

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL  
4600 WEST 51<sup>st</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205  
November 8, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

- Michael Poppa, Mayor
- Trisha Brauer, Council Member
- Benjamin Dickens, Council Member
- Jan Faidley, Council Member
- Jennifer Hill, Council Member

- Miel Castagna-Herrera, Council Member
- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Michael Rebne, Council Member
- Kate Raglow, Council Member

- Keith Moody, City Administrator
- Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.
- Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk
- John Morris, Police Chief
- Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director

**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 meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. CMBR Brauer and CMBR Rebne were absent. All other Governing Body members were present. Staff present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Felzien, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Public Works Superintendent Vandenbos, Police Chief Morris, and City Clerk Nielsen.

### **Modification of Agenda**

*There were no modifications to the agenda.*

#### **I. Public Comments**

*There were no public comments made.*

#### **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1031
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes October 16, 2023

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

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

- A. Fire District #2 - Chief Chick

Mayor Poppa introduced Fire Chief Steve Chick from Consolidated Fire District No. 2. Chief Chick reported on what the district has been doing, their budget, employment and department challenges.

Chief said at this time they are fully staffed. In 2023, his department has spent 1,015 hours in training and working with other entities in Johnson County on how to respond to the big calls. They also train routinely with other cities and Med-Act and the cities of Leawood and Shawnee. Next year, they will be working with Overland Park.

Fire Chief Chick outlined the collaboration techniques with other fire organizations in the county to save on resources and control costs with each organization taking on a specialty. For example, Olathe and Overland Park specialize in hazardous materials and respond to those calls no matter their location. Others specialize in water rescue. CFD2 specializes and provides support in structural or tunnel collapse in tandem with the City of Olathe. They respond whatever the city, train for those types of situations, and maintain the specialty equipment which eliminates all agencies needing that training and equipment for limited type events. They continue to work to be more progressive to collaborate on specialty tools to remain effective.

Chief said they have six units running in their district every day and are able to deliver fast service. They have automatic agreements with the other cities in Johnson County and whoever is closest is where they go. They do not care about the borders in Johnson County.

In addition, Chief Chick said they have set out to implement an advanced life support system to be able to get paramedics out faster by having one in every station. They are able to respond consistently in about 4 minutes and 10 seconds to the door, which is under their five-minute goal.

The Johnson County Commissioners have approved their next budget along with expectations. They have worked with Fairway to be able to lessen the impact on TIF for fire response. Chief Chick said he would also be happy to be involved in discussions with Roeland Park should a TIF discussion arise.

Chief Chick spoke to the new fire station. He said the infrastructure is fantastic and it's not costly to maintain. Station 22 at Mission Road has run out of space, and they are seeking approval for renovation and expansion since it was last updated 25 years ago. They have money saved in their reserves and are able to pay cash for the process, which will not encumber the district for additional funds.

They pioneered a program to increase staff diversity within the district. Chief Chick noted it has been difficult to find not only diverse candidates but candidates in general. And from the candidates they do get, the diversity is less. They had a program for firefighter interns and looked for candidates from that. The program brought in three interns, with two having completed training. One of those is completing medical and fire training and will be placed on shift and is a diverse candidate. The other is a female getting through training and certifications and will be joining them full-time. Another diverse candidate will be onboard in May. Chief Chick noted that staffing continues to be a Johnson County issue. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards specify four people per engine company and four per ladder and they are looking for a way to get there to meet those requirements.

Regarding performance metrics, Chief Chick said he is proud of their fiscal responsibility. He noted they were awarded the highest grade in their annual audit with no recommendations for improvement. He also noted that their employee turnover is extremely low at 1.38 percent. The

department has an ISO Class 1 rating, and they are one department out of 411 across the country to hold that classification out of 50,000 other agencies. This equates to a lower insurance rate for the Fire District.

The Fire District performed an evaluation of salaries and provided a 6.5 percent increase across the board. They were able to do this, lower their mill levy and still collect more in taxes. Chief wanted to also remind everyone that Fire District No. 2 did not receive any public safety sales tax from the courthouse, nor do they receive any sales tax or benefits from development. They have, however, been able to decrease their mill levy over the last four years. He added that Johnson County Commissioner Fast provided him numbers that when compared with all other taxing districts, no one has decreased their taxes more or increased their revenue like Consolidated Fire District No. 2. Chief Chick said they take care of the taxpayers' dollars.

Mayor Poppa said that Chief Chick is doing an amazing job and thanked him for that.

CMBR Faidley said this third quarter report Chief Chick gave was not on their website. Chief said he would look into that.

Mayor Poppa thanked Chief Chick for keeping the community safe, keeping Johnson County residents in mind, being fiscally responsible, and putting together a strong workforce. He said they value their relationship with the City and would welcome further conversation on future development incentives.

Chief Chick said he too appreciates the relationships with the Roeland Park Police Department, and they sometimes need to depend on their support to keep them safe and they do a great job for them.

#### **B. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Social Media Report - Katie Garcia**

Katie Garcia with Gather Media provided her third quarter social media report. She reviewed all the avenues that the City of Roeland Park shares information and news through Constant Contact, Instagram, Facebook, and the City's website. She noted they have a high open rate on items with 95 percent of access still being done via desktop.

The top communication posts for the quarter were the July power outage, Evergy updates, road construction, Goats on the Go in Nall Park, the leaf pick-up collection schedule, as well as a mix of other stories.

Ms. Garcia reviewed the City's metrics in comparison with other neighboring cities and City Administrator Moody emphasized this provides a more accurate representation of what they are able to do in engaging their public on a part-time basis versus a full-time position. It shows how effective they are and working together with Gather Media, they are able to provide the information the residents know they will get and expect to get. Ms. Garcia said they are able to see this through the high engagement with their posts.

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

#### **A. Native American Heritage Month**

Mayor Poppa thanked the Kansas City Indian Center for helping them to put together the proclamation, which he then read into the record. All Councilmembers present and online signed on to the proclamation.

For further information, Mayor Poppa suggested visiting the National Endowment for the Humanities website at <https://www.neh.gov>. Search for Native American Heritage Month for a wealth of available resources.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera also added the Kansas City Indian Center on 39<sup>th</sup> Street off of Southwest Trafficway provides a lot of services including a food bank to anyone who needs help. They offer emergency assistance and even diapers. She said there are great organizations who help natives in the area. <https://kcindiancenter.org>.

Mayor Poppa said these are great organizations and they are great partners that he appreciates they have available.

Mayor Poppa also thanked all the candidates who were on the election ballot noting that it takes courage to run. He said he hoped those who showed interest in Roeland Park but did not win their race will stay engaged in a productive way with the City. He expressed his congratulations to CMBRS Faidley and Dickens who were reelected, CMBR Castagna-Herrera who was elected to serve a full term, and also to Matthew Lero and Emily Hage who were elected for the two open Council seats.

CMBR Madigan congratulated Mayor Poppa on his election. Mayor Poppa said he is excited to be able to stay with them another two years.

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

### **A. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**

Haile Sims, from the DEI provided some committee updates. He said they are in a strategic planning session and will be finishing up as they look at goals and plans for the next year. He said they continue to look for new members. Mr. Sims said they will be looking for a new committee chair as he has decided to step down in January. He added that he will be staying on the committee.

Mayor Poppa said he hates to lose Mr. Sims as chair, but is glad that he is staying with the committee as he has been doing a lot of good things.

CMBR Faidley asked if the historian is continuing to work with the signs and DEI committees. She said that she read Essay 1 and that it was well-researched and very well done, scholarly yet easy to read. CMBR Castagna-Herrera said she is continuing to work with them, and the committee knows they made the right choice.

CMBR Raglow said they have been very impressed with her and how she is also bringing the groups together. She said she appreciates the positive feedback from CMBR Faidley and will pass that along.

### **B. Sustainability Committee**

A full Sustainability Committee report will be provided at the next meeting.

Ms. Jones-Lacy did say that staff is working with Aldi and KC Compost to bring composting to Roeland Park. The bins will be in the Aldi lot, and they will also use it for their store. Staff has received the agreement for review. Currently there is no financial investment by the City at this time.

CMBR Hill asked with the compost kiosk would they be able to take compost away as well. Ms. Jones-Lacy said the site is only for drop off.

CMBR Faidley asked what is included for composting. Ms. Jones-Lacy said food scraps and grass clippings are acceptable items.

CMBR Hill asked if they would compost meat and other items. Ms. Jones-Lacy said that a larger operation such as KC Compost has the ability to compost meat. However, it is strongly discouraged in personal back yards.

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

The First Tier Suburbs report is in the agenda packet.

Mayor Poppa noted that CMBR Hill gave a presentation to the MARC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee that included video the City made of the traffic garden, written and directed by City Administrator Moody and starring Mayor Poppa.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=586700383286121>

CMBR Hill said the presentation was very well received and people were excited. They asked if there were plans to make more traffic gardens in the City, but she noted how limited they are in space. They also gave her great ideas for incorporating other signage such as pedestrian crosswalks. They have asked her to come back and talk further about programming in the City.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

*No Unfinished Business was discussed.*

## **VII. Ordinances and Resolutions**

*No ordinances or resolutions were presented.*

## **VIII. New Business**

### **A. Appoint Harold Morales to the DEI Committee**

**MOTION:** CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR CASTAGNA-HERRERA SECONDED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT OF HAROLD MORALES TO THE DEI COMMITTEE. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

### **B. Approve Leaf Collection Agreement with Westwood Hills**

Public Works Director Scharff said the agreement is the same as in previous years and it is expected to be completed in eight hours in one day. Cost details and schedule are included in the agenda packet.

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE LEAF COLLECTION AGREEMENT WITH WESTWOOD HILLS. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

**C. Approve Replacement of Public Works Pickup**

Daniel Vandembos said the pickup is a 2024 F-250 and the photo in the packet reflects the bed they would like. The cost is \$2,162 over what was initially included in the 2024 budget.

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2024 FORD F-250 PICKUP TRUCK, BRADFORD BED, AND BOSS V-PLOW AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$73,662. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

**D. Direction on Adding Administrative Assistant at Public Works**

Public Works Director Scharff said the request for an administrative assistant for Public Works would be in lieu of an intern position. With the increased number of projects Public Works is doing there is also an increase in public engagement which requires preparation for neighborhood meetings, and meeting with owners to secure easements. The assistant would be available to answer phones and be a face at the Public Works building. This will help their department be able to focus on other areas.

Mayor Poppa said that staff at City Hall is supportive of this position.

CMBR Faidley asked if they expect any difficulty filling this position. City Administrator Moody said they recognize Public Works is doing more today than they have historically done, especially in administration and engagement. They have had good luck recruiting and currently have tenured employees, plus this position will be part-time.

**MOTION:** CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT PUBLIC WORKS. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

**IX. Reports of City Officials**

**A. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Report**

Ms. Jones-Lacy reported that most of their property taxes have come in. Sales tax continues to be positive and is up over 3 percent from last year. There are signs that point to a slowing down, but they have been historically high since 2019. Court fees are behind budget due to officer shortage. Investment revenues are really high and considered booming. They have earned over \$100,000 year-to-date on their idle funds.

CMBR Faidley asked if they could if they could see a breakdown on property taxes of private versus commercial. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they do not get that information from Johnson County, but she could ask if that's a report they can provide to them.

City Administrator Moody said they report a ratio between appraised value and commercial over the year.

CMBR Faidley asked if the decline in building permits is concerning. City Administrator Moody responded it has been a consistent downward trend.

Mayor Poppa noted there was high voter turnout and high engagement in Johnson County but especially Roeland Park and thanked everyone for voting.

Ms. Jones-Lacy said Zoning Codes is holding an open house next Monday (November 13) at 3 o'clock and said the Governing Body is free to attend.

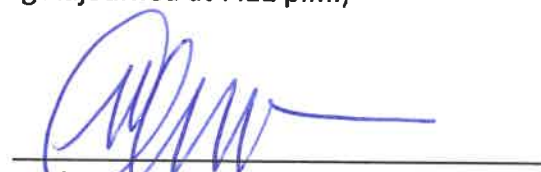
Police Chief Morris said he has a new officer starting next week.

Mayor Poppa invited Chief Morris to bring the new officers and introduce them at the next meeting.

**Adjourn:**

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR CASTAGNA-HERRERA SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:11 p.m.)

  
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Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk  
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Michael Poppa, Mayor