

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51st STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
October 7, 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
- Debbi Schraeder, Council Member

- Keith Moody, City Administrator
- Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.
- Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk
- Cory Honas, Police Chief
- Donnie Scharff, Public Works Dire

Admin
Faidley
Schraeder

Finance
Dickens
Hage

Safety
Hill
Raglow

Public Works
Madigan
Lero

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.)

I. Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. Roll Call

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. All Governing Body members were present in person. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Walker, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Honas, Parks and Rec Superintendent Brungardt, Management Analyst Carley, and City Clerk Nielsen.

III. Public Hearing

No public hearing was held.

IV. Modification of the Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

V. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments

VI. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1076**
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes September 15, 2025**
- C. Approve 2026 Land Lease Agreement for the Sports Dome**
- D. Approve Agreement with KDOT for Nall Park Trail Improvement Funding (STP Transportation Alternatives)**

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

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

There was no Business from the Floor.

VIII. Mayor's Report

A. Bullying Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Poppa read the proclamation into the record declaring October 2025 as Bullying Prevention Month in the City of Roeland Park. All Governing Body members signed onto the proclamation and read the Pledge into the record.

Student representatives from Roesland Elementary each spoke to what they are doing at school to prevent bullying. They are learning how to prevent cyber bullying and learning to be an upstander versus a bystander and also how to share empathy with those being bullied.

Mayor Poppa asked for a definition of an upstander versus a bystander. The student president responded that an upstander is someone who stands up for the person being bullied.

Other students said that bullying can have an impact on the student influencing their schoolwork, friends, family members and on out to the community. One student said they have had anti-bullying spirit week with different themes daily, noting that it is important to be part of a team and not just one person. They also said it is important to tell someone if they are being bullied so it will not be repeated because bullying can affect your mindset, which is not good and can affect the rest of someone's life and not just in that moment. The student body at Roesland wants to prevent the bullying and the effects it can have on people's lives.

Michelle Tapko, teacher and sponsor of the student council at Roesland, said they are a great group of kids at school who take up for each other and make it a community. She also thanked the Governing Body for their support of the school.

Mayor Poppa said it is good to see that the students are doing something and taking action by being upstanders.

CMBR Hill asked the students if they can we use their word of "upstander" and start spreading that.

Mayor Poppa noted the agenda packet contains anti-bullying activities that each of the schools in Roeland Park are participating in.

(Photographs were taken)

CMBR Schraeder said that Ms. Tapko was a Kansas Teacher of the Year finalist and is a gem to Roesland Elementary and the Roeland Park community.

IX. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. Board of Zoning Appeals Update

Wade Holtkamp, the City's Building Official, said the Board of Zoning Appeals addressed a variance request for a fence. The homeowner was requesting to replace an existing wooden fence with a metal fence. If the request were made today, the variance would not be permitted by code. After discussion, the Board of Zoning appeals did approve the variance request.

CMBR Faidley asked why, according to the report, staff was unable to adequately determine the sight distance triangle. Mr. Holtkamp said they were able to make calculations, but the sight distance is close to being in that triangle and right on the line.

B. MARC - Bike & Pedestrian

The meeting summary is included in the agenda packet. CMBR Faidley said the main presentation was from representatives of the Chaumiere neighborhood who were able to get significant infrastructure improvements to their neighborhood thanks to the involvement of the residents.

MARC is working on a future e-mobility policy that could be pertinent to Roeland Park as they start to look at e-bikes in their city and create a policy around that. MARC is also changing their committees, and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee is likely to become a roundtable.

C. Parks and Trees Committee

Jamie Davis, a member of the Parks and Trees Committee, reported that they will be holding a special meeting in early December to discuss Nall Park improvements. Also, Shumard oaks and maple trees will be placed in R Park to replace the trees around the cell tower on the Community Center campus. Unified signs for the parks and tree identification have been ordered. The committee is also planning on the installation of a Free Little Library in R Park. The committee is also planning a volunteer day in late October with more information to come.

CMBR Faidley thought with Nall Park closer to the Community Center that the replacement trees would be planted there. City Manager Moody said they left the placement of the trees up to the committee and Public Works.

Mr. Brungardt said that most of the trees planted around the cell tower have died. There are two there currently that are thriving, and they will plant two trees closer to the curb. The remaining trees will be planted in R Park.

X. Unfinished Business

A. Approve Bus Stop Shelter Design

Management Carley reviewed the Governing Body discussions held at past meetings regarding the bus stop shelter design and placement, a 2025 budget objective. He noted that six locations were approved by the Council, and they asked staff to move forward with the easement procurement process. Mr. Carley also noted that RideKC did not express an intent to add any structures at the bus stops.

Mr. Carley said that the Handi-Hut was the favorite of the Council, but in speaking with other municipalities, the recommendation was not to use glass in the shelters. The recommendations were

for a tempered glass or even acrylic glazing. After reviewing the shelter companies, it was noted that this budget item would be about \$70,000, which is \$20,000 over the original budget objective cost.

CMBR Hill reminded everyone of the reason they reduced the number of bus shelters to six was that they were not placed in front of people's homes and they would remain in the City's business area. She is pleased with the Governing Body that they are doing this for their residents and those who travel their city, but she believes they can do better than this. She expected them to have produced something more creative than a standard bus stop.

CMBR Hage asked if there were any safety concerns about not having lights in the shelters. City Manager Moody said that Roe Boulevard has a comprehensive lighting system along its commercial corridor, and they did not see a need to add lighting in the shelter itself.

CMBR Dickens asked if solar lighting is possible as a future budget item. Mr. Carley said that it is an option for all the shelter models.

CMBR Faidley inquired as to the footprint of the structures. Mr. Carley said that Options 2 and 3 are the same but the preference of 2 is based on the enclosure itself.

CMBR Hill asked what time the last bus runs. At the end of the discussion, City Manager Moody said that the buses run during the week from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and stop about every hour.

CMBR Lero said he did his research looking for more unique shelters. He said the really cool ones are much more expensive. He agreed that the Brasco model does look like every other shelter but is a good in between. He felt they could do something nicer because there aren't that many.

CMBR Hage received a call from a ward member stating that the bus routes are well used, and they see people waiting for them, either sitting on the grass or standing in the elements and felt they should do something to protect the riders' dignity. She also noted that winter weather is coming and noted that staff has worked hard on this objective and she would like to see them move forward.

CMBR Madigan said they originally started out with an artistic design and decided that the need for protection from the elements is the greater need. He said it would be nice to have something distinctive, and it does not change the fact that people need shelter. He also did not want to see them use all their money just for the "cool" ones.

CMBR Faidley noted the recommended option does have a backrest, but it only has a one-year warranty. She stated Option 3 is more interesting and looks better but does not provide as much protection. It also has a lifetime warranty. She also asked about the lead time on the structures. Mr. Carley said he will look at the warranty specs, but the lead time is about 12-16 weeks.

City Manager Moody said for Option 3 it is a limited lifetime on the structure and a one-year on the powder coating. Mr. Carley reiterated that he would look more into the specifics of the warranties.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE BRASCO INTERNATIONAL SLIMLINE DOME SERIES WITH ACRYLIC GLAZING AS THE WALL MATERIAL. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH CMBR HILL VOTING NO.)

B. Review and Discuss Cost of Providing Interpreters at Roeland Park Polls in November

Mayor Poppa said that polling judges have authority to remove the interpreters from the building if they are determined to be electioneering. He also said that they can request interpreters from outside their district who would not be voting on their ballot to reduce the appearance of any electioneering.

City Manager Moody said that with the Council's approval, they will contact the election commissioner once the election judges are assigned and will then do what they can to encourage staging the interpreters inside the building.

CMBR Faidley asked if they previously discussed how they would advertise the interpretation services. City Manager Moody said it would be noticed through the normal channels of social media, the newsletter and the e-newsletter that is sent out every week. CMBR Faidley also wanted to make sure the DEI committee has the information. CMBR Raglow said they are aware of this item.

CMBR Dickens said he has a lingering feeling of safety for the interpreters and worries if they are on the outside of the building that they may become targets. He asked if they could have a police presence. Police Chief Honas said officers could be brought in if needed. CMBR Dickens said that would make him feel more comfortable voting on this item. Mayor Poppa said that having an officer next to a translator could create different issues as well.

CMBR Hill asked if the interpreter were moved outside of the canvassing area whether they would still be allowed to come in with a voter.

City Manager Moody said they can still come in but they can't state their position. Having an interpreter does not change a person's ability to have someone in the booth with them.

CMBR Faidley said she was doing some voter registration this week and spoke with an election judge who did not see an issue with having the interpreters on site. They did ask about the interpreter pay and whether they would take the same oath as the poll workers stating they would be unbiased and non-partisan.

MOTION: CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE INTERPRETER SERVICES AT TWO ROELAND PARK POLLING LOCATIONS IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION AT A NOT TO EXCEED COST OF \$1,680. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1 WITH CMBR HAGE VOTING NO. CMBR MADIGAN WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE.)

C. Review Costs for Pedestrian Crossing Improvements at Roe Blvd. and Rosewood

Public Works Director Scharff reported that staff were asked to provide cost estimates to add additional flashing lights on signage in addition to the rapid flashing beacons at the crosswalk on Roe.

Michael Hare with Merge Midwest reviewed the updated plan that would include blinking advanced warning signs for both northbound and southbound traffic on Roe Boulevard. A push button at the crosswalks will activate those lights. They will be linked wirelessly and are solar powered. Mr. Ware reviewed the placement of the improvements at the intersection noting this will add \$6,000 to the cost for a total amount of \$27,458.

Mayor Poppa asked for clarification that the advanced rapid flashing beacons/signs would be in addition to the rapid flashing beacons at the crosswalk. Mr. Ware said at the approach, the signs indicating that there is a pedestrian crossing ahead will have the flashing lights added to them.

Mayor Poppa said at their last discussion there was mention of shortening the north median and asked if that was considered in staff's review. CMBR Faidley said that the City engineer stated that was not possible.

City Engineer Dan Miller said there is not enough room to shorten the median and add a turn lane because they need to maintain a minimum width.

CMBR Faidley asked when reaching the refuge island in the middle of the crossing what happens. Mr. Hare said there will be a button to push to continue through to the other side.

CMBR Hill asked if they had any data on how many people use that crosswalk and though this isn't the suggestion, but whether it was possible to remove it altogether. CMBR Faidley interjected that if that happened, then there would be no east-west crossing. City Manager Moody said according to the 24-hour traffic count that was done July 17th there were close to 30 pedestrian crossings in that period.

CMBR Schraeder said the count did not matter to her and that her son uses that crossing every day and having it there is important to her.

CMBR Faidley said that people do not feel safe using the crosswalk and it is something they need to deal with. There is a large amount of street on Roe and there are limited ways to cross from east to west.

CMBR Hill said they as a Council want to make sure it is a safe environment to bring up options and they should be able to voice all possibilities before deciding.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR SCHRAEDER SECONDED TO APPROVE CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENTS AT ROE BOULEVARD AND ROSEWOOD TO INCLUDE RAPID FLASHING BEACONS AND ADVANCE WARNING FLASHING SIGNS AS DETAILED IN THE PACKET AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED 27,500. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

XI. New Business

A. Review EPC Public Art Proposal

City Manager Moody reported that the Art Committee reviewed these current updates and are in support of the art presentation.

Austin Bradley from EPC Real Estate Group that is working on The Rocks presented art ideas for the site. He said that he has met with the Arts Committee several times and they have worked to respond to the comments and feedback received. The images shown give a nod to the history of the site and the caves underneath. Mr. Bradley showed designs for a sculpture on the southwest side of the site. He said it will be a pedestrian experience with unique lighting and landscaping. He added that this design was well received by the Arts Committee.

CMBR Lero commented as a member of the Arts Committee and was able to see the previous versions and appreciated Mr. Bradley taking their feedback and bringing this final design forward noting it will be a great art piece for the City.

CMBR Hill asked if the sculpture has a name.

(Governing Body talking amongst themselves)

Mr. Bradley presented mural possibilities for the parking garage on the east side of the site that fronts Roe Parkway. They are looking at a mountain modern theme noting that The Rocks play a heavy part in the site's history and are looking at something that would convey movement. EPC is in conversation with several KC artists on the site.

Mr. Bradley then reviewed how the \$500,000 allocated as part of their development agreement will be utilized.

CMBR Lero agreed that more color to the mural would be nice and that it will be the biggest mural in Roeland Park and the area and they want to do well by it as it will be around for a long time. The Arts Committee would also like them to think about landscaping that will complement the movement in the mural. He said this iteration is more interesting than what was presented before.

Mayor Poppa said it is a thoughtful design.

MOTION: CMBR LERO MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC ART PROPOSED BY EPC FOR THE ROCKS. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

B. Approve First Amendment to the EPC Development Agreement

City Manager Moody said this is the first amendment to the development agreement that does three things:

- Extend the completion date to May 1, 2028
- Requires an assignment document to incorporate a new name for the development LLC
- Provides additional reporting requirements for developments receiving incentives.

Mr. Bradley said they have worked hard to bring this projection to fruition. The created entity will bring the investment group together so they can begin starting November 1 with an anticipated completion in 26 months.

Mayor Poppa said it has been disappointing for them and the residents to not have the project started. To EPC's credit, they have kept the City apprised of everything. Mayor Poppa said this amended agreement is necessary to make the project move forward.

CMBR Faidley asked if there would be any activity in October. Mr. Bradley said it is possible, and it is in their best interest to go as quickly as possible.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE EPC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

C. Discuss 2026 Support to United Community Services

City Manager Moody reviewed the history of contributions of Roeland Park in the United Community Services program. He also provided a chart reflecting contributions from surrounding cities per capita. He did say this is a budgeted program and is within the City Manager's spending authority, but it was requested by CMBR Faidley to bring this to the Governing Body to increase the City's contribution.

CMBR Faidley noted that the 18 to 25-year-old poverty levels are high in Roeland Park noting that along with the City of Mission, they have the highest rates within Johnson County. She asked if there was a way that Roeland Park could increase their contribution to help their most vulnerable by at least matching Mission's contribution per capita.

CMBR Hage said she appreciates the comments and the conversation they are having. She added that there is other funding that supports the same people socioeconomically, but UCS is a trustworthy partner. She expressed her support for CMBR Faidley's increase recommendation.

CMBR Madigan said he hates decimal points and suggested they round it up to an even \$2 per capita.

CMBR Lero said in looking at the chart it appears that cities set a dollar amount versus a per capita amount and agreed with CMBR Madigan's suggestion to make it an even number.

CMBR Hill asked if they could get a suggestion from their financial experts. Mayor Poppa said the suggestion from staff was to get direction from the Governing Body.

City Manager Moody said the contributions by cities is arbitrary and he does not see a pattern. Mr. Moody added that Roeland Park has adopted a number of assistance programs and offers more than just participation in United Community Services programs. He also did not have a comparison with what other programs other Johnson County cities participate in or offer. Mr. Moody would say that Roeland Park is a leader in the amount of contribution to assistance programs. They have been increasing their UCS contribution amount steadily throughout the years. They are trying not to be arbitrary and cognizant of socioeconomic changes.

Ms. Jones-Lacy said some of the grant support they provide is with utility assistance. They do get requests mid-year that there is a need for additional funding or support because an agency has been tapped out or some federal assistance is no longer available. They currently provide \$15,000 in utility and rental assistance but the focus has been more on utility support. She said there are always opportunities mid-year based on requests and need to give more funds.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE AN INCREASE OF SUPPORT TO UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES IN 2026 FROM \$1.01 PER CAPITA TO \$2.00 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,400. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

D. Appoint Michelle Rossi to the DEI Committee and Christopher Hotchkiss to the Arts Committee

MOTION: CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF MICHELLE ROSSI TO THE DEI COMMITTEE AND CHRISTOPHER HOTCHKISS TO THE ARTS COMMITTEE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

XII. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Ordinance 1079 - Chapter 13 - Streets and Sidewalks

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1079 ACCEPTING CHANGES TO CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY MUNICIPAL CODE - STREET, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

XIII. Reports of City Officials

A. 2025 3rd Quarter Objectives Progress Report

City Manager Moody said they are making progress and his report attached to the agenda packet.

B. Aquatics Center 2025 Season Review

Nathan Brungardt, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, provided a season starting with a letter he sent out thanking the community for their support. He noted that staff member Dean Long did a lot to get their facility open. Mr. Brungardt reviewed the admissions statistics including attendance and season passes. They took in \$133,308.19 in revenue, 51 percent which came from non-residents. He also noted they took steps to reduce the inventory shrinkage in the concessions areas with improved tracking and less access.

Mr. Brungardt recognized Luke Wilson, pool manager, who got the Roe Cup from the City for his service. Also, Bailey Cook and Charles Bechelmeyer each earned their American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor certifications which will help the City as they work to keep the facility safe.

Recommendations for 2026 are to increase staff recruitment, perform needed repairs at the Aquatics Center, and their expanding swim lesson offerings. There will also be a staff review of the facility rules. Mr. Brungardt said they are planning for the City's 75th Anniversary celebration next year.

CMBR Hill said she is excited that their revenue has increased and is appreciative but did want to know how much the pool is in the red for this year. Mr. Brungardt said he will come back to the Council with that final number.

City Manager Moody said there are still expenses that will be incurred this year for upcoming repairs that will be completed in 2025. They will give the Governing Body a final number on the operations loss for the year.

CMBR Hill thanked them for shrinking the loss this year. Mr. Brungardt also credited City Manager Moody for working to bring the JCPRD camps back at the facility which brought in \$12,000.

CMBR Faidley said it is evident from the numbers that some of their success is relying on non-residents. She asked if they had any ideas how to increase attendance by residents. Mr. Brungardt said they will continue to reach out to the residents.

City Manager Moody said that Roeland Park is a smaller community and believes the percentages are reflect that more so than the quality of the facility. City Manager Moody will do further analysis and bring that to the Governing Body.

CMBR Hage said that Mr. Brungardt has done an excellent job of raising the professionalism at the facility.

Mayor Poppa added that the leadership team is impressive. He asked how having Robeks smoothies went at the pool and if there is a few resident rates that was extended to the schools. Mr. Brungardt will get that information and bring that back to the Governing Body.

City Clerk Report

City Clerk Nielsen provided a list of upcoming events.

- Walk to School Day - October 8th.
- Community Shred and Recycling Event with Merriam - Saturday, October 11, 9 a.m. to 12:00
- Go Green Fair - Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Sylvester Powell Community Center

Police Chief Report

Police Chief Honas said that the Public Safety Night will be October 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Johnson County Sheriff's Department and Fire Department will also be there.

Public Works Report

Public Works Director Scharff said the bulk of their street projects are largely complete and they are working on restoration. He also noted that his department is fully staffed.

Aquatics Center Report


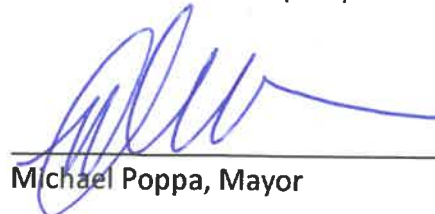
Parks and Rec Superintendent Brungardt said there will be a Trunk or Treat, Sunday, October 26 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Community Center. He said if anyone knew people that would like to sponsor a truck to send them his way.

Mayor Poppa said that he received his citizen satisfaction survey, and everyone should fill theirs out.

XIV. Adjournment

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 p.m.)


Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk
Michael Poppa, Mayor