

**Westwood, Kansas
City Council Meeting
July 10, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

Council Present: David E. Waters, Mayor
Jeff Harris, Council President
Andrew Buckman, Councilmember
Jason Hannaman, Councilmember
Laura Steele, Councilmember
Holly Wimer, Councilmember – arrived at 7:21 PM

Council Absent: None

Staff Present: Leslie Herring, City Administrator
Curtis Mansell, Police Chief
John Sullivan, Public Works Director
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk

Call to Order

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 10, 2025. Ms. Schneweis called the roll. A quorum was present. The evening's meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with attendees joining both in person and via Zoom.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the July 10, 2025, agenda as submitted. Second by Councilmember Hannaman. Motion carried by a 4-0 voice vote.

Public Comment

Steve Platt, 4910 Glendale, Westwood Hills, noted the minutes from the June 12, 2025 City Council meeting indicated his written public comment was attached to the minutes document and it was not. Mr. Platt asked that the minutes document include his written statement.

Presentations and Proclamations

No presentations or proclamations were made.

Consent Agenda

All items listed below are considered to be routine by the Governing Body and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Governing Body so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately following approval of the consent agenda.

- A. Consider June 12, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Consider Appropriations Ordinance 776

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted with the addition that staff include Mr. Platt's comments. Second by Councilmember Buckman. Ms. Schneweis conducted a roll call vote. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Waters provided a review of events he attended and plans to attend as Mayor of Westwood.

Mayor Waters provided an update regarding the Shawnee Mission School District property at 2511 W 50th Street.

Mayor Waters encouraged the community to engage and provide feedback on the FY 2026 budget.

Councilmember Wimer arrived and took her seat on the dais at 7:21 p.m.

Councilmember Reports

No reports were made by members of the Council.

Staff Reports

Administrative Report

Ms. Herring provided an overview of the July 2025 Administrative Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Public Works Report

Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of the June and July 2025 Public Works Reports included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Public Safety Report

Chief Mansell provided an overview of the June 2025 Public Safety Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Treasurer's Report

The June 2025 Treasurer's Report was included in the packet, no questions or comments were made about the report.

City Attorney's Report

Mr. Denk did not have anything to report.

Old Business

Consider sub agreement with WCA for solid waste residential disposal services contract for 2026 – 2030

The City's solid waste residential disposal service is currently contracted through a Solid Waste Residential Disposal Contract (the "Agreement") initiated in 2018 between WCA (now GFL) and Mid-America Regional Council ("MARC") through its Joint Purchasing Alliance (Kansas City Regional Purchasing Cooperative, "KCRPC"). This Agreement provides for services in Fairway, Roeland Park, and Westwood. The cities renewed that agreement for a three-year term (2021 – 2023) with two one-year renewal options (2024 – 2025). The Cities previously jointly agreed to extend the contract rates for both one-year renewal options.

As the Agreement term ends December 31, 2025, the City Administrators for the three cities began several months ago to discuss the performance of GFL and establish whether there is a mutual interest in continuing GFL's service beyond 2025. Through a series of meetings with GFL and city representatives, terms of renewal were developed that are agreeable to all parties.

Changes to the current contract are summarized in the attached Notice of MARC/KCRPC Contract Renewal letter attached. In Spring 2025, Westwood and the other cities renewed the agreement, pending satisfaction of remaining legal terms with the three cities' attorneys.

Legal review has now been concluded and one item remains for each city to resolve. As WCA (dba GFL) enters an agreement with MARC/KCRPC to provide the service to the three cities, each city also needs its own contract (subagreement) with WCA which references the original request for proposals and MARC/KCRPC agreement. It should also be noted that in the current contract term, WCA changed its DBA to Green for Life (GFL), but their corporate name did not change. As such, the subagreement is with WCA.

Motion by Councilmember Buckman to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement with WCA of Missouri for solid waste residential disposal services for a contract period of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2030. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Consider modifications to 2025 Public Safety Services Agreement with Westwood Hills

Chief Mansell asked if agenda item IX. C. to consider modifications to 2025 Public Safety Service Agreement with Westwood Hills could be considered before IX. B. No objects were made by the Governing Body.

At the Westwood City Council meeting on October 10, 2024, a revised contract was approved for police services for 2025. When the contract was presented to City of Westwood Hills for review, their city attorney requested additional language regarding indemnity provisions. The contract was adopted with the understanding that the request from Westwood Hills' City Attorney be addressed.

Since that time, the city attorneys for Westwood and Westwood Hills have worked collaboratively to incorporate the necessary indemnity language into the agreement. The contract was reviewed and approved by the City of Westwood's Attorney.

The 2025 rates were agreed upon in Fall 2024 and have been charged by Westwood and paid by Westwood Hills effective January 2025 to-date. Beginning with the 2026 contract, the cities will move to an annual fee addendum structure, consistent with the contractual relationship structure between the cities for Public Works and Building Official services.

Motion by Councilmember Wimer to authorize the Mayor to sign the Public Safety Services Agreement as modified and presented with the City of Westwood Hills for the period from January 1 – December 31, 2025. Second by Councilmember Buckman. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Consider modifications to 2025 Public Safety Services Agreement with Mission Woods

At the Westwood City Council meeting on October 10, 2024, a revised contract was approved for police services for 2025. Due to contract changes with another city, the Mission Woods contract is being revised to include indemnity provisions. This is to provide consistency based on recommendations of our city attorney. The contract was reviewed and approved by the City of Westwood's Attorney.

The 2025 rates were agreed upon in Fall 2024 and have been charged by Westwood and paid by Mission Woods effective January 2025 to-date. Beginning with the 2026 contract, the cities will move to an annual fee addendum structure, consistent with the contractual relationship structure between the cities for Public Works and Building Official services.

Motion by Councilmember Wimer to authorize the Mayor to sign the Public Safety Services Agreement as modified and presented with the City of Mission Woods for the period from January 1 – December 31, 2025. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Review recodified city code and consider setting for adoption by ordinance

Recodification is the process by which all adopted ordinances (and modern, current State and Federal laws, where applicable) are integrated into a City's Codebook so that the Codebook reflects the current and comprehensive laws of the City.

- In January 2023, CivicPlus (which acquired MuniCode) embarked on a recodification of the Westwood Municipal Code. City staff provided access to all necessary City materials and CivicPlus went to work reviewing and preparing the Code for public, searchable online access.
- In February 2024, City staff received the Code sections for review and from there worked with CivicPlus staff, the City Attorney, and the Governing Body and Planning Commission to review and tweak the City Code to prepare it for final review and adoption.
- In July 2024, the Planning Commission reviewed and provided input and changes to the Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 16 of the City Code)
- In October 2024, the City role in review of the Code sections concluded and CivicPlus began finalizing the Code for consideration and adoption by the Governing Body.
- In June 2025, CivicPlus provided the final Code document and ordinance for adoption of the recodification. Once CivicPlus receives the Council-approved ordinance, they will activate the online searchable City Code on the City's website.

The intent of recodification is housekeeping, to ensure consistency and legality of the code provisions and to address any confusion or conflicting elements of the code. The following is a summary of the notable edits to the Zoning Ordinance, advanced by City Council in March and April 2024 and by Planning Commission in July 2024 relating only to Chapter 16 re: zoning regulations:

General

- Fees have been separated out from the City Code and included in a master fee schedule, adopted by the City Council and reviewed annually Code has been updated generally to reflect current organizational structure

Chapter 1: Administration

- No notable changes

Chapter 2: Animal Control and Regulation

- Discontinuation of pet licensing program; continuation of pet vaccination requirement

Chapter 3: Beverages

- No notable changes

Chapter 4: Buildings and Construction

- Chapter to be updated at least every six years when new code sets are adopted. Chapter last revised in 2021 and 2022 with adoption of 2018 ICC code set; set to be updated again in Fall 2025 with adoption of 2024 ICC code set.

Chapter 5: Business Regulations

- Remove requirement that City-licensed massage therapists carry a City-issued ID card
- Reflect City's participation in County-administered tow rotation system

Chapter 6: Elections

- No notable changes

Chapter 7: Fire

- No notable changes

Chapter 8: Health & Welfare

- Except native grasses as approved on lists maintained by the county or the county's extension office from nuisance definition
- Allow compost systems, so long as maintained in the back yard
- Allow the City to remove trees on public or private property if it's deemed to be hazardous, not only if it meets the definition of dead or diseased
- Add requirement that refuse bins be placed in such a way as to avoid impeding pedestrian or vehicle traffic
- Add requirement that at least one off-street parking space per property is required for occupied dwellings
- Increase clearance of trees over streets from 12 to 14 feet (requirement remains 8 feet over sidewalks)

Chapter 9: Municipal Court

- Allow remote/virtual court appearances under certain conditions

Chapter 10: Police

- Change fee structure for repeated false alarms, requiring police personnel response

Chapter 11: Public Offenses

- No notable changes

Chapter 12: Public Property

- Remove process for allowing camping on public grounds

Chapter 13: Public Rights-of-Way

- No notable changes

Chapter 14: Traffic

- Whereas two-hour on-street parking is currently permitted overnight, prohibit on-street parking completely between midnight and 6 AM. This change will allow the Police Department to enforce the heretofore effective prohibition of overnight parking currently in place. (Notably, the City's restrictions on overnight parking have been in place since 1953.)

Chapter 15:

- No notable changes

Chapter 16: Zoning

- Cleaning up 4.3.12 to be consistent with RV parking regulations in 14-217, which also covers this topic

A clean version of the draft for adoption is included in this July 2025 meeting packet. To view the tracked changes from Spring 2024, which were used by CivicPlus to build the recodification in tonight's meeting packet, click [here](#) for Chapters 1-7 and 9 and click [here](#) for Chapters 8 and 10-16.

At its regular meeting on July 7, 2025, the Planning Commission reviewed Chapter 16 and directed staff to schedule a public hearing on August 4, 2025 to formally consider the edits and prepare this chapter – as well as all other chapters of the City Code – for adoption by City Ordinance by the Governing Body. The City Council should review the recodified City Code as presented in the meeting packet. Once the Governing Body is satisfied with the document, City staff will prepare it for adoption following the August 4th public hearing on text amendments to Chapter 16, which could occur as early as the August 14th City Council meeting.

Please note that there is stated interest from the Planning Commission to make more substantive changes to the zoning ordinance relative to recent cases and matters, and that review process can occur simultaneously but separately from this recodification. Any additional changes to the Zoning Ordinance can be achieved via the text amendment process and recommended to the City Council for adoption by ordinance once the Planning Commission determines which amendments it would like to recommend for consideration.

Motion by Councilmember Buckman to direct staff to prepare the ordinance adopting the recodified City Code, subject to the holding of a public hearing on text amendments to Chapter 16 – zoning regulations – of such Code. Second by Councilmember Hannaman. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

New Business

Consider Ordinance No. 1047 adopting the 2025 Edition of the Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities

The Uniform Public Offense Code (UPOC) is a document developed each year by the League of Kansas Municipalities. This organization has published the UPOC since 1980. The Code is designed to provide a comprehensive public offense ordinance for Kansas cities. The UPOC, in large part parallels the state criminal code. This ordinance allows the City of Westwood to utilize the Uniform Public Offense Code as the basis for criminal investigation and enforcement actions.

The League of Kansas Municipalities has now published the 2025 Edition of the Uniform Public Offense Code. City staff recommend the City of Westwood update from the 2024 Edition. The UPOC does not take effect in a city until the governing body has passed and published an incorporating ordinance. Staff recommend the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the ordinance prepared by the City Attorney in incorporating these changes.

Motion by Councilmember Harris that the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 1047 incorporating by reference the Unified Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities, 2025 edition and repeal Ordinance No. 1044. Second by Councilmember Steele. Ms. Schneeweis performed a roll call vote. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Consider Ordinance No. 1048 adopting the 2025 Edition of the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities

The Standard Traffic Ordinance (STO) is a document published by the League of Kansas Municipalities since 1960. The Standard Traffic Ordinance (STO) is an efficient, economical way to regulate traffic in Kansas cities.

This ordinance allows the City of Westwood to utilize the state's Standard Traffic Ordinance as the basis for traffic safety and enforcement actions.

The League of Kansas Municipalities has now published the 2025 Edition of the Uniform Public Offense Code. City staff recommend the City of Westwood update from the 2024 Edition. The UPOC does not take effect in a city until the governing body has passed and published an incorporating ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Harris that the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 1048 incorporating by reference the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, 2025 edition and repeal Ordinance No. 1045. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Ms. Schneweis performed a roll call vote. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Consider First Amendment to Johnson County Mental Health Co-Responder Cooperative Memorandum of Understanding

The Federal grant that helps fund the co-responder program requires the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be reviewed and updated periodically. This MOU was last adopted in March of 2023 and during the last two years, several items have come to light that need to be addressed. Therefore an addendum has been drafted by Johnson County addressing those items (outlined below) as we update the MOU per federal guidelines. Other Northeast Johnson County cities (Merriam, Mission, Roeland Park, Fairway, Westwood, Westwood Hills and Mission Woods) under this MOU are also being asked to adopt the addendum.

This amendment removes the 5% cap on increases for reimbursement as Johnson County Mental Health cannot predict compensation and benefit increases to employees awarded by the County. Johnson County Mental Health will provide forecast reimbursement predilections to cities of the MOU to by March 31st of each year to assist with their budget impacts. The County understands that timely communications regarding budget impact is imperative to city financial planning.

The MOU has been reviewed by the City Attorney and is currently under review by the other subject I move to authorize the Mayor to execute the First Amendment to Johnson County Mental Health Co-Responder Cooperative Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion by Councilmember Wimer to authorize the Mayor to execute the First Amendment to the Johnson County Mental Health Co-Responder Cooperative Memorandum of Understanding. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Consider Resolution No. 145-2025 to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate, Establish the Date and Time of a Public Hearing, and Provide for the Giving of Notice of Such Public Hearing

Mayor Waters reminded the Council that the action taken regarding this agenda item is not approving a budget, and it is not setting a mill levy. Rather, the action sets a public hearing for the FY 2026 budget, and also to set a maximum mill levy the Governing Body would consider during that hearing.

Ms. Herring provided an overview of prepared mill rate options.

Over the last several months staff have worked to develop the 2026 budget. The 2026 budget maintains the same level of services as the 2025 budget and keeps operating expenses relatively flat, but provides for increased expenditures related to personnel and certain professional services and contracts, as well as increased capital improvement costs.

Per State statute, notice and public hearing requirements are imposed on cities if their proposed budget will exceed the property tax levy's revenue neutral rate. The revenue neutral rate is the tax rate in mills that will generate the same property tax in dollars as the previous tax year using the current tax year's total assessed valuation. In Westwood, the revenue neutral rate would be 18.822 mills. Since the proposed budget – as well as the current mill levy – exceeds that amount, a public hearing is required.

Notice of intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate must be provided to the County Clerk before July 20th. The hearing must take place between August 20th and September 20th. The public hearing is proposed for the City Council's regular meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2025. The budget public hearing and adoption of the 2026 budget will follow the revenue neutral rate hearing on that meeting agenda.

Approve Resolution No. 145-2025 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate, establish the date and time of a public hearing and provide for the giving of notice of such public hearing.

Mayor Waters asked how much of the budget is made up of property tax, Councilmember Hannaman said roughly 26%.

Councilmember Hannaman noted a mill is estimated to generate about \$52,000 in 2026, and a mill in 2001 generated about \$39,000 and costs for city operations have increase significantly more in the last 25 years. Councilmember Hannaman also noted the entire collection of property tax for the General Fund for 2025 was \$850,000. Councilmember Hannaman said a community can choose between allowing more development, increasing property tax on residents and businesses, or providing fewer capital improvements and city services. Mayor Waters noted that if the community does not want to allow new development, then the Governing Body has to find another way to fund the services, projects, and programs important to the community.

Councilmember Buckman referred to the mill rate determination in the agenda packet and noted that a four mill increase on a \$400,000 house would result in an additional cost of \$15 per month, or \$185 on an annual property tax bill.

Councilmember Harris said the longer the Governing Body delays capital improvements, specifically road maintenance, the more concerned he is about the long-term attractiveness of living in Westwood. Councilmember Harris said he sees the \$15 per month of additional property tax as an investment in the community. Councilmember Harris said he is supportive of a mill levy increase.

Councilmember Wimer said she thought a four mill increase combined with county taxes could cause financial strain for members of the community. Councilmember Harris said the modeling in the presentation of cost per household helped make him more comfortable with a four mill increase. Councilmember Harris said it is possible the City will be in a different position in the future, and the Governing Body has the ability to lower the mill levy when it deems appropriate.

Councilmember Steele said she agreed that an increase of four mills seems like a substantial increase, but the Governing Body needs to consider the future needs of the city.

Councilmember Haris asked Ms. Herring if the Governing Body could be provided with a list of mill rates other Johnson County cities, Ms. Herring confirmed she would bring that back.

Mayor Waters reminded the Council that the action item sets the maximum mill increase the Council is able to pass but that the final determination at the budget hearing can be a lesser amount.

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to approve Resolution No. 145-2025 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate, establish the date and time of a public hearing, and provide for the giving of notice of such public hearing with the notation that in Section 1 the City's proposed tax mill levy rate will be 25.199. Second by Councilmember Buckman. Mayor Waters invited further discussion; no comments were made. Ms. Schneweis performed a roll call vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Announcements/Governing Body Comments

Councilmember Wimer noted there will be a Movie at the Pool at Woodside on Saturday, July 12th for all Westwood residents.

Councilmember Hannaman congratulated Councilmember Steele competed Unbound, a 200-mile gravel bike race.

Executive Session

The Governing Body did not hold an executive session.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Steele to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk