

**City of Westwood, Kansas
City Council Meeting
4700 Rainbow Boulevard
May 14, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

Council Absent: None

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

Call to Order

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 14, 2026. Ms. Schneweis called the roll. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the April 14, 2026, agenda as submitted. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Public Comment

No comments were made by members of the public.

Presentations and Proclamations

Gun violence Awareness Day Proclamation

Mayor Waters proclaimed Friday, June 5th as Gun Violence Awareness Day in Westwood and encouraged members of the community to support efforts to prevent the tragic impacts of gun violence.

2026 Police Week Proclamation

Mayor Waters proclaimed May 11th through May 17th, 2026, as Police Week to recognize police officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in doing so, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

Mayor Waters also proclaimed May 15, 2026, as Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor those peace officers who, through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty.

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 April 9, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Consider Appropriations Ordinance 786

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

Mayor’s Report

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

Mayor Waters acknowledged the recent passing of Officer Christopher Bishope of the Westwood Police Department on May 3rd. Officer Bishop served the City of Westwood for over 13 years, he also served his country in the Marine Corps. Mayor Waters stated Officer Bishop was a tremendous person and a true asset to the Westwood community. Mayor Waters thanked Chief Mansell, Officer Metcalf and the rest of the Police Department for their service during Officer Bishop’s celebration of life.

Mayor Waters held a moment of silence honor Officer Christopher Bishop.

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Steele shared she recently attended an E-Mobility policy model work group to talk about creating a cohesive model policy across the metro for electronic scooters and bikes.

Councilmember Harris shared he and Ms. Carttar attended the University of Kansas Health Systems Experience KU Health Systems Day in April.

Councilmember Wimer thanked the Westwood Women’s Club for their work on their Belinder Beautification project.

Councilmember Day shared he attended the League of Kansas Municipalities Leadership Academy on April 17th in Salina.

Staff Reports

Administrative Report

Ms. Carttar provided an overview of the April 2026 Administrative Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Public Works Report

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

Public Safety Report

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

Chief Mansell acknowledged and thanked the agencies that assisted the Police Department in light of Officer Bishop's passing.

Treasurer's Report

The April 2026 Treasurer's Report was included in the packet, no questions or comments were made about the report.

City Attorney's Report

Ms. Dubovich did not have anything to report.

Discussion to authorize expanded hours of sales for alcoholic liquor during 2026 FIFA World Cup

Ms. Carttar referred to a letter from the Kansas Alcoholic Beverage Control regarding 2026 Amendments to Liquor Laws to allow expanded liquor sales hours for the FIFA World Cup. Councilmember Harris said he would consider taking action if Westwood businesses requested a change in liquor sales hours. Ms. Carttar said local businesses have not expressed interest in expanded service hours during the tournament. No action was taken by the City Council.

Old Business

No Old Business was considered during this meeting.

New Business

Consider Resolution No. 153-2026 adopting an amended Employee Handbook

The Employee Handbook was last amended in November of 2022 by Resolution No. 114-2022. City staff recommends updates to this policy at this time for the following reasons:

- In the midst of the increasingly competitive labor market, certain employee benefits should be revisited to maintain viability as an employer and to communicate to employees their value to the community and organization.

Staff has prepared draft updates communicating the areas identified for amendment within the documents to respond to the reasons named above.

The following is a short summary of the most substantive changes recommended:

- Provide health insurance benefits for part-time employees (employees who regularly work more than 20 hours per week.)
- With current staffing, this corresponds to an approximate increase in the City of Westwood annual budget for salary and compensation of \$25,000.

Councilmember Becker said she did not want to diminish the work of any employee. Councilmember Becker noted the cost for a single employee to be covered by the City's insurance is roughly half a mill,, and the City Council voted to approve a four mill increase for the 2026 budget year to fund the CIP to pay for road projects. Councilmember Becker said it was hard to balance this cost out.

Councilmember Wimer said she is trying to balance the thought of taking care of city employees and the cost of doing so, she noted the Governing Body has not contemplated this policy idea in the past.

Councilmember Harris suggested the Governing Body table this business item to give it more consideration during the upcoming budget season. The other members of the Governing Body were in agreement. No action was taken, no direction was given to staff.

Consider fence variance request for 2203 W 47th Terrace

On April 29, 2026, City staff received an application for a fence variance for 2203 W. 47th Terrace. Homeowner Pauline Gracik is proposing to replace an existing 4' tall chain link fence with 55' of new 5' tall powder coated steel centurion.

This application requires a variance for Westwood Zoning Ordinance 4.3.9.A.2 requiring fences over 4' in height to be constructed from wood.

The City Council may approve fence variances pursuant to Westwood Zoning Ord. Section 4.3.9.F, and as set forth below.

4.3.9 Fence and Wall Standards

F. Fences or walls which would fail to comply with any other requirement of this Ordinance may be constructed and maintained, contingent upon the following:

1. Application shall be made to the Governing Body, which shall study said application to determine the following:
 - a. the fence or wall will not adversely affect the general welfare of the immediate neighborhood in which the fence or wall is to be erected, taking into consideration factors including, but not limited to, the value of the property and the safety of residences in said neighborhood;
 - b. The appearance, location, and purpose of the proposed fence or wall;
 - c. The effect on adjoining properties;
 - d. The size of the area to be enclosed;
 - e. The desirability of open views with regard to beauty, value and safety of the neighborhood; and
 - f. With respect to any fence on a lot adjacent to a street, a variance shall not be granted if the proposed fence would interfere with a safe view of the street for vehicular traffic, or would impair the view from any nearby driveway, or would extend closer to the street than the adjacent front yard setbacks.
2. Said application must be approved by at least four of the five members of the Governing Body.

The applicant desires to add a 5' fence to match the neighbor's new fence. The new fence would be built along the side yards of the real property. A strict application of the zoning regulations would require that the fence not exceed the 4' in height for this desired material type.

Pursuant to previous City Council direction, City staff evaluated the following factors:

- a. Neighbor acknowledgement/consent – Applicant has coordinated with neighbors to the east and south with no concerns received;
- b. ROW impediment – No;
- c. Established tree impact/removal – No, volunteer and nuisance vegetation will be removed with fence replacement; and

d. Resulting sight lines issues – No.

Motion by Councilmember Wimer to approve the requested fence variance at 2203 W. 47th Ter. to allow a 5' fence on the side yard perimeter of the property as described in the application. Second by Councilmember Day. Ms. Schneweis performed a roll call vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Consider a Contract between the Department of Transportation of the State of Kansas and the City of Westwood, Kansas, the authority to award a contract and the commitment of City funds.

The City of Westwood and the Unified Government of Kansas City Kansas and Wyandotte County entered into an agreement for the design and replacement of the intersection at W. 47th St/Ave and Rainbow Boulevard (US 169 HWY). The City of Westwood applied for CCLIP funds from the Kansas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$400,000 and received the award. The Kansas Department of Transportation accepted bids for the project and received four qualified bids. The low bid was from Realm Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$317,426.00. Construction Engineering is estimated to be \$88,564.00. This brings the project total to \$405,990. The remaining deficit is \$5,990.00. KDOT is requiring the City of Westwood to pay them \$6,000.00 to cover the deficit.

The Contract will need signature and returned to KDOT on May 15, 2026. The funds will be required to be sent to KDOT by June 11, 2026. The Contract is to be awarded upon receipt of the signed contract that you are considering. Due to the World Cup activities, the Unified Government has requested that the construction not be allowed to begin prior to July 18, 2026, which KDOT has agreed to. Staff recommends Council authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

Motion by Councilmember Day to authorize the mayor to execute the Contract between the Department of Transportation of the State of Kansas, and the City of Westwood, Kansas, for the award of contract and commitment of City funds for project 106 KA-7263-01. Second by Councilmember Steele.

Executive Session

The Governing Body did not hold an executive session.

Announcements/Governing Body Comments

Councilmember Day noted there are nappy hours for Westwood residents coming up at the Woodside pools

Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Harris to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk