

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL  
4600 WEST 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205  
January 16, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

- Michael Poppa, Mayor
- Emily Hage, Council Member
- Benjamin Dickens, Council Member
- Jan Faidley, Council Member
- Jennifer Hill, Council Member

- *Vacant*, Council Member
- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Kate Raglow, Council Member
- Matthew Lero, 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  
Lero

**Finance**  
Hill  
*Vacant*

**Safety**  
Madigan  
Hage

**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, and all Governing Body members were present. Staff present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Felzien, Public Works Director Scharff, Deputy Chief of Police Cory Honas, and City Clerk Nielsen.

### **Modification of Agenda**

*There were no agenda modifications.*

### **I. Public Comments**

**Keith & Morgan Bokelman** (5520 Juniper) Mr. Bokelman spoke to investment of a short-term rental in the City and expressed concerns that there has been no discussion and that his interest and concerns were not being considered, and was concerned for his lost investment. He felt that the City could change the code to allow for the operation of his rental while eliminating the fears of corporations purchasing residential properties for short-term rentals.

CMBRS Madigan, Raglow, and Lero recommended placing this on a Workshop agenda for discussion.

CMBR Faidley stated the primary concern is the owner occupancy portion of the code.

CMBR Hill asked if someone could go before the BZA for a variance. City Administrator Moody said short-term rentals are in the business license section of the code and does not fall under zoning regulations.

Mayor Poppa said they will put this on a Workshop for February and will also reach out to the Bokelmans to make sure they are able to attend. Mayor Poppa also requested staff find out if there is any precedent or a way to distinguish between small owners of short-term rentals and corporations.

CMBR Madigan stated that the BZA used to also act as the code board for appeals. City Administrator Moody said they do not refer to them as a code review board and the Board of Zoning Appeals is the appropriate body if someone is seeking relief or a variance from a zoning regulation.

CMBR Madigan said they were two separate boards and City Administrator Moody said he will look into it.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1035**
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes January 2, 2024**

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

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

### **A. Introduce Khal Miller to Council**

City Administrator Moody said that Khal Miller is the new Codes Enforcement Officer. Unfortunately, he was not able to attend the meeting, but he will be introduced to the Governing Body when he is able to attend.

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

Mayor Poppa thanked the Public Works team for their work and dedication during the snowstorm to keep the roads clear and to keep them safe.

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

*There were no reports given.*

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

*No Unfinished Business was discussed.*

## **VII. New Business**

- A. Appoint David Smith to the Community Foundation Board**

**MOTION:** CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPOINT DAVID SMITH TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

- B. Assignment of Council Liaison to Standing Committees**

Mayor Poppa directed everyone to the updated assignment sheet in the packet. He said that CMBR Hill had asked about the primary and secondary positions, and he said that each committee is different

in their requirements. He also added that he would love to have a discussion with the Governing Body regarding this.

City Attorney Felzien clarified Governing Body membership on a committee to not more than three to avoid reaching a quorum.

CMBR Madigan asked if there is more than one Governing Body on a committee are they all voting members. Mayor Poppa said all Governing Body members on the committee do have a vote.

CMBR Faidley said it was her understanding that the secondary liaison to a committee was to be available in case the primary could not attend as it is not a necessity that they both be present. Mayor Poppa said the liaisons need to coordinate with one another to make certain they have representation on the committees.

CMBR Faidley also said that she was on the MARC Bike/Ped committee which is held during the day on Wednesdays at 1:30. She said that she would be willing to step down if someone would like to be on the committee. She also noted that the meetings are held in a hybrid/virtual fashion.

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

**C. Approve Landscaping Improvements to Roe Boulevard**

Public Works Director Scharff said they called for bids to replace trees and do landscape improvements along Roe Boulevard. They received seven proposals and Blue Cedar Landscape was the low bid. There have been some mowing issues in the medians and the plan is to remove the sod and lay down mulch to eliminate the need for mowing.

CMBR Hill noted that there are more appealing plant options than the current plantings along Roe, and they do not want something that looks like weeds. Public Works Director Scharff stated they are trying to add more color variations.

City Administrator Moody noted the landscape architect did employ native plants as did the original landscape architect. The plants are hardy and intended to survive in a harsh environment that does not get a lot of water. It would be nice to see more color, but they do need to make sure the plants are hardy and do not require a lot of maintenance.

Mayor Poppa noted that hardy native plantings usually do look like weeds. He said he was interested in seeing the plan sheet with the photos.

CMBR Hill said her concern is with the groupings of plants and how they are placed .

CMBR Faidley asked how the mulch would be contained in the medians, how often it would need to be replaced, and what would be the cost to the City.

Public Works Director Scharff said the purpose of taking the sod out is to contain the mulch, but it will be in back of the curb. He also said that they will top off the mulch as needed.

CMBR Hage asked why they were replacing 27 trees and whether lack of water is an issue. Public Works Director Scharff said they are responsible for watering and that the gator bags do help. Typically they water new trees every week for two years.

City Administrator Moody said they planted 153 trees along Roe Boulevard and did anticipate that some would be lost. He said it is not the best environment to grow small trees into larger ones, but they are doing their best to create that boulevard feel with different types of native trees. There is a variety along the corridor, and they are not replacing with the same trees as the ones that died.

CMBR Madigan asked about the TIF 1 funds. City Administrator Moody said they have not been earmarked yet, and CMBR Madigan said that would be a good start for Nall Park.

CMBR Lero said he understands removing the sod and adding mulch, but asked if there was a way to plant some grass to have that green color such as buffalo grass and break up the monotony of the mulch.

CMBR Hill also recommended mondo grass that does not have to be mowed and can be allowed to grow to fill in spots.

Dan Miller, City Engineer, said he is responsible for what the Governing Body is looking at. He noted they did look at other options that were considerably more expensive. He said the immediate issue is the trees and they must get that under contract and ordered so they can be planted while they're still dormant. They will have to get rid of the grass and sod as that is a maintenance issue. He said that they can go back later and plant anything they would like, but the removal of grass and sod is a prerequisite to that.

CMBR Faibley said she always heard that fall is the best time to plant. Mr. Miller said it is, but as long as the tree is dormant it is not a problem.

City Administrator Moody said there was an urgency to get the trees planted before, so they were originally planted in the heat of the summer, and they did their best to keep them watered.

Mr. Miller also said the plants can be accommodated by a change order.

CMBR Raglow asked if they approve the contract today, what would be the timeline for the change order on the plants. Mr. Miller said there is plenty of time to work on that.

Mayor Poppa recommended they discuss plantings at the February 5<sup>th</sup> Workshop.

City Administrator Moody said they could approve the tree installation, sod removal, and mulch, while deciding the placement of plants later.

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE BID TO BLUE CEDAR LANDSCAPING TO COMPLETE LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS ON ROE BOULEVARD IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$52,715 WITH SPECIFIC PLANTINGS TO BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

## **VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions**

*There were no ordinances or resolutions presented.*

## **IX. Reports of City Officials**

### **A. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023 Objectives Progress Report**

City Administrator Moody said they had six new objectives for 2023 and were able to complete two objectives; one on time and on budget and the other over budget and over time. They have also made progress on initiatives from prior years such as the Cooper Creek bank stabilization project, which they are hoping to bring to a closure in 2024.

Mr. Moody also reviewed the remaining outstanding objectives, their statuses, and projected timelines for completion. He will continue to make quarterly reports to the Governing Body on the various projects. He noted that they had a productive year in 2023 and the items that remain incomplete have not been forgotten and continue to be worked on.

CMBR Hill said the Cooper Creek residents want to know what they should plant along the bank. City Administrator Moody said he will get back to them with information on where they stand on that effort. They have been coordinating with Johnson County and that resources will be available for native plantings.

CMBR Hill also asked Deputy Chief Honas about the new Dodge Durangos. Deputy Chief Honas said they are doing very well and are much appreciated.

### **B. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Strategic Plan Progress Report**

City Administrator Moody said the Strategic Plan dates back to 2015 when they first began tracking their progress on strategic initiatives and they continue to work on them. There have been 170 initiatives that represent a \$27.6 million investment into the community. He said this communicates to their residents how they are moving the City forward.

Mayor Poppa thanked the Governing Body and congratulated them for their leadership and vision on the initiatives, but more so to staff for implementing them. He agreed that this is a huge reinvestment into the community.

CMBR Faidley stated that now that they have had curbside glass recycling for a full year, will there be a report from Ripple? City Administrator Moody said they will be on hand to present at the next Council meeting.

CMBR Hage wanted to acknowledge that the way the initiatives are organized it makes it easy to follow along.

### **C. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Public Works Report**

Public Works Director Scharff provided a breakdown of staff hours, noting that a majority of their time is spent on parks and green space maintenance. He said the department is also continuing with their park inspections and maintenance.

Mr. Scharff also went over the contracted street maintenance program for 2023.

City Administrator Moody reminded everyone that in 2024, their street improvements will focus on full depth repairs.

Public Works Director Scharff also reviewed the street sweeping, neighborhood street reconstruction projects, and pipelining. He also went over the leaf collection program and the mechanical issues with the truck. Because of this, they will be working on an RFP for on-call leaf collection.

Public Works Director Scharff also reviewed projects to include the Johnson Drive and Roe signal replacement, the Roe Parkway Extension, and the El Monte sidewalk extension.

**Adjourn:**

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:05 p.m.)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelley Nielsen', written over a horizontal line.

Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Poppa', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Poppa, Mayor