

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 26, 2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Wichita, Kansas, August 26, 2025

Tuesday, 09:00 AM

The City Council met in regular session with Lily Wu, JV Johnston, Brandon Johnson, Becky Tuttle, Mike Hoheisel, Dalton Glasscock, and Maggie Ballard.

Staff Members Present: Robert Layton, City Manager, Jennifer Magana, Law Department, and Shinita Rice, Deputy City Clerk.

[Approve the minutes of the regular meeting August 12, 2025](#)

**Motion:**

**Mayor Wu moved to** approve the minutes of the regular meeting August 12, 2025 and August 19, 2025

Motion carried 7 to 0

I) [PUBLIC AGENDA](#)

Diana Tedlock stated good morning. Diana Tedlock in Maggie's District. A year ago in October, the City and WPD announced a new structure promising betterments at the Wichita Animal Shelter. Those promises are not reflected in the proposed 2026 budget before you. New positions were announced as well as a review of a K-State report with the promise, "Recommendations will be added and prioritized and then implemented in the City's capital improvements and budget." The 2026 proposed budget does reflect an increase in the overall total dollars from the 2025 adopted budget of 12.7%, as some of you have pointed out to your constituents. However, the breakdown between labor and non-labor dollars is critical. Labor dollars increased by almost 22% with no increase in hits. Non-labor dollars decreased by 9.2%. The largest contributing factor for the labor dollar increase is the \$225,000 associated with the transfer of the wages and benefits for the non-

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dedicated captain position into the animal services budget. The original - the (unintelligible) structure since 2023 has had 31 full-time equivalent heads in the animal services budget with one non-dedicated captain accounted for in a separate bucket for a total of 32 heads. 31 plus one. You've taken this head and you've put it in this bucket and you've combined it. You don't have 32 heads, you have 31 heads. That is a reduction in head count, that is a reduction in resources. And that's without accounting for the new positions announced such as the shelter rescue coordinator, the administrative assistants, and the City fellow which were all absorbed in the head count of 31 or that just no longer exist. I know all of you are aware of the report from K-State as it has been mentioned numerous times, but in the spirit of non-transparency, the City and WPD have denied public access to that report per CORA 24-3109. I - therefore, I've not seen the report. However, for the public's knowledge, I'm going to share A- what Aaron Walker, the CEO of Kansas Humane Society's thoughts were about the report in an email from August of 2024. When they, KSU, visited WAS, they noted severe deficiencies in the level of care provided. Noting that in many ways, the level does not meet minimal standards for humane care that is required to have an animal sheltering license. We know that this is because they aren't fully staffed. Not only vacancies in the staffing they should have, but because they are staffed so far below what would be considered minimally compliant just for cleaning and providing for the animal's basic needs. And yet the council has effectively reduced heads as well as non-labor dollars. And there are no CIP projects in the current cycle. In addition, where are the initiatives asked for at the City council meeting on August 12th from Emily Hurst? Are those going to be pushed off a year? And then, once again, not be included in the budget cycle? There is not one tactic in the 2026 proposed budget for betterments at the Wichita Animal Shelter. How long must the community wait for the City to honor their words and reflect support of the animal shelter in the budget process? How many lives are lost while we wait? 1,029 animals have been killed at the Wichita Animal Shelter through July of this year. That's what broken promises looks like.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. Um, and perhaps if I could get staff to help with this. Um, I look at our budget and we have 31 positions last year and 31 this year, as well. Last year we had or in 2024, we had the Police Lieutenant, which in the 2025 budget had bumped up to Police Captain. So I don't think the entire, um, increase there is just simply from one position. It has been spread out a little bit, as well points taken on some of the other stuff. I know Captain Moses did give us a response to your email

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yesterday. Captain, if you - do you want to come down and respond to some of what Ms. Tedlock is saying?

Captain Aaron Moses, Wichita Police Department, stated I'll be happy to answer some of the more procedural high-level questions, and of course, Emily Hurst the director is here, and she can speak more on the shelter function. Regarding the non-labor funds, that's an important one to hit on. there's not been a reduction in non-labor funds. What we did at the police department holistically after Captain Cooley took over administrative services, is we looked at those non-labor funds organization-wide, and we moved them. So they're not gone. What we did is we moved them into a different pool so that we had better flexibility as an a- as an agency to be better stewards of taxpayer dollars, as we saw needs arise in other areas within the department. Having all of those funds in one place allows us to be more agile and allocate funds as needed to - to certain projects. so the movement of those funds does not mean that animal services is not going to receive the support and the funding that they need when there are improvements that need to be made. And Emily can speak to some of the improvements that are currently underway. I think it's also important that Emily can talk about what our - what our shelter is designed to do, the - the service that our shelter is designed to serve, versus a shelter like the Humane Society. I think that's important for people to understand. I'll let Emily speak about that. on the topic of the Captain what's being portrayed is not accurate. there was a captain in the chain of command for animal services always. That captain was the administrative services captain. That captain had other duties. We all do. there are 14 captains on the Wichita Police Department. We all do multiple things. I know many of you interact with me, and you know that I have many different jobs that I do. That's no different for this position. What Chief Sullivan did is he elevated what was a lieutenant position and changed it to a captain position. That captain worked at the facility full-time, and that allowed that captain at the facility to make those m- those large administrative decisions without having to come talk to a captain who worked at City Hall, who wasn't in the building at animal services, who didn't have a pulse on what was happening every day. So there was no dedicated captain to animal services. There was a captain over administrative services that oversaw, through the chain of command, animal services. Additionally, creating a dedicated captain for animal services allowed us to onboard someone like Emily and assist with that transition as she got her feet under her and learned how our shelter operated. and she's made some incredible improvements at the shelter along with that captain. So I'll let her speak to those. But I wanted to answer those two high-level budgetary questions first.

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Emily Hurst, Animal Services Department, stated hi, guys. Did you have any specific questions regarding that before I move on to other things? Okay. I just want to talk about the changes internally within the shelter operations that I don't think the public gets to see quite as much. Just in relation, they talk about budget shifts and changes. As you guys know, the Wichita Animal Shelter has undergone a lot of changes in leadership after being transferred to the Wichita Police Department as they looked to navigate operating a place like that, and they built the new shelter campus with Kansas Humane Society. I think they started back in 2009. so a lot of changes happened actually under Captain Purcell, which were part of long-term plans. Thankfully, Captain Purcell and I did get to work with each other. He was the lieutenant at the time when I was at the Kansas Humane Society, and that's what actually spurred a lot of these projects. he was very receptive to what I had to say. working at the Kansas Humane Society and talking about some of the potential changes that we could have had at Wichita Animal Services. Just so we know, he worked on moving all of our shelter documents and operations and forms from paper files to electronic. That was a huge undertaking. Not only did it require lots of specific changes within our software but a massive change with staff training over seven days a week, 24-hour shifts, right? he installed new cleaning hardware so that we could provide the proper disinfectants to the shelter, which effectively reduced disease because animal diseases are a lot more complicated and you just can't use any cleaner, and we had to have a way to apply those. he also worked really diligently on cleaning up our data. so over the years with different leaders, the data changed a lot, and that doesn't allow you to have very transparent or accurate data. And so in- he began that process of implementing that system so that now we know that the numbers, what we - we are looking at, are correct and they're clear, and we know the intake types and the outcome types of what's happening with our animals in the shelter, which makes a huge difference. We just got Wi-Fi in the shelter last year. I know that's like crazy, but it's a big concrete building, and that has made a huge impact on overall operations and being able to work with the animals. That was step one of like a seven-year project so that we can implement other items in the actual care of our animals. and as you guys know the Internet and Wi-Fi in concrete buildings aren't always agreeable, so we're still having challenges, but we're working through it thanks to the IT department. the K-State's visit and report that was referenced, that was actually - I - when I was at the Kansas Humane Society I had - my vets had recommended the K-State Shelter Medicine Program. They have an entire program dedicated just to shelter veterinarians, which is a very specialized group. And so I was

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working with them and some other national shelter organizations. I invited them into the shelter at the Kansas Humane Society to be able to go to an overview of us. When Derek arrived, I shared with him what I learned what they provided, and Derek took it upon his own initiative. He started attending the shelter medicine classes at K-State, working with their program. He invited them to come and do an audit of the shelter so he could build - build his master plan of exactly what was being done. And so we have a lot of background projects and things that we've began. And then, of course, my onboarding, along with, um the administrative assistant that started four months ago, has allowed us to better prioritize, decide exactly what projects we're going to undertake, which is a lot, and it is a many multi-year plan that we can talk about in our workshop a bit more. But I feel like we've been able to make a lot of progress. We've held several staff training days. The staff are hungry and excited for change and we're looking to s- forward to the progress that we can make. Any questions?

Council Member Hoheisel stated yeah, just a couple. I mean, I'm reading the email here. It looks like we're currently collecting quotes for pressure washers and currently collecting quotes for new blankets toys, being trained on the radios. I am curious, whenever the workshop does come up you - you talk about long-term projects.

Emily Hurst, Animal Services Department, stated yeah.

Council Member Hoheisel stated so those will be presented at the workshop?

Emily Hurst, Animal Services Department, stated yeah, I sure can.

Council Member Hoheisel stated anything that can possibly get into the CIP to help save the lives of animals and what we can do to make sure that they have just a good quality of life while they are in the shelter. So any of that, please make sure to include that in the workshop coming up. You talk a little bit about the volunteer program. That that's something we do have to eventually get to. There's some other stuff in the air right now that we're trying to clear before we get that. can you give a little update on that one?

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Emily Hurst, Animal Services Department, stated right. So I always like to not assume that I know what's best for an organization right when I hop in. I want to understand it a little bit more. I've run volunteer programs for the last 15 years of my career, so I do have a lot of experience with it as well as in the animal shelter volunteers, which is just a different breed because you're dealing with live animals. in - in - in my analysis of the current operations at the Wichita Animal Services, volunteers is something that we want to explore. But I don't believe bringing volunteers into a system that is systematically changing drastically is going to be good for the animals or for the staff because it creates room for errors and not taking care of the animals first. so I want to - I really want to make sure that we have a solid foundation so we can bring volunteers in so that they get properly trained.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you. also, last question here. what's the employment status out there? You have - I think we talked last time and you said that you were just about full as far as maybe the animal control officer? I'm sorry. My memory is....

Emily Hurst, Animal Services Department, stated I am fully staffed as of this week. For the first time in forever. So it's very exciting. our - were - our kennel t- techs were fully staffed about a month ago, and so they're currently in training. they're still of great help, and it's going to be really exciting to see the things we can do with that fully staffed. And then my last ACO position started last week, and so hopefully everybody sticks around and works out well and we can keep going from there.

Council Member Hoheisel stated do you think combining the kennel tech positions to full-time was effective as far as keeping kennel techs around?

Emily Hurst, Animal Services Department, stated absolutely. I don't think that - those positions - they were never able to hold on to anybody for very long, and the people - people that they were able to attract just - it wasn't a lot of consistency. So having full-time staff there that are able to fully be a part of the team seems to make a difference, both in attracting quality employees and retaining them.

Council Member Hoheisel stated okay. Do we have a date for the workshop yet? October? Okay. All right. I think there's a couple more questions up here.

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Emily Hurst, Animal Services Department, stated absolutely. And just to clarify, you mentioned the radios. The staff have a- are all - always been trained on radios. I requested cell phones for the staff members, which the WPD granted, and we just completed cell phone training on those. That's part of a multi-fold p- project to make improvements with our software, photos of the animals, and contacts with getting a hold of owners in the field. Yeah.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you, Mayor. My question is for Captain Moses. You mentioned a little bit about and I'm sorry if I just missed this. I just need you to explain it a little bit more. Transferring money from what bucket to what bucket, and what was that for, and who made those decisions, and why?

Captain Aaron Moses, Wichita Police Department, stated yeah, so what we did is we looked at our agency as a whole, and the m- a lot of those non-labor funds, I think training, infrastructure, things like that equipment, we pooled all of that money in one place under the administrative services captain. he - he oversees sort of our budget process and our budget implementation process for the chief, so he has his pulse on where funds need to be allocated, including animal services. So those - those funds were not cut. What we did is we looked at a way to be more efficient and be better stewards of taxpayer dollars because what we found is we would have, you know, a one-off purchase here for something that someone somewhere else in the department also was looking to purchase, and we can obviously purchase more things at once. Same thing, typically, you can get lower costs. it's also allowed us to work very diligently on Chief Sullivan's initiative to make sure we're a very well-trained department. That was a big push for that too, is to pool those funds and make sure we're equitably allocating training funds as well.

Janice Thacker stated good morning, Mayor and council members. My name is Janice Thacker and I live at 1537 North Yale Boulevard, and I'm here today to speak for our organization, Art That Touches Your Heart. I brought my graduation gown because with school started, graduation is always the prime goal. We've incorporated this gown with family pictures to connect students to who helped them get there. Sometimes they think they made it there by themselves. Now, as you know, art has changed. It used to be in the museum or in homes, and now it's on buildings, grain elevators, and thanks to Go Create,

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now I have pictures on my gown. So this is worn at graduation, but it's only - we use black thread for the top, and we use a tan thread for the inside so that my parents are on here, my friends, people that have helped me along the way, the sorority. So all of it ties together to not only help them have a connection to the family, but have them connection to Wichita. Art can, in fact, help stop violence, help students build self-esteem, create a family understanding because art is a teacher without words. Are there any questions? Thank you.

II) [CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 12](#)**Motion:**

**Mayor Wu moved to** approve Consent Agenda items 1 through 12.

Motion carried 7 to 0

COUNCIL BUSINESSIII) [BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS](#)1.) [Board of Bids and Contracts dated August 18, 2025.](#)

Attachment: [08-25-2025 Board of Bids.pdf](#)

Josh Lauber, Finance Department, reviewed the item.

**Motion:**

**Mayor Wu moved to** receive and file report, approve the contracts and authorize the necessary signatures.

Motion carried 7 to 0



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IV) PETITIONS FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

1.) Petitions for Public Improvements

Attachment: [PFPI.docx](#)

Attachment: [Young 2nd.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-384 Phase 1 Water Improvements Young 2nd Addition WDS 022295.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-385 Phase 2 Water Improvements Young 2nd Addition WDS 022296.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-386 Phase 3 Water Improvements Young 2nd Addition WDS 022297.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-387 Collector Water Improvements Young 2nd Addition WDS 022298.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-388 Storm Water Drain No. 553 Young 2nd Addition SWD #553 085626.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-389 Phase 1 Storm Water Sewer No. 823 Young 2nd Addition SWS #823 085627.docx](#)

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Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-390 Phase 2 Storm Water Sewer No. 824 Young 2nd Addition SWS #824 085628.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-391 Phase 1 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Young 2nd Addition SS 018890.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-392 Phase 2 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Young 2nd Addition SS 022299.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-393 Phase 3 Sanitary Sewer Improvements Young 2nd Addition SS 022300.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-394 Phase 1 Paving Improvements Young 2nd Addition PV 086176.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-395 Phase 2 Paving Improvements Young 2nd Addition PV 086177.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-396 Collector Paving Improvements Young 2nd Addition PV 086179.docx](#)

Paul Gunzelman, Public Works & Utilities Department, reviewed the item.

Mayor Wu stated and Paul, just as a reminder, this is 100% specials?

Paul Gunzelman, Public Works & Utilities Department, stated yes that is correct.

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**Motion:**

**Mayor Wu moved to** approve the new petitions and budgets, adopt the new resolutions, and authorize the necessary signatures.

Motion carried 7 to 0

V) UNFINISHED COUNCIL BUSINESS

VI) NEW COUNCIL BUSINESS

1.) [Revenue Neutral Rate: Self Supported Municipal Improvement District 2026 Budget](#)

Council Member Hoheisel stated City Manager Robert Layton stated

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-1.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-397 Downtown Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District.docx](#)

Mark Manning, Finance Department, reviewed the item.

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, reviewed the item.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. have you had any property owners within the SSMID reach out hesitant to have the - the increase in the mill levy?

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Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated no, we've had conversations with all of our I guess, properties with significant holdings in the district who would see the biggest impact of the mill levy increase and walked through what additional services they'll receive and what impact it'll have on their - on their finances, and we have not received any opposition.

Council Member Tuttle stated Council Member Hoheisel stole my question. I was going to see what kind of community engagement you've had, and what interaction with community members. I also want to make a comment. Thank you for being here Heather, and thank you for all you're doing. You're just a delight and just a true blessing not only to the Downtown Wichita but also to our community. It has been a pleasure to get to know you. I am going to put in a shameless plug for you. I participated in the clean up this spring. It was a great opportunity and Jennifer in Legal and I ran around with scrapers and got off stickers and painted things. You're having another one September 12th from 9:00 to noon if anyone wants to sign up. It was just a great opportunity, not only to put in some sweat equity for our downtown, but to interact with people who were downtown on a Saturday morning while we were doing it and, you know, got questions of, "Hey, what's going on?" So just a great idea, and I think this is a really interesting and exciting program. So thank you.

Council Member Ballard stepped away briefly.

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated thank you very much. And we did plan this fall clean-up for Friday to help engage with members of our business community who may not have an opportunity to come downtown on the weekend.

Mayor Wu stated thank you, Heather. Here are multiple questions I have for you. I wanted to know how the ambassadors will be selected in this program.

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated sure. So in the pilot program, you know, we've been we hired in-house. For the for the full-time program, we've talked with national providers who work in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and found that they can provide services much more efficiently. so we would contract with one of these third-party groups. there are

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a couple national providers, and they kind of handle all of the administrative components of the program. so they would - they would handle posting the position. we would write the job description in partnership with them to meet the needs of our community, and then we would sit in on interviews and make sure that we're hiring you know, the best people available for the job.

Mayor Wu stated so what types of skills and talents does this individual have to have, and how will they be compensated?

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated they have to love downtown. you know, one of the questions that we ask in every interview is "What are your favorite places downtown and why, and where do you take your friends and family downtown?" If they don't have answers to that question, they're not a fit. we want to make sure that people already, you know, have an appreciation for and - and passion for the core of our City. in terms of compensation, you know, this is about a \$45,000-a-year position with full benefits.

Mayor Wu stated how many FTEs do you expect to have?

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated four FTEs at the staff level, and then at the management level, one.

Mayor Wu stated I would highly encourage maybe an idea that I saw helping some of our individuals who are staying at Second Light, our individuals facing homelessness, have opportunities to also help clean. I know that there are other cities that have done that. What have you guys found in terms of engaging our population that is homeless?

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated one thing that we've made sure to do is post on every job description that people with a criminal record are welcome to apply. we have had applications with people who meet that criteria or that criterion. it's important to us to you know, help build skills and also provide second chances for people who may have faced

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challenges earlier in their career. so if - if we have residents of Second Light who would be interested in the position, we would certainly encourage them to apply regardless of their criminal background.

Mayor Wu stated have the ambassadors connected individuals facing homelessness with Second Light or are you just simply reporting homeless encampments?

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated we are engaging directly with the HOT team and encouraging those connections with our experts.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. when you're talking about some of the clean-up projects and whatnot, have you engaged members of the community who are active in certain areas to maybe collaborate and cooperate and schedule some times to do the clean-ups of some of our public places around downtown?

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated by members of the community, w- I'm not sure which groups you're referring to.

Council Member Hoheisel stated well, we have volunteer groups that water along Douglas, for example, water the flowers, we have some groups do park clean-ups just groups like that.

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated yes, we've engaged with the United Way through their volunteer platform, as well as with members of Wichita Clean Streams.

Mayor Wu stated a couple more questions. Do you foresee using some of the SSMID dollars to assist with the efforts at Second Light?

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated Second Light is located outside of the geographic boundary of the SSMID so unfortunately, these dollars are not eligible for direct application north of Central Ave.

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Mayor Wu stated Open Door is within the SSMID.

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated Oh, I'm sorry. Open Door.

Mayor Wu stated No, I did ask about Second Light. So my second question following up to that is, what about Open Door, which is within the SSMID?

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated again, we're happy to collaborate with organizations that have referrals of staff members or to, you know, refer individuals who may be in need of services to our local providers.

Mayor Wu stated and this is a follow-up question to Council Member Hoheisel. I know that in your budget you do talk about flowers on Douglas. However, there are volunteer groups that are not doing this with any taxpayer dollars, including a group with Celeste Reset and the Sister Cities. I wanted to know how will you be engaging with those nonprofits or those groups?

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated we're always happy to work with community partners. flowers on Douglas, what's represented in our budget is half the cost of that program. the remaining cost is fully fundraised by community members.

Mayor Wu stated I know that this is an increase just specific to the property owners in the downtown area, so it will not be other districts in the community. Can you again, explain the boundaries so that people understand this is simply one area that these property owners are asking also for clean and safe streets?

Heather Schroeder, Visit Wichita, stated sure. So when the - when the SSMID was instituted in 2002, the geographic boundaries that were defined for that area were the Arkansas River on the west Kellogg Street to the south, Washington to the east, and Central

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Ave. to the north.

Mayor Wu stated I do have one request. I know that this is an increase, again, in the SSMID and it is for a Clean and Safe Program. My request is that there are two reports a year about the progress of Clean and Safe. I think the public deserves to know how those dollars are being spent, and what - just like you gave in the pilot program, I'd like to see progress reports twice a year.

Celeste Racette stated good morning. Celeste Racette, Wichita native. I appreciate the comments that were made. Council Member Hoheisel, we have not been contacted about this. Mayor Wu, you're correct. Wichita's Sister Cities and Save Century II adopted a large section of deserted flowerbeds around the Joan of Arc statue. We also adopted the circular flowerbeds going up to Century II along Tlalnepantla Drive, which is named after our Mexico sister City. And Heroes - we received the Lowe's Home Improvement Heroes Project about three years ago, which was \$15,000, and we had 60 volunteers and 1,000 flowers, and we spent countless hours planting flowers and mulching A. Price Woodard Park. To my dismay, all of this work we did, there has been no irrigation all summer. None. So the flowers that we planted in A. Price Woodard Park, which, as you know, is named after our first black mayor of Wichita. He was a great man. My father knew him. That park has trash, graffiti. It looks appalling, and we've had meetings with Reggie Davidson and Gary Farris to find out why. Trees have been cut down, tree stumps are left, trash in all the flowerbeds, and we're supposed to have a follow-up meeting. So even graffiti, as we went to Music Theater of Wichita on Saturday, was still prominent on the backside of the restrooms down there, Price Woodard as you come across the Douglas Bridge. It's appalling. And so as we do what little we can with none of the funding that this group receives, we were working Saturday to plant flowers, and here came visitors to Wichita and saw me and my husband, though we also had volunteers from Sister Cities planting flowers, too, and they commented on the beauty of the flowerbeds in front of 223 South Main, where the Joan of Arc statue is. And I let them know we do this on our own. The City doesn't give us funds. We don't get help. We don't even get irrigation turned on, and what we do sometimes turns into disaster. And so, Councilman Johnston, they're in your district some of them were in your district. You're going to be getting an email where they're going to say thank you to us for the work we do. But back to this SSMID. So I appreciate your questions because the problem when we give money to private entities is I can't KORA them. I can't KORA to find out what was truly spent on irrigation, what was truly spent on flowers. It's like Visit Wichita. It's



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impossible to KORA a private entity. So my question to you is do all of the homeowners in the SSMID, and the boundaries were defined, like at Water Walk, do these people of these condos realize they're going to pay this increased levy, property tax levy? That's my first question. Two, I hope that these biannual reports you've requested, Mayor Wu, have details so that we don't get into a situation like we have with Visit Wichita, where salaries are exorbitant, or we don't RFP the work out and we get stuck time and time again using the same entity over and over again. So that's my second question. I want to see the detail in that biannual report. And three, why have we cut park staff when we used to have 158 people to barely 100 when we still have 5,000 acres of park space to take care of? Parks are the gateway to this great City. And it is so horrifying to go to Music Theater of Wichita to support the symphony, to go to concerts, and the first thing I see is gang graffiti that's been there over two weeks. Yes, I did go to the website. Yes, I did file a request to clean up the graffiti. Yes, I was told, "Oh, file a report, we'll fix it right away." And here we are two weeks later, and that's what I see when I go to Music Theater of Wichita crossing the Douglas Bridge. So I - while I applaud their efforts, because I do think the baskets are beautiful, Cindy Carnahan started that, and I've always given her kudos, there's a lot of us that work hard with no money, endless hours, and we see our work destroyed by lack of care and upkeep by the City of Wichita. So I ask you, could this \$500 million increase be spent on more staff for parks, more staff for street maintenance, or more staff for people who actually care about our City? That's my question and I'll put back to you today. But thank you for your thoughtful comments. I'll stand for questions.

Mayor Wu stated thank you, Celeste. First question before I go on to the board. City Manager Layton, I think Reggie responded specifically to A. Price Woodard. Can you give any updates regarding A. Price Woodard?

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated so as Celeste mentioned, we met her and her team out at the - the park to look at some of the concerns that they had that were there, and one of them was the sprinkler system being turned back on there. And we looked into that and found that there were some issues with some of the piping that were on site, so we're working with Public Works to have that repaired. one of the challenges we ran into is that the sprinkler system there is attached to the fountain which was one of the one - the items that were turned off during the Stage 2 drought restrictions. So we're

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working with them to do that, as well as working with volunteer groups to restore the space that's there, address some of the trash concerns that - that she mentioned as well.

Mayor Wu stated and the graffiti.

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated yes. So the graffiti is typically covered within 48 hours. Not sure why that particular one wasn't, but we have a team member out today checking.

Mayor Wu stated so graffiti is often removed within 48 hours? Is that correct?

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated that is correct. That's typically our window of time frame that we have someone out that address graffiti when it's reported.

Mayor Wu stated so this was reported two weeks ago and today this will be resolved. Is that correct?

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated that is correct.

Council Member Ballard stated thank you, Mayor. Reggie, just a couple questions. I know the irrigation, or I assume that irrigation and fountains have not been working and operating due to the drought. Is that something that the fountains will be on - turned on this year with changes that are possibly coming as far as water restrictions, or will it be next year?

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated so we actually Gary Janzen and I spoke yesterday to look at what our next steps will be with fountains. they actually manage the fountains through Public Works and we do the irrigation systems through Park. So as the restrictions are being removed, we'll look at what the options are with moving forward

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with getting the fountains back on board. one of the challenges is that we're getting towards the time of the year where we would start doing the winterization. So if we put the efforts into them now and didn't turn them off, we may end up planning to make sure they're prepared for next season.

Council Member Ballard stated Okay, great. That was one of my questions. could you speak to the stumps, just how you guys usually plant during one season and address stumps in another?

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated sure. So typically what we do is we - a lot of those are handled through our contractors that come down and do the stump removals. So once they're actually cut down, then we coordinate with the contractors that goes through and do in the particular zones when we have it done. So we normally do that in the October time frame and start looking at doing those stump removals.

Council Member Ballard stated okay. And last question is could you address some of Celeste's questions about Park staffing?

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated so we have some challenges with being able to fill some of our positions. It's gotten a whole lot better than what we have in the last few years, and we leverage the resources that we have currently along with working with volunteer groups like C- Celeste. And one of the things we're putting a - a big effort towards now is our Adopt-A-Park program. And we're looking at working at neighborhood associations and neighborhood groups to be able to get them connected with our park resources as well as volunteer support to help with some of the things that we need to have done at our parks.

Council Member Ballard stated do you think one of the main hurdles is wages or salary, or is there just not a lot of people applying because it's 300 degrees outside? Or, I mean, is there - is there a thing that can be helped without, you know, maybe that we could help with?

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Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated I think it's a combination of both. one of the challenges we have is that, sometimes we get in staff that gets in and get the experience, and then they're able to go to the private sector that they may be - to get paid more. So we're looking at ways at how we can transition some of our seasonal employees that we have to come in, and then hire them on to be able to work. we had one young man that I spoke with this week when I was out and about in the park that did a an internship program in Hayesville, and we were able to hire him on as a full-time staff. So we're looking at ways, we're doing that, we're working with the school district, and then other entities in the community that may not have full-time positions that we can transition to work with us.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you. Reggie, I have a few questions for you, and then I might have a few questions for Bob as well. So I'm looking at probably all the parks within this area. It looks like Maple Grove or the Mayor's Maple Grove, Heritage Square, Naftzger, A. Price Woodard, Finlay Ross, and Chester Lewis. Would there be any other ones at the top of your head?

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated those are the main ones that I can think of as well, not anything else I can think of at the top of my head.

Council Member Glasscock stated regarding the bathrooms by A. Price Woodard Park I know that I was doing a art installation walk on the West Bank from all the areas that we're looking at e- establishing some of the art installations in the future on the West Bank. You could see the dilapidated bathroom. When was the last time that was open now that there is the Portland Loo that's near that facility, too, do we have plans to just demolish that building? And when was the last time that it was used?

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated it hasn't been open, I would say, probably within I don't know specifically because Public Works normally manage with opening and closing those particular ones, but I would say within the last year. one of the challenges we have with that particular location, a lot of the utilities that operate the electrical components in that area is located in that same site. So we've been exploring options and seeing how we can put a separate structure to protect that area, and then look

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at whether we demolish that since it's not something that's being currently used since we have another option in the park.

Council Member Glasscock stated Okay. The last two questions I really have for you. regarding, and this is more of a comment, the graffiti that's covered, I often see it really doesn't match the building, and we just paint over it with white and it doesn't - doesn't necessarily look any better. We might remove the graffiti tags but it doesn't look better. So I don't know how we curb that in the future, if we s- use more graffiti resistant paint instead of just going over, but that's more of a comment less of a question. And then this morning, I was out running and noticed two of the water fountains - I haven't reported this to the app, so this is me just saying it now. Two of the water fountains weren't working and just want to make sure that all the amenities in our parks are actively working. One was at Naftzger Park wasn't on this morning, and there was another one right by the Keeper that wasn't on as well. and I know that seems to be a regular occurrence, but if we have these amenities, people count on these amenities, I was counting on them when running based on my breaks and they weren't working, and so just wanted to make note of that as well.

Reggie Davidson, Park & Recreation Department, stated sure. And - and just a comment on that. Typically, the way that we are aware when those items aren't working is through See, Click, and Fix. So we try to encourage the communities to report it there. And that gives us a time to be able to time, date stamp, once we receive it, so that we can hold our c- team members accountable once we address it.

Council Member Glasscock stated okay. these would be questions more for (Bob) or for someone with a SSMID as well. regarding the money that the SSMID levies, that money has to be spent within the SSMID as well?

City Manager Robert Layton stated yes, that's my understanding.

Council Member Glasscock stated and then regarding communication with residents, just like we communicate regarding the Revenue Neutral for the larger ex- exceeding of Revenue Neutral, it's the same way you submit it to the clerk, the clerk sends out notices to owners, has to be published in the Eagle twice, correct?

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City Manager Robert Layton stated plus everyone in the area should have received a written notice, all the property owners.

Council Member Glasscock stated so any property owner in the SSMID would have received a written notice that they could have brought today to also express interest.

City Manager Robert Layton stated right.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. Bob or Mark is there a different level of oversight on something like this compared to Visit Wichita? seeing how this is taxes directly coming out of a certain location and going to an organization.

City Manager Robert Layton stated Mark, help me. You have to approve the SSMID budget every year. So yes, there is I would say a higher level of accountability to the council because of that. Is that - yeah.

Council Member Hoheisel stated do we get a line item breakdown of how they utilize the funding?

City Manager Robert Layton stated I'm not sure to what kind of detail level, but it's Mark.

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated yes, Council Member. They do not submit that level of line item detail to this to us. I don't know that we've asked for it. they typically, you know, they have a relationship with the council where they present their requests each year, and they present outcomes to you in the letter that they present to you typically in May, and that's the time that they provide you their detailed budget for the prior year, which Heather showed on the screen today. Again, I don't know that we have asked them for any financial report specifically related to that. We treat them like we would any other contractor. We provide them, the amount that we've agreed to and we expect them to produce the outcomes based on that contractual relationship.

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Council Member Hoheisel stated okay. I appreciate that. That might be something that we look into here in the next year or so, just to give extra transparency to the taxpayers, so I appreciate that.

Mayor Wu stated I will follow up to Council Member Hoheisel's comment. I don't want to just look at it. I want to ask for it, so I'm going to ask staff to directly ask for more detail regarding the SSMID. again, I want to see line item information regarding salaries and then I still want to see a public twice-a-year open report about the Clean and Safe Program, because again, \$364,656 will go to a new Clean and Safe Program that is supposed to help with downtown Wichita become that destination location that we want, and so I want to see those results. And so those are two requests, one on a more detailed level that the City staff will receive, and then one that is public regarding the results of Clean and Safe twice-a-year.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. Just to add to that, there are three council members that serve on the partnership board downtown, so we actually see those, District 1, District 6, and I believe District 4, or the third - the third district rotates, but we actually see those numbers, so that might be something we can also just share with the council, and we get those regularly at the meetings.

Mayor Wu stated again, I would like finance to receive that information so that that is, again, KORAabled if individuals in the community want to see greater detail. With that we'll continue with public comment.

Jan Manlove stated Jan Manlove. I just wanted to comment. You were talking about the maintenance of parks, and I don't know if anybody's driven down Maple by the Equity Ballpark Stadium. The - all the beds around that ballpark are horrendously overgrown with weeds. it is embarrassing to me as a citizen of Sedgwick County to have our tourist attractions look like the City doesn't care. I don't know whether that's a ballpark. I tried to - I left a message with the ballpark. I've contacted Equity Bank and commented that the building that they have their name on doesn't look very nice to visitors to that facility. So I

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just wanted to bring Equity Ballpark Stadium up if that's a City responsibility. I never got an answer from the ballpark to see if it was theirs.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you. Quick question, Jan. Did you say it was on the Maple Street portion?

Jan Manlove stated correct. Like around the Equity sign at Central and Sycamore, and then down Maple along the parking lot and along the building in the tree plantings.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you. I'll have a few questions for staff. Mr. Manager, would that be with our - would we be in charge of the maintenance for that or would that be Equity Bank Park?

City Manager Robert Layton stated My recollection is they're responsible for it but we'll work through it with them.

Council Member Glasscock stated okay. Well, Jan, we'll make sure that we reach out to Equity Bank Park. I'll do that as well. I know that I had messaged the manager earlier last week about the maintenance of the beds down Douglas and that those are not being maintained right now, and I know that we have a plan to get those spruced up in the next month. So hopefully Douglas will also be maintained from McLean to Meridian.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you, Mayor. Jan, I went to the game Friday night, and I walked by that, and I took pictures of it to turn it in, and it's two to three feet tall. it's just ridiculous and all the way down the sidewalk. So yeah, I - I did - took pictures and I will turn those in. So we'll find out. Thank you.

Janice Thacker stated Janice Thacker back with my graduation robe. I wanted to talk - speak about art and supporting the arts. right now we're trying to do Ruby's Culture Campus, and they're shipping containers at 14th - 13th and Green, and we've been having events for the community. We have a Halloween event, we have student exhibits, student art there. And



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then at 13th and Erie, we have a VP. There are two letters and it's a free photo op for the City. You stand in the middle, and you become the I in the VIP. So yesterday, we had a memorial service for (Anthony Gunther), who was hit by a car trying to cross the street. This was in 2017, but it's taken that long to pull - I had to first find the mom, which took seven years, and then to have (Connie Demps) constructed the sculpture, Wichita State University, did the drawings so the City could approve installation, and we had bought the land. So my point is when we all work together as a community, and the arts, I had said before, is an instant teacher, then we all have better results. My other comment is about painting the buildings dark colors. The dark colors draw the sun in and makes the buildings hotter, so if you want to cool the climate for Wichita, you need to paint them white. Thank you. Any questions?

Mayor Wu stated thank you. Thank you. We'll continue with public comment. I see none. I close public comment and bring it back to the bench.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. just want to say I am in support of the increase. This pilot has been a good one. I remember receiving a phone call when this got started about Pure Cities and doing the same type of thing and seeing the type of work that's happened downtown has been great. hearing the report out at our meeting also was great, but I think this is a really good thing. Some of the criticisms that we've heard today, this program actually would help with addressing some of those sooner. this actually part of it was talked about some years ago, 2018 or so. '18 or '19, when the Douglas Design District had talked about doing some of the same work to clean up Douglas and to address some of these issues. So it's something that has been talked about for a while. This pilot, I think, was successful. I'm looking forward to seeing this enacted in perpetuity downtown. So I'll be supportive today.

Mayor Wu stated I'll just add a couple comments. First I would like to thank Downtown Wichita for coming up with the Clean and Safe Program. More specifically, I want to thank Dean who is part of the Clean and Safe pilot program. I know that Dean is retired from the City of Wichita and chose to come back to work and help connect people in the downtown area with a friendly face and also clean up downtown. And I see the results and I think that is exactly what we need. We need a clean and safe so that the investments that have been made downtown will continue. As a matter of fact, 30 minutes ago, the last beam of the

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\$300 million Bio Medical Campus was just raised. So it is a signal that this community is making investments in the core which is everyone's backyard, as has been mentioned multiple times. I want to make sure that we are good partners. And that includes when there are community members who care, like Cindy Carnahan who started with those flowers. With Celeste and her team at Save Century II, sister cities. We want to be good partners so I would highly encourage the open communication between the non-profits or groups that are very active in helping beautify downtown. Because again, this is a, they are doing a Clean and Safe Program out of the kindness of their heart so I want them to be able to be apart of the Clean and Safe Program together. I know this investment is a \$364,000 investment so I want to make sure that again those dollars are being spent on Clean and Safe initiatives in the downtown SSMID core. Again, it's the property owners of just that area. I am going to be supportive of this and I hope we will get the next report in six months when it is up and running and we get good results of people seeing that their parks and the flower beds, especially in the SSMID are looking beautiful and people are invited to come downtown.

***Motion:***

***Mayor Wu moved to*** close the public hearing record, approve the resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate for the Self Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID), and conclude the public hearing, and authorize the necessary signatures.

Motion failed to

2.) [Revenue Neutral Rate: City of Wichita 2026 Proposed Budget](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-2.docx](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-398 Property Tax Rate Exceeding The Revenue Neutral Rate.docx](#)

Mark Manning, Finance Department, reviewed the item.

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Council Member Hoheisel stepped away briefly.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. Mark, one quick question. You briefly hit on it, that the manager's proposed budget reduces the mill levy by 0.5. Confirming that this is the first time in more than three decades that is the case?

Council Member Ballard stepped away briefly.

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated well, actually I was going to talk about that in the next PowerPoint, but yes, sir. I did some research on that, and the short version is for the last 31 years, we have adopted budgets with the mill levy exactly the same as the prior year. So this will be the first time we've deviated from that policy and actually adopted a budget with a reduced mill levy rate. Now, if you really want the background, the last time that the mill levy rate actually decreased based on policy action in the City aside from reappraisal 35 years ago, which kind of messed with our mill levy a little bit, was actually in 1986. And you may recall that is the year after the City supported the countywide sales tax. We used our - half of our portion of the countywide sales tax to reduce our City mill levy. That was in 1986. So.

Council Member Glasscock stated for context to everybody listening, I was not born yet the last time the City reduced the mill levy and we codified that on July 15 that guaranteed the reduction of the 0.5 because that is what we sent to the state, correct?

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated yes, yes. You do not have the flexibility to increase the mill levy over what we set as the maximum amount, and that maximum amount is a reduction of one half. You could go even lower, I suppose, but you could not go any higher.

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Council Member Glasscock stated thank you for your work on this. Thanks to the manager for proposing the budget with a reduction as well. So I appreciate all the answers to the questions.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. I appreciate the presentation, Mark. Just a quick question. Since 1986, off the top, do you think our population has increased?

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated yes, sir. I would guess that it has increased quite a bit.

Council Member Johnson stated okay. Just wondering. I mean, we're reducing the mill levy. We have a lot of needs in the City, and our population has increased, and some investments need to be made. But I just wanted to ask that.

Mayor Wu stated Mark, one last question. this is something I brought up last year, and it still is of concern. if you go to slide - back to slide number 42 even if you levied \$1 more, you would be exceeding revenue neutral. and we all know that at the very least, even inflation would bring that number up.

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated yes, ma'am.

Mayor Wu stated can you explain the challenge of a budget that - one that I wanted, which is one that only took into account new construction and inflation? roughly, what's that percentage versus this one? What's that percentage?

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated yes, ma'am. We looked at that earlier. if you consider an inflation rate of around 3%, new construction varies in the City somewhere between 1% and 2%. so, we would probably use an average of about 1.5%, which is to say that we would capture about 4.5% of assessed valuation growth if we chose to go with that methodology. so, the the proposed budget actually - our total assessed valuation from Sedgwick County that we received in July, our valuation increased about 8.7%. Again, we did not capture all of that growth by reducing the mill levy by one half. the equivalent

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amount of growth that we would be capturing by reducing the mill levy by one half is approximately 7% of that growth. again, if we went with the proposal to only capture inflation and new construction you'd be closer to about 4.5% growth, and that would be taxes levied at somewhere in the neighborhood of \$171.5 million or so which would be what, about four - about \$4 million less than what's in the proposed budget.

Mayor Wu stated and that would have been an even greater challenge the \$4 million to find in reducing services. So, therefore, it was very difficult to come up with a budget that did that. Can I ask the City Manager what are steps, though, that we are, as a City, taking to try to still keep services but also be more efficient?

City Manager Robert Layton stated Mayor, great question, and that actually is going to be addressed in the next PowerPoint. But quickly recognizing the concerns about the - what we were facing for '26 and '27 and - and into the future, Council asked us to start some initiatives early. And so in '25, we had a - a number of projects and program changes that we analyzed and then have implemented or are in the process of implementing. One of the larger ones is the centralization of our financial services, and that will lead to significant administrative savings. We also have tried to right-size some of our activities in street maintenance. Mark, help me. I think we had some, we also trimmed park maintenance. And that's right, made significant changes in court to recognize changes in activity levels in the court system. So those are some of the bigger projects that we took on in order, again, to be able to get us to the point where we had a balanced budget for '26.

Mayor Wu stated It still gives me concern knowing that we heard from individuals regarding the 8.7% increase. And while this one is a reduction, it's still an increase. and so I will just challenge staff to, again, next year during the next budget cycle, to also consider these more conservative increases that are responsible and in line with simply inflation and new construction as another challenge for next year. I see no further comments from the board. We will now open it up for public comment. I see no public comment. We'll bring it back to the bench. No comments from the bench. his one gave me a little bit of pause. again, because I am the one who asked for a budget that only captured construction and inflation, and that would have been about 4.5% versus the 7% that we're capturing. So with that, I will not be able to move this motion. So I will see if there are other council members who would like to do that.

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**Motion:**

**Vice Mayor Johnston moved to** to close the public hearing record, approve the resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate for the City of Wichita, and conclude the public hearing, and authorize the necessary signatures.

Motion carried 7 to 0

Mayor Wu stated thank you, Vice Mayor Johnston, for moving that item. I am very glad to see that under the leadership of Mark Manning and several others on this bench, this is a mill levy reduction, but still an increase for the rest of our community. So it's historic that we are reducing the mill levy, and we are headed in the right direction, but we still need to continue in that direction because we will be facing a budget deficit in the coming years.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. Just to add to the conversation for everyone, the average Wichitan is seeing a benefit of \$14, and government will have to try to find a way to maintain or improve services going forward. And that is a reduction of millions of dollars while you get a benefit of \$14 for the average Wichitan. So continue to keep that in mind as this goes forward and you engage with the council in future years on the budget.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated thank you, Mayor. I'd also say that we are investing heavily in public safety. both the fire department, we've retained the for- 42 positions that were grant funded, and they'll - they'll be paid for in this budget. we've also invested in police salaries, which has led to full police recruiting classes and fire recruiting classes, too. So we're invested. The - the citizens have also made it known that they want better streets, and we're putting more money in the streets. So that's - that's where this increase is going, is to public safety and streets. So this is what people said they wanted. until they change their mind we will fund that.

Council Member Glasscock stated the number one thing I hear from residents when I go and talk to people is that property taxes are quite literally taxing people out of their homes. And this savings is a savings in their property taxes. I think everybody at this bench needs to

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realize this is not our money. This is not the City of Wichita's institution's money. This is the taxpayer dollars. And I am very supportive of the historic property tax decrease that we're looking at today.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. I definitely agree we should recognize that. I own property. I pay property tax as well, but, again, those of us in the core who look to these services to help them when we had our windstorm and these branches, all of these things that we could be providing, we're going to see a reduction in governmental service because of that large impact to the budget. And, again, \$14, \$1 something a month versus what you get out of investing in government, I think is - it's a big deal. Libraries, parks, all of these things that we can make these strategic investments in that the community asked us for. And while some of us here cut, cut, cut, I've not heard that. Most of the people I've talked to in my district and even out of my district are supportive of maintaining or increasing our mill levy. So there are opposing views out there. We all have our own views. But, again, as I continue to talk about the impact to service levels could be drastic in future years if we continue to go down this path. We cannot cut our way into having a great City. What we can do is make strategic investments in the things that provide the best services for folks in our community. And that's what I think we should do.

Council Member Hoheisel stated thank you, Mayor. Let me this is a difficult one because I do hear from a lot of people about the need for additional services. I also know that there's a lot of people in my district who are making it by the skin of their teeth right now as is. there are better ways, and if we move forward in the future at looking at any other tax reductions, to make it targeted and to make it more impactful for people. Again, I bring up the Homestead Tax Relief. Imagine the state program on that. And that could result in up to \$250 by our finance department's estimations for seniors who need this. So let - let's be smart and strategic about aiming any future tax decreases to people who really need it and to people who it could really help. And in a way that is meaningful. again, it's - it's difficult to - to govern. This is definitely something I've learned over the last four years just how difficult it is because you have to balance a lot of different interests up here. But again, let's - let's be smart about it in the future about how we can meaningfully impact people's lives.

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Vice Mayor Johnston stated you know, District 5 has the least amount of crime in the City. We also have probably the least amount of police officers in the City. We should have a good core area. We should spend money on core area. But District 5, we are supporting the core area the taxes we pay. So Councilman Johnson, you mentioned that the population is less. I will challenge that and say as the City spreads out, we have more tax revenue with more people that do support the core area. So it's important that we don't end up like a St. Louis or somewhere where they haven't captured that growth in the area to support the core. So I'm for that. But we've also got to find a different way to fund the City other than relying primarily on property taxes. that's why we need to have a discussion about possibly a City-wide sales tax and cash fund some of our public safety infrastructure like fire and police stations and directly reduce the mill levy. So I think that would accomplish a lot reduce our debt load for the City, and would also reduce the burden of - of tax of homeowners on the - on the property tax.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Vice Mayor. Thank you, Mayor. Just to clarify, I mentioned to Mark, my question was about if our population had increased since '86. So I'm 39. That was the year I was born in. So in the last 39 years, has our population increased? And he indicated it did. I know that we've went through a period of time where our City spread farther east and west. it's always easier to develop green field than in the core. but with that, anytime we talk about how much a district pays in property tax, it gets a little odd to me because, of course, wealthier areas are going to pay more. And if some of that's concentrated in certain parts of the City, you'll see those numbers higher than anywhere else. I personally don't give a lot of weight to that because everyone who owns property will pay a property tax. One of the things that was very interesting to me as we talk about this investment of the people's money when we did City to City San Antonio 2019, the council member that represented the wealthiest district in San Antonio began to talk to us about the importance of investing back into the lower income areas. And although his district was taxed more, they felt, I mean, it was an equal rate, but they paid more because they owned more, they saw benefits in the community because of those strategic investments. Is it a tough conversation to have? Yes. No one wants to pay more in taxes. But is it something that benefits people when you put more money into public works, when you put more money in the arts, when you put more money in the parks? Your City transforms, and it really makes a real impact. And that investment is for the people of that community, not for outside folks. And you can see that in these different spaces. Even here in Wichita, again, the investments we've made over the years, we're seeing crime rates go



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down. There may be a trend of things that we see in the news, but overall, that's down. It's because of all the working parts of the investments from public safety as far as law enforcement, but also public safety and parks and arts and everything else we're doing. All the things that we continue to talk about that are important are impacted by these investments. And as we continue to say we're going to cut the budget, then we have to start prioritizing things a little differently. And we'll get to a point, and I always bring this up about the '90s, when the federal government funded weed and seed, a lot of great things were happening. People were empowered. Young people had opportunities. These programs were funded, and then they pulled that away. And municipalities throughout the country didn't all keep up those programs and support. The private sector didn't fund that. So then you see crime trends start to change and shift back to what they were. Right now, we are making some really good investments in these different things, the things that we all care about. We hear public safety from this bench. Everyone talks about public safety. Some people talk about that only fire and police. Again, it's more than that. But if we begin to say we're just going to start cutting, then we start pitting fire, police, public works versus parks versus arts. And that's going to be something that I think future councils are going to struggle with. But again, in these different cities, San Antonio, other spaces where the council members of these wealthy areas also understand that these investments benefit everyone, it may not be that. When it comes to the point you made about law enforcement, there's parts of District 1 where people have told the chief they never see an officer. They're out there. They're riding around going from call to call to call. You may not see them sitting there. But they really police this community about the same. There's probably a few more in the core because population's a little denser. But those officers are out there. And if people only feel safe when they see that, then again, we're going to have these different budget discussions going forward about does one department get so much more than these others that all contribute to public safety as a whole. So the point I've just continued to make today, and I'll probably say it again on the next item, is as we look at these historic decisions, one that gives you another \$14 in your pocket it's going to impact future investment in the things that you care about as a taxpayer. So my opinion doesn't matter up here after a few months. But the things that you care about, that you want to see invested in, that are important to you, it's going to come up in a few years as this budget continues to get cut. So that \$14 may become \$20 at some point. And that's great. Half a tank of gas, one drink at Starbucks. Or if you go to another business, you might get two drinks. But your benefit and the services that you may receive from the City of Wichita might be impacted more greatly. And I think that's something that people just need to consider. It's not just one side that we're hearing from that just wants to cut and cut and cut. Some people who say

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that don't understand 80% of our budget is salary, so we're talking about cutting people. And when we begin to have those different conversations and we talk about the service lows, the people who continue to say they want their streets swept but it hasn't happened in a while, when people say they want new playground equipment but it hasn't happened in a while, we can start looking at the budget. And as we continue to cut, yeah, we feel good and government's reducing our tax burden, but also where are those investments happening? And those investments don't always happen in the areas we want them to. They happen in different areas. So I just want to continue to highlight and make that point, and I hope the public continues to have this conversation around our budget.

3.) [2026 Annual Operating Budget and 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Program](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Report VI-3.docx](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-780 Ken Mar Redevelopment TIF.doc](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-781 Center City South TIF.doc](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-782 Douglas and Hillside Redevelopment TIF.doc](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-783 Union Station Redevelopment TIF.doc](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-784 South Fork Redevelopment TIF.doc](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-785 Riverside TIF.doc](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-786 ICT21 TIF.docx](#)

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Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-787 Fixing General Tax Levy.doc](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-788 Fixing General Tax Levy Downtown Wichita SSMID.doc](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-789 East Bank Redevelopment TIF.doc](#)

Attachment: [08-26-2025 52-790 West Bank Redevelopment TIF.doc](#)

Mark Manning, Finance Department, reviewed the item.

Mayor Wu stepped away briefly.

Council Member Glasscock stepped away briefly.

Mayor Wu stated thank you very much. And thank you to your entire team. I know that this process started immediately after last year's budget was approved, your team has been working hard at this. And we appreciate it.

Council Member Tuttle stated thank you, Mark. And thank you for the presentation. And I'll have lots more kudos and - and comments later. But you highlighted it and I just wanted to mention again and as I'm sure this will be lots of discussion. But if we take the recommended actions - whoever takes the motion, if we could take the recommended actions one through four and have a vote. And then if we can take five separately. and I will be abstaining from number five due to a conflict of interest. Thank you.

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Vice Mayor Johnston stated Thank you, Mayor. And thank you, Mark, for your. question for Mark, maybe City Manager too is, we - we get the - did we get the Pracht Wetlands Project put in the CIP down the line?

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated which project?

Vice Mayor Johnston stated this - the Pracht Wetlands.

City Manager Robert Layton stated no, Mayor, if I could. We decided to wait until we had the results back from the update of the Park Master Plan to see how that priority fit with other recommendations in that report.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated okay. I would like to see that in future years. And the second question is, did we get \$5000 transferred to the Northwest Expressway?

City Manager Robert Layton stated yes, we did.

Mayor Wu stated Mark? Mark, I have a couple questions. Can you go back to Slide Number 62? That's, there we go. Thank you. Obviously this concerns me, and I think you mentioned that in 2027, .17 mills will be shifted to the general fund. Is that to make sure that we are balanced in '27?

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated no, that's reflective of the discussion we had about reducing the cultural arts funding percentage in the Capital Improvement Program. That 1% is approximately \$900,000. So to move that to the general fund, we would reduce that service fund. And increase the general fund levy.

Mayor Wu stated perfect, thank you very much. And then Slide Number 60. Can you address the other City services? I know that a lot of folks may not know how many departments the City has. But can you address what other City services pertains to 11% of the operating budget?

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Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated yes, ma'am. I believe we have 16 operating departments. Other areas like City Council has a small budget, City Manager, Finance Department, HR, Law. Then as I mentioned, we have separate allocations not specific to departments. But we spend money on jail fees at Sedgwick County. We spend an allocation to support the Planning Department which we operate jointly with the county. Flood control. We also provide an allocation to Wichita Transit. All of those things are in the other category there.

Vice Mayor Johnston stepped away briefly.

Mayor Wu stated thank you very much. And then can we go to Slide Number 80? Cultural facilities maintenance in particular. So in March I had my State of the City address at the former Central Library. And that is one of the cultural facilities that again, I just threw out an idea. Which was to renovate it to have a police station there. However, there was no interest amongst many folks. So I still believe that that is an asset that the community has invested in. But it's been shuttered for multiple years. And so I did ask the City Manager to come up with some ideas of how to activate that space. So that it can become an asset again for the community. City Manager, can you address that?

City Manager Robert Layton stated I can, Mayor, thank you. In reviewing this issue with staff we - we too share the concern about having an empty public building. And that our thought was energizing that building, reutilizing it would be in the benefit of not just the City, but the community as a whole. And it seemed to make sense to activate that space with in partnership with ASM who manages Century II for us. I think they've done a - a wonderful job in terms of turning our facility - our facility around in terms of not just C2, but Bob Brown. And we asked them to start working on a proposal on what it would take to activate the building from a business standpoint? They put together a proposal. And frankly, just finished gave us the - a - a final copy of a concept last week. And so I apologize for the late, um presentation of this. But they believe that we could activate the first floor. Create two primary event spaces, each of about 6500 square feet. You could call those ballrooms if you'd like. And then also utilize the Central Librar- or excuse me, the central lobby for uh some purposes. And that there's a target market for this amount of

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space. Primarily in the wedding banquet and corporate meeting areas. In order to do that, it would take about \$2 million in improvements. So that the space could be utilized for that purpose. And so recognizing we don't have a final proposal or negotiated arrangement it seemed appropriate to suggest that we modify the CIP to allow for \$2 million to be utilized in 2026 to be able to activate this space and make it a productive use.

Mayor Wu stated the \$2 million that is shared, can you just address some of the improvements that would be made so that only the first floor would be activated and rentable for the community?

City Manager Robert Layton stated yes, Mayor, thank you. probably one of the most significant expenses would to construct main floor restrooms that are accessible and can accommodate meetings of this size. We also would have some work to do w- wall repairs window repairs, new carpets, and then a number of other - some outside work that needs to be done including activating the patio space. And many other things that you've heard before when we talk about this building. So improvements to HVACs and things we have to do in plumbing. we would not put a full kitchen in. We would cater it. So all the events would have to be catered. But there would be a functional space for the caterer. I think that's pretty much it, Mayor, in terms of what - what the major issues are. Also, we would have FF&E expenses that would allow us then to have tables, chairs and what we need to activate that space.

Mayor Wu stated City Manager, I know that the rest of the council doesn't have this information. So would it be possible - by the way, full disclosure, the City Manager sent this to me last night at 6:07 pm so this is very new to me too. And so I just wanted to share that improvements to just the first floor itself are approximately \$1.5 million and then the patio repairs would be about \$300,000. So, number one I want to know could it come under the \$2 million versus setting it at \$2 million and then people thinking that that is our actual budget. I just want to make sure that we're responsible with taxpayer dollars.

Mayor Wu stated in addition, I want to know where could those dollars come from.

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City Manager Robert Layton stated Mayor, I'm probably most comfortable having a placeholder at \$2 million. First of all, we're dealing with an old building and I have no idea what will happen when we get into some of that space. I think the patio space is optional. That's \$300,000 that would get us to the - about a \$1.8 million dollar estimate. This doesn't include any architectural fees so we'd want to include that in there. So, again, this is very preliminary and I'd like to have a placeholder that is adequate and we don't f- f- we don't fall short when we get into the remodel. what - I'm glad you called up this slide. we have \$16 million dollars budgeted over the ten years for cultural facilities maintenance and that would be funded through the transient guest tax. And our thought is that the first year of that ex- of those expenditures, we would put \$2 million dollars in transient guest tax into this building leaving \$14 million for cultural facility maintenance going forward. And then you also have the ability next year when you're going through the CIP to adjust priorities and determine how you want to spend transient guest tax going forward. Right now there aren't any specific projects designated we just have a lump sum in each year, recognizing that our cultural facilities are aging and need maintenance work.

Mayor Wu stated can you also as a side note, update us on the promenade, the C2 promenade?

City Manager Robert Layton stated Is Lindsay here? I'm going to ask Lindsay to talk about the progress on that project.

Lindsay Benacka, City Manager's Office, stated good morning, Mayor, Council, Lindsay Benacka with the City Manager's office. I'm not sure if there's a specific question about the promenade, but I can give kind of an overview if that's what you're looking for. so it is funded out of 2025 and 2026. I believe there's partial funding in both years for this project. but it's in partnership with Hyatt, so we do have a contract with Hyatt that the conditions of the promenade which the City currently owns has to be the same aesthetic standard as the hotel. So as the hotel goes under re-branding of its rooms and ballrooms, we want to make sure that the promenade fits that. So we're working with the Hyatt as well as ASM, who are our property managers of the space to make kind of a - a plan in ter- terms of rolling out what those aesthetic modifications are. So it is budgeted. We're working with both parties on a timeline. Kind of that's our big kind of hold up right now is because the space is used constantly when can we carve out time in order to make those accommodations or those renovations needed. But it's really aesthetic. It's - it's flooring, wall covering some tech up-

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updates. We're simultaneously working on HVAC updates through SA - ASM but primarily it's aesthetic upgrades that we're working with both parties on. Does that answer your question?

Council Member Tuttle stated thank you. This is on a different topic and Vice Mayor Johnston brought up about the northwest bypass and then somebody just texted me and asked. So when last year's recommendation it was \$5000 over the 10-year CIP. So was that \$5000 - is that what you were asking if the \$5000 was allocated?

Vice Mayor Johnston stated it moved it for - we moved it from one project in my district to \$5000 to fund it for this year coming here.

Council Member Tuttle stated for this year. because it was just \$5000 over the 10-year CIP is what was last year's recommendation not \$5000 annually.

Vice Mayor Johnston stated cor- well, it moved \$5000 in the first year. So it wasn't over ten years.

Council Member Tuttle stated they just wanted to know too, where did the check go? Is - did it go to the county for acquisition of right-of-way or?

City Manager Robert Layton stated no, we have not spent that \$5000. The \$5000 was a placeholder in the Capital Improvement Program last year and now it's moving to the operating budget in engineering. but we haven't spent that and it's - there's no earmark for it at this time. It's simply a placeholder.

Mayor Wu stated and last question is for Mark. I know we're talking about some improvement districts and a local television station brought up an issue regarding sales taxes in a specific area. Can you address how those because that taxing jurisdiction was



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supposed to end October 1 of 2022? Can you just address what has happened since learning about this issue?

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated yes, ma'am. Mayor, you're talking about the K-96 Star community improvement district or CID that was created as part of our development out there. basically it was a CID that helped fund a portion of the interchange project there at K-96 in Greenwich. the City is obviously responsible for approving and implementing a CID which we did several years ago. the CID was very successful as is everything out in that area, and so that we had collected enough revenue in order to service the remaining debt throughout the term of the debt. so actually the developer came to us and recommended that we terminate the CID which we presented to the City Council I believe on June 14 of 2022. it was approved by the City Council. and I think it's important to recognize that the City's responsibility is to create the CID and to terminate the CID. we have absolutely zero responsibility for collecting the CID and that's based on state statute. There's really one entity who's responsible for collecting sales tax in the state of Kansas and that is our partners at the Kansas Department of Revenue. Now, we work very closely with them and they are excellent partners to us, but it is their responsibility to collect the CID. So after it was terminated by the City Council you have to provide Revenue 90 days notice and they typically want that quarterly. So in order to have the tax terminate on September 30 of 2022 or October 1, the next day, we needed to provide them notification prior to July 1, which we did and they did in fact terminate the tax. In fact, I believe they sent taxpayers in that district a notification of the tax rate change which is common for them to do. They typically post that online as well. Again, that is their responsibility to notify taxpayers and I can tell you that incremental CID revenues to the City of Wichita did cease there shortly after. Now there's always a tail on sales tax collections. They tend to lag, so we did receive a little bit in October and a little bit in November and then just a very small amount in December, and that's normal. but effectively, the City of Wichita has received no revenues into our K-96 Star Bond CID fund since the fall of 2022. so that's what we know about it. Again, the account - the state administers the sales tax you know, whether or not Academy was collecting it, how they were remitting it to the state is far beyond the purview of me to know. I think those questions would be better directed to the Department of Revenue. But I can tell you, and I have spoken with them a little bit I can tell you that the City has received virtually no revenues from the K-96 Star Bond CID since the fourth quarter of 2022.

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Mayor Wu stated thank you, Mark, for addressing that. on behalf of citizens of Wichita knowing that that CID continued at one specific retailer and while the City of Wichita did not receive any of those proceeds, I'd like to know where those proceeds went then. so if there's a follow-up with - again, those are the state individuals, I'd like to know what happened to those dollars that were collected and did not come to the City of Wichita or benefit the citizens of Wichita.

Mark Manning, Finance Department, stated we can explore that with the state. Again, they are responsible for the collection of the tax and you know, understandably so, sometimes they're a little reluctant to overshare information because a lot of information about taxpayers is very confidential in which we respect. But yeah, we'll visit with the state and see what we can find out.

George Theoharis stated I thought there was going to be a rush. Sorry. One public comment, unbelievable. Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council, City Manager, City Legal, I come before you for budget concerns. We were losing \$1 to \$2 dollars per year at the animal services for - because we weren't collec- well the City was, for not collecting dog license fees. we're making baby steps towards getting some of that money, so I appreciate that. our animal services work eight hours. So let's just say 8:00 or 4:00, eight hours. but they get a paid lunch because they go home after those eight hours. They tell me that they eat at their desks as they work. I'm from Missouri, the Show Me State. We need an audit because if you leave there to go eat anywhere it's more than - more than whatever they're saying. So anyhow, we need - I don't think they should be getting paid for their lunch. on that same realm of thinking, my wife and I, we go to Freddy's three to four times, one on Rock Road, and we've noticed two officers eating there two out of those three or four times we went. And although it's in their contract that they are on the radio and good to go for an emergency, all I'm asking if they don't go anywhere for a call any time during that hour, that they stay over an hour to help Wichita because we're short officers. So if they got their lunch paid for and they didn't have to go anywhere but they were on the radio so they're legal, but I think that would go a long way for us thinking well of the police when they don't take - they're on a call on their lunch. All right. I have honey-do lists and I tell my wife that she doesn't have to keep reminding me every six months. So thinking about future savings,

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two weeks ago a citizen wouldn't leave the podium area and security had to escort her away. One City Councilman said he appreciated her and was in favor of reparations and another Council person said he was willing to have the conversation. Could we ask that person that disrespected our Mayor and our City Council by not sitting down how much she is requesting so we can plan for that in payment for future budgets? And then City Manager, to you in your honor I will push to have the City keep Mark's pie charts. Thank you.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks, Mayor. Just for clarification, Elder Dean wasn't asking for a dollar amount. The ordinance she was requesting would create a commission on reparations which the Council would appoint to and then they would look at how to address reparations. There wasn't a dollar amount.

Mayor Wu stated We'll continue with public comment. I see none. We will close public comment for the budget and multiple action items. So I will officially close public comment. Bringing it back to the bench we'll start with discussion.

Council Member Johnson stated thanks Mayor. Mark, team, Bob. Appreciate your work on the budget. Bob reminded me before the meeting this is my last budget to vote on, so it's my eighth budget. There's a lot of good things in this budget, so I'll be supportive. a lot of good work. Many remember I did vote against the mill levy decrease, but that wasn't a reflection of the budget. It was just about that. But there's a lot of good things in here. A lot of good investments that I think will set us up really well in the future. I do just want to again highlight that as on the citizen survey as you saw crime prevention being so high, crime prevention is not just law enforcement and they would tell you that same thing. Oftentimes, when they're out in the community and dealing with a situation they call partners to help out. Those partners could be City facilities, libraries or parks, or it could be nonprofit organizations that they work with. So we're not trying to arrest our way out of everything but really trying to - to partner. With that being said, there are some really good investments again in libraries, parks, arts, all of the things that matter. And my encouragement, because I did hear that there was an item that highlights in '27 a reduction in arts funding, is that this Council not do that. I hope in the future the Council fully funds the 2% and not drops to 1%. Again, all of these things are connected and the more investments we continue to make in quality parks, quality libraries, arts, things like that it's going to be better as we look at value in the Team Wichita, our employees, paying them living wages, not surviving wages. And we

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continue to pay our staff more, but we're go- it's going to get more competitive in the future. So again, just looking at making the right investments not only into Team Wichita, but also our City with your tax dollars and what that's going to look like and investing in these different areas, whether it's affordable housing, all of these things play a role in making our community better. And I will say, as people debate what crime prevention really is, crime prevention truly outside of law enforcement is a young person or young adult having an opportunity to go fall in love with reading at a library or going to fall in love with astronomy like I did going to the library, being able to go to a quality park in their neighborhood. And because we have over 100 parks throughout our City, that means parks are accessible and we should keep those up. We shouldn't reduce those. That means someone like me who could go walk the streets and other areas, maybe going to Red Bud Park to play 5000. If you know what that is, get a football, throw it into a group, see who can catch it. It's those types of things that really keep young people out of trouble. It gives them something to do. It's these community centers with cultural not cultural, culinary arts opportunities to maybe learn how to cook something differently or healthy. It's providing these opportunities for many people in our community to make different choices rather than some that might be detrimental to their present and future. So I'm supportive of this because we are making a lot of those investments and my encouragement is as we go forward, we think about making more of those investments because if we don't, we will see trends change back and some will ask what happened and I'll always be able to point to it's in the budget. So I'm hoping that going forward, we continue some of the good work that we have been doing and increase. but I will be supportive today on my final budget because there are some good things and always appreciate the work that the management - manager and finance team do to present the best budget possible.

Council Member Tuttle stated thank you. I appreciate that. this is my seventh budget that I've had the opportunity to be engaged in. I liked the way - I was going to say loved. I could probably go with loved. I loved the way that we tied everything to the mission and the four pillars. that was really important to me. I heard lots of good comments from staff that they also appreciated that. It just kept everything grounded of why we do what we do every day at the City of Wichita. I just want to give a shout out to staff. This has been, as someone mentioned, nine months. you know, we'll give you maybe like a few weeks Mark and Elizabeth, and then we're going to start this all over again, getting ready for the next year. But I know this is a labor of love and certainly something that you're quite proud of and you should be quite proud of as well. I also want to thank the community for providing

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input. Again, I think we had over 20 different opportunities for the community to be involved in some level. Of course, always just reaching out to us, but we have District Advisory Board meetings and the budget simulator and, you know, all the different things that we had. And so for the community members that took their time, we are grateful and we heard you and we listen to you. also want to thank Bob. It's your 17th year with the budget in the City of Wichita, but you're 47th budget within a municipality. So that certainly deserves kudos and recognition. Thank you for being a true public servant. You are appreciated and respected. I've said this every year, this is, I mentioned, my seventh year, where you allocate your time and treasure is a reflection of your values. And I think that this budget is a true reflection of the City of Wichita and what we think the community wants us to do. So I will be supportive of this budget today. And just a friendly reminder, if we can take the first four actions in one bundle and take the - the fifth one separately. Thank you.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. We're about to deliver the first property tax cut cutting the mill of by half a mill since 1986. And I think that's something we should all be proud of, while we're still protecting the core services that people count on. This proves that I think government can live within its means, stay focused on safety, streets, while also maintaining our shared spaces and amenities. Some people think that City Hall may be here to solve every problem. But leadership is not just about government responsibility, but making sure that we can't - we don't make promises that we can't keep to individuals. others, I think, want to continue reducing costs - costs and taxes in the future with no plan, and that's just irresponsible. And I think that's why we must look at revenue replacements where and when it makes sense to property taxes. I think this budget shows that we can chart a better course and we can respect property tax owners. And while not part of this budget process, an independent group of citizens presented efficiencies at City Hall. I want to thank them for their work on this as well. And I hope, while I'm not going to be doing it today, that over the course of the year we look at some of these recommendations and we examine each in their own merit. Just some of them that I look forward to having future discussions about, require competitive bidding for all purchases over \$50,000, consolidate P-card and one-time vendors into formal contracts, conduct quarterly reviews of contract utilization, enforce claw backs within six months for under-performing developers, require developers with debts over \$50,000 to be disclosed in public financial reports, prohibit deals with vendors or developers who are in litigation with the City, publish an annual efficiency audit highlighting contractual utilization, claw back enforcement, and vendor compliance, post major development agreements and

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disclosures online in a searchable format, re-examine feasibility studies, consulting contracts, and I can continue to go on. But I believe that we're called from this bench to deliver essential services efficiently, spend responsibly, and build public trust. And I want to thank Mark Manning. I want to thank Bob. I believe this budget does just that. And congratulations, I think, on presenting a well-rounded document to this body to consider. Thank you.

Mayor Wu stated I also would like to echo some of those same sentiments. And because of that, I mentioned it during the previous vote, what concerns me was the slide regarding a budget deficit. And it will always concern me because, again, while every year we have to pass a balanced budget, that is a requirement, we do pass a balanced budget. But what I think about are future years. And those are the ones that concern me. and with that, that's part of the reason why I will not be voting in favor of this budget, because I want to make sure that we are always cognizant that there are not unlimited dollars that we can collect from taxpayers. Especially, as Council Member Glasscock has al- said and individuals that have come up to us and shared their concerns about living in their homes and being overtaxed or feeling like they're being taxed out of their homes. For me I've asked and was not approved by this Council to look at a budget that was just at inflation and new construction, which would have been 4.5% and a major reduction in the budget of \$4 million. And I know that that was hard. But because that was not the proposal that's in front of me, I cannot pass this budget with my yay vote. and so I will not be moving item number one, but I will be able to move other items. And so I - I see that there are other Council Members that want to speak but I would like to move other items before moving the budget.

Council Member Glasscock stated thank you, Mayor. It's a question for you. Are you going to be proposing any cuts to the budget?

Mayor Wu stated I actually will make an adjustment to not the budget, but the CIP.

Council Member Glasscock stated so you will be proposing those?

Mayor Wu stated I will be making a change to the CIP only.

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 26, 2025

Council Member Glasscock stated but no changes to the budget?

Mayor Wu stated no changes to the budget.

***Motion:***

***Mayor Wu moved to*** close public comment, adopt the 2026 2035 proposed Capital Improvement Program with an amendment to the CIP to include \$2 million in transit - transient guest tax funding in the 2026 cultural facilities maintenance project for the renovation of the downtown library building.

Motion carried 7 to 0

***Motion:***

***Mayor Wu moved to*** close the public hearing and approve the use of local funds derived from property within the corporate limits for the Wichita State University Board of Trustees interlocal agreement between City and County.

Motion carried 6 to 0 (Abstain: Becky Tuttle)

***Motion:***

***Vice Mayor Johnson moved to*** o (1) Adopt the 2026 Proposed Budget, approve the second reading of the necessary budget ordinances, including those for the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts and the SSMID; (2) Approve amending the 2025 Budget for the Ice Rink, Century II, Sewer, and Affordable Housing funds; (3) Authorize staff to take the necessary steps to implement the budget, including budget adjustments, expenditure control levels, budget administration procedures and adjustments outlined in the agenda report, and to make any technical adjustments necessary to complete and submit the State certification forms;

Motion carried 6 to 1 (Nay: Lily Wu).

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS****August 26, 2025**

Mayor Wu stated I simply want to say again, thank you to the staff for getting us to this position where there is going to be a mill levy reduction in over 30 years. This is of note for our City and I'm very grateful that this council had lots of open conversation with the community regarding the budget. Again, I just want to give a warning that right now it's projected that we will have a \$3.9 million budget deficit in '28 and a \$7.1 million budget deficit in 2029. so with that, we have a motion and a second and no further discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS SUBMITTED BY CITY AUTHORITIESPLANNING AGENDAVII) NON-CONSENT PLANNING AGENDA - NONEHOUSING AGENDAVIII) NON-CONSENT HOUSING AGENDA - NONEAIRPORT AGENDAIX) NON-CONSENT AIRPORT AGENDA - NONECOUNCIL AGENDAX) COUNCIL MEMBER AGENDA



## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 26, 2025

- 1.) [Approve that pursuant to Section 2.04.090 Council Member Hoheisel's travel expenses, as estimated on the Travel Authorization and Expense Form, to attend the Altus/Lackland Civic Leader Tour in San Antonio, TX September 16 - 18, 2025 for the purpose of representing the City of Wichita, consistent with A.R. 3.1, be approved. Upon return from travel, actual expenses shall be reported to the Controller's Office.](#)

**Motion:**

**Mayor Wu moved to** approve that pursuant to Section 2.04.090 Council Member Hoheisel's travel expenses, as estimated on the Travel Authorization and Expense Form, to attend the Altus/Lackland Civic Leader Tour in San Antonio, TX September 16 - 18, 2025 for the purpose of representing the City of Wichita, consistent with A.R. 3.1, be approved. Upon return from travel, actual expenses shall be reported to the Controller's Office.

Motion carried 7 to 0

- 2.) [Approve that pursuant to Section 2.04.090 Vice Mayor Johnston's travel expenses, as estimated on the Travel Authorization and Expense Form, to attend Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range Tour in Salina, KS October 22, 2025 for the purpose of representing the City of Wichita, consistent with A.R. 3.1, be approved. Upon return from travel, actual expenses shall be reported to the Controller's Office.](#)

**Motion:**

**Mayor Wu moved to** approve that pursuant to Section 2.04.090 Vice Mayor Johnston's travel expenses, as estimated on the Travel Authorization and Expense Form, to attend Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range Tour in Salina, KS October 22, 2025 for the purpose of representing the City of Wichita, consistent with A.R. 3.1, be approved. Upon return from travel, actual expenses shall be reported to the Controller's Office.

Motion carried 7 to 0

- 3.) [Approval to exceed the gift limit, established by the Ethics Ordinance, for Mayor Wu to accept travel and expenses to attend the 2025 Hunt Mayors Leadership](#)

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 26, 2025

[Fellowship, October 23 - 24, 2025 in Ft. Worth, Texas for the purpose of representing the City. The Mayor Fellowship is hosted by the nonprofit, The Hunt Institute, for the purpose of education, collaboration, professional development. The Estimated Gift Amount or Travel, Hotel, and Meals is \\$1,600. Estimated costs covered by the City for Mayor Wu is \\$0.](#)

Mayor Wu stated I will just add a comment. I'm very grateful that I got asked to participate in the Hunt Mayor's Leadership Fellowship and I have accepted that invitation with the vote if approved for this gift exceeding limit.

**Motion:**

**Vice Mayor Johnston moved to** approve to exceed the gift limit, established by the Ethics Ordinance, for Mayor Wu to accept travel and expenses to attend the 2025 Hunt Mayors Leadership Fellowship, October 23 - 24, 2025 in Ft. Worth, Texas for the purpose of representing the City. The Mayor Fellowship is hosted by the nonprofit, The Hunt Institute, for the purpose of education, collaboration, professional development. The Estimated Gift Amount or Travel, Hotel, and Meals is \$1,600. Estimated costs covered by the City for Mayor Wu is \$0.

Motion carried 7 to 0

XI) [COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENTS AND COMMENTS](#)

Mayor Wu appoint Teresa Ortega for the Wichita Airport Advisory Board on behalf of SGCO  
D3

**Motion:**

**Mayor Wu moved to** to approve the appointment.

Motion carried 7 to 0

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 26, 2025

[Adjournment](#)

***Motion:***

***Mayor Wu moved to*** adjourn.

Motion carried 7 to 0

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Shinita Rice, Deputy City Clerk

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**August 26, 2025**

ATTACHMENT 1 - CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1 THROUGH 12

II) CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

1) Applications for Licenses for Cereal Malt Beverages:

a.) Applications for Licenses to Retail Cereal Malt Beverages

Attachment: [CMBs for August 26, 2025.docx](#)

2) Agreements/Contracts:

a.) Developer's Agreement for Schulte Johnson 2nd Addition (District IV)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-2a.doc](#)

Attachment: [Developer's Agreement.pdf](#)

3) Property Acquisitions:

a.) Acquisition of a Temporary Construction Easement at 1460 East 17th Street North for the Road Project, 17th Street from Interstate 135 to Hillside Avenue (District I)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-3a.doc](#)

**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**August 26, 2025**

Attachment: [1460 E 17th Supporting documents.pdf](#)

- b.) Acquisition of a Temporary Construction Easement at 2327 West Douglas for the Douglas Avenue from Seneca Street to Meridian Avenue Project (District IV)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-3b.doc](#)

Attachment: [2327 W Douglas Supporting Documents.pdf](#)

Uncategorized Items:

- 4.) Proclamation Votes

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-4.docx](#)

- 5.) Community Event with Alcohol Consumption ICT Bloktoberfest (District I)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-5.docx](#)

Attachment: [ICT Bloktoberfest Site Plan and TED Map.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-399 Alcohol Consumption Bloktoberfest.docx](#)

- 6.) Community Event with Alcohol Consumption Blessed Sacrament's Oktoberfest (District I)

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 26, 2025

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-6.docx](#)

Attachment: [Blessed Sacrament Oktoberfest TED Map.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-400 Alcohol Consumption Blessed Sacrament Oktoberfest.docx](#)

- 7.) Community Event with Alcohol Consumption Herencia Hispana Festival (Districts I and VI)

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-7.docx](#)

Attachment: [Herencia Hispana Festival TED Map.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Resolution No. 25-401 Alcohol Consumption Herencia Hispana.docx](#)

- 8.) Wichita Retirement Systems' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-8.docx](#)

Attachment: [2024 Pension ACFR.pdf](#)

- 9) Second Reading Ordinances:

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 26, 2025

- a.) SECOND READING ORDINANCES FOR AUGUST 26, 2025 (FIRST READ AUGUST 19, 2025) ORDINANCE NO. 52-797 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 4.08.030 AND CREATING SECTIONS 4.08.045 AND 4.08.085 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS RELATING TO COMMON CONSUMPTION AREAS. An ordinance creating common consumption areas. ORDINANCE NO. 52-798 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF POTABLE WATER SUPPLIED BY THE CITY WATER UTILITY CREATING CHAPTER 17.13 AND SECTIONS 17.13.010 through 17.13.060 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS. An ordinance creating permanent water restrictions. ORDINANCE NO. 52-799 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS TO ISSUE ITS TAXABLE INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS, SERIES III, 2025 (AC HOTEL PROJECT) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF A HOTEL FACILITY; AND AUTHORIZING OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. An ordinance issuing Industrial Revenue Bonds for the AC Hotel Project. ORDINANCE NO. 52-800 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS TO ISSUE ITS TAXABLE INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS, SERIES II, 2025 (MIDCONTINENT INSTRUMENT PROJECT) FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF A COMMERCIAL FACILITY; AND AUTHORIZING OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. An ordinance issuing Industrial Revenue Bonds for the DIDCOT and Midcontinent Instrument Project. ORDINANCE NO. 52-801 CASE NUMBER ANX25-07 AN ORDINANCE INCLUDING AND INCORPORATING CERTAIN BLOCKS, PARCELS, PIECES AND TRACTS OF LAND WITHIN THE LIMITS AND BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS. An ordinance annexing land south of 29th Street North and west of 159th Street East. ORDINANCE NO. 52-802 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS ESTABLISHING THE HOTEL INDIGO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT; AUTHORIZING THE MAKING OF CERTAIN PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS RELATING THERETO; APPROVING THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF SUCH PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS; LEVYING A 2.0% CID SALES TAX; PROVIDING FOR THE METHOD OF FINANCING THE SAME; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT RELATING THERETO. An ordinance creating the Indigo Community Improvement District. ORDINANCE NO. 52-803 AN ORDINANCE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF WICHITA, KANSAS ADOPTING A REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PLAN FOR

## CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 26, 2025

PROJECT AREA 3A OF THE CENTER CITY SOUTH REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT WITHIN THE CITY. An ordinance adopting a redevelopment project plan for Project Area 3A of the Center City South Redevelopment District.

Attachment: [List of Second Read Ordinances August 26, 2025.docx](#)

II) CONSENT PLANNING AGENDA ITEMS

- 10.) SUB2025-00021 - Plat of Post Estates Located North Along West 37th Street North and Within a Half Mile West of North 167th Street West (County – 3 Mile Ring).

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-10.docx](#)

Attachment: [SUB2025-00021 Post Estates Green Sheet Attachments.pdf](#)

- 11.) SUB2025-00022 - Plat of Squatting Dog Estates Located West Along South 119th Street West and a Quarter Mile North of West Maple Street (District V).

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-11.docx](#)

Attachment: [SUB2025-00022 Squatting Dog Estates Plat.pdf](#)

- 12.) SUB2025-00015 - Plat of Young 2nd Addition Located at the Southeast Corner of East 29th Street North and North 127th Street East (District II).

Attachment: [Agenda Report II-12.docx](#)



**CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**August 26, 2025**

Attachment: [SUB2025-000015 Young 2nd Addition Green Sheet Attachments.pdf](#)

II) CONSENT HOUSING AGENDA ITEMS - NONE

II) CONSENT AIRPORT AGENDA ITEMS - NONE

Mayor Wu stated Paul Gunzelman, Public Works & Utilities Department, stated