

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51ST STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
October 21, 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 6:00 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. All Governing Body members were present. Staff present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Walker, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, Deputy Police Chief Honas, Parks and Rec Superintendent Marshall, and City Clerk Nielsen.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

I. Public Comments

Mayor Poppa welcomed Boy Scout Troop 299 to the meeting. The scouts are working on their Community badges. Mayor Poppa invited the scouts to say what they like about Roeland Park.

Rick Rowland said he lives in the City and likes the shops, and the neighborhoods are well planned out. He said there is a lot of construction going on and he loves how the City is doing new stuff. Mayor Poppa said he is glad to have them here in the City.

Scout member Calvin said he really likes the parks.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. **Appropriations Ordinance #1053**
- B. **City Council Meeting Minutes October 7, 2024**

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

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

A. Project Rise Report - Jan Peters

Ms. Peters said she had good news for the Governing Body. First, she said how fortunate she is to be able to speak on behalf of the Council to their business community. She has been able to meet face-to-face and one-on-one with the businesses in Roeland Park. She would start her conversations with management and staff would join and she received valuable feedback to her open-ended questions of what the business community thinks of doing business in the City, the City staff, and the image of Roeland Park.

Overwhelmingly, the feedback was positive of very satisfied or satisfied. Their businesses love being in Roeland Park and the location of the city. They also could not speak highly enough about the Police Department and what they do. One business, Lend Nation, said that in other markets police response was slow and might not show up for an hour. But they find the Roeland Park Police Department to respond quickly, and are very friendly, and extremely helpful. Ms. Peters gave kudos to Chief Morris in that the retail people think he is the "diggity." They also love the business newsletter that Ms. Jones-Lacy sends out. Retailers always struggle with marketing, and this is a fantastic way for the Roeland Park residents to know they are there. The business owners also said they were appreciative that she came around asking what they thought and listened to them, and she noted she was able to clear up some miscommunications.

These visits led to a discuss with the "Walgreens lady" to create a roundtable for the businesses in the City. It will be held December 5th at 10 a.m. with a location to be determined. Business representations can bring their questions about doing business in Roeland Park and discuss and share ideas as well as meet each other. They have invited Police Chief Morris to speak at that time on the topic of security before the holiday season. Ms. Peters also noted that she was impressed with how much Lowe's wants to be a part of this community. She also extended the invitation to the City Council if they wish to attend.

At the roundtable they also want to help businesses and discuss what is important to them. She found that cyber security is a major topic. Also coaching, leadership training, customer service, and marketing are topics in which they are interested. She noted that just within Walgreens and Sally's Beauty Supply they have a great resource in their own community with customer service.

Ms. Peters said staff might want to consider a business feature to highlight all the businesses in the City.

Mayor Poppa said he appreciates Ms. Peters identifying topics for coaching and discussion for the business and picking up the roundtable again is a great idea. Ms. Peters said that one business owner is also interested in being a mentor to another business and could be something they look at.

CMBR Dickens thanked Ms. Peters for the energy she brings to the program. He asked if they could virtually attend the roundtable. Mayor Poppa said they could probably record it, but it might not be feasible to do a hybrid event.

B. Update from LGR on Legislation

Stuart Little with Little Government Relations provided a summary of the 2024 session and what will be on the agenda going into the 2025 session.

He noted that there were four different tax bills passed by the House and Senate that were vetoed by the Governor last session. Mr. Little stated the upcoming 2025 election results will affect how issues are being addressed. Once they are back in session, they will hold leadership elections, and the legislature also intends to create their own budget bill based on the current budget. Property taxes will continue to be discussed as well as local government control issues.

Mayor Poppe suggested the Council look at their own 2024 legislative priorities so they can bring that back for discussion for 2025.

CMBR Faidley asked about the legislature drafting their own budget and how that affects the Governor's role. Mr. Little said the Governor will continue to present a budget. The legislature will gather the same information the Governor gets, and they will have their staff create the next budget based on where the approved budget was for 2024. The governor's presentation will be taken as a recommendation and from there they will discuss any changes or modifications.

CMBR Hill asked the discussion of property values. Mr. Little said some suggestions have been capping the growth rate, creating a rolling range, and election of county appraisers as a means of seeking accountability, or reducing the mill. CMBR Hill asked if there has been talk about cities like Roeland Park who have been hit with 12 to 18 percent increases over the past few years. Mr. Little said these are heard very loudly.

IV. Mayor's Report

A. National Native American Heritage Month Proclamation.

Mayor Poppe read the proclamation into the record declaring November 2024 as Native American Heritage Month. All Councilmembers signed onto the proclamation. Carrie Paulette, Co-Chair of the DEI Committee, was in attendance to accept the proclamation.

(Photos were taken)

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. Aquatics Center Advisory Committee - 2024 Season Report

Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Marshall gave the end of year 2024 Report for the Aquatic Center to the Governing Body noting that they had a positive season. He said that everyone was excited that they were able to be open all seven days and they had a safe season. Next year, the plan is to stay open an extra hour on the weekends. He received a lot of positive feedback on adult night, and they plan to expand that to once a month next season. Now that operations are closed for the season, they are updating some equipment. Mr. Marshall said there is a lot of interest in water aerobics, and he is continuing to look for an instructor. He said that having a full staff has allowed them to do more at the Aquatics Center.

CMBR Faidley asked about the Super Pass. Mr. Marshall said they were not invited to participate in that this past year. Mayor Poppa said they will be meeting with the other cities to discuss whether that would be a beneficial option for them again.

Mr. Marshall shared a three-year comparison of season passes. He noted that individual and senior passes had significant increases over the prior two years.

There were 18,000 visits in 2024, which is a significant increase, and the daily admissions also increased. Total revenues were up substantially at \$119,000.

CMBR Raglow asked if the 17,000 visitors represented an individual or people that left and came back were counted twice. Mr. Marshall said that those who pay for a day pass is only counted once if they leave and come back.

CMBR Hage asked that with having the pool open every day they obviously spent more on staffing and created an increase in revenue, but how did that compare with expenses. City Manager Moody said they will complete a final revenue versus expenses report for the Governing Body. There are still expenses yet to be incurred. There are also some improvements that need to be done before the winter sets in that are a little more expensive and not just related to maintenance. He did note that they will experience a larger net loss this year than last year. He also noted that staffing is their main cost and will affect the revenues. This report given is to highlight the positives, to note the greater attendance daily, the increase in season passes, concessions, and rentals.

CMBR Hill asked if they are looking at pay for lifeguards for next year. Mr. Marshall said they are starting that process and have sent letters out to this year's staff to determine who would like to return. CMBR Hill said they want to stay competitive.

B. Parks Committee

The report is in the packet.

C. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Carrie Paulette, Co-Chair of the Committee, thanked the Governing Body for taking their survey. They have taken their feedback into account and will be revising the equity questions with the new agenda software. She said that Harold Morales, her Co-Chair, has met with Ms. Jones-Lacy on what items are coming that they would like the committee to review. She said they rely on Ms. Jones-Lacy and CMBR Stocks to pass on their comments. The committee has been reviewing the Tree Preservation Ordinance, City Codes, and has also reviewed the grant eligibility and application processes.

One goal of the committee is to provide communication to the community about DEI events and news. They also have shared more about Roeland Park grant programs. She also thanked CMBR Faidley for letting them know about the Week without Driving initiative so that they could invite people to participate. They have also been focusing on Spanish Heritage Month throughout the community.

One big celebration they had was being able to add the C.R.O.W.N. Act to the NDO. She said that the foundation done by the Governing Body made it easy to add it in.

Ms. Paulette said that the committee is always excited when they are asked for their input and grateful to be able to provide that. She noted that CMBR Madigan has been great to work with through the Historical Ad-Hoc Committee. They will be working this week with the land acknowledgement sign for the City.

The DEI committee is meeting with and wanting to collaborate with all the City's committees. Any initiatives that they think is important for them to weigh in on, they would be open to providing their feedback prior to something being finalized. They also would welcome any community members who would add some perspective to their committee. The more diversity they have the better their feedback can be.

Mayor Poppa said they have appreciated their feedback and the lens they use to look at policy.

CMBR Stocks thanked Ms. Paulette for the incredible work they do and for accommodating the feedback they receive into ordinance changes.

Mayor Poppa asked if someone had a policy they would like them to look through who they should contact. Ms. Paulette said to send the request to the committee, and they will provide their feedback in context of how the information came to them.

Ms. Jones-Lacy gave a shout out to Ms. Paulette for the lead that she and Mr. Morales have taken with the DEI committee. She said that Ms. Paulette is incredibly organized. She said they did a survey at the last meeting, and they are on track to accomplish their goals. She has done a lot to change the directory of the committee, and they are working to intentionally work with all of the committees and offering to assist with what they are doing. She said it is very proactive and smart and is a great breath of fresh air.

Ms. Paulette made some comments away from the recording and Mayor Poppa restated what was said in that none of this could happen without Ms. Jones-Lacy, who is the staff liaison to the committee.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business discussed.

VII. New Business

A. Agreement with Westwood for Code Enforcement Services

Ms. Jones-Lacy said they are currently providing code enforcement assistance to Westwood who recently lost their building inspector/codes enforcement officer. She met with their city administrator who asked if Roeland Park wanted to take over that service of their city. They do not have a proactive code enforcement, but rental inspections are proactive. They would only respond to citizen complaints. The arrangement would be the same as the one used with Westwood Hills. They will reassess the agreement at the end of the year to see if it is working. Ms. Jones-Lacy said this is just another way to be a good neighbor, helping out their neighbors.

CMBR Faidley asked if it would be onerous for staff to get up to speed with Westwood's code or is it similar to Roeland Park. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they are similar. They are going to meet with Westwood staff and drive their city, but property maintenance codes are similar.

MOTION: CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF WESTWOOD FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

B. Peddlers License Application - Emerson

Nick Walton from Emerson Enterprises requested a peddler's license from the City to go door-to-door in Roeland Park. He said there will not be an exchange of services but provide free inspections and walk through the insurance process if needed. Emerson is a roofing and siding company.

Mayor Poppa noted there is no time limit on the application itself. City Clerk Nielsen said the authorized person will pay per day per person. If approved, then they would come to City Hall and get their day passes.

CMBR Hill said she is excited that they are coming before the Governing Body to request the license as most do not get permission. She asked that they put it out on their social media outlets of who to expect at their doors and on what days. City Clerk Nielsen said it would be helpful for Emerson to let them know a few days in advance so she can disseminate that information. Mr. Walton said he believed they would be in Roeland Park for about two or three weeks.

Mayor Poppa said he looked up Emerson on the Better Business Bureau and they have 4.6 stars out of 5 rating. He noted they held a business license in Roeland Park previously for several years before this. He also thanked him for coming before Council before going door-to-door.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PEDDLER'S LICENSE TO EMERSON ENTERPRISES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

C. Approve Long Lead Time for Phase 2 Renovations at the Community Center

City Manager Moody said this purchase does not change the project specifications and is for doors, frames, windows, and HVAC units. They are asking for preapproval before getting to the final maximum not to exceed because they want to make sure this project proceeds on time as planned. Getting the items ordered early prevents them from having to wait on items.

CMBR Faidley asked if they got them before they were ready to be installed where they would be stored. City Manager Moody said Universal would rent Job Boxes to store the items.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE UNIVERSAL TO PURCHASE LONG LEAD TIME EQUIPMENT FOR PHASE 2 RENOVATIONS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER FROM THE APPARENT LOW BIDDERS LISTED IN THE PACKET. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

There were no ordinances or resolutions presented.

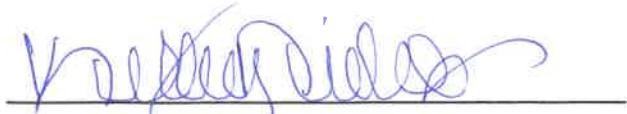
IX. Reports of City Officials

Ms. Jones-Lacy asked the Governing Body to e-mail her comments and suggestions on the test run of the agenda software.

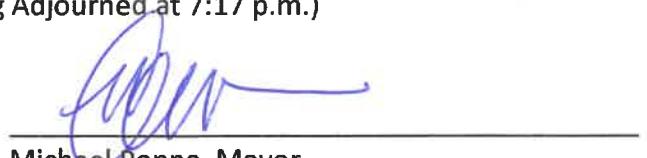
Adjourn:

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH CMBR STOCKS VOTING NO.)

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



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Michael Poppa, Mayor