

**Westwood, Kansas
City Council Meeting
June 12, 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

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 June 12, 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 June 12, 2025, agenda as submitted. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Public Comment

Steve Platt, 4910 Glendale, Westwood Hills, read a written statement he prepared and submitted for the record. The document is included in these minutes document.

Beth Springgate, 4947 Booth, said that if the former Westwood View property is redeveloped, it should only be single family homes, no mixed commercial-residential should be considered. Ms. Springgate said she believes the property at 5050 Rainbow Boulevard should be dedicated as a park.

Jim Donovan, 3009 W 51st Street, asked when the Governing Body approved the formation of the committee to review the proposals submitted for the former Westwood View Elementary property. Mr. Donovan asked if the community survey regarding the former Westwood View property was developed by the committee. Mr. Donovan noted the makeup of the committee includes members of the City Council, Planning Commission and Westwood Foundation and said he believes the committee should include a member of the community that are willing to be engaged.

Jayme Tebow, 4952 Norwood, referenced public comment she made during the May 29, 2025, Special City Council meeting, and responses from members of the Governing Body. Ms. Tebow asked if secret discussions were being held to discuss how the Governing Body can legally block the will of the people. Ms. Tebow said she wants to do what is right and does not want to do anything unlawful.

Presentations and Proclamations

Mayor Waters presented Samuel Day with the 2025 Foundation Merit Scholarship. Mr. Day is a recent graduate of Shawnee Mission East and plans to attend Kansas State University and study industrial engineering in the fall.

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 May 8, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Consider May 29, 2025 Special City Council Meeting Minutes
- C. Consider Appropriations Ordinance 775

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Ms. Schneweis conducted a roll call vote. Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Mayor's Report

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

Mayor Waters said six residents have filed to run for three City Council seats in the November 2025 election.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Wimer thanked the Westwood Women's Club for their work on the garden beds along Belinder. Councilmember Wimer noted Woodside is hosting events for Westwood residents including happy hours and a movie at the pool on July 12th.

Staff Reports

Administrative Report

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

Public Works Report

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

Public Safety Report

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

Treasurer's Report

The May 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

No old business items were considered during the meeting.

New Business

Receive presentation of Fiscal Year 2024 Independent Financial Audit

John Martin, Higdon & Hale, provided an overview of the fiscal year 2024 audit. Mr. Martin said the City's financial systems, controls, and financial reporting are strong and Higdon & Hale did not take any exception, or find any issues to bring to the Governing Body's attention.

Consider Resolution No. 144-2025 waiving the GAAP requirement for financial reporting

The State of Kansas requires audits for cities and their financial statements be based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), which has proven to be a very cumbersome and expensive accounting standard to comply with for smaller municipalities.

The provisions of K.S.A. 75-1120A(A) do allow for cities to adopt the Cash Receipts and Disbursements method of accounting for the audit, where the audit testing procedures remain the same and it allows cities to report an audit based on the annual budget cycle.

As has been the past practice of the City of Westwood, waiving the requirements of GAAP principles during the annual financial audit is recommended to allow for a more straightforward auditing process. As this Resolution waiving GAAP was not presented simultaneously with the audit due to an oversight of City staff, it is being presented for adoption on this month's regular agenda.

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to approve Resolution No. 144-2025 waiving the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120A(A) as they apply to the City of Westwood for the fiscal year that ended December 31, 2024. Second by Councilmember Buckman. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Consider authorizing binding property and liability insurance coverage for July 2025 – June 2026 with Midwest Public Risk

Geoff Gobble, Boulevard Insurance, provided an overview of the proposed insurance package and offered to answer questions.

The City's commercial insurance policy runs through June 30, 2025. In 2024, City staff sought competitive quotes for property and liability coverage and ultimately moved from EMC Insurance (the City's historical carrier) to Midwest Public Risk (MPR).

The City's insurance broker, Geoff Gobble created a premium comparison for the expiring term and the coming year, which is included in the meeting packet. He will also be available at the meeting to address any questions from the Council.

The premium comparison provided by Boulevard Insurance also covers policies outside the scope of the MPR P&L renewal but which Boulevard assists City staff in managing; these include:

- Independence Day fireworks event coverage
 - 2025 show policy paid in May in the amount of \$1809
 - Past premiums: \$1,538 in 2022, \$1,638 in 2023, \$1,795 in 2024
- Worker's compensation insurance
 - Provided through KMIT
 - 2025 policy paid in January in the amount of \$28,899

- Past premiums: \$29,344 in 2022, \$34,090 in 2023, \$27,605 in 2024
- Fidelity bonds for City staff and officials
 - Renewed on a rolling basis dependent on coverage start date for each individual
 - Fidelity bonds issued only for employees and officers who are responsible for handling money
- Cyber Liability/Data Breach coverage
 - Renewed December 2024 for term of 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2025
 - 2025 policy paid in December in the amount of \$10,979
 - Past premiums: \$6,158 in 2022, 10,865 in 2023, \$11,072 in 2024
 - In Spring 2025, MPR offered the City the opportunity to apply for coverage under its group. The City has been quoted \$5,655 for annual coverage with higher limits. After consultation with Johnson County DTI, the City's technology support service provider, staff recommends binding coverage under MPR's group.

Motion by Councilmember Buckman to authorize binding renewal coverage with MPR for property & liability insurance for the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Second by Councilmember Hannaman. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Fiscal Year 2026 preliminary budget presentation

Ms. Herring provided an overview of a preliminary budget presentation for fiscal year 2026. The presentation was included in the agenda packet. Ms. Herring asked for direction relating to the mill levy for 2026 to bring back options to the Governing Body at its July 2025 regular meeting. Notice of the City's intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate, and of the City's intended 2026 mill levy must be filed with Johnson County by July 20, 2025.

Council directed staff to model a 1.5 to 3 mill increase for fiscal year 2026 to supplement the City's Capital Improvement Plan, targeting streets and streetlights projects.

Announcements/Governing Body Comments

No announcements or comments were made by the Governing Body.

Executive Session

The Governing Body did not hold an executive session.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Hannaman to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilmember Buckman. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk