Business Session

2:00 PM – Thursday, January 15, 2026,

26th Floor Council Chambers

Those in attendance: Mayor Quinton Lucas, Mayor Pro-Tem Ryana Parks-Shaw, Councilmembers: O'Neill, Willett, French, Patterson-Hazley, Robinson, Willett, Duncan, Bunch, Curls, Bough & City Manager Mario Vasquez represented the City Manager's office; Howard Rice represented the City Clerk's Office.

- **Approval of Minutes for Business Session of January 8, 2026**: Minutes approved unanimously.
- **KC2026 World Cup Update**
  Pam Kramer, CEO KC2026 presented. The KC2026 presentation walks through how Kansas City is preparing to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup and what that means on the ground for the city, businesses, and residents. It outlines the purpose of using the World Cup as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase Kansas City globally while creating lasting economic and cultural benefits locally. The presentation reviews the confirmed match schedule, highlights that game times and crowd sizes will vary, and explains why flexibility and contingency planning are critical especially as later-round matches could significantly increase demand and activity. A major focus is the FIFA Fan Festival, which will operate for at least 18 days as a central gathering place with live match viewing, entertainment, food vendors, and cultural activations, serving as the heartbeat of public engagement during the tournament. Transportation planning is addressed through ConnectKC26, a dedicated tournament bus network designed to move visitors efficiently between the airport, stadium, Fan Festival, and regional hubs. The presentation also emphasizes small business readiness, vendor opportunities, workforce training, and contracting pathways to ensure local businesses can participate and benefit. Finally, it introduces KC House, an invitation-only hospitality space aimed at global leaders, reinforcing Kansas City's role as a serious player in international business, trade, and sports diplomacy. Overall, the presentation frames KC2026 as not just an event plan, but a coordinated citywide effort to deliver a safe, welcoming experience while positioning Kansas City for long-term growth after the World Cup ends.
- **Discussion of Ordinances, Resolutions, and Communications listed on the Council legislative docket or for Floor Introduction**: No discussion

- **Closed Session**: There was a motion to enter closed session mayor and council then proceeded to the rear of the chamber for closed session proceedings.