

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL  
4600 WEST 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205  
November 18, 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 Felzien, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, Deputy Police Chief Honas, Parks and Rec Superintendent Marshall, Neighborhood Services Officer Miller, and City Clerk Nielsen.

### **Modification of Agenda**

*There were no modifications to the agenda.*

### **I. Executive Session**

*Mayor Poppa recessed the Governing Body into Executive Session in accordance with K.S.A. 75-4319(2) for consultation with an attorney for the public body which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship.*

(Roeland Park Governing Body in Executive Session until 6:44 p.m.)

### **II. Executive Session**

*Mayor Poppa recessed the Governing Body into a second Executive Session in accordance with K.S.A. 75-4319(2) for consultation with an attorney for the public body which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship.*

(Roeland Park Governing Body in Executive Session until 7:00 p.m.)

*The Governing Body returned to Executive Session.*

(Roeland Park Governing Body in Executive Session until 7:15 p.m.)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting in recess until 7:20 p.m.)

### **III. Public Comments**

*There were no Public Comments.*

### **IV. Consent Agenda**

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1055**
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes November 4, 2024**
- C. 2025 Cereal Malt Beverage Renewals**

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

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

*There was no Business from the Floor.*

### **VI. Mayor's Report**

*No report was made.*

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

*There were no reports made.*

### **VII. Unfinished Business**

*There was no Unfinished Business discussed.*

### **IX. New Business**

#### **A. Approve Park Signage Design**

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Marshall presented the proposed park sign designs to the Governing Body. The Governing Body reviewed the design and text of the signs as well as the posts which would be made from recycled composite material.

CMBR Faidley asked if they determined the location of the signs. Mr. Marshall said that it has not been decided but does want to discuss the location with the Governing Body.

CMBR Lero said the committee originally looked at custom fabricated bases but selected an option that is more cost effective and easy to obtain if they need to get more.

Mr. Marshall also presented the costs involved in printing the signs.

CMBR Raglow asked if the committee gave any consideration to the use of braille for accessibility. CMBR Lero said that it was discussed and would be an increased cost as a specialty item. The location and height of the signs would also need to change.

Mayor Poppa said he would not want them to purchase signs and then need to go back and add braille at a later point.

CMBR Faidley said that was not a conversation that was had. They did discuss making the signs more accessible for someone in a wheelchair being able to read them. Also discussed was incorporating a QR code on the signs.

Mayor Poppa asked if the QR code would include Spanish.

CMBR Hage said she likes the sign, but it is confusing where it states that motorized vehicles are only allowed in parking lots when only two of the City's parks have parking lots. Their smaller parks do not have parking lots.

Mayor Poppa said he liked the aesthetics of the sign, but the verbiage doesn't roll off the tongue. He noted the name of the park is at the top of the sign, then it says welcome to the named park followed by "All are Welcome." He also questioned the use of all the exclamation points.

CMBR Raglow said they need to be consistent with the punctuation.

CMBR Lero said that a group within the Parks Committee put together the text. He agreed with Mayor Poppa's comments and said they could look to find another way to express the sentiment.

CMBR Dickens suggested they drop all the exclamations points. He liked the phrase, "All are Welcome," and suggested they drop the name of the park as they do have other signage designating the name of the park.

CMBR Madigan said the reason for the no motorized vehicles statement is that people were riding their dirt bikes on the trails at Nall Park.

CMBR Hage said she did remember those comments, but the sign said vehicles in the parking lot only and her comments were that all but two of their parks do not have a parking lot.

CMBR Lero said they could customize each sign and would welcome any suggestions for the Parks Committee.

CMBR Faidley commented that she had sent a typo to Mr. Marshall.

CMBR Raglow liked the "All are Welcome" statement but suggested centering it or using a different color to call it out.

There was majority consensus to leave the color and wording placement of the welcome as is.

CMBR Lero said that the hours will reflect what the ordinance says, but that by October 31<sup>st</sup> at 10 p.m. it has been dark for quite some time.

Mayor Poppa asked if there have been any problems with the park hours and Deputy Chief Honas responded they have not had any issues.

**MOTION:** CMBR LERO MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PARK SIGN DESIGN DESIGNATING MOTORIZED VEHICLES IN THE PARKING LOTS ONLY AT ROE PARK AND NALL PARK, REMOVAL OF THE “WELCOME TO (NAME OF PARK)” PORTION OF THE SIGN, AND ALSO TO REMOVE THE EXCLAMATION POINTS. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**B. Adopt Tree Fund Policy**

Ms. Jones-Lacy reviewed the draft Roeland Park Tree Fund Policy, which included a draft application for residents to apply for use of the funds.

CMBR Faidley asked for clarification of the levels of income they will be using. Ms. Jones-Lacy said the requirements will be for residents at 80 percent of the median household income for the Kansas City metro area according to HUD definitions.

Mayor Poppa said the policy specifically references replacement trees and asked if they want to extend that to the purchase of new trees to be planted in a covered area. Ms. Jones-Lacy said that new trees are addressed in the “Purpose” section.

CMBR Stocks said the “Anticipated Outcomes” at the bottom of the document is similar to the “Purpose” at the beginning of the document and suggested consolidating the language.

There was agreement to delete “Anticipated Outcomes” and consolidate the language in the “Purpose” section.

**MOTION:** CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR STOCKS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE ROELAND PARK TREE FUND POLICY AND APPLICATION STRIKING THE “ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES” AND MERGING THE LANGUAGE IN THE “PURPOSE” SECTION, AS WELL AS ADDING “NEW TREES” THROUGH THE POLICY AND APPLICATION AS QUALIFIED PURCHASES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**C. Adopt Changes to Property Tax Rebate Policy and Criteria**

Ms. Jones-Lacy said they annually review the criteria for the Property Tax Rebate program. This year staff is recommending a couple of changes. The program has been funded with \$30,000 annually since its inception and has never been completely spent. To seek better utilization, staff suggest increasing the household income requirement to the 80 percent median level with a home value that cannot exceed 125 percent of the median value of homes in Roeland Park.

CMBR Madigan noted that the Types of Income to Report did not include Social Security income but does include SSI benefits which is Supplemental Security Income and different from Social Security benefits. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they do receive a lot of Social Security statements from applicants. CMBR Madigan said that Social Security benefits should be listed if they count that against their income, so residents know they must report that.

CMBR Faidley said they can revisit the percentages if property values change. Ms. Jones-Lacy said because it is a percentage it would fluctuate with whatever the City's median is. If it does become too high, then staff would recommend changing it.

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR STOCKS SECONDED TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE CHANGES TO PROPERTY THE TAX REBATE PROGRAM POLICY AND CRITERIA AND ADDING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AS INCOME REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**D. Adopt Changes to Neighbors Helping Neighbors Policy and Criteria**

Ms. Jones-Lacy said this program was instituted in 2019 as part of a budget objective. The pilot started with a \$10,000 budget and has been very popular. In 2022, the funding was increased to \$20,000 and they have spent close to the maximum in this program. In 2024, they received 24 applications.

Staff is recommending a homeowner can only qualify once every three years as they seem to have the same people apply year after year. Ms. Jones-Lacy said this is not intended to be tapped as a personal home maintenance fund. They also recommend limiting it to one project per year. Another change would be the requirement of two bids if the City is to pay the contractor directly.

CMBR Faidley asked why the recommendation of three and not two years. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they looked at many programs and the majority are every five years. Since they are funding the same folks every year, they had reconsidered that but felt they could start with a smaller timeframe.

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE CHANGES TO THE NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS PROGRAM POLICY AND CRITERIA. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**E. Committee Reappointments**

CMBR Faidley said she was glad to see Ginny Varraveto officially added to the Sustainability Committee.

**MOTION:** CMBR STOCKS MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF GINNY VARRAVETO TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE; THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF LYNDA LEONARD AND MAREK GLINIECKI TO THE ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE; THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JUDY HYDE TO THE PARKS COMMITTEE; THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF ROGINIA MOORE AND EMILY CRAMER TO THE DEI COMMITTEE; AND THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARK KOHLES TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**F. Review and Consider Approval of the 2025 Funding Request from Northeast Johnson County Chamber**

Ms. Jones-Lacy said they had budgeted \$4,000 to the Northeast Johnson County Chamber for 2025. They have already spent about \$5,000 this year to date. She also noted that this is a first request from the chamber and includes activities they have not seen before. The membership rate is increasing, which has remained the same for several years. The total proposal is \$7,615 and is broken down in the agenda packet.

CMBR Faidley asked if they would have to come up with a golf team. Mayor Poppa said they would. Ms. Jones-Lacy added they would look for the Governing Body and staff to join the team.

CMBR Faidley also asked about the substantial increase to the gala and their change to VIP status. Ms. Jones-Lacy said that a lot of chambers are specific to a particular city and are supported at a higher level. Their chamber supports many smaller cities and has smaller contributions.

Mayor Poppa said he has been in talks with the Chamber President Deb Settle and the prices and costs have also increased for the Chamber. He reiterated that their membership dues have not changed in several years. The increase comes to \$0.44 per resident per year.

CMBR Faidley asked if their membership is based on population and Mayor Poppa said it is.

CMBR Hage said it is nice for all the budgeting to be presented so they can see it all at once.

CMBR Madigan said they need to go over the list and decide how much bang for the buck they are really getting. He would like to see the fee down to \$6,000.

CMBR Hill said it is more just than attending a gala. The Chamber is a community partner who contributes a lot to the City, and they are very involved. They will not have to pay individually for the gala or the tournament. She recognized it is an increase, but they are involved in so many aspects of the City including Project RISE, and she said it is important to honor this.

CMBR Raglow echoed CMBR Hill's sentiments. She said that the interactions at the gala were very helpful as they got to chat with other members of different governing bodies. Their role as Councilmembers is built on relationships so they can get things done in their City and in partnership with other cities. What the Chamber brings to them is worth what they are asking.

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2025 FUNDING REQUEST FROM NORTHEAST JOHNSON COUNTY CHAMBER AT A NOT TO EXCEED PRICE OF \$7,615. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH CMBR MADIGAN VOTING NO.)

**G. Agreement with Westwood Hills for Code Enforcement**

Ms. Jones-Lacy said this updated agreement reflects the current salary of their Code Enforcement officer.

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH WESTWOOD HILLS FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**H. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Johnson County for Electric Vehicle Station Funding for CRP Grant**

This agreement with Johnson County is part of the Carbon Reduction Program Grant. Johnson County will be installing 32 EV chargers throughout the county including one at the Community Center. The grant will cover 80 percent of the cost. Currently the project is out for bid and this agreement will fund

their portion of the program. This item was budgeted for 2024 but will move to 2025 through a budget amendment.

CMBR Faidley said she thought more than one charging station was to be installed at the Community Center. She also asked about the cost of the electricity. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they will be following the same format as their other charging station. If they do decide they want to charge for their use, then she suggested they charge for all of them. She added that that would be a separate conversation down the road.

City Manager Moody said that even though there is one unit it does have two ports. It will be located just to the right as one would come into the Community Center parking lot. There is a transformer close by to allow for easier hook-up.

**MOTION:** CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH JOHNSON COUNTY TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT SUPPORTING THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF ONE NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATION AT THE ROELAND PARK COMMUNITY CENTER AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$20,425. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

## **X. Ordinances and Resolutions**

### **A. Ordinance Authorizing Condemnation for El Monte to Delmar Sidewalk Projects**

*This item will be presented at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council Meeting.*

## **XI. Reports of City Officials**

City Clerk Nielsen said the Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. followed by Brinner with Santa, Chris Cakes and turkey sausage.

Mayor Poppa asked the Governing Body to help with the Brinner event.

CMBR Hage said her daughter suggested they move the tree lighting to different parks for different years. Mayor Poppa requested that young Ms. Hage come before the Council to make that request.

City Manager Moody said after January 1<sup>st</sup>, they will transition Deputy Chief Honas to become the new police chief once Police Chief Morris retires. They are planning a retirement ceremony, and the Governing Body is invited.

Ms. Jones-Lacy noted there is a Chili Cookoff on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Poppa will be a judge. Staff and the Governing Body are invited to participate.

Public Works Director Scharff provided a street update for the Mission Road and 47<sup>th</sup> Place easement acquisition. They are trying to secure as many of the easements as they can. They have 7 for Mission Road and 6 for 47<sup>th</sup> Place. They have phone calls in to residents and hopefully will get there before too long.

Public Works Director Scharff also invited everyone to come to the Public Works building and see the new paint. He said that the building sign will be installed tomorrow.

CMBR Hill said she went by and took a lot of pictures.

CMBR Madigan asked about the speed humps on Buena Vista. Public Works Director Scharff said they are getting shipped this week, supposedly. The company had to file a claim, and they just got it approved for the items that were returned. Now, it's just the logistics of getting the new items ordered and shipped out.

CMBR Dickens thanked Public Works Director Scharff, his team, and City Manager Moody for the bench at their busiest bus stop. He said that people are using it and not having to sit in the dirt. He really appreciates their work.

City Manager Moody asked about the status of the trash receptacle. Public Works Director Scharff said Mr. Moody needs to make a selection. City Manager Moody asked him to resend the information.

CMBR Hill asked if there were any issues in getting the easement to put in the bench. City Manager Moody said it took a while to get the owner to respond, but once they made contact, it went smoothly. They are good partners who saw the need and are supportive of the bench.

CMBR Dickens said he is very thankful and knows the residents are too.

**Adjourn:**

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Michael Poppa, Mayor