pm is when we have our staff arriving, our guests can come in at 6:00 pm. While they're there, they are provided with dinner and breakfast and then they're provided sleeping provisions. We do have tents that we provide for them that they are able to use while they are in the space. Part of the reason we use the tents is COVID-19 mitigation, but really we have found that it has been a huge blessing for us when it comes to reducing behavioral health, interactions, and really de-escalating situations when you have people that are given their own sense of privacy in that tent space.

As Alan had mentioned, this really is a collective impact model, so while Cross-Lines is the lead, we are by no means the only entities that are involved in this. There are many different

agencies within Wyandotte County that are part of this, in leadership as well, and so we are grateful to work alongside those partners and really build on those collaborations that we have both for this project, but then outside that project as well.

The guests that come to us we are working on the outside kind of behind the scenes to help make sure that we are connecting them to the resources that are needed for them and helping really focus on housing in that which is a little bit different than other emergency shelter operations. While they are there they are receiving case management. One of the big components of this is that we want to hire staff that are working in this field already and so really trying to attract those individuals that can provide case management, have those problem-solving conversations with individuals, trying to meet the basic needs as much as we can as well as trying to focus on the health and behavioral health components of the population that we are serving and really focusing on that housing component as well.

This project is for adults only. We have not in our history had families that have presented. If families do present, we want to try to help get them connected to the resources that are appropriate for them.

Services Offered

- Transition to permanent housing
- Medical Providers were onsite (last year) providing a full range of services
- Sense of security that their belongings were safe while sleeping
- Shelter services for families
- For older adults
- Community Partners
 - 2021-22 Community Partners: Avenue of Life, Bridge of Hope Community Church, Care Beyond the Boulevard, Catholic Charities of NEKS, Community Health Council of WYCO, Community Policing - KCKPD, Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Greater KC Coalition to End Homelessness, Kansas City Dream Center, Kim Wilson Housing, Metro Lutheran Ministries, Mt Carmel Redevelopment Corp, Our Spot KC, Unified Government of WYCO, United Way of Greater Kansas City, Vibrant Health, Wyandot Behavioral Health Network, Additional Community Members and Groups



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Rachel Erpelding, Kim Wilson Housing, said I'm going to talk a little bit about the services that are offered at the shelter, and as Mr. Santel mentioned, there is a focus on a transition to permanent housing and people will be assisted in a meeting with staff and housing navigators that can connect them to resources and have problem-solving conversations to help self-resolve or help get them to the resources to resolve a housing crisis.

Some other services there, we have medical services provided by Care Beyond the Boulevard that can provide for acute medical needs and some testing for illnesses. They also secure belongings. Some people do not go to shelter because of a fear that their belongings will

be stolen and we have a way to secure belongings. This helps them feel safe and secure and they don't have to worry about that overnight. They're able to rest and stay safe and we have seen an increase in street homelessness for families and older adults. Older adults struggle with some complex medical needs and are more vulnerable out on the street and especially in the elements and we have seen an increase in that and saw an increase last year in the number of older adults that we serve.

Some other services that are provided there, as Rob mentioned, we have mental health providers who are trained and have experience in recognizing and responding to mental health needs and they are trained in trauma-informed care and de-escalation and crisis intervention. They can also step in if somebody does need to isolate or move away from the crowd and possibly needs to be screened for a higher level of care.

Also, staffed—all of those homeless service providers that currently work in the community that can help with that having housing navigation piece and can also have those problem-solving conversations. They can also complete assessments and get them directed to the resources that they need to really focus on those housing providers. Staffing also is meant to represent the community. We have community members and bilingual staff there to help out.

Location Operational Considerations

- Waiting Area - get people out of the elements as quickly as possible
- Check-in Area - individually screened by staff and asked to store their belongings in a secure bin
- Sleeping Area - guests provided tent spaced apart from each other
- Dining Area - space to serve and eat are needed
- Storage - area to keep supplies locked
- Restrooms – need restroom capacity to serve number of guests
- Accessibility – there have been guests that use wheelchairs
- Smoking Area – allowed a few at a time and monitored



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Mr. Santel said I wanted to run a little bit for you about what the process looks like and we're talking about a location, so when guests arrive, we're trying to screen them as quick as possible and COVID is still happening and we know that amongst the population that are living unsheltered, the vaccination rates are fairly low and so we know that we need to make sure that we are taking precautions to be safe with those pieces.

When guests are coming in, we want to try to screen them for COVID and kind of gather their information and then we'll kind of go through a check-in process with them. Through that

check-in process, we will ask our guests to put their belongings into these bins. These bins are then zip tied closed and then they don't have access to them until the morning when they're checking out. There is a couple reasons why we do it this way. One is a safety piece so we know that people aren't bringing in weapons or drug paraphernalia or those type of things. The other is security for the guests as well. They know that their things are locked in a place that will not be rummaged through. People aren't going to be stealing their stuff while they're sleeping and for a lot of our guests that's a really important piece.

Then, we have the sleeping area. I mentioned we have those tents and the sleeping pads that are in there and that's an important spacing piece that we need to consider. Dining, we do provide that dinner space or that dinner which is a big component. We want to make sure that those folks are fed. We want to feed them quick and get them to bed as quick as we can, so now we try to talk to our staff. We need a place to store the staff stuff that we have to run the shelter. Restrooms are a big piece both when it comes to the toilet usage. That seemed to be a problem for us at Reardon. We want to make sure that we have access to good toilets that are able to be used throughout the season. Then, accessibility is another big thing that we want to be talking about and accessibility when it comes to folks that are using wheelchairs. We've had several folks the last two years that have used wheelchairs and so we need to make sure that we have a space that's accessible for those individuals, at least for us to be able to make accommodations for them. We do try to have a smoking area for our guests. This is really a behavioral health piece to allow folks to be able to kind of get away and smoke and kind of have a monitored area for them to use, kind of some of those self-care practices.

Thank you again for your time.

Location

- Utilized GIS data to identify suitable locations based on several considerations.
 - Within ¼ mile from key corridors
 - Access to public transit
 - Access to existing services
 - Space requirements
 - Life / Safety requirements
 - Immediate Availability
- Special Use Permit



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Mr. Howze said in terms of location, we heard from Cross-Lines about some of the considerations as thinking about locations. I just wanted to let the Commission and the public know that we are actively looking at a range of potential locations whether those are UG facilities, some of those are private facilities or non-profit or faith facilities. We have not made a location decision yet. We have been looking at some of the considerations that go into that; how do we use our accessibility to our transit, accessibility to services, what are those space require, what are the life and safety requirements since we are housing people overnight. That is certainly a consideration and then finding those spaces that are available kind of now for a short period of time, which that whole mix is proving to be challenging I'd say, but we are confident that we're going to have a location decision. We're looking to have that in the pre-Thanksgiving timeframe in order to give Cross-Lines and partners the time to prep and train their staff as well.

The last piece is that we do anticipate a special use permit process sort of trailing behind the location selection. In an ideal timeframe, those pieces would move together, but we recognize where we are in the calendar and when the need is going to arise that that is going to precede the timing for the special use permit process, which is a multi-month process, but did want to flag that for the Commission, so more to come on that.

Looking Forward

- Coordination with Mayor's Taskforce
- Coordination with Community Partner Organizations
- Coordination with Community Health Improvement Plan – Housing
- Identification of short, medium and long -term solutions
- Engagement with regional efforts to provide housing



Looking forward, as Mr. Santel mentioned, looking at what is right in front of us for the winter season, but then also looking at how do we continue this conversation and coordinate and connect with other conversations that we know are happening. We know the Mayor's Task Force has been meeting now for a number of months and has been quite active in that task force to identify some approaches and solutions. We know that there are community partner organizations that have been working in this space for a long time, the CHIP Plan, and the regional efforts as well, so how can we as we've brought together the different departments who were involved in this and recognizing

that within the UG there is not a single home for this set of services. It is spread out among Community Development, it's spread out a little bit in health and so there's different pieces and parts in different places, so it's going to take a collaborative cross-department effort that then connects to these other efforts that are ongoing in order to kind of develop a longer term strategy that we can then—we think work to reduce and ultimately to end the challenge of unhoused in the community.

Questions or Comments



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With that, I think that's our update and happy to take questions or comments from the Commission.

Mayor Garner said thank you for the presentation.

Commissioner McKiernan said I think we could all agree that in an ideal world there would be no need to mobilize this effort at all, but we don't live in an ideal world. I just want to take a moment to thank all of our UG staff and all of our community partners who have been working hard at this, not only this year, but in previous years. I spent several hours at the shelter last year just observing and what I observed was the most professional, supportive, caring effort that I could have imagined where the dignity of every person was respected and they were supported and cared for and if possible, given assistance beyond just a night in the shelter. So, for all of that, to all of you, thank you very much.

Commissioner Ramirez said I second everything that Commissioner McKiernan said. A suggestion to staff and community partners as we're looking for locations, just make sure it's a location that's going to make the most impact for our unhoused population, not too far away where they have to travel to go somewhere to be safe. Make it accessible and make it where it will be

the most impactful for everyone that wants to participate in the warming shelter. Thank you for all that you've done. Thank you for what you continue to do. You have my full support to continue on this. It's something that we need. I agree with Commissioner McKiernan that we shouldn't have to have this, but we do and until we as a society, not just at the Unified Government in Wyandotte County, but as a society as a whole, unless we actually do something and actually take these issues serious, we're going to have to continue to provide these services.

I thank all the community organizations that are out there every day trying to come up with solutions to keep these individuals, these residents, they are still human beings, they are still residents of our community and so thank you for all that you do for them.

Mr. Howze said I just wanted to quickly add, Commissioner Ramirez, in terms of the location one of the things that Community Policing has advised is that they go out and do these visits to camps that it's actually in some ways a community-wide phenomenon. There are pockets of the unhoused that are in lots of different places within Wyandotte County and so as we're thinking about locations, there's proximity to services, but we've also seen that there are unhoused in lots of different places in the community. I think that's one of the things that I've learned through this process as well.

Commissioner Bynum said just two quick questions. Mr. Howze or Mr. Santel, by what time of day do we decide it's cold and we're going to open? **Mr. Santel** said that is by 8 a.m. We have a hotline that we allow our folks to call in and that hotline will have a message that says, yes, we're open or no we're closed, so we make that determination by 8 a.m. the day of. **Commissioner Bynum** said so 8 a.m. the day of those folks would start coming that evening. **Mr. Santel** said yes.

Commissioner Bynum said second notion and I don't know if this has any practicality or not, but you mentioned that COVID is still here. Is there any worth in considering whether or not, for example, our Health Department could bring vaccines? **Mr. Santel** said yeah, so we have Care Beyond the Boulevard. They're a health provider and they come on a fairly consistent basis. **Commissioner Bynum** said I was just thinking that's a great opportunity to provide flu, Bi-Valent COVID if folks were open to receiving that. **Mr. Santel** said they're also able to provide some acute treatment for whatever they're presenting with too.

Commissioner Davis said great work. I mean really I think that the conversation had started maybe over the summer, at least it reached the dais, where it was very clear that it is the value of our community. It is the heart of our community, it's the morals of our community that is saying this is important, this is worth the investment. We need to go further and it is my hope that we support the great work of our non-profits and our churches and we go from scrambling around every year to figuring this out to making this something that is put within the budget. That way they know that funding and that commitment is there from the Unified Government. I think our community is there and if this did not happen, we'd have a lot of constituents that would be rightfully upset.

I want to commend you all for the work you are doing and I will be a big advocate that we put some sustainability in your work because you're not just providing a shelter, you're providing a catalyst to literally change people's lives.

Commissioner Stites said I just want to be clear in this. Alan, that's going to be for you. A site for 2022 in December has not been identified. **Mr. Howze** said that is correct. **Commissioner Stites** said so what is wrong with the past site, last year's Reardon Center? I know I heard him say something about restrooms. Is that the issue? **Mr. Howze** said it's kind of a COVID domino in a sense in that when we shut down the Kmart facility, there's a lot of material in that building that needed a place to live and we don't have flex storage space. John Kelly is here and can answer. That Reardon Center is actually being used to store a lot of that equipment that was formerly at Kmart and so that's the reason at this point that we're not really entertaining the Reardon Center as a site because it's being used for this other purpose and we don't have another place to put it right now. **Commissioner Stites** said so other than the items that are inside the Reardon Center, is that site acceptable? **Mr. Howze** said like I said, we haven't really considered that. It worked last year for the needs of the unhoused. **Commissioner Stites** said, right, I'm saying if that site was available, would that be a site you guys would be willing to use is my question. **Mr. Howze** said yes. **Commissioner Stites** said it seems to me that it's easier to relocate items that need to be stored, that can be stored in a cold warehouse somewhere versus a facility that has restrooms, electricity, carpet, that we can move the items that are stored inside of the Reardon Center to another location. I mean go put it back at Kmart.

John Kelly, Director of Building & Logistics, said, Commissioner, the question has been brought up what does the Reardon Center look like being that it worked last year. There are some conditions within that facility just within the past year that have deteriorated just for mechanical equipment, the heating system, so in certain areas of the building there is heat. Last year when we had Cross-Lines there, we allowed them to use a couple different ballrooms that are there, and that's what Alan is referring to, the two ballrooms where there's current storage. We've lost some of those heating elements to that and so just some of the conditions because of the nature of where we were before, you know, opening up last year was determined that we were going to have that building raised and go with the project. There's a lot of things still within that facility that would need to be addressed probably before we would be able to jump in and do something to that nature, so that's another reason why it hasn't been on the list to jump back into that facility because there are things that would have to be addressed at a sizable amount. I don't have those particular numbers and all the different components to it, but there are mechanical issues within that building that would have to be addressed.

Mr. Howze said when the mass vaccination site was closed, we ended the lease on that facility, so we no longer have access to it.

Mr. Kelly said we would have to go back into another lease potentially and that's even if the owner would allow it for any situation. If you refer to where can I take 10,000 square feet worth of product that we currently have down there, where could that go. Even if that was an option, I think at Kmart we would have to go back into a lease and I don't know that owner would even go into that lease again. **Commissioner Stites** said okay.

Mayor Garner asked, any other questions from commissioners? I'd like to just commend everyone that was involved in this. You know Wyandotte County is a caring community and anyone with a heart I believe is never going to say no to helping those most in need. As a 32-year police officer I saw the need out here on the streets of Kansas City, Kansas. As a Kansas City, Kansas Housing Authority Board Member for several years, I saw the need and as the Director of Public Safety at the Housing Authority of Kansas City, Missouri, after I retired from the Police Department, the need is even greater. I have to commend the work that has been done. This is an awesome presentation that has been put together and every box that you can ask for from this group has been checked. What really stands out to me is what you've seen this year, which I really

didn't hear a lot of last year is a lot more transparency and a lot more collaboration to ensure that the needs of our unhoused population and even our impoverished population are being met with the wraparound services that they not only need, but that they deserve.

I applaud everybody, our UG staff, any members that have been on the task force as well as any non-for-profits and community members that have really been involved in this issue. I align with some of the comments by some of our commissioners that this is just the first step. As we optimize building these relationships and collaborations with service providers here in Wyandotte County and beyond because we've got other folks from outside of Wyandotte County that have seen the needs here and they're willing to put resources here where it's needed the most.

But, as we optimize that, we have to look at something and I think this is something that we're all going to have to, the community, Commission, non-for-profit, the need for our unhoused and impoverished population aren't going to deteriorate and go down. They're actually increasing, especially with some of the legislation we've seen happen in the state of Missouri. We're seeing an influx ever so slowly of individuals starting to migrate here in Wyandotte County. I know you may not see it openly, but you would be shocked to know, if you don't already know, how many individuals live in wooded areas throughout Wyandotte County in encampments. Those numbers are staggering and alarming when you talk about the need.

One thing that I know that we've spearheaded as far as Mr. Lally's task force along with a lot of the service providers, and I applaud Cross-Lines and the leadership for really coming forth and taking the lead on this and really stepping out forward and really being able to have the capacity to manage this in a way that, hopefully, we know will be successful. Looking forward, we've got to optimize our lessons learned and we've really got to strengthen and build these collaborations of service providers of wraparound services for those unhoused and those that are impoverished.

One thing that we have been having a conversation about is looking at other models in other communities that have worked in some capacity to address this ever-growing need and if you look at San Antonio, Houston, Denver, and other larger cities, what they've done, they have resource centers, is what I would call it, to where it's a one-stop shop where you can have an extreme weather center. You can have tiny houses that are transitional, you can have food, you can get clothing, you can get mental health screenings, health screenings, you can get a bridge to

housing and other resources that so many that are in poverty and the unhoused population need and deserve.

One thing that I would like for this Commission to think about moving forward as we continue this conversation is think about what that means as our community partners have that discussion as far as a location and just be open-minded to having enhanced services that really encompass providing all those representative services for that population of residents. Even a step further, we have to have the funding to sustain those types of developments. One thing that I propose that I'd like to see for a long-term sustainability model is a sales tax possibly to sustain that long-term and to build these partnerships and have these different social organizations and groups that provide these services manage and basically provide the type of resources and services that would be needed to sustain that long-term.

If I had my vision as far as the KC region, I see a model potential there when you talk about homelessness and poverty. We've talked about a bi-state tax. I'd like to see the greater Kansas City have a conversation about addressing this in a strategic and intentional way with the bi-state tax of some sort that really could, hopefully, maybe address this in a way that can become a model nationally throughout the nation. I know those conversations are ongoing, but next year we will need to look at funding and so as we move through the budget cycle, I just don't want this conversation to stop here. I want to make sure that we keep this on the front burner as far as an item and topic for discussion and inclusion in any budgetary decisions moving forward and that's just an ask for me.

Thank you all again so much and thank you to everybody that's involved and I know that Mr. Howze has been on top of this as far as sharing the information and will let us know once that facility is identified. One of the key things that has been presented from a lot of the meetings that I've been through is accessibility and transportation and making sure that—I know the Reardon Center was brought up, but there are encampments all throughout Kansas City and Wyandotte County and so I know that staff is looking at somewhere that could be a little more centralized, hopefully, to where accessibility won't be as great of a challenge for those individuals that are in need of that resource. Thank you all so much.

Action: For information only

COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 211743...ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION: AMENDING CODE PROVISIONS FOR OPEN BURN

Synopsis: Ordinance/Resolution amending the code provisions Sections 3-3 Definitions and Section 3-17(h)(1)(a) related to Open Burning, submitted by Jon Khalil, Assistant Counsel, Legal Department. On July 25, 2022, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full commission. On August 11, 2022, at the request of the Chair, this item was remanded back to the standing committee for further discussion. On September 26, 2022, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward it to the full commission.

Mayor Garner said I'll ask Commissioner Bynum to make the presentation.

Commissioner Bynum said before I start I want to give a special thanks to Jennifer with our Health Department and Mr. Khalil and I would just suggest to you that if we get an ordinance passed tonight, that you clink your glasses together as you leave the building because we've been at it now for ten months. With that being said, the changes to the open burn ordinance include definitional changes and a general cleanup. They include more substantial changes to how open burning is regulated and enforced and the standard for local governments in Kansas is that local burn ordinances can be more stringent than State Statutes, but not less stringent. KDHE, as we worked our way through all this, KDHE had expressed concern about several changes that emerged from our standing committee meetings and conversations. Staff proposed amendments that we believe satisfy KDHE and meet the standard of not being less stringent than state law and the changes also allow for greater flexibility and discretion especially in the event of a large storm event which was kind of where we started.

The ordinance changes were passed unanimously at Public Works & Safety and then in order to comply with state law, we tweaked a couple of the changes to ensure compliance with state law. This entire presentation ordinance and the changes are presented in your agenda packet for all commissioners to review and I would move adoption of the ordinance with amendments as proposed by Legal.

Action: **Ordinance No. O-161-22 and Resolution No. R-71-22** “An ordinance and resolution regarding burn permits for various wastes, adding a definition of “extraordinary yard waste”, amending the definition of “Director” and clarifying and adding to the administrative exceptions to the fall and spring burn seasons; amending Sections 3-3 and 3-17 of Chapter 3 of the 2008 Code of Ordinances and Resolutions of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.” **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve.**

Commissioner Stites said the only thing I want to say is because last time this was brought up I was bombarded by constituents of Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, hey, what are you doing to our burn policies and this does not affect Bonner Springs and Edwardsville.

Commissioner Kane said I appreciate the changes. We worked on this a long time. If this incident ever happens in my district again, I will go with the Health Department, anybody else, to look at the issue instead of having what happened the last time. I talked to Alan about that today. I think it’s important, but I do appreciate the work that you did and since my career is in safety, I would never vote against KDHE, so we appreciate what you’re doing and I look forward to voting for this.

Mayor Garner said we have a motion and a second. No further discussion, roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane.

ADJOURN

Mayor Garner said no further items for us tonight. I’ll entertain a motion to adjourn.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adjourn.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane.

MAYOR GARNER
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:39 P.M.
November 3, 2022

Monica L. Sparks
Acting Unified Government Clerk

dt

November 3, 2022