

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**ROELAND PARK CITY HALL**  
**4600 WEST 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205**  
**July 24, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Michael Poppa, Mayor</li><li>○ Trisha Brauer, Council Member</li><li>○ Benjamin Dickens, Council Member</li><li>○ Jan Faidley, Council Member</li><li>○ Jennifer Hill, Council Member</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Tom Madigan, Council Member</li><li>○ Castagna-Herrera, Council Member</li><li>○ Michael Rebne, Council Member</li><li>○ Kate Raglow, Council Member</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Keith Moody, City Administrator</li><li>○ Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.</li><li>○ Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk</li><li>○ John Morris, Police Chief</li><li>○ Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director</li></ul>
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**Admin**  
Dickens  
Rebne

**Finance**  
Hill  
Castagna-Herrera

**Safety**  
Madigan  
Brauer

**Public Works**  
Faidley  
Raglow

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.)

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Poppa called the City Council meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. CMBRS Dickens and Brauer attended virtually. CMBRS Raglow and Rebne were absent. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Walker, Police Chief Morris, Parks and Rec Superintendent Marshall, and City Clerk Nielsen.

City Administrator Moody said he was contacted by Mason Ain, an incoming senior at Blue Valley who said he is interested in public administration. Mason shadowed Mr. Moody during the day and was also in attendance of the meeting.

Mayor Poppa thanked Mason for being at the meeting.

### **Modification of Agenda**

*There were no modifications to the agenda.*

### **I. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Mike Miller (3800 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> Terr)** Mr. Miller said he appreciates the work the ad hoc committee has put towards the renovations at the Community Center. He did say that he is disappointed in the trend of painting masonry white with black trim and applauded the Council's decision not to paint the limestone front of the Community Center. He also asked them to reconsider the painting of the brick. He said that Mayor Poppa had informed him the brick on the east elevation of the building had already been painted. As a counter proposal, he suggested a mural of school age children be put on one wall as the building used to be Skyline Elementary. He did say the stucco areas need to be resurfaced and would like for the City to re-consult with the architects for a more traditional treatment of the walls.

**Donald Martin (4935 Wells)** Mr. Martin said he read in the papers a child selling lemonade was struck by a car on Buena Vista. Mr. Wells advocated the need for speed bumps in the area, noting that people care more about the suspension in their vehicles more than the speed limits. He would like to see speed bumps on Wells, Buena Vista, and Parish Drive and said he would do what he can to help this move forward.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1023**
- B. Council Minutes July 10, 2023**

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR CASTAGNA-HERRERA SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

## **III. Business from the Floor - Proclamations/Applications/Presentations**

### **A. 2023 Resident Survey Presentation by ETC**

Ryan Murray, ETC Assistant Director of Community Research, presented the results of the 2023 resident survey. The first thing he noted was the response was not as high as in years past. He said their stated goal is to collect 400 responses, but really would like to see between 600 and 800 responses. They tried to trim down the length of the survey, but feels it may still be a bit too long.

Mr. Murray said they received a representative response from all areas of the community. Satisfaction remains high and Roeland Park rates 13 points higher than the Kansas City Metro area benchmark. The highest priority of improvement is for enforcement of codes and ordinance and maintenance of commercial property. Mr. Murry believes this may be driven by a number of highly visible commercial properties being vacant.

The City received a very positive response of 93 percent as an excellent place to live and 86 percent for an excellent place to raise children. Overall, the increase in satisfaction was 0.6 percent, continuing the steady rise since 2013.

Mr. Murray also reviewed the KC Metro benchmarks noting that Roeland Park city services are above average. He also reviewed the remaining questions with the Governing Body.

Mayor Poppa said that Roeland Park is a good place to work from home but noted that there is not as large of variety of employment options in Roeland Park compared with surrounding communities which likely contributes to lower satisfaction with the city as a place to work.

The City performed above the average in quality of life, but noted that they were below average for fire and emergency services. Of note, is that these are not provided directly by Roeland Park and are provided by regional government agencies.

CMBR Hill asked about the responses to maintenance and whether people are saying they are unhappy with the way things are or it's important for them to stay in good condition. Mr. Murray said that was a good question and believes the people are telling them that is still important, and it is a high priority.

CMBR Madigan asked if the report is longer this time than in the past as it is 142 printed pages. Mr. Murray said that some of the formatting caused it to be longer. CMBR Madigan also asked if there was

any data to show how many people completed the entire survey. Mr. Murray said the results presented are from a fully completed survey. He did note there were a lot of incompletes. He said they look to see where people start dropping off, but it seemed to be random. The majority of people did complete the entire survey.

Mayor Poppa thanked Mr. Murray for his presentation.

(CMBR Dickens left the meeting)

#### **B. Review Project RISE Information from NEJC Chamber**

Deb Settle from the Northeast Johnson County Chamber said that Project Rise was starting to find its legs and beginning to run. She would like the opportunity to continue to work to help it grow.

Rebecca Galati, consultant working with the NEJC and Roeland Park on Project Rise also said she hopes to continue with the project for the City. She said they are developing what 2024 might look like in ways they can support sustainability and growth of businesses in Roeland Park. She also requested funding of \$100,000 again for next year. They are working on the roles between the Chamber, the City, and herself so they can tailor the program to the people of Roeland Park for their business owners.

Social media and marketing is a large part of the project, and they want to educate the community more actively and how this can be of benefit to them.

Mayor Poppa said they were faced with huge obstacles with the project this year, one of which being staff turnover. He noted that Ms. Jones-Lacy is back, and she is passionate about the business community.

CMBR Faidley asked about the updates with the City. Ms. Galati said she spoke with Madison weekly when she was at the City and provided monthly updates to the Governing Body. She said they need to nail down that communication as the point of contact has changed a few times and it's important to have it for their business owners.

CMBR Faidley would like for them to address what has been successful, their tactics, and the best platform to promote Project Rise. They are looking forward to Ms. Jones-Lacy working with them on this project.

CMBR Hill asked if there is an evaluative piece incorporated for a small business to say how effective this program is for them personally. Ms. Galati said there is an opportunity, and they also want to bring about education pieces, forums, events, and focus groups. They did not want to put together any large events this year, not knowing whether the project would continue. They really want to set this up for success and they want to have those conversations. She also said they would like to be included in the next ETC survey for its broad reach.

CMBR Madigan asked what this program is going to do for Roeland Park. He said he loves the focus on businesses, but he wants to see something concrete for Roeland Park itself. He said that if a resident wants to start a business in another city, the Chamber wouldn't decline to help them. Ms. Galati said she heard across the board about the questions business have when starting and that is why they want

their toolkit online. It is a way to put their resources in one place. Of course, they will have those one-on-one conversations and have meetings. They would also like to form an economic development council and create a mentorship program. Ms. Galati said that someone may approach the Chamber from the outside and want to join the project, but her role has only been associated with Roeland Park.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera said a piece that may be missing is there are very few rentable properties. They need to figure out how to get people in those properties. She acknowledged that there's not a lot out there, but there is enough. Ms. Galati said they need to do fact-finding of who wants to be here and also what properties they have and what are their possibilities. Then they can do targeted marketing after they know the area, square footage, visibility of commercial properties available so they can find those partnerships.

CMBR Brauer asked if there will be one-on-one business coaching. Ms. Galati will work with Ms. Jones-Lacy to determine what the City process will be. They want to get those points of contact if a business owner has a question so they can have a direct resource for answers.

Mayor Poppa noted they do have unused retail space in the City and that the property by Walmart has changed hands. He hopes they can work with the new owners to help them find tenants for those buildings. He said that having thriving storefronts helps the residential community as it lessens the tax burden on its residents. It also provides them with places to go and things to do. This is something the community has been asking for and having that specific strategy and knowing their inventory will benefit their property owners when those spaces are filled.

Ms. Galati said there is a possibility of grant opportunities for the project. She would like to showcase the City's commitment to the program so more businesses will want to partner.

CMBR Faidley said people are always asking for a sit-down restaurant. She feels they are on the right track, but a lot of growth still needs to happen.

Ms. Galati noted that a lot of local government organizations are following their page.

Mayor Poppa said he would like to add Project Rise as a line item in the 2024 budget at a not to exceed amount of \$100,000. He would also like to be informed of contract negotiations, project scope, and have a set of deliverables.

City Administrator Moody said there is \$40,000 of ARPA funds that could be put towards this. Also, they can allot \$60,000 from the Professional Services account from the General Fund.

CMBR Madigan said he was surprised that last year all they ended up with was a website. He does not want to spend \$100,000 to belong to a lot of associations. He has to report to his constituents on where they spend their money, and he thought it would be spent to bring in more businesses.

Mayor Poppa said this is a new and fledgling project with obstacles to overcome. The work product for this year is sufficient, and there is still more to do this year. They are fielding questions on whether the project would continue before committing to participation. If the project is funded and operated and businesses are filling up, then they'll know it is working, but right now they are laying the groundwork.

There was majority consensus to continue Project Rise and place this as a line item for \$100,000 on the 2024 budget.

#### **IV. Mayor's Report**

##### **A. Habitat for Humanity**

Mayor Poppa said that Habitat for Humanity will give an update on the progress they have made on the two programs funded by the City with ARPA funds at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Poppa also thanked everyone in the community, the City staff, the Police Department, Public Works, and Parks and Rec for pitching in during the storm, coming in and working overnight in the recovery and restoration efforts. He noted that Evergy worked tirelessly to get the power back on. He also thanked the Shawnee Mission School District for opening cooling centers. He also expressed his appreciation to neighbors who helped neighbors.

#### **V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees**

##### **A. MARC - First Tier Suburbs**

CMBR Faidley's detailed report is in the agenda packet. She said the item most interesting in their talk was about land trusts. She said that KCK has seven homes in a land trust and more communities are looking at this. She said it may be a way for them to create more affordable housing. She also asked if the Boulevard Apartments have signed up for the Regional Housing Partnership Services available to landlords. City Administrator Moody said he did not know if they had.

#### **VI. Unfinished Business**

*There was no Unfinished Business discussed.*

#### **VII. New Business**

##### **A. Approve CIP Equity Scoring Component Concept**

Mayor Poppa said this item was discussed at their last Workshop. CMBR Rebne and CMBR Castagna-Herrera worked together to come up with an alternate scoring mechanism, that may be used by the DEI committee. They will discuss at their next meeting.

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SCORING CATEGORY FOR THE CIP. (MOTION CARRIED 5-0.)

##### **B. Approve Agreement for Nall Park Master Plan Review and Update Services**

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Marshall presented the Parks and Trees Committee recommendation of Lamp Rynearson for the Nall Park Master Plan review and update.

Mayor Poppa noted if an item is coming to Council for a recommendation from an advisory committee, they would like the DEI questions filled out.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera said there is currently no way to do that online. City Clerk Nielsen will need to be given that information so she can fill those responses out.

CMBR Madigan asked for clarification on that. Mayor Poppa said they asked whether DEI played into their decision on which company to use. He recognized the questions may not always be appropriate, but when they are, the questions should be addressed. CMBR Madigan said if the Council brings forward an action item, it is their responsibility to answer those questions. He is seeing agenda items come before them and they are not filled out. Mayor Poppa said when DEI questions come up, it is not incumbent on staff to fill them out. If the Council generated the items, then they would fill it out. CMBR Madigan asked if they need to put a monetary limit on when they need to be filled out. Mayor Poppa said that is a different conversation and would be willing to speak with CMBR Madigan on it later.

Mr. Marshall said the proposed schedule has been pushed back to August through October. It will include public involvement, an open house, and a review of the conceptual layout. He also said that Lamp Rynearson has done work for the City before.

CMBR Faidley asked if there will be an expert on the riparian habitat along the drainage course in the park. She asked if Lamp Rynearson had someone with expertise or would they bring someone in.

Dan Miller, the City's engineer said they do have people on staff for the purposes of the master plan; however, they are based in Omaha. For the actual operations, they would consider using Habitat Architects locally.

**MOTION:** CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE LAMP RYNEARSON TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE NALL PARK MASTER PLAN. (MOTION CARRIED 5-0.)

**C. Approve Invasive Species Removal for Nall Park**

Mr. Marshall said they are looking to get rid of the wild honeysuckle and winter creeper on roughly six acres at Nall Park.

Katherine Kelly, owner of Goats on the Go said that the goats will normally work through an acre in five to seven days. She estimates 35 days for this project.

CMBR Hill asked how long the benefits will last. She also wanted to know if the goats eat the roots. Ms. Kelly said that invasives will not be eliminated. The goats defoliate the plants, and this will cause some plants to die. She is hoping the city will see proof of the grazing benefits this year and continue with a reoccurring grazing program to keep the invasive plants from taking over.

CMBR Madigan said he has participated in a volunteer program to remove the invasives and it is getting harder to find volunteers. He also wanted to know if this would require more of a police presence to protect the goats.

Ms. Kelly is a little concerned that it is an isolated park. She does not want people harming the goats. She worries more about humans than coyotes and the like. The goats have been at Sar-Ko-Par in Lenexa and the community does get invested in seeing what the goats are up to. She said she has had them in all types of situations, and they are generally not bothered.

Mayor Poppa said he was relieved that Mr. Marshall would not have to pitch a tent to stay with them. Mr. Marshall responded that he would be willing to do that for them.

CMBR Faidley said she lives nearby, and she and her neighbors will keep an eye out. She asked if after the goats are done will they need to reseed the area. Mr. Marshall said he would like to wait until after the goats are finished to make that assessment.

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PARKS/TREES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO USE GOATS ON THE GO TO REMOVE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES IN NALL PARK. (MOTION CARRIED 5-0.)

**D. Approve Service Agreement with Habitat Architects for Cooper Creek Native Bank Stabilization**

City Administrator Moody said the scope was developed to include three different tasks. They include the Council's direction to partner with adjoining property owners to encourage them to incorporate native plantings on their property to discourage erosion. There is also an opportunity for property owners to get additional financial support when participating through the county's Contain the Rain program which pays 50 percent of the costs. The City would provide the other half for homeowners participating in the program. There would also be a bank stabilization effort that requires additional analysis and anticipated engineering which is the largest component of the project for a total cost of \$47,500.

CMBR Faidley asked about the City's portion of the Contain the Rain program. City Administrator Moody said that \$5,400 would be the City's share to offset the 50 percent not paid by the county.

CMBR Faidley also asked how many properties were buying into the program City Administrator Moody said it hasn't been confirmed, but potentially 10 to 13 properties adjacent to the creek could participate.

CMBR Hill asked if the residents would be consulted on what to plan. City Administrator Moody said that the Contain the Rain program is very hands on.

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE SCOPE AND FEE OF \$47,500 WITH HABITAT ARCHITECTS TO EMPLOY THE "NATURAL" APPROACH TO STABILIZATION OF COOPER CREEK. (MOTION CARRIED 5-0.)

**VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions**

*There were no ordinances or resolutions presented.*

**IX. Reports of City Officials**

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Objectives Progress Report**

City Administrator Moody said his report is attached to the agenda packet. They have made significant progress on the new Public Works facility objective. He noted they have their building permit from the UG, demolition is complete inside and framing and rough in has begun. They anticipate moving into the building by the end of the year.

The historian they hired in support of the two historical objectives has been providing bi-weekly reports to the Historical Committee. She is focusing on learning as much as she can about the area, the indigenous people, and the African American population in Roeland Park. She will be meeting with the Historical Committee to put together the written portion of her report.

The DEI guides for agenda items and objectives have been implemented in 2023.

The objective to changeover to hybrid patrol vehicles has been modified by the Council since hybrid patrol units were not available in time for planned replacements. One hybrid was purchased along with 3 gas patrol units. The most recent patrol units purchased are being outfitted and will be in service shortly.

CMBR Faidley asked if there was money to address the roof, tuckpointing, and staining of the new Public Works building. City Administrator Moody said they should be able to complete those items in 2024 with the resources allocated. CMBR Faidley asked if the entire building needed to be tuckpointed. City Administrator Moody said he does not know how in depth the inspection was and he will have to look at it, but he anticipates the north face will have greater demands.

CMBR Faidley also asked for status of the Mighty Bike project. City Administrator Moody said that the Parks and Trees committee are talking about how to modify the structure so that it is not as large nor as sophisticated. He said the commitment is there to raise the \$60,000 but does not believe they can meet the current \$287,000 cost estimate. Public Works is able to pour the concrete base, but they do not have the equipment or experience needed to set and assemble large steel members like those of the Mighty Bike.

### **B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Strategic Plan**

City Administrator Moody said they have added a couple initiatives, completing 167 which represents an investment into the City of \$27.6 million. Those initiatives that have seen progress in the second quarter of 2023 are highlighted in green.

CMBR Faidley asked if the Community Center would be ready for JCCC's adult education slated to begin in August. City Administrator Moody said their office area has been organized and they have identified meeting rooms that will be operational by August. The entire building will not be done, but they can provide them with the two classrooms that they need.

CMBR Faidley requested an update on Southridge Presbyterian and the zoning modifications. City Administrator Moody said they received notice from the Barn Players that they will not be moving forward with their development plan approval. They ran into issues that have them questioning whether the site is a good fit for them, and the project has been put on hold.

### **C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Police Activity**

Police Chief Morris reported there were 213 incidents and 50 specific crimes in the second quarter. He reviewed the Uniform Crime Report statistics. He noted they made one arrest in the arson case. He also reviewed the demographic breakdown and percentages for incidents and citations in the City. He said they have been busy on each side of town and especially the business districts. He noted there

were quite a few car thefts on the Boulevard, but that thefts themselves were down for the second quarter.

He also included a co-responder quarterly report noting that they are a vital asset to the community, and he is glad they have them. He is not sure of the status of filling the second co-responder position.

Police Chief Morris still has not been able to obtain a cost report for Animal Control Services. They did have a few calls in the second quarter including two canine bites. They have not had any complaints about the service, but did note that Mission is having staffing issues.

Police Chief Morris said his new vehicles are getting outfitted and will be ready to go soon. He thanked the Governing Body for approving that purchase.

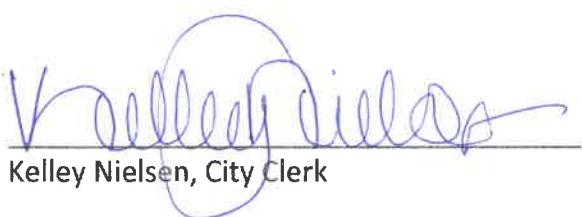
CMBR Hill asked for an update on Rango. Police Chief Morris said he is doing well and has been out with Sgt. Honas who passed all his requirements for certification as a K-9 handler. He appreciated that they took care of the troops while he was gone. He said the department is still short a couple officers, which is a struggle, but they are doing the best they can.

Police Chief Morris said he will be going out to Blue Ridge Academy for recruiting, and also traveling to local academies hoping to add to the department.

**Adjourn:**

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 5-0.)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Michael Poppe, Mayor