

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51ST STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
March 4, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Poppe, Mayor• Emily Hage, Council Member• Benjamin Dickens, Council Member• Jan Faidley, Council Member• Jennifer Hill, Council Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tom Madigan, Council Member• Jeffrey Stocks, Council Member• Matthew Lero, Council Member• Kate Raglow, Council Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keith Moody, City Administrator• Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.• Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk• John Morris, Police Chief• Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director
--	---	---

Admin
Lero
Faidley

Finance
Stocks
Dickens

Safety
Hage
Hill

Public Works
Raglow
Madigan

(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Meeting Called to Order at 6:27 p.m.)

I. MINUTES

A. Governing Body Workshop Meeting Minutes February 19, 2024

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Review Chapter 1 of the City Code

Ms. Jones-Lacy gave an overview of the proposed updates to Chapter 1 of the City Code. Recommendations include a modernization of terms, removing gender pronouns, allowing the City Manager to live within 25 miles of Roeland Park. Also outlined are the duties and responsibilities of the Arts Committee and the Arts Director. To the Sustainability Committee, educating the community on disproportionate effects of climate change will be added to their duties.

The Governing Body discussed election of the Council president first meeting in January.

CMBR Faidley asked if when they changed the swearing in date whether it required a charter ordinance. Ms. Jones-Lacy said that it did.

CMBR Raglow asked if the 25-mile radius would be in line with the remote work policy and having the ability to reach City Hall within a certain amount of time.

City Manager Moody recommended a distance as that is easier to calculate versus a time requirement which could vary depending on circumstances.

CMBR Madigan said initially they wanted everyone to live in Roeland Park that works there. He said the City Administrator is the highest paid position and they want to keep that money in Johnson County. He personally would like to limit it to Johnson County. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they can make that exception.

CMBR Hage asked if it served them to be prescriptive in their language knowing that qualified takes many forms. The desire is to make certain they are open to as many qualified candidates as possible.

CMBR Faidley asked CMBR Hage if experience would be a better option than qualification. CMBR Faidley also asked if they require experience over qualification. CMBR Hage said a combination of experience and education would work and they could consider making the language more flexible.

City Manager Moody said they do consider experience in greater weight over education.

Ms. Jones-Lacy added that a lot of weight is placed on the job advertisement and on how the position is described.

The discussion turned to oaths and bonds. It was recommended to remove the phrase “so help me God.” City Attorney Felzien said that the oath would then be under the penalty of perjury.

CMBR Madigan said in removing the phrase, it feels like they are taking away something. He would like to see an option of being able to say “so help me God” in the oath. Ms. Jones-Lacy stated they can have two with one being “under the pains and penalties of perjury.”

CMBR Hill appreciated the separation of church and state.

CMBR Dickens, as an atheist, appreciates this option as he does not swear allegiance to any deity.

CMBR Raglow said in giving options, they need to provide options for all religions.

Mayor Poppe agreed that people should be given the option.

Mr. Felzien said he would look into something encompassing, but that it could get cumbersome.

The Council then moved on to discussion of liaison and alternate members on committees. CMBR Madigan started the discussion stating that the larger committees have a problem getting a quorum.

There was discussion of the role and duties of the Governing Body liaisons and alternates to the committees. The liaisons would attend the meetings and the alternates would be a back-up. The alternate may attend the meetings but would not be voting if the liaison is there, and it would be their responsibility to keep current on the issues the committee was discussing.

Mayor Poppe said it has been a matter of practice the alternate would be backup for the primary liaison. He noted that the alternate would not count toward quorum if the primary were there. This would only apply to standing committees.

The conversation moved on to the Youth Advisory Committee, which Ms. Jones-Lacy recommended eliminating as there has never been any activity. The suggestion was made to instead allow youth to join the standing committees and there was discussion about lowering the minimum age for participation.

CMBR Faidley thanked the DEI committee for their recommendations on gender changes and for replacing equality with equity, and that they are still learning the difference between those two words.

There was agreement to discuss the changes again after the next draft has been written.

Regarding the residency radius, Mayor Poppa said that 25 miles in 30 minutes may not be feasible.

City Manager Moody said the City Administrator rarely gets called in. Usually, the police are the first to respond, and with the improvements in communication, they have other methods versus the in-person required from years ago. Ms. Jones-Lacy added that the City Administrator would not be considered a remote employee anyway.

The discussion went back to the election of the Council president and whether to keep it at the first meeting in January or move it to March.

CMBR Madigan said it was a great idea to move it to March.

CMBR Faidley said it is difficult for new Councilmembers to decide who to support so early in their term.

CMBR Lero said as a new Councilmember he knew almost everyone already but could see it being a difficult decision if someone did not.

CMBR Hage spoke to the culture of how well the Council works together, and as a new Councilmember it is easy to trust the consensus of those working together. It was also stated it would be good to know who was in the running before the meeting and suggested moving the election to the second meeting in January.

CMBR Dickens would like to see new Councilmembers up and running and familiar with their process first.

Mayor Poppa would like to add to the code that the intentions be put forward at the first meeting in January for someone wanting to be Council president.

Some discussion items were clarified such as CMBR Madigan wanted to make sure the City Administrator had some public experience and speaking qualifications.

CMBR Hage stated being in favor of the broader language.

There was agreement on two versions of the oath.

CMBR Faidley asked whether legislation is moving forward at the state level with KORA to limit the cost of requesting open records. Ms. Jones-Lacy said that is still open and that municipalities have said no to this as they have staff hours to pay for. Mayor Poppa stated it has not come up for a vote.

For the standing committees, it was clarified that the majority would be City residents and non-residents of up to one.

CMBR Madigan noted that forms are sent out asking who would like to remain on the committees and they do not know who responds or not. City Clerk Nielsen will send out an updated list of committee members to the Governing Body.

Mayor Poppa asked if they could set their own requirements of what consists of a quorum. Mr. Felzien will investigate whether it can be lower than 50 percent plus one.

CMBR Hage said a majority of folks at a meeting are necessary to encourage discussion and dialogue.

CMBR Faidley noted that committees often do not make official motions but are developing consensus. Voting requires a quorum, but the committees can still meet.

CMBR Hill would like to see the committee age requirement lowered to 14.

CMBR Raglow said youth at that age cannot drive and should they invite their parents to the meetings.

CMBR Hill said that children would be more open to speaking if their parents were not there.

Mayor Poppa suggested incorporating language at 14 with a parental chaperone to age 16.

CMBR Hill said she would not see the youth remaining long on a committee.

CMBR Raglow staff look at verbiage 14-17 with parental consent and will continue discussion.

2. Discuss Elections for Appointed Governing Body Members

Mayor Poppa said they have unintentionally found themselves where a local appointed official will put their name on a partisan ballot. Mayor Poppa presented Charter Ordinance No. 38.

CMBR Raglow expressed agreement with the changes suggested by the Mayor.

CMBR Madigan is not concerned about partisan elections but the inconvenience it causes to someone and supports the changes.

There was consensus on the changes to the ordinance and it will be brought before the Governing Body at the March 18th City Council meeting.

III. NON-ACTION ITEMS

There were no minutes presented.

IV. ADJOURN

CMBR Raglow adjourned the meeting.

(Roeland Park Workshop Adjourned at 7:57 p.m.)