

Kansas City Senior Advisory Council Minutes
April 6, 2026

Members present: Berry, Bradshaw, Gomez, Forrest, Hilt, Kabiser, Turner, Wilson; Bertha Ross, Deputy City Clerk, Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk Office

Guests: Kenneth Morgan, Director of Water Services, Kansas City, Vicki Glenn, Mariam Hennosy, Miranda H., Israel Soto

Chair Forrest called the meeting to order with a greeting and well wishes to those present.

Guest speaker Kenneth Morgan, Director of Water Services for the city of Kansas City, introduced his topic, *Potential Water Cost Impacts Related to Data Centers*. In presenting background information about the advent of data centers, Mr. Morgan stated that since the Industrial Revolution, the transfer of data has ballooned and now requires data centers for housing information storage. He discussed the increasing public demand for data with our daily usage of cell phones, credit cards, internet for information, and myriads of other applications requiring data transfer.

The processing of massive amounts of information via high-speed computers in data centers requires usage of large amounts of energy, and of water to cool computers for effective usage. Mr. Morgan stated that the location of Kansas City near its abundant water source, the Missouri River, makes it an ideal location for data centers. Before construction, companies applied for permits and the city determines water and energy needs and availability before issuing permits.

The Missouri River flows 77,000,000 gallons of water daily. Kansas City has a 240,000,000-gallon capacity. Kansas City Water Services treats an average of 110,000,000 gallons daily; therefore, Kansas City has no capacity issues such as exists in other cities such as Phoenix and Denver. Kansas City has historically had quality water and strives to maintain high standards. Under current consideration is potential construction of a second water treatment plant for redundancy. The failure of our water treatment plant would have a \$100,000,000 impact on our community.

In response to questions from Members Kabiser and Wilson, Mr. Morgan stated that the rumored increase in water and energy costs to the public caused by data centers is misinformation. The developers must assume costs for construction of adequate piping, meet standards, and pay for improvements if necessary.

Kansas City has 2800 miles of piping in its main water system, and Water Services replaces 28 miles of piping yearly. Increasing rates result from replacement, training, parts and maintenance.

In response to a question from Member Berry, Mr. Morgan stated that data centers use the same water as the public uses, rather than a specific filtered water. He stated that Kansas City uses surface water and it contains calcium elements causing hard water.

In response to a question from Member Bradshaw, Mr. Morgan stated that Water Services is an enterprise fund treating water, sewer, and storm water runoff, and it receives no city financing, therefore will be unaffected by the earnings tax issue.

Member Kabiser commented that she felt the City Planning Commission had failed to adequately inform the public about the data centers in Kansas City.

The assembly discussed the sociological challenges wrought by "lost socialization and interaction" resulting from technological advances.

Director Morgan concluded his remarks by stating that the world's "most industrialized nation" must pay for service and convenience. He referenced an article by **the Council of Mayors** and a **60 Minute** feature for further information. He stressed that the City Water Services Department believes in engaging in the community they serve, and in equitable and responsible accountability to that community. He further stated that he would be willing to return to speak to our group and that he meets frequently with other interested parties.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Members, Wilson discussed a desire that the city provide resources for an Advisory Council visit to the new Rock Island Bridge amenities. The membership approved the request, and Mrs. Ross will inquire as to feasibility.

Chair Forrest suggested the need to cancel the July meeting to avoid World Cup congestion, and the decision was approved.

Ms. Sanders stated that the group would receive temporary identification badges by June 1, and more permanent ones can be made available after new members are nominated and appointed, and current members' terms are reappointed.

Suggestions for upcoming meeting speakers include MARC (Mid-America Regional Council) information on benefits for seniors; United Way 201 senior services; Kansas City Planning Commission; 18th and Vine Improvements; Mayoral candidates.

The meeting was adjourned.

60 Minutes Episode Mentioned

[Behind the explosive growth and challenges of data centers in the AI era](#)

the Council of Mayors

Waiting on the link from Director Morgan