

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL  
4600 WEST 51<sup>st</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205  
July 1, 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**

Council President Raglow called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. All council members were present. Mayor Poppa was not present for roll call. Staff present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Felzien, Finance Director/ Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Police Chief Morris, Public Works Director Scharff, and City Clerk Nielsen.

### **Modification of Agenda**

It was agreed to swap the presentation order of Items A and B under New Business.

### **I. Public Comments**

**Jesse Brown** (5235 Roe) Mr. Brown spoke to the enforcement of sidewalk codes. He stated he lives next door to an Airbnb and a branch has been blocking the sidewalk going on 36 hours. He has filed a complaint with the City. Mr. Brown stated that he has cleaned up tree damage from this property in the past including a limb falling into Roe and blocking the road. He has tried to contact management for the Airbnb and has been unsuccessful.

CMBR Raglow asked staff if they have discussed their sidewalk policy as part of their codes review. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they have been taking them in order and have not had that discussion yet and it will be a while.

CMBR Madigan asked if the property does not clear it, can their contractors clean it up and bill the property owner. Ms. Jones-Lacy said per their code they must give a certain amount of time for the property owner to rectify the situation. CMBR Madigan added that if the sidewalk is blocked it needs

to be cleared up now. Ms. Jones-Lacy said that Mr. Holtkamp will reach out to the property owner about getting it cleared up as soon as possible. She said they cannot abate the code and the City needs to follow that.

CMBR Madigan said they certainly need to reexamine the code. Mr. Felzien said it is Chapter 14 of the code and they have been taking them in order. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they can change the order if the Governing Body determines that is what is needed.

CMBR Faidley asked why this situation is different if when limbs are blocking the public right-of-way, Public Works cleans it up. City Manager Moody said they do have the ability to remove limbs and trees that are blocking the roadway, but it does not include sidewalks which the property owner is responsible to keep clear. He did state that it is possible Public Works could move the limb so that it is not blocking the sidewalk and leave the debris in the yard for the property owner to dispose of.

CMBR Madigan stated he would like to bring the sidewalk discussion to the forefront and not wait until they get there. CMBR Raglow said they will bring that to staff and have it on a future agenda.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1046**
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes June 17, 2024**

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

## **III. Business from the Floor**

*There was no Business from the Floor.*

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

*There was no Mayor's Report*

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

### **A. Arts Committee**

Marek Gliniecki, Co-Chair of the Arts Advisory Committee, told the Governing Body that Paul Dorrell from the Leopold Gallery would like to personally donate a sculpture to the City. The committee did not reach a decision whether to accept it and was seeking input from the Governing Body. The committee will be working on their master plan next year which will determine where or if this would be a fit. There was a suggestion made by the committee that it could be placed at the new Public Works campus.

CMBR Faidley said the piece is called "Reclaimed Metal" and was designed by Arlie Regier who passed away in 2014. His work is well-known nationally. The work uses existing pieces to create sculptures.

CMBR Hage asked if the City has a gift acceptance policy. City Manager Moody said they do have a donation policy and CMBR Hage asked if that would provide guidance to the committee. City

Attorney Felzien said they have a donation policy but there is nothing in the code. What they have received mostly deals with if a donor wants to remain anonymous and making sure it is in line with the Kansas Sunshine law.

CMBR Lero said it is a neat piece and that the size and diameter would allow it to fit in a lot of different narrow places looking for art.

CMBR Madigan stated he agreed with CMBR Lero and does not see a problem with accepting the art. He asked that since the artist is deceased whether they would be dealing with the estate. Mr. Gliniecki said it is a private owner donation and that Mr. Dorrell is downsizing and wants to make an outright gift to the City. CMBR Madigan asked if it would be the City's responsibility to maintain the art piece if they accept it. Mr. Gliniecki said that responsibility would be on the City if they accepted it.

CMBR Raglow asked if storage would be an issue if they do not have an immediate location to place it. City Manager Moody said they do not know how big or how heavy the piece is.

CMBR Hage stated that the donor would likely have the expectation that the piece be displayed and should be a key factor in their decision.

CMBR Faidley agreed with the statement that they could assume Mr. Dorrell would want the piece displayed. She also stated they do not have an estimate of what the value is of the work. CMBR Faidley also stated the type of art piece it is was one reason for suggesting the Public Works facility would be a suitable location, but without having a master plan they cannot make an informed decision.

Mr. Gliniecki said he will get a timeline for them on acceptance or refusal.

CMBR Hill said having a policy on how to accept or not accept art is something they should move forward with. Mr. Gliniecki said they will review that as part of the committee.

The Governing Body will e-mail their opinions on this discussion to City Clerk Nielsen.

Mr. Gliniecki said they have a lead on a company that may be able to help with the restorations of the mural, but they are not available at this time and acknowledged that it has been a slow process to get the repairs done.

CMBR Faidley reported there has been a joint effort with both the Arts and Parks Committees for uniform signage for art and trees, so everything is the same throughout the parks. Mr. Gliniecki and Ms. Schulteis are proofing the copy and will be sending the information to Parks for them to do their work on the tree side.

CMBR Lero added that once the signs have been manufactured, they will be installed.

(Mayor Poppa joined the meeting virtually)

## **B. Parks Committee**

CMBR Raglow said the Committee's information is in their packet. CMBR Lero said there has been some back and forth about maintenance at Nall Park on the mountain bike trail. He has been speaking

with Anthony Glassman, owner of Prairie Sailor, who has organized weekly trail maintenance. They will continue to work to get the trail as it should be, and it will be maintained. He has been doing marketing for the trail at his shop and is willing to put in the time and effort. Soon they will have a top-notch mountain bike trail. He also said that if anyone would like to help to join them at the weekly trail maintenance it will be on Wednesdays at 6:00.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

*There was no Unfinished Business discussed.*

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Approve 2025 Pay Scale**

Ms. Jones-Lacy said this pay scale will go into effect January 1, 2025.

City Manager Moody said that two positions have been added. One is a management analyst which is an objective. The second is to bring the crossing guards in-house. They will have a pool of crossing guards and a backup. He said that the pay scale is in line with the results from McGrath who did their survey. City Manager Moody reviewed the pay increases noting that they will not have any fiscal impact on the City as all the employees are at or near the minimums of the pay scales.

CMBR Madigan noted the receptionist/attendant at the pool who was remarkably busy and doing an excellent job juggling all the duties. He was surprised to find that the pay is two levels below the lifeguard. City Manager Moody said that person has been with them for a couple of years, and they are not at the lower end of the pay range. He said they do appreciate the recognition of the attendant staff. CMBR Madigan said that they are the face of the Aquatics Center and interact with 100 percent of the patrons while lifeguards may only interact with 10 percent of the people. He said they need to make the pay range higher.

CMBR Faidley noted the differences in employer cost and the consumer price index with a significant increase post-COVID. City Manager Moody said the indices have been slow in coming out, but the City's increases bring them up to date. He noted that police officers and Public Works staff were two areas they had the greatest challenge filling, but with these pay increases they have been able to fill those positions. They continue to look at the indices and tie their policy into what they reflect.

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE 2025 PAY SCALE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025, FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF EMPLOYEE MERIT INCREASES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

### **B. Approve Temporary Traffic Calming Plan for Buena Vista**

Janel Clayton, Traffic Engineer from Merge Midwest Engineering, reviewed the proposed traffic calming measures gleaned following the last Governing Body Workshop discussion. She provided them with two options. Both options include a combination of speed tables/cushions with wheel cut-outs for emergency vehicles. Ms. Clayton also reviewed the pros and cons of speed cushions. Ms. Clayton showed a map of the location for calming measures near 5129 Buena Vista and 5300 Buena Vista. She also discussed the recommended spacing.

CMBR Hill noted they are talking about speed humps/cushions when originally they were talking about traffic circles. She also wanted to know why they would put in a temporary fix when that is not what they ultimately want to do. City Manager Moody said this was the direction from Council after the last Workshop where residents expressed an interest in seeing how these types of vertical elements function. This was something much of the Council was supportive of. The goal is to gather additional data and see how residents feel before making something permanent and what is the motivation behind the development of this temporary plan.

CMBR Raglow agreed with City Manager Moody. She said she wished they could put in traffic circles. Ms. Clayton said they can do something like a temporary circle.

CMBR Hill said that in everything she has seen and worked through on this Council, temporary measures were put in place to see if that would achieve the results they were hoping to get. She said if they are choosing to give the residents what they want, which is speed bumps, then they should just put them in as permanent rather than temporary. Otherwise, they should do what their expert has recommended.

Ms. Clayton clarified the temporary traffic circles stating they can put something in the middle of the intersection, but Mr. Miller said they will need a bigger radius, so it would not truly be temporary.

Mayor Poppa stated at the last meeting several Councilmembers were in favor of looking at temporary measures to get some more data.

(The connection with Mayor Poppa was lost.)

CMBR Lero noted the traffic circle was part of the options given. He asked if they would get the data they want without that circle through just the speed hump/cushion options. CMBR Lero stated he is in favor of a traffic circle at 53<sup>rd</sup>.

(Mayor Poppa arrived in person at the meeting)

CMBR Stocks asked about the possibility of obtaining a grant to do an analysis. Ms. Clayton said there is the SS4A grants (Safe Streets 4 All) opportunity. The last round of applications for those is this October. They can apply for a grant to do a City-wide safety study and can identify in their application traffic calming measures and specifically identify this area of Buena Vista as one they want to do trial measures of. She has looked at it between her staff and Mr. Moody to explore that option and it can be considered if the Governing Body wants to proceed with that. They do have to deal with the federal funding requirements.

City Manager Moody said everything depends on how quickly they want to move forward with implementing temporary measures. If they are comfortable waiting until next year, then it lends itself to apply for the grant. If they want to gather data sooner, they likely will not be able to meet the timeframe of the grant.

CMBR Stocks asked about the installation of the temporary speed cushions. Ms. Clayton said they are heavy duty and are nailed into the pavement. She added that the snowplows seem to handle them well.

CMBR Faidley stated she did not see any costs associated with these measures in the packet. She also added that these are not ADA accessible, nor do they provide any other safety measures for those pedestrians on the corridor. They need time to consider what they are leaving out. Ms. Clayton said she would like to see the two raised crosswalks implemented and those measures would be located away from crossings and will not interfere with pedestrian crossing.

CMBR Madigan said they talked about cushions at the last meeting and a majority of them thought it was a good idea from which to draw data. Ms. Clayton would look at the data and then they could look at the data to decide if they want to make it permanent. He also asked if they do install the temporary measures could they still apply for the grant. City Manager Moody said they could and there really is no downside to the temporary measures. He added that no one ever said they did not want a traffic circle at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street and the citizens also agreed with that measure.

CMBR Dickens said he was interested in the idea of the temporary traffic cushions being a big concern for emergency vehicles. He spoke to several acquaintances in that field whether they had any favorability towards the cushions. None of them were in favor of this type of measure that could potentially slow the response time of an emergency vehicle. He then asked how long the measures would be in place to collect the data. Ms. Clayton said about six months.

City Manager Moody added that the data collection would go into the school year. He also said the items can be taken up in the winter, but the snowplow can lift its blades to go over them.

Mayor Poppa asked if any municipality has left the temporary items in permanently. He agreed that emergency services are a concern, but Fire Chief Chick gave them specifications so that they can have proper placement. Ms. Clayton added that emergency services are still opposed to this type of traffic calming measure. Mayor Poppa said they could put down cushions as sidewalks without the grooves if that is what they choose to do later. Ms. Clayton said they will have to account for drainage. Mayor Poppa said he wants to see another option if the data does not support this type of measure, adding that he would like to see a temporary circle. Ms. Clayton reiterated that they would have to widen the area for the radius of the circle.

CMBR Hill asked if they have a floating blade on the snowplow. City Manager Moody said it is a hydraulic blade with a button in the truck to lift it. CMBR Hill then asked if the plow would dump snow in front of the cushion and then have a big stretch of snow in front of them. City Manager Moody responded it would not necessarily dump the snow but just add it to the ramp. CMBR Hill also asked how the street sweeper would handle them. Public Works Director Scharff said it would work fine. CMBR Hill also asked where the cyclists would ride. City Manager Moody said they either ride on the ramp or in the cut-out. CMBR Hill said that if cars do not want to go over the cushion, they may drive at least one set of wheels on the cut-out. Ms. Clayton said that was a common occurrence. Finally, Councilmember Hill suggested that they fence the area in and make it a gated community to satisfy the residents.

CMBR Hage stated if they do try this, they want to get the best alignment with what research says is the best strategy. She expressed concerns that people are going to shift their speed elsewhere to other streets. She added that EMS is reiterating to them that they do not like the vertical measures. She said she feels challenged by this and does want to recognize what the residents want. Her decision is also based on the cost, but feels the temporary measures are a low stakes way to gather data from which they can learn. She also does not want to vote on an item without understanding the cost.

CMBR Raglow asked Public Works Director Scharff if he was able to find any costs for these measures and he has not.

Mayor Poppa said he looked it up at the last meeting and it was \$600-\$800.

CMBR Stocks asked Ms. Clayton if she had a professional opinion as to Option 1 or 2, knowing that she does not prefer either. Ms. Clayton said if she had to choose, it would be Option 1, but both have mixed elements. She said they all want the data on effectiveness. But it is always contingent on your street, your environment, and what you are trying to solve. Getting the data is the best way to see how effective these will be in this environment.

Mayor Poppa said he thought cushions with carve outs were the same height as raised crosswalks. Ms. Clayton said they are the same height but not the same width. She said they specifically left out speed humps out of the policy as they are more abrupt and harder on vehicular equipment.

CMBR Faidley commented on CMBR Dickens' comment in that she is not sure she is comfortable implementing a policy, even temporarily, that is not supported by first responders. She said the amount of time matters, even if just seconds, for them to be able to respond. She added they do need to weigh that into their consideration as it is a concern, and they have to think about the safety issue.

CMBR Madigan thanked CMBR Hill for giving them the pros and cons. He reiterated from last meeting that the majority supported the temporary measures but noted they do have other streets that need traffic calming. By putting in temporary cushions, they can gather data to be better equipped to handle those things and build experience. He also said he appreciated the presentation and supports Option 1.

Mayor Poppa called the question.

CMBR Faidley said she cannot vote on something she does not have numbers on.

**MOTION:** MAYOR POPPA CALLED THE QUESTION. (THE MOTION FAILED 2-6 WITH CMBRS FAIDLEY, DICKENS, HILL, RAGLOW, HAGE, AND STOCKS VOTING NO.)

CMBR Hill asked if they could get the exact numbers on cost and move on to another conversation.

CMBR Raglow said that would be her preference as well as she was hesitant to move forward with an item with no associated cost.

CMBR Madigan asked for costs for permanent and temporary. City Manager Moody said they do have the estimates for permanent. CMBR Madigan would like to see that on one chart alongside the temporary measures.

CMBR Hill asked if the cost estimates are for Ms. Clayton's original plan or for Option 1 or 2. Ms. Clayton said it is for the original plan.

City Manager Moody said the permanent costs that were provided are broken down by each element.

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL THE GOVERNING BODY CAN REVIEW COST ESTIMATES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions**

**A. Resolution 709 Declaring Default Homes Associations and Directing the Removal of Discriminatory Language from Plats and Covenants**

CMBR Faidley thanked the City's legal staff, Steve Mauer and Alex Felzien. She also thanked former Councilmember Rebne noting that because of his dogged persistence on this issue that they were able to move forward with a solution. She is really proud of what they have, and it can be used by other communities in Roeland Park that share a similar history. It has taken a while, but it is a good thing.

Mr. Felzien said he will need about a month to compile everything for the Recorder of Deeds, so there may be a slight delay in acceptance, but it should be done by the end of the summer.

Ms. Jones-Lacy also noted there was a typo in the recommendation referring to a state section.

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 709 DIRECTING STAFF TO TAKE ACTION TO REMOVE RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS IN VIOLATION OF K.S.A. 44-1016 AND K.S.A. 55-1017, AND AMENDMENTS THERETO. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**IX. Reports of City Officials**

*There were no reports given.*

**Adjourn:**

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:16 p.m.)

  
Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk  
Michael Poppa, Mayor