

**GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**Roeland Park City Hall**  
**4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205**  
**Monday, March 20, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

- |                                    |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| ○ Michael Poppa, Mayor             | ○ Tom Madigan, Council Member      | ○ Keith Moody, City Administrator       |
| ○ Trisha Brauer, Council Member    | ○ Castagna-Herrera, Council Member | ○ <i>Open</i> , Asst. Admin.            |
| ○ Benjamin Dickens, Council Member | ○ Kate Raglow, Council Member      | ○ Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk            |
| ○ Jan Faidley, Council Member      | ○ Michael Rebne, Council Member    | ○ John Morris, Police Chief             |
| ○ Jennifer Hill, Council Member    |                                    | ○ Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director |

**Admin**

Raglow  
Dickens

**Finance**

Rebne  
Hill

**Safety**

Castagna-Herrera  
Madigan

**Public Works**

Brauer  
Faidley

(Governing Body Workshop Called to Order at 7:21 p.m.)

**ROLL CALL**

CMBR Hill called the meeting to order. All Governing Body were present with CMBRS Madigan and Brauer attending virtually.

**I. MINUTES**

1. Governing Body Workshop Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023

*The minutes were approved as presented.*

**II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Review and Preliminary Approval of 2024 Objectives**

City Administrator Moody led the discussion for the Organizational Goals and Current Objectives for 2024. Following the presentation and discussion, staff is asking for Governing Body direction on whether they consider the objectives something to pursue, if it supports the Council's goals, and how the fiscal impacts will be reflected in the budget.

**A. Advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

**1. Research Impacts of Eliminating Municipal Sales Tax on Food**

City Administrator Moody said this item was submitted by CMBR Madigan and CMBR Rebne.

CMBR Madigan said what motivated this item was that he and CMBR Rebne have both talked about how regressive the food sales tax is. He meets numerous Roeland Park people shopping in Mission because the taxes are lower there. He also said that many people are shopping at Costco on Linwood and going to Brookside because the taxes are lower. He asked for a comparison of the tax dollars and revenues being lost by people leaving Roeland Park and shopping elsewhere.

CMBR Rebne wants to highlight that the objective is to do the research. He has done a calculation with his own family and the food tax cost is more than any increase in property tax. He expressed concern

on taxing what people need to buy as a necessity for their family and that it hits harder for those that have less money is a greater portion of their income. He said that communities of color often live in a food desert and do not have access to fresh food, fruits, and vegetables. They have to travel to Roeland Park based on the way the community is designed, and then have to pay tax on what they need to survive. He would like to see what the impact of this tax is.

Mayor Poppa thanked the Councilmembers for bringing this forward and the spirit of the objective. He said they found out earlier at the Council meeting that eliminating the sales tax would cost them about \$2.2 million, which is a significant amount that would then be put only on residents of Roeland Park. He asked what the research would look like and what do they hope to gain from it. He did add that the state grocery tax will hit zero in 2025.

City Administrator Moody said that no city can predict what the impact will be. Even though they have sales tax data by business, they do not know what portion of those sales is related to food and doubted that merchants would give them a breakdown of that information. He recommended utilizing Columbia Capital, their financial advisor, who is a great resource to them.

CMBR Raglow said she would like them to look into it but to keep in mind the \$2.2 million. She would also like to know what other cities are doing. City Administrator Moody said he does not know if other cities are looking at this issue.

CMBR Madigan said when they started talking he wasn't saying all or nothing, but maybe something in between or a partial lowering. It was the reason to start the discussions.

City Administrator Moody said they contract with Columbia Capital on an hourly basis, but he will get a cost for them to look into this if the Governing Body recommends pursuing this further.

CMBR Faidley asked if MARC would compile that type data. City Administrator Moody said he was unsure, but would reach out to them. CMBR Faidley agreed that this is the most regressive tax when it is on something everyone needs to live. She is glad it is going away at the state level.

CMBR Brauer said this objective reminds her of previous CMBR McCormack's objective for a reduction of court fines. She said it may not be a matter of if, but when, and they should be proactive in getting the data. She asked as City Administrator Moody is doing the analysis would there be any projections of revenue they would expect from The Rocks once that was complete and how that might balance this out.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera said it is a really a good idea. She said that most people who come here and shop are people of color and not living in houses like many do. She said if they did not have the tax, people would be coming from all over to shop here and they would sell more of everything else. She said as a business owner, there are other places to pull from for taxes other than property and food taxes.

CMBR Hill said she likes the sentiment of this and that it reflects the values they have as a city. She said they left off the fact there are only four major retailers in Roeland Park and three of them sell food. Losing \$2.2 million in sales tax revenue equates to 19.5 mills. They have heard from residents in the past who said they would rather pay tax in small increments when they shop versus a huge amount

on their property tax. Their residents already have already told them this is not the direction they want to go and, and she is not in favor of moving forward on this.

CMBR Faidley asked when they will know about the state legislation. Mayor Poppa said it should be in April or May and would likely go into effect in July.

There was majority consensus to continue the food tax conversation.

## **B. Prioritize Communication and Engagement with the Community**

### **1. Enhance Community Engagement in the Annual Budget Process, Starting with the 2025 Budget.**

This initiative was brought forward by Mayor Poppa and supported by all the Councilmembers.

City Administrator Moody provided a list of a variety of engagement initiatives in the agenda packet that include links to provide some examples.

Mayor Poppa said he spoke with the budget simulator company Balancing Act, and there is a slight price increase from when he originally looked at this. He said that with them being down in staff, they would more than likely need to hire a professional. Anticipated costs would be \$10,000 for public engagement tolls, and \$5,000 for a contract facilitator to administer. Mayor Poppa said this is impressive software with an online budget simulation and tax estimator.

There was full consensus to move forward with this objective.

## **C. Improve Community Assets**

### **1. Add Consistent Markers and Signage within the Parks.**

This item was brought forward by CMBR Raglow and CMBR Faidley.

CMBR Raglow said that R Park has a lot of tree markers that have been destroyed and were not as sturdy as they had hoped. This objective would be for consistent signage design across Roeland Park consisting of signs and markers within the parks. The hope was that it would not be limited to just trees and plants but also include ground/park rules for areas in R Park, Nall Park, and Cooper Creek. They would work in conjunction with the Arts Advisory Committee on design. There is a sample photo in the agenda packet for reference. She said there is also a hope to have a QR code that people could read or listen to more information.

CMBR Faidley said the sign details have yet to be ironed out. She thanked Laura Savidge from the Parks Committee for her input. She said there are racial equity questions to be answered and she would also like to see if the signs can be bilingual and if that can broaden the perspective. Placement of the signs is also important so that they are accessible to all ages, abilities, and races.

There was support to move forward with this item.

## **D. Keep our Community Safe & Secure**

### **1. Purchase a Drone for the Police Department**

This item was brought forward by Police Chief Morris.

Police Chief Morris said for the past six to eight months when his department has wanted to use a drone, they have had to borrow one. A drone is an intricate tool that can assist with public safety, crime scene investigations, and community events. It can also assist the Public Works Departments, be used at sporting events, community events, at the parks, and at construction sites. A drone has endless uses. He said they have two officers who are currently licensed to operate a drone, but would like to increase that to four.

CMBR Hill asked if this needed to be a budget objective. City Administrator Moody said there is nothing that says an item has to be a minimal dollar amount to be an objective.

CMBR Faidley asked if a police officer would operate the drone. Police Chief Morris said it would need to be operated by certified “pilots,” and he currently has two. He said they could possibly get someone from Public Works or even someone from the Council that would be interested and could use it at events. Certification runs around \$300 to \$500.

CMBR Raglow asked about the life cycle for a drone. Police Chief Morris said they last a long time provided you don’t crash them. The battery life is the main item, so they would want to purchase something that would last. He said it is not a toy and would be another tool to enhance public safety.

Mayor Poppa asked if only certified people would be operating the drone. Police Chief Morris said that would be the case and they would develop a process for its use to make sure that it is properly maintained and used.

CMBR Faidley asked if there has been an issue over private drone usage. Police Chief Morris said the only concerns they have received were those trying to fly over Miego during fireworks. The Police Department would make sure theirs was used for professional reasons only.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera asked if there is required insurance or a warranty. Police Chief Morris said it would have the standard manufacturer warranty. One reason to make certain they have specifically trained personnel is the City would be responsible for any damage they would do. City Administrator Moody said it would be covered under the City’s property coverage.

CMBR Raglow recommended checking on unmanned aircraft as it is sometimes an exclusion under an insurance policy. City Administrator Moody said he will doublecheck on that.

CMBR Dickens asked if they would be able to review any footage taken and would they be notified if there was an issue. Police Chief Morris said they would need to create specific guidelines for use at an event and also make determinations for restriction of its use.

CMBR Dickens also asked how often they have been borrowing drones. Police Chief Morris said they borrowed one four or five times in the past year.

CMBR Rebne asked if they would need to obtain a warrant if tracking someone. Police Chief Morris said they do not need to obtain a warrant to follow someone and they would not use a drone inside.

### **III. NON-ACTION ITEMS:**

*No items were presented.*

#### **IV. ADJOURN**

CMBR Hill adjourned the meeting.

(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Adjourned at 8:11 p.m.)