

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51ST STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
February 3, 2025, 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
- Cory Honas, Police Chief
- Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director

Admin	Finance	Safety	Public Works
Lero	Stocks	Hage	Raglow
Faidley	Dickens	Hill	Madigan

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:02 p.m.)

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Poppa called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Ms. Jones-Lacy called the roll. CMBRS Hill and Stocks were absent. All other Governing Body members were present in person. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Felzien, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Honas, and Parks and Recreation Superintendent Marshall.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

I. Public Comments

Brandon Newell/Cassandra Newell (5340 Canterbury) Mr. Newell spoke about his children getting hit by a car after attending school at St. Agnes and while crossing 53rd Street in Fairway. He mentioned how important traffic safety and walkability are to the safety of their children and encouraged the City to keep that in mind.

Katie Garcia (5203 Pawnee) Ms. Garcia, speaking as a Roeland Park resident, echoed Mr. Newell's sentiments. She stated her appreciation of how much the City has invested in sidewalks and safe crossings. She also appreciates the crosswalk that was installed on Reinhardt Drive across from Bishop Miege and knows that safety and walkability is a priority for the Council.

Mayor Poppa said he knows that Fairway is already initiating a traffic study, and they are open to safety improvements around the school. They will also work with Fairway and the school to find the best solution.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1060**
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes January 21, 2025**

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

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

- A. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update**

Carrie Paulette from the DEI Committee stated the top priority needs they will be investigating include abilities, accommodation, accessibility needs, languages, religions, and cultural holidays. As they are reviewing these things, it will give them a better sense of who is in their community and what their needs are. Another issue for them is immigrant rights and making sure Roeland Park is a safe and welcoming city for the immigrant community. They are also making connections with other DEI committees in the metro, creating open lines of communication, to have a place to reach out to on issues to get ideas and suggestions. Another goal of the committee is to communicate with the community about different DEI initiatives. They also want to look at ways to celebrate or recognize times like Native American Heritage Month and Martin Luther King Day. They are highlighting Black History Month and Women's History Month. They want to be a resource for the immigrant communities in their city.

CMBR Faidley stated for the record that the DEI committee was not going away. Ms. Paulette said they feel more committed than ever to the work which they are doing.

- B. Social Media Update - Katie Garcia**

Ms. Garcia, the City's Public Information Officer, stated there were a few changes in their social media. The City is no longer on X(formerly Twitter) and only uses Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn platforms. They have prioritized LinkedIn to reach more of the business community which goes along with Project RISE.

They still send an email out every Wednesday and last year they sent out over 55,000 emails. The average open rate was around 50 percent, which is higher than the industry average. They saw a 9.6 percent audience growth and that audience is very engaged. Desktops are still the number one user. The top posts that had the most engagement included the tree protection policy, shoveling, the pool, holiday kindness, and the leaf program. The intent is also to make Project RISE more up front, and they want to feature more of their community businesses.

CMBR Faidley asked about the huge growth impressions of LinkedIn. Ms. Garcia said it looks like a huge jump because it is new, and they had nothing to compare it to previously.

CMBR Faidley said she is seeing people leaving X and some are leaving Facebook. She asked Ms. Garcia if they had considered a BlueSky account. Ms. Garcia said she has not investigated BlueSky yet and would not recommend leaving Meta just yet as a lot of their audience is there. They want to make sure to have a robust e-mail list because they do not know what the algorithms will do.

CMBR Dickens stated he is on BlueSky, and it has 30 million users. He enjoys it and says it is less toxic. He also gave up his Facebook but understands why they would not leave that platform. Ms. Garcia said she will check out BlueSky.

C. Ad-Hoc Historical Committee Update - Anna Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson said they have finished most of the objectives that were laid out at their last meeting. Since 2024, they have completed the land acknowledgment and John Roe signs. They have also completed the transcriptions of the oral histories and several essays. They are also now working on a 75th anniversary signage.

CMBR Faidley asked about confirmation and of spelling and pronunciation of tribes on the land acknowledgment. Ms. Jacobson said the spelling on the copy is correct and has provided a few links that give examples of pronunciations.

CMBR Madigan said when it is complete, there will be a land acknowledgement sign at this building and a full land acknowledgement sign will also be on the website as well as printed on the back of agendas.

City Manager Moody thanked Ms. Jacobson for her work on this project noting it has been a lengthy process, and she has proven her skills as an investigator and an exceptional writer. They could not have done this project without her.

The Governing Body also congratulated Ms. Jacobson for her work.

IV. Mayor's Report

A. Black History Month Proclamation

Mayor Poppa read the proclamation into the record and proclaimed February 2025 to be Black History Month in the City of Roeland Park. All Councilmembers signed onto the proclamation.

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. MARC - First Tier Suburbs Coalition (Jan Faidley)

CMBR Faidley said the coalition discussed incremental developments at their last meeting and emphasized how important it is for developers to get to know the neighbors and neighborhoods before putting in incremental development. She recommended that anyone who is interested listen to the meeting, which is available online.

B. Sustainability Committee Update (Jan Faidley)

CMBR Faidley reported that at that meeting Ginny Varraveto gave an update on finding natural non-toxic methods for controlling mosquitos, which is an ongoing work. Last November, they had a litter clean-up day. It was a small but mighty group with three or four volunteers who collected seven bags of trash. The next cleanup day is scheduled for April 19th.

Harold Morales from Roeland Park's DEI Committee introduced the committee's work and they discussed future collaborations, especially around Hispanic Heritage Month.

Grace Suh from Sustainability also introduced the possibility of a monarch butterfly migration program. There was also discussion about the KC Can progress, e-bikes, and the decision by Johnson County Transit to keep all stops in Roeland Park and to increase their frequency.

Mayor Poppa thanked CMBR Faidley for her service on both the Sustainability and First Tier Suburbs committees.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Provide Direction on 2026 Objective Submittals

City Manager Moody said that in the past the Governing Body has limited objectives that can be submitted to one from Councilmembers, committees, and department heads. Mr. Moody will be sending out an email and wanted to provide the correct direction from Council.

Mayor Poppa concurred that it is one per department head, elected official, and then the committees.

CMBR Hage asked if there was any reason to imposing a limitation.

City Manager Moody said that last year there were nine objectives submitted and approved. Since the limitation people have collaborated and it is more common to see more than one person on an objective.

CMBR Dickens said he is good keeping it as-is and that it does encourage collaboration.

CMBR Madigan said they have never included all the committees. He said that some have spoken up about wanting to submit an objective, but they will need to educate them on how to make a submission. Mayor Poppa said the committees were clued in and their Governing Body liaison will make sure they understand the process.

CMBR Faidley wanted to clarify that they are only discussing the number of objectives and not the dollar amount associated with them. The Governing Body will have an opportunity to go through the budget and they can review or reshape the objectives.

CMBR Madigan noted that in the past some Councilmembers have not had their goal in by the deadline. City Manager Moody said the deadline will be March 3rd.

The Governing Body agreed to keep the limitations on submissions the same.

VII. New Business

A. Approve Task Order for Construction Inspection of Nall Avenue Project

Public Works Director Scharff reviewed the task order with Lamp Rynearson noting this inspection is required for all capital projects. The tasks order falls within the scope of services and is in budget.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE TASK ORDER FOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION OF THE NALL AVENUE PROJECT WITH LAMP RYNEARSON AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$67,600. (THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0. CMBR MADIGAN WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE)

B. Award Mission Road Construction Contract

Public Works Director Scharff stated the recommendation is to award the contract to Amino Brothers for the Mission Road Project from 47th to 53rd Street. This is a joint project with the cities of Westwood and Fairway. Roeland Park will be the administering city for the project.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO AWARD THE MISSION ROAD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO AMINO BROTHERS COMPANY AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1,603,302.45. (THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0. CMBR MADIGAN WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE.)

C. Council Liaison Appointments to Committees

Included in the packet is the list of City committees and who will be the primary and alternate Governing Body liaisons to those committees. CMBR Dickens offered to fill the position as the alternate for the DEI Committee.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS AS PRIMARY AND ALTERNATE LIAISONS TO THE CITY'S COMMITTEES AND MARC'S ADVISORY COMMITTEES AS LISTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

D. Approve Ad-Hoc Committee for Roeland Park 75th Anniversary Planning for 2026

CMBRS Hage, Lero, Dickens, and Mayor Poppa will serve on the ad-hoc committee.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE ROELAND PARK 75TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING FOR 2026. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

E. Approve Adding Land Acknowledgement Language to the Agenda Template

CMBR Hage said when this is approved, she would also like to see it as part of the process for them to identify what the purpose is and to educate the public about their reasoning for doing this.

CMBR Faidley commented that she would like them to read the acknowledgment before their meeting as it could be quite impactful. By simply printing it, it may also appear as an attempt to hide it. She notes that it takes less than 30 seconds to read it and would like to have the discussion regarding that.

Mayor Poppa said he does not want this to be performative when it should be impactful. He stated that printing it is impactful as well as education surrounding it. He did state they can read it the first time it is on the agenda.

CMBR Faidley begged to differ and continued to ask for that discussion.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE ADDING THE COUNCIL APPROVED LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT LANGUAGE TO THE AGENDA TEMPLATE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Ordinance 1070 - Amending Chapter 8 - Health and Welfare

Ms. Jones-Lacy stated the Governing Body reviewed the changes in a prior Workshop. The Sustainability Committee has reviewed the ordinance and has made suggestions regarding noxious weeds focusing on species native to Kansas or the region. It was noted that some of the native varieties are invasive and if used in gardens or landscaping they should be controlled and purposeful.

CMBR Madigan suggested that they do not remove imprisonment as an option for a violation of the ordinance as it can act as a deterrent.

CMBR Hage noted that you cannot see the eucalyptus that has been planted in the Juniper pocket park as it has been overrun with invasive plants. She said she would like to see the City tighten up and keep their own ordinance as well.

CMBR Faidley noted that Juniper Park is where the garden beds are and the City does not maintain that, but a resident has taken over the maintenance. There is drainage underneath and they cannot build anything at that site.

Mayor Poppa said they should revisit that area and appreciate it being brought up.

City Manager Moody said that Public Works will get the dead plants. They do a trim every year, but they have not yet done that park yet, but it is suggested to be done in the wintertime.

CMBR Dickens stated it is too punitive to do jail time for not maintaining your yard.

CMBR Faidley added that they have removed imprisonment as a punishment from their ordinances as a recommendation of the DEI Committee.

Ms. Jones-Lacy added that is one of the regular recurring recommendations made by the DEI committee. As a matter of practice, they do not imprison folks for ordinance violations.

CMBR Hage said they should not threaten imprison someone if they are not doing that.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1070 - CHAPTER 8, HEALTH AND WELFARE, AS AMENDED WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

B. Resolution 718 - Consider Pool Related Amendments

Parks and Recreation Director Marshall reported that over the past nine years and over \$2 million in renovations, they have decreased their pool admission fees. Their cost recovery has improved but is far below other area pools. Mr. Marshall reviewed the 2024 Aquatics numbers as detailed in his report

in the agenda packet. He also explained the current rates versus the proposed rates to bring them more in line with area pools. He noted they also need to increase their attendance.

CMBR Madigan said this report came as a surprise to him as the Aquatics Committee has not discussed this and they should be involved in this. He stated they have lowered their non-resident rate to bring in more people. He also noted that they are drawing from a different economic group than other area pools. He would like to table this discussion until after the Aquatics Committee has had an opportunity to discuss the report.

Mayor Poppa said they are on a time crunch for this item which is why it is on the agenda.

City Manager Moody said that normally he would like to see this go before the committee, but they do start selling season passes at the beginning of the year, normally in February. The sooner they can open sales, the better. There has not been a pattern or precedent that pool rates have been reviewed by the Aquatics Committee. The proposed increases of \$1 for a daily pass and \$5 for the season pass keep them at the lowest median price. They will also maintain the family pass option while some other cities have gotten rid of their passes.

CMBR Madigan reiterated that the Aquatics Committee should be able to give input on the season and family passes. He felt the numbers were wrong and the justification for the increases was wrong. He noted they draw from Wyandotte County as well as Johnson County. The price of everything is going up and he wants people to be able to afford to come to the pool. They need to be good neighbors.

CMBR Hage said as liaison for the Aquatics Committee it sometimes feels as though they are put in a position of making operational decisions and that becomes a little murky. She too was surprised to see this item on the agenda and emailed the committee to notify them. She does feel comfortable with the proposed fee structure. She asked if the feedback about the Super Pass was about their price structure and the other cities were asking Roeland Park to come more into line with their fees. Mr. Marshall said that was true in part. They were concerned if our prices are cheaper, then people would just run to the Roeland Park pool.

Mayor Poppa added he did not believe that discussion filtered into this fee rate decision.

City Manager Moody stated he did not do an analysis comparing them to other pools. With the increases in season passes, Roeland Park's price is getting closer to the other prices but Roeland Park remains an affordable option for a family. Everyone also agrees it is important for the pool to be open seven days a week.

CMBR Faidley said she was happy to see the lifeguard pay at \$16 an hour. She asked if the rates have been confirmed with the other cities. Mr. Marshall said that the other cities do not normally share the rates they pay their staff. City Manager Moody said what is provided is the most up to date information available.

CMBR Faidley asked if this were to go to the Aquatics Committee for discussion when their next meeting is. CMBR Raglow said February 11th is their next meeting.

CMBR Madigan asked if these changes are so they can be a member of the Super Pass. City Manager Moody replied no. CMBR Madigan did not notice any senior admission amounts. Mr. Marshall said the senior amount increased \$1 as well for daily and \$5 for a season pass.

CMBR Hage said the pool does need to make more money and be a little more aligned with nearby cities. She feels the price increases are reasonable.

CMBR Lero said it looks good that they keep lowering it and it does allow more people to come to the pool, but it is not a huge notable change with the price increase nor is it unreasonable.

MOTION: CMBR LERO MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED ADOPT THE UPDATED FEE RESOLUTION THAT INCLUDES THE POOL-RELATED AMENDMENTS. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

IX. Executive Session

A. Closed session pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(2)

MOTION: CMBR HAGE MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO MOVE TO A CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO 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. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

(Roeland Park City Council in a Closed Session until 7:48 p.m.)

X. Reports of City Officials

Ms. Jones-Lacy said they have hired an analyst, an MPA, who has municipal experience. He will be attending the first meeting in March.

City Manager Moody added they had a talented group of applicants, and he will be a great fit.

City Manager Moody also noted that they have opened bids for the Nall Street project. The best bid came in under their estimate.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Michael Poppa, Mayor