

**City of Westwood, Kansas
City Council Meeting
4700 Rainbow Boulevard
September 10, 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
Marcus Burke, Police Lieutenant
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 September 10, 2026. Ms. Schneweis called the roll. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the September 10, 2026, agenda as presented. Second by Councilmember Steele. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Public Comment

Lori Moore, 4951 Fairway, expressed concern about new build homes fitting in with existing structures. Ms. Moore also said she believes the new streetlights are making the streets too bright.

Public Hearing - Consider Resolution No. 157-2026 approving a tax rate in excess of the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2027 budget year

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 for fiscal year 2027 would be 24.797 mills. The 2027 recommended budget provides for a total mill rate of 27.199, increased by 2 mills from fiscal year 2026 to increase funding to the City's under-resourced Capital Improvement Fund, specifically for Facilities.

Per Senate Bill 13, the recommended budget requires a Revenue Neutral Rate hearing to exceed the revenue neutral rate provided by the County Clerk. Notice of intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate was provided to the County Clerk by July 20th and the notice of public hearing was published on August 25, 2026. The public hearing will occur at the beginning of the September 10, 2026 meeting. The adoption of the 2027 budget will occur following the adoption of the Revenue Neutral Rate resolution.

Mayor Waters opened the public hearing for Resolution No.157-2026.

Bob Hickam, 2919 W 49th Terrace, asked the Governing Body to keep in mind that there are members of the community that are on fixed incomes. Mr. Hickam asked if the Governing Body has considered new revenue streams or cutting down on city services.

No other comments were made. Mayor Waters closed the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Harris I move to approve Resolution No. 157-2026 approving a tax rate or mill levy rate in excess of the Revenue Neutral Rate for the 2027 budget year. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Ms. Schneweis performed a roll call vote of the entire Governing Body. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Hearing - Consider Resolution No. 158-2026 adopting the fiscal year 2027 budget

Over the last several months the Council and staff have worked to develop the 2027 budget. The Governing Body reviewed the recommended budget on June 11th and again on July 9th. At the July 9th meeting, the City Council approved providing public notice to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate.

The City will hold the required Revenue Neutral Rate and 2027 budget hearing on September 10th, prior to adopting a Resolution to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Both steps must occur prior to budget adoption. Once submitted to the County Clerk, the budget sets the budget authority for each fund. The City is authorized by K.S.A. 79-2929a to amend the budget before December 31st to spend money not in the original budget. The additional expenditures must be made from existing revenue and cannot require additional tax levies.

Additional budget information can be found on the City's website or in the attached FY2027 Budget presentation.

The 2027 recommended budget provides for a total mill rate of 27.199, increased by 2 mills from fiscal year 2026 to increasing funding to the City's under-resourced Capital Improvement Fund, specifically for Facilities.

Mayor Waters opened the public hearing for Resolution No. 158-2026. No comments were made. Mayor Waters closed the public hearing.

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve Resolution No. 158-2026 adopting the 2027 budget as certified in the amount of \$9,274,024 with ad valorem tax in the amount of \$1,451,420. Second by Councilmember Becker. Ms. Schneweis performed a roll call vote of the entire Governing Body. Motion carried 6-0.

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 August 13, 2026, City Council Work Session and Meeting Minutes
- B. Consider Appropriations Ordinance 790

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

Councilmember Reports

No reports by the Council were made.

Staff Reports

Administrative Report

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

Public Works Report

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

Public Safety Report

Lieutenant Burke provided an overview of the August 2026 Public Safety Report included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions.

Treasurer's Report

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

City Attorney's Report

No report was made.

Old Business

No Old Business was considered during this meeting.

New Business

Consider allowing alcoholic beverages at 5000 and 5050 Rainbow Blvd. during the Oktoberfest event

Motion by Councilmember Harris to approve the provision and consumption of alcoholic beverages on City-owned property at 5000 and 5050 Rainbow Blvd. during the City's annual Oktoberfest event on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 4:00 – 8:00 PM, with a rain date of October 3, 2026. Second by Councilmember Wimer. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

Consider Appointment to the Westwood Planning Commission

Motion by Councilmember Wimer to confirm the appointment of Laura Boswell to the Westwood Planning Commission to serve the remainder of the previous appointee's unexpired three-year term, such term to expire February 28, 2029; and for John Sullivan in his capacity as notary public to

administer the oath of office at the next regular meeting of the Planning Commission. Second by Councilmember Day. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote.

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 Wimer. Motion carried by a 5-0 voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
David E. Waters, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Abby Schneweis, City Clerk