

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51ST STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
November 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
- 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. Council member Hill was absent, Councilmember Dickens was virtual for the meeting until the audio stopped, but all other 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, and City Clerk Nielsen.

III. Public Hearing

No public hearing was held.

IV. Modification of the Agenda

Mayor Poppa tabled the executive session until the November 17 meeting.

V. Public Comments

Ken and Steph Low, 5001 Pawnee Dr: Large tree removal

VI. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1078**
- B. Committee Reappointments**
- C. Cereal Malt Beverage Renewal – Quik Trip**

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR LEROSECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

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

There was no Business from the Floor.

VIII. Mayor's Report

A. Native American Heritage Month Proclamation

Mayor Poppa read the proclamation into the record declaring November 2025 as Naïve American Month in the City of Roeland Park. All Governing Body members signed onto the proclamation.

Gaylene Crouser, Executive Director for Kansas City Indian Center accepted the proclamation. (Photographs were taken)

IX. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Carrie Paulette, chair of the DEI committee, said the committee has been working on proclamations, reviewing city code changes and collecting community feedback. She shared in the packet many of the comments they received regarding holidays people celebrate and comments they made regarding how people feel about Roeland Park which they captured at the summer concert series in R Park.

B. Parks and Trees

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Nathan Brungardt provided an update on the Parks and Trees Committee's solarization initiative. He explained that the "Grass Walk," installed earlier this spring at R Park, is being overtaken by invasive Bermuda grass. To address the issue, the Committee plans to use a process known as solarization, which involves placing a heavy black or clear tarp over the affected area so the sun's heat can warm the ground and kill the Bermuda grass. The tarp will likely be in place for numerous months.

Mr. Brungardt noted that several existing plants will be temporarily relocated to the area near "Watch Red Run" and the restrooms during this process and then returned once complete. He stated that the project will have no fiscal impact to the City, as the Parks and Trees Committee intends to use existing funds, likely from the Community Foundation, to cover expenses. Because the solarization area is in a high-visibility, high-use location, the Committee and staff wanted to make the Council aware of this sustainable approach to managing invasive species. The City also plans to share information about the project on its social media platforms as part of an educational effort.

Mayor Michael Poppa expressed support for the project and suggested adding on-site signage to further educate the public. The Council indicated support for the initiative. Councilmember Jan Faidley asked which plants would be relocated. Mr. Brungardt responded that the plants most at risk of being overtaken by Bermuda grass, those along the west and south edges of the Grass Walk, would be temporarily moved. Councilmember Faidley noted that she has had mixed results with solarization in past experiences.

Mayor Poppa thanked Mr. Brungardt for the update.

C. MARC – First Tier Suburbs

Councilmember Faidley said the minutes are in the packet and the next meeting is January 16, 2026.

X. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

XI. New Business

A. Request to Remove Trees Larger than 30 Inches in Diameter from Residential Yards

Background

In September 2024, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1062, establishing protections for large trees located on public property and within the front yards of private residential properties.

Under the Tree Protection Policy, property owners must obtain City approval prior to removing any tree measuring 12 inches or more in diameter at breast height (DBH) located in the front yard.

If the City Arborist determines that the tree is dead, dying, diseased, or an invasive species, the property owner may remove the tree without replacement or additional action.

Tree removal requests for trees exceeding 30 inches DBH that do not meet the above exceptions require City Council approval.

Requests for Tree Removal

1. 5420 Briar – Pin Oak (46" DBH) (images attached)

- Homeowner Request: Removal due to repeated large limb drops, raising concerns about property damage and maintenance costs.
- City Arborist Findings: The Pin Oak is healthy. Summer limb drop is common for this species. The Arborist recommends pruning and ongoing maintenance rather than removal (see attached photos).
- Homeowner Intent: Plans to replace the tree but believes continued pruning and cleanup present an ongoing financial burden.

2. 5001 Pawnee Drive – Sweet Gum (34" DBH) (images below)

- Homeowner Request: Removal due to gumball seed litter creating a slipping hazard along 50th Street, a common walking route for school children. The homeowner also reports prior storm damage to the tree.
- City Arborist Findings: The Sweet Gum is in fair condition. The Arborist recommends removing broken or hanging limbs and pruning the outer canopy, rather than full removal.
- Homeowner Intent: Plans to replace the tree if removal is approved.

Discussion

Attached you will find images of the trees in question and the arborist reports for both properties. Both trees are classified as protected under the Tree Protection Policy due to their size. Neither tree meets the criteria for automatic removal without Council approval.

The Council must determine whether to:

1. Approve the removal requests as submitted; or
2. Deny the requests based on the Arborist's recommendation that both trees can be preserved through pruning and maintenance.

Ms. Jones-Lacy provided background on the two trees. They also heard from the two homeowners, Steph and Ken Lowe at 5001 Pawnee and Lee Borst at 5420 Briar.

There was some conversation about when it was appropriate to remove a tree and if it being a nuisance for dropping seeds was enough.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE REMOVAL OF TREE AT 5420 BRIAR (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1.) WITH CMBR FAIDLEY VOTING NO

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR SCHRAEDER SECONDED TO APPROVE REMOVAL OF TREE AT 5420 BRIAR (THE MOTION CARRIED 4-3.) WITH CMBR FAIDLEY, HAGE, AND LERO VOTING NO, MAYOR POPPA BROKE THE TIE WITH A YES

B. Approve Supplemental Task Order for 2026 Rosewood and Granada Street Reconstruction Projects

MOTION: CMBR HAGE MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL TASK ORDER FOR 2026 ROSEWOOD AND GRANADA STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS NOT TO EXCEED \$16,000. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

C. Approve Supplemental Task Order for 55th Street Project

MOTION: CMBR LERO MOVED AND CMBR SCHRAEDER SECONDED TO APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL TASK ORDER FOR 55th STREET PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED \$28,500 . (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

XII. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Ordinance 1080 – Adopting Chapter 14 Amendments

MOTION: CMBR LERO MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1080 ACCEPTING CHANGES TO CHAPTER 14 OF THE CITY MUNICIPAL CODE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

B. Ordinance 1081 – Kansas Gas Franchise Renewal

MOTION: CMBR MADGIAN MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1081 KANSAS GAS FRANCHISE RENEWAL. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)


XIII. Reports of City Officials

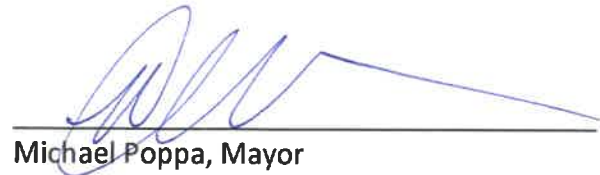
A. 2025 3rd Quarter Objectives Progress Report

XIV. Adjournment

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:19 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk

Michael Poppa, Mayor