

**City of Westwood, Kansas
City Council Work Session
4700 Rainbow Boulevard
June 11, 2026 – 6:00 PM**

Council Present: David E. Waters, Mayor
Jeff Harris, Council President
Steph Becker, Councilmember
Spencer Day, Councilmember
Laura Steele, Councilmember

Council Absent: Holly Wimer, Councilmember

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

Call to Order

Mayor Waters called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 11, 2026. Ms. Schneweis called the roll. A quorum was present.

Work Session Items/Discussion of Upcoming Matters

"A Call to Action for Local Government Finance Managers" -- Presentation by Jeff White, Columbia Capital Management, LLC

Jeff White, the City's Financial Advisor from Columbia Capital Management, LLC, delivered a presentation outlining the current landscape of municipal finance and highlighted key considerations for local government finance managers.

Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Overview

Ms. Carttar and Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of capital improvement needs and funding. No action was taken by the Governing Body.

Adjournment to Regular Meeting

The work session adjourned at 6:59 p.m. to prepare for the regular City Council meeting.

**City of Westwood, Kansas
City Council Meeting
4700 Rainbow Boulevard
June 11, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.**

Council Present: David E. Waters, Mayor
Jeff Harris, Council President
Steph Becker, Councilmember
Spencer Day, Councilmember
Laura Steele, Councilmember

Council Absent: Holly Wimer, Councilmember

Staff Present: Katherine Carttar, City Administrator
Curtis Mansell, Police Chief
John Sullivan, Public Works Director
Ryan Denk, City Attorney
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk

Call to Order

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 11, 2026. Ms. Schneweis called the roll. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Waters suggested continuing 2027 budget discussion from the work session after agenda item X. C. Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the June 11, 2026, agenda with the suggested addition. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 4-0 voice vote.

Public Comment

No comments were made by members of the public.

Presentations and Proclamations

Presentation of Westwood Foundation Scholarship to Mary Benes

Mayor Waters presented the 2026 Westwood Foundation Merit Scholarship to Mary Benes. Mary Benes is a recent graduate of Bishop Miege High School and plans to attend Johnson County Community College in the fall.

2024 Building Code Update, Including Kansas "By-Right Housing Development Act" (SB 418) --

Presentation by Joe Kmetz, GBA

Joe Kmetz, George Butler Associates, provided an overview of Kansas Senate Bill 418.

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 14, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Consider Appropriations Ordinance 787

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Second by Councilmember Becker. Ms. Schneweis conducted a roll call vote. Motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Waters provided an overview of events he had attended and plans to attend as Mayor.

Councilmember Reports

No reports were made.

Staff Reports

Administrative Report

Ms. Carttar provided an overview of the May 2026 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 2026 Public Works Reports included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Public Safety Report

Chief Mansell provided an overview of the May 2026 Public Safety Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Treasurer's Report

The May 2026 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 was considered during this meeting.

New Business

Consider authorization for the Purchase of Street Lighting for the 2026 Road Improvement Project

In preparation for the upcoming Road Improvement Project on W. 50th Street and W. 51st Street, between Belinder Avenue and Mission Road, staff is seeking approval from the Governing Body to purchase the street lighting poles, fixtures and foundations directly from the distributor as opposed to having it as a bid item and paying an additional markup from a contractor.

This approach has been used on prior streetlighting projects and has proven advantageous, offering both cost savings and improvements to the manufacturing timeline. The costs will be funded by the CIP and are already budgeted for this project.

Motion by Councilmember Harris to authorize the expenditure of \$131,360.00 for 20 street lighting poles, fixtures and foundations for the 2026 Road Improvement Project. Second by Councilmember Day. Motion carried by a 4-0 voice vote.

Consider Ordinance No. 1064 amending the Westwood City Code, as amended, by repealing and replacing in its entirety Chapter 4 Article 3 of the Code of the City of Westwood, Kansas

The Kansas Legislature passed 2026 SB 418, commonly referred to as the “By-Right Housing Development Act.” The legislation substantially changes how cities regulate residential development, process permits, conduct inspections, and apply residential zoning rules. The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

For municipal officials, the bill primarily affects:

- Residential zoning authority;
- Permit and development review timelines;
- Building inspection procedures;
- Protest petition procedures; and
- Local development regulations applicable to single-family housing.

The legislation is designed to reduce discretionary review and increase housing development opportunities statewide. Cities should review building codes, permitting procedures, inspection staffing, and zoning ordinances before the effective date.

SB 418 establishes minimum regulatory standards that political subdivisions must allow for newly constructed single-family residences under 2,500 square feet of livable floor area (excluding garages and basements) when constructed on individual lots with separate legal descriptions.

The City of Westwood is following Kansas SB 418 except for the minimum regulatory standards that political subdivisions must allow for newly constructed single-family residences under 2,500 square feet. In November of 2025, the City of Westwood made International Residential Code (IRC) 2024 the standard for all residential construction in the City. SB 418 requires a lesser minimum regulatory standard but allows a municipality to utilize the version of the 2018 IRC previously adopted.

To that end, staff is recommending that residential construction with over 2,500 square feet of livable space continue to follow the Westwood Code IRC 2024, while residential construction under 2,500 square feet have the option to comply with IRC 2018 as previously amended by the City of Westwood in March 2021.

Motion by Councilmember Day to approve Ordinance No. 1064 amending the Westwood City Code, as amended, by repealing and replacing in its entirety Chapter 4 Article 3 of the Code of the City of Westwood, Kansas. Second by Councilmember Harris. Ms. Schneweis performed a roll call vote. Motion carried by a 4-0 voice vote.

Consider Resolution No. 154-2026 authorizing the City of Westwood to apply for a grant from VarietyKC and designating an authorized representative

VarietyKC and the Peter and Veronica Mallouk Family Foundation are granting a total of \$30 million to create truly inclusive playgrounds where every child can Be Active, Be Social, and Belong. The goal is for every child in the metro area to be within 10 miles of an inclusive park.

Letters of Interest were due on June 1 outlining the proposed project concept, identified site, and overall readiness to move forward. Selected municipalities to be invited to submit a full application later this summer. A resolution illustrating the support of the City Council is required.

Staff submitted a letter of interest for the design and construction of an inclusive park at Joe D. Dennis Park, requesting the maximum \$3,000,000 and designating the City Administrator as the authorized representative.

While the Kansas City region has expanded inclusive recreation opportunities, access remains limited in many older communities located in the core of the metro. In the northeast corner of Johnson County, bordered by Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri, Westwood is a true play desert with no inclusive recreation within 1.5 miles in any direction.

Joe D. Dennis Park, the only park in Westwood, presents a unique opportunity to address this gap. Located on Rainbow Boulevard, the park serves residents of Westwood, KCK and KCMO. Its central location near dense residential neighborhoods, schools, medical facilities, and major transportation routes creates the potential for a regional destination that welcomes families of all abilities.

The project aligns with Westwood's recent investments in accessibility, safety, and active transportation. An inclusive playground at Joe D. Dennis Park would build on this momentum while expanding equitable access to recreation for families throughout the region.

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve Resolution No. 154-2026 authorizing the City of Westwood to apply for a grant from VarietyKC and designating an authorized representative. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 4-0 voice vote.

Continue 2027 Budget Discussion

The Governing Body and staff continued discussing the 2027 budget from the City Council Work Session that took place earlier that evening. No action was taken by the Governing Body.

Executive Session

The Governing Body did not hold an executive session.

Announcements/Governing Body Comments

No announcements were made.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Harris to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 4-0 voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk