

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL  
4600 WEST 51<sup>st</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205  
May 6, 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 6:06 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 Maurer, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Jones-Lacy, Police Chief Morris, Public Works Director Scharff, Parks and Rec Superintendent Marshall, and City Clerk Nielsen.

### **Modification of Agenda**

Mayor Poppa recommended moving the Aquatics Center Advisory Committee Update to Item #1 under Business from the Floor and the Bike Month Proclamation to the May 20<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting so that BikeWalkKC will be present in person.

### **I. Public Comments**

*There were no public comments made.*

### **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1042**
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes April 15, 2024**

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

(After approval of the Consent Agenda, the Mayor went into the Mayor's Report.)

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

#### **A. Aquatic Center Advisory Committee Update**

**Jason Wiens** (5306 West 50<sup>th</sup> Terrace) Mr. Wiens said this is his third year on the committee and the first as chair. He recognized the other members of the committee, Michael Calovich and Amie Logan as well as Parks and Rec Superintendent Anthony Marshall. He also noted that Councilmembers Madigan and Hage also served on the committee. Elizabeth Baddeley will also be joining the Aquatic Center Advisory Committee but has not yet been officially appointed.

This year they are planning two special events. The first is a dive-in movie night on June 22<sup>nd</sup> where they will be showing *Lilo & Stitch*. The second event will be an adult swim on July 18<sup>th</sup>, which the committee hopes will create extra excitement and be a new opportunity where neighbors can connect with one another. They will also be looking for feedback regarding planning future activities.

The committee is also assisting the City to gather information to add a plaque at the Aquatics Center to commemorate the renovations that have taken place.

Mr. Wiens presented two recommendations from the committee which they hope will build awareness about what a great pool it is. They would like to see resident rate season passes offered to students, teachers, and staff that attend or teach at schools in Roeland Park, regardless of whether they are residents of the City. The committee also understands that City employees receive complementary pool passes, and they would like the Governing Body to receive that same benefit.

Mr. Wiens said he joined the committee because he believes that public pools serve a public good and family values. He thanked the Governing Body and Staff for making sure it is well-managed, cared for and prioritized.

Mayor Poppa thanked Mr. Wiens for his presentation and said he appreciates the work that the committee has done. He said they brought forward great recommendations and would like to see them extend those rates to students, teachers, and staff in Roeland Park. He also thanked the Councilmembers who serve on that committee.

CMBR Madigan thanked Mr. Wiens stating that he is doing a wonderful job, is a great leader on the team, and a good listener.

CMBR Hage thanked Mr. Wiens as well. She said their conversations have been that the events are all contingent on the pools being open seven days a week, which was also a priority for Staff. She noted that they worked super hard to make that a possibility and as a result the committee has the privilege to add value to that. She is excited they will be open every day.

CMBR Faidley asked if they need to have formal action on the recommendations by Council. Mayor Poppa said the recommendations can be brought up later during budget discussions. City Manager Moody said they can be added to budget discussions, but believes it is important to incorporate those recommendations into the annual operating policy of pool. He did not feel it rose to the level of a City code as it does not apply to City employees. Adding it to the operating policy seems appropriate, but he will look at it further and bring it back to the Governing Body for consideration.

CMBR Madigan said he would be interested to know if they could implement the rate for Roeland Park students, teachers, and staff retroactively so they can take advantage of it this summer. Mayor Poppa suggested they could talk about it sooner rather than later. City Manager Moody agreed.

Parks and Rec Superintendent Marshall expressed his support for the work Mr. Wiens has been doing as chair of the Aquatics Center Advisory Committee.

Mayor Poppa also thanked Mr. Marshall for staffing up so they can be open seven days a week this year. Mr. Marshall said they are up to 31 lifeguards and are doing well. That number is double from this point last year.

CMBR Dickens asked what he can attribute to the big jump in numbers. Mr. Marshall said they started recruitment much earlier this year. He is also trying to get the younger staff to speak and recruit for him as Mr. Marshall said he does not speak "16." It is working.

Mayor Poppa asked what the base pay is, and it is \$16 an hour.

## **B. Representative Rui Xu Legislative Report**

Mayor Poppa thanked Representative Xu for working with them and his hard work in helping to craft legislation that would get rid of the racial covenants.

Rep. Xu also thanked the Governing Body for their work on the covenants. He also thanked City Manager Moody and City Attorney Maurer for their contributions, noting that it has been in the works for a long time. He noted that the bill passed unanimously.

Rep. Xu also provided some legislative updates noting one, the "Genesis" bill that was proposed if a government service competes with a private business that business should have not have to pay property tax. He noted this is in a bundle of bills and is not expected to pass. He also noted the proposed tax cut bill is up in the air and will be vetoed resulting in a special session.

They have passed a bill to allow micro-breweries to self-distribute rather than go through a distributor. There has been a call for local breweries to be able to sell at farmer's markets or local establishments.

The governor is set to ban the bill that would prohibit gender affirming care for Kansans.

Rep. Xu also noted that no action has been taken this year on the Shawnee Indian Mission regarding conveyance and there has also been no discussion. An interim committee on tribal relations has been established to get more tribal input and those discussions are ongoing.

Mayor Poppa thanked Representative Xu for his work. He added that elimination of the sales tax on food only relates to the state's portion. He also stated he was glad that SB 233 did not pass.

CMBR Faidley said it would be nice if they could just do the good stuff and not have to deal with the bad stuff. She said to Rep. Xu that they did an amazing job fighting against the bad stuff. She noted the two bills related to women's reproductive care being overridden considering the results of the 2022 vote. She wondered if the legislators were really listening and that the issues were headed to the

courts. Rep. Xu said he knew they would be overridden, and they just voted to reaffirm abortion as a constitutional right. He assumes the ACLU will get involved but is unsure at what point they will do so.

## **B. Legislative Report from LGR**

Mayor Poppa introduced Stuart Little from Little Government Relations. Mr. Little has been representing the interests of Roeland Park in Topeka and said that he appreciates the opportunity to work with them this year.

He noted there will be a special session assuming the governor vetoes the proposed tax bill. The legislature also passed a “good Samaritan” law that provides individual immunity to those who intercede in a drug-related event to make sure that no one is arrested for helping save a life. He also said they took up an education bill and there were active conversations regarding property valuations. Zoning was also discussed because of issues born from sister cities. Also, there was a petition for administrative ordinances that would allow for issues to be raised to a governing body that they would need to address. Mr. Little said the legislature also talked about KPERS 3 and its elimination for school and city employees and moving them back to KPERS 2. He said that more studies will ensue on this.

CMBR Faidley said she tried to keep up with the first half of the League of Kansas Municipalities session, but there is so much information coming out it is like drinking water from a fire hose. She did not want the information simplified but did acknowledge that it is difficult to keep up with all the information.

Mr. Little said they have been tinkering with how they disseminate information and are potentially looking at bullet points where you can select what to look into further.

Mayor Poppa said he appreciates the detail knowing it has already been distilled down.

CMBR Hage said she was glad to see the “good Samaritan” law pass and it does cover an overdose. She said it became a lot more restrictive than when it started and has extremely narrowed those covered by immunity. Mr. Little said the law had support of the law enforcement community with peace officers, sheriffs, and chiefs. Also, there were some changes made restricting the people it was applied to and limited on types of crimes. CMBR Hage said that with overdoses rising, she does not want people scared to call 911 when they need help. Mr. Little said that the changes that were made were to keep folks on board.

## **C. Project Rise Update - Jan Peters**

Jan Peters is the new project lead on Project RISE. She said she is impressed with the leadership and vision shown by the City noting that an economic development program is a tough thing to carry off. She will be working under the contract the City has with the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce. She has been working Ms. Jones-Lacy, as staff liaison, who she said always has great insight and asks great questions, and has also met with the task force members. Ms. Jones-Lacy has also been doing great work updating the Project RISE website.

Ms. Peters provided her background and said that the key issues are how to build sustainable long-term relationships. She wants to streamline the process to make it easy for businesses to move to Roeland Park and to help existing business who desire to expand.

Ms. Peters noted that recruitment is the toughest and most competitive part. She said that Ms. Jones-Lacy has identified 40 businesses, and the Chamber has identified another 20 to talk to and see how to engage them in the community. Project RISE is also to provide support and Ms. Peters said that is not only monetary support but emotional support as it is difficult to run a small business. And finally, they want to encourage their businesses to succeed and give them the support tools that they need. She said a lot of times businesses have the right ideas but need help in running those businesses.

They are also producing innovative ideas to create an incentive package for businesses that includes unique items and will include state and local incentives. With the task force, they will be tracking the information on their contacts, what they have learned, and what they are hoping to do.

Ms. Peters said she will be putting an expert panel together that includes realtors and developers to help identify what they need to do in Roeland Park to move the community forward and to seek their advice on how to make that happen. Ms. Peters asked for and encouraged the Governing Body to offer their input.

Ms. Peters said she knows how much they want a sit-down restaurant in Roeland Park and said it will happen because EPC (The Rocks) has a great marketing package. Also, as part of her work on Project RISE, she wants to put Roeland Park in the spotlight and invite those developers and realtors to come so she can show them what is available.

Mayor Poppa asked if the panel of experts would be more of a think tank or more like a mentorship panel. Ms. Peters sees this as more of a mentorship panel to help address those topics that small businesses struggle through. They will ask the business community if they need help and being able to have those resources to help them.

Mayor Poppa noted that Ms. Peters has made a contact with the Roeland Park shopping center. Ms. Peters said she has made such a contact but is not ready to discuss it at this time.

CMBR Dickens said while out campaigning people always said they wanted that sit-down restaurant. He is glad they have someone at Project Rise to foster that. Ms. Evans said she is happy to speak to groups about what they are doing. Ms. Peters will be back in a month with another update.

Mayor Poppa also thanked Ms. Jones-Lacy as liaison to Project RISE for her work and what she has done on the website.

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

##### **A. MARC Board of Directors Meeting**

Mayor Poppa included the minutes from the meeting in the packet.

##### **B. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation**

The month of May was designated as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

##### **C. Municipal Clerks Week 2024**

Municipal Clerks Week is designated as May 5-11, 2024.

**D. National Police Week 2024**

National Police Week is designated as May 12-18, 2024.

**E. National Public Works Week 2024**

National Public Works Week is designated as May 19-25, 2024

**F. National Cities, Towns, and Villages Month Proclamation**

The month of May was designated as National Cities, Towns, and Villages Month.

Mayor Poppa addressed the proclamations collectively. All Councilmembers signed on to the proclamations. Mayor Poppa thanked Staff, especially City Clerk Nielsen, Police Chief Morris and the Police Department, and Public Works Director Scharff and his team. He said they are the heart and soul of the City.

City Manager Moody stated that appreciates the recognitions made in the proclamations. He also noted that there are presentations to return to on the agenda.

(Following the Mayor's Report, the meeting returned to Business from the Floor)

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

**A. Sustainability Committee Update**

**David Smith** (5730 Roeland Dr.) Mr. Smith, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, said that on Earth Day April 20<sup>th</sup>, they had 24 people and 5 volunteers from Miego collect 29 bags of trash in Roeland Park. The committee has also put together a native plants resolution which will be ready for presentation soon. Also, they have made progress on the KC Can Compost container in that the Sustainability Committee will fund the maintenance costs of \$660 for the first year.

CMBR Hill asked if the compost bin would be at Aldi. Mr. Smith said it will be located at Price Chopper.

**B. Aquatic Center Advisory Committee Update**

*Moved to Business from the Floor.*

**VI. Unfinished Business**

*There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.*

**VII. New Business**

**A. St. Agnes Parade Permit**

CMBR Faidley asked Chief Morris if the request from St. Agnes for a parade will require officers from Roeland Park and Kansas City, Kansas. Chief Morris said this has been handled by his deputy chief and he has verified that all agencies between Public Works, his officers and himself will assist on the day of the event. Everything has also been coordinated with the other cities. He said this is a great idea for the community, the school, and the church and they are more than ready.

CMBR Faidley asked if St. Agnes has done this before. Police Chief Morris said they have requested things for homecoming but not for this topic. CMBR Faidley noted the \$150 fee would not seem to cover the cost and asked how many officers and staff there would be and what the cost would be like to the City. Police Chief Morris said he does not have a cost or know how many officers will be out, but they will be part-time officers and the cost will be very minimal. He said the department is happy to partner with Miede and their other partners.

Michael Gomez, the applicant, expressed his thanks on behalf of St. Agnes and the thank you on behalf of St. Agnes and the Archdiocese. He noted the procession begins at 95<sup>th</sup> and Mission and will be traveling to St. Agnes, then to Rosedale and on to Donnelly College.

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PARADE PERMIT. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

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

*No ordinances or resolutions were present.*

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

#### **A. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report**

Ms. Jones-Lacy expressed her thanks for the kind words and praise expressed to her throughout the meeting.

She began her report noting that revenues for sales and use taxes are coming in as projected also growth is slowing. They have had good years of sales tax and budget conservatively for those. Franchise fees are lower than last year because gas rates combined with a warmer winter created a significant decrease compared to last year and are down 60 percent. Court fees have also declined over the past few years. Part of it was intentional due to a reduction in fees and part is due to being down some officers, but they are now getting back to being a full staff. Revenues across all funds are tracking at or above budget.

For the first quarter, they have spent about 14 percent of budgeted expenditures. She noted that year to date there has not been a lot of activity.

The City has \$14.5 million invested, which is earning about a 4.3 percent yield to equate about \$553,600 in earnings from those investments.

They have issued 68 building permits, which represent a \$1.4 million value. Two of them are for new builds and three are for residential remodels. ETC has expressed a desire to implement universal design in their construction which would qualify them to take advantage of the credit from the City.

They have asked to waive their permit fee, but they still need to go through the City's process for eligibility.

**Adjourn:**

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:17 p.m.)



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Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



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Michael Poppa, Mayor