

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL  
4600 WEST 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205  
June 3, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

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

- Matthew Lero, Council Member
- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Kate Raglow, Council Member
- Jeffrey Stocks, 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**

Lero  
Faidley

**Finance**

Stocks  
Dickens

**Safety**

Hage  
Hill

**Public Works**

Raglow  
Madigan

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:01 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. All Governing Body members were present. Staff present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Walker, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Jones-Lacy, Police Chief Morris, Deputy Police Chief Honas, Public Works Director Scharff, Public Works Superintendent Shefcyk, 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 #1044**
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes May 20, 2024**
- C. Approve Cereal Malt Beverage License**

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

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

## **A. Update from the County - Commissioner Fast**

Johnson County Commissioner Becky Fast from District 1 updated the Governing Body on several projects the Commissioners are involved in. She spoke to the Nelson Wastewater System updates noting their importance to both Roeland Park and Mission. She gave a history of the Nelson plant commenting on the age of the infrastructure and how Johnson County has worked to alleviate odors. The ongoing improvements will have a positive environmental impact, make the facility more energy efficient, and increase the area's water quality.

Commissioner Fast spoke about the Johnson County Wastewater Backup Prevention Program. She said that Johnson County will come out and assess homes that are experiencing backup and eligible homes will have the opportunity to take advantage of available funding to stop the stormwater from going into the sewer system with the new Inflow Program.

The new Merriam Plaza Library is complete and is now connected to the Merriam Community Center. Currently the county is working on the Corinth Library and the elevators at Cedar Roe although there are no major renovations slated right now in their comprehensive plan for Roeland Park's library.

Ms. Fast also spoke to how much Roeland Park has benefitted from the CARS program the past years and the sources of those funds.

Regarding stormwater manager, Commissioner Fast is the liaison for the northeast. She is thankful they embarked on 48<sup>th</sup> and Roe with 2023 funding. She said the sales tax program started in the 90s and would like to see the program increase with the higher population density which is critical in the county.

Commissioner Fast visited the Waste Management facility in Shawnee and said they have people working all day in the recycling center culling out items that cannot be recycled to avoid contamination. Our recyclables are shipped to China and will be returned if contaminated. Waste Management has created a Recycle Right program to educate residents on what can be recycled. Currently there are seven landfills in the area, and they are reaching capacity. It takes ten years to permit a landfill. The Commission has embarked on a study on the feasibility of a composting facility in Johnson County.

There have been innovations to the Johnson County Mental Health Center to include a youth residential crises and stabilization center. There has also been an integration of 988 (mental health) with 911 at the dispatch center. Also, the mental health co-responders took in 41,000 calls in 2022.

Commissioner Fast also noted that Johnson County has an aging population and there are county programs that provide assistance such as meal programs, counseling, and in-home services.

The county's public transit system is being evaluated and they are seeking advice and input from area locals especially with transit shelters to protect users from the elements.

Housing and home repair remain a top priority with the Commission. They continue to move forward with a new housing repair program. The Commissioners heard of the excellent work that Roeland Park has done and spoke with City Manager Moody regarding the program, and it has become the basis for

the county program. They are also currently seeking a SUP from the city of Lenexa for a homeless service center at the LaQuinta off 95<sup>th</sup> Street. If they cannot receive the SUP, it will become a resource for the homeless.

Commissioner Fast spoke to the local property tax relief programs that were led by Roeland Park's initiative.

She also spoke to the parks, noting that Meadowbrook and Antioch are the county's main parks. She also recommended that everyone check out the Means Kill Creek Observation Tower.

Commissioner Fast concluded her presentation stating that she wanted to be the City's voice and they can contact her when there are concerns.

CMBR Dickens said one of his objectives is the lack of sheltered transit stops and is glad the Commission is looking into it. He said he would love to help in their efforts.

CMBR Faidley asked if the homeless service center is contingent on Lenexa's approval of the SUP. Commissioner Fast said that if the SUP is not approved, they could still have transitional housing, but a homeless emergency use service center does require a special use permit. They hope to be through this process by September.

CMBR Faidley asked staff if on the tax property rebate the adjusted entry level for that program is accurate. Ms. Jones-Lacy said that Commissioner Fast's chart is correct, and they are the current standards the City uses. City Manager Moody added the adjustment has to do with the federal standard income level and had not been adopted. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they try to adjust that annually. CMBR Faidley said they could look at increasing it if they want to.

Mayor Poppa thanked Commissioner Fast for her report and being one of their voices on the Commission.

Commissioner Fast thanked the Governing Body for their work and especially on the Community Center and Nall Park. She said it is beautiful and she is so proud.

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

##### **A. Pride Month Proclamation**

Mayor Poppa read the proclamation into the record declaring June as Pride Month in the City of Roeland Park. All Governing Body signed on to the proclamation.

Taryn Jones, Policy Director with Equality Kansas, was present and thanked the Governing Body for their continued support. She said that Roeland Park lead the way with their non-discrimination ordinance and banning conversion therapy. She said they are a leader in Johnson County.

Mayor Poppa said they would not be where they are today without Equality Kansas.

##### **B. National Gun Violence Awareness Day Proclamation**

Mayor Poppa read the proclamation into the record noting that June 7<sup>th</sup> is National Gun Violence Awareness Day. He said this is especially relevant considering the City's tragic loss of Lisa Galvin due to gun violence earlier this year.

Leanna Barclay, Co-Chapter lead with the Kansas Moms Demand Action, thanked the Councilmembers for their recognition. She said they wear orange to honor those killed in gun violence because it is the color hunters wear to signal they are there and not to shoot. She said that on the morning of June 8<sup>th</sup> at Harmon Park there will be a rally to raise awareness of gun violence.

All Councilmember signed on to the proclamation.

(Photos were taken)

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

### **A. Planning Commission Update**

Lisa Brunner, Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission, provided an update on their activities. She said the Planning Commission and the City Council have been getting into the weeds and going through the draft code of ordinances.

Ms. Jones-Lacy said the review will be followed up with a public hearing. She will send the changes out for everyone's review once they get them back from Chris Shires, the City's consultant from Confluence. He will pull that together and then a public hearing will be held July 16<sup>th</sup> before the Planning Commission.

Ms. Brunner commented that Mr. Shires has been very helpful, and she believes the people will be happy with the clear language and great vision that has been incorporated into the proposed changes and that this will serve the community well for a long time to come. She added that it was a great project and well worth the effort.

Mayor Poppa said it has been a pleasure working with the Planning Commission on the revisions and is looking forward to completing the process.

CMBR Faidley thanked the Planning Commission for their great work. She appreciated all the comments and the requirements put on the cell phone tower expansion. She said it was well thought out and reasonable.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

*There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.*

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Approve Construction Manager at Risk for Community Center Phase 2 Renovations**

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSAL CONSTRUCTION FOR PHASE 2 RENOVATIONS

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER WITH A NOT TO EXCEED PRICE OF \$64,000 AND 3 PERCENT OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND PROJECT SUPERVISION SERVICES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**B. Approve Agreement with Placer AI**

Mayor Poppa said this has been reviewed by the DEI committee and after their input there are no material changes to the agreement since they discussed this at the last Workshop.

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE A ONE-YEAR SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH PLACER AI WITH SERVICE TO COMMENCE JULY 1, 2024. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**C. Approve Agreement with KDOT for the 2025 Nall Ave Road Improvements**

Mayor Poppa said this was discussed in Workshop and the project will be from 51<sup>st</sup> Street south to Johnson Drive. It is the standard agreement and language.

**MOTION:** CMBR HAGE MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH KDOT FOR THE 2025 NALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

CMBR Faidley requested further information that would be beneficial for everyone in outlining the process on what happens with a federally approved project and the dollars. She asked when they applied, how long this has been going on, and when do they get approval and then the agreement.

City Manager Moody said that STP funds are allocated every other year. Their submittal was in 2023 for 2025 funding. The \$660,000 will not come to Roeland Park as KDOT is the project administrator. Roeland Park will design the project to KDOT standards who then review and approve the plans and will go through the bid process. KDOT holds the contract for the work. Roeland Park will put on deposit their local match and KDOT will disburse the funds. Funds are to be deposited before it is put out for bid, so they put their match on deposit late this year or early next year. There are specific procedures to follow for temporary construction easements and it will require an appraisal to establish value. An offer will be made based on the appraised value. There will be a certain time for a property owner to respond. The process is more formal and tends to take longer than non-federally funded local projects. Roeland Park will be working with the contractor selected by KDOT on the project.

**D. Property Tax Rebate Program Process**

Ms. Jones-Lacy said the program has been operating since it became a 2019 budget objective. When it was put in place they established criteria that the Council would approve committee to review the applications and make approvals. They also wanted to involve a financial professional. Staff has found that this process is not the most efficient and that the program guidelines should dictate who is most eligible and who is not. They always take applications on a first come-first serve basis if the budget is a concern. Staff is recommending eliminating the committee and allowing staff to review the proposals and make the determination based on the program guidelines. In 2025, they will bring the guidelines to the Governing Body for review and to make amendments. They do not want to do it now for 2024 as they have received 19 applications and the process for this year has begun. Ms. Jones-Lacy added

that no other cities have a committee and Roeland Park does not have a committee for any of their other grant programs.

Mayor Poppa said he understands the reason for not having a committee.

CMBR Hill said she agreed with the decision. She has been on committee and for residents' privacy, she believes it is best for a select few staff members to be able to see the applicant's full information.

CMBR Faidley also agreed with making this an administrative function added that she too is also on the committee. She said the only issue they had was a verification of household income in a complex situation which resulted in them making a judgment. She said that having the extra information from others in the community was helpful in making that decision.

CMBR Madigan asked if they should submit any recommended changes before the program comes back to them. Ms. Jones-Lacy said to send those recommendations to her, but the item will come back before the Governing Body in the fall for discussion before making any changes. CMBR Madigan said he would like to see them expedite the application process.

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE AS A STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION THE RECIPIENTS OF THE PROPERTY TAX REBATE PROGRAM INSTEAD OF THROUGH COMMITTEE APPROVAL. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

#### **VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions**

*No ordinances or resolutions were present.*

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

##### **A. City Manager Report**

City Manager Moody introduced John Shefcyk, the new Public Works Superintendent.

Mayor Poppa thanked him for being part of the team and welcomed him to Roeland Park.

#### **Adjourn:**

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND LERO RAGLOW SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 6:57 p.m.)

  
Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk  
Michael Poppa, Mayor