

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51st STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
January 5, 2026, 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
- Harold Morales, 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
Morales

Public Works
Madigan
Lero

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:05 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 Councilmembers were present. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Felzien, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Honas, Parks and Rec Superintendent Brungardt, Management Analyst Riley, and City Clerk Nielsen.

III. Modification of the Agenda

CMBR Faidley recommended postponing the election of the Council President until after the approval of Charter Ordinance 42.

City Attorney Felzien said in passing the ordinance first, the election of Council President would move to the second meeting in January. The notice will need to be published twice in the *Legal Record* before the next meeting.

CMBR Faidley said they would still be making nominations at tonight's meeting. It was agreed that the Governing Body would make nominations for Council President but there would be no election at this meeting.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments made.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Appropriations Ordinance #1081

B. City Council Meeting Minutes December 1, 2025

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

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

A. Introduce New Management Analyst - Cece Riley

Ms. Jones-Lacy introduced Ms. Riley to the Governing Body. Mayor Poppa said they look forward to working with her.

B. 2025 Resident Survey Presentation

Derrick Harvey, Project Manager at ETC Institute, provided the results of the City satisfaction survey. He said the purpose was to evaluate the programs and services of the City and gather input from Roeland Park residents. They had a goal of 400 surveys and received 467 completed surveys. Mr. Harvey said that all perceptions and ratings of the City are high especially when compared to metro averages. The City consistently rates high as a place to live, raise a family, and have a high quality of life. Mr. Harvey said Roeland Park shows a sustained performance level which means they are listening to their residents and providing continued leadership.

Mr. Harvey noted there were some opportunities for improvement in their development activity and code enforcement areas.

City Manager Moody said the satisfaction with development is an area of concern. He noted the survey closed before ground broke on The Rocks site. They are excited to see the progress at the site, and it has been exceptional in the month and a half that they have been working. He believed this played a role in this component of the survey. Mr. Moody added that the Governing Body has been overseeing enhancements made to the Walmart site. He said that Walmart's planned parking lot improvements that have not yet occurred, as well as vacancies on the property and the inactivity at The Rocks site factored into the survey results.

City Manager Moody also added that they have four street projects scheduled for 2026 and a significant amount of money has been allocated in 2026 to go towards trip hazard removals on sidewalks as well as complete replacement on failed sections of sidewalk. He said they really love to hear from their residents, and they like it when what the residents have asked for coincides with what the City has planned. It shows that they are listening, responding, and acting.

Mr. Harvey continued with the survey results noting the City's newsletter was rated highest for communication and acknowledged the City's efforts to keep the residents informed.

CMBR Faidley asked regarding the results of the co-responder program that it may be more of a matter of public education about the program and what it is that they do since it is a relatively new program. Mr. Harvey said that more communication and more information would help increase those scores.

Mayor Poppa said they as a Governing Body love what they do and being a part of this community, but it is really the staff that makes it all happen.

VII. Mayor's Report

A. Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

Mayor Poppa asked CMBR Lero, liaison to the Arts Committee, to announce the Holiday Contest Winners. He noted that in addition to CMBR Lero, co-chairs Marek Gliniecki and Mary Shultheis, and board member Todd Zimmer were also in attendance at the meeting.

CMBR Lero said they had 22 entries in the contest. The committee drove around one night to look at the entries, and he was amazed to see how many people were getting into the holiday spirit with lights all over the City. It was a challenge to determine a winner. Those in attendance at the meeting received awards. The winners of the contest were:

- Evan Iliff - First Place
- Amanda Britton-Carpenter - Second Place
- Jack Crane - Third Place
- Will Harris - Fourth Place

B. Discuss Council Committee Liaison Appointments

CMBR Faidley asked if the Mayor would like to have an alternate for the committees and he said they would like to if they can. CMBR Faidley said she would be glad to have an alternate for her on Sustainability. CMBR Schraeder volunteered to be that alternate.

It was noted that the MARC Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is being restructured and the meetings will meet occasionally in a roundtable forum. MARC is not giving up on the committee, but the members will be asked for their input on other committees. Also, the 1st Tier Suburbs Coalition is a quarterly meeting and usually a staff member attends but it is open to anyone.

VIII. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

There were no reports.

IX. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business discussed.

X. New Business

A. Elect Council President

Mayor Poppa asked for nominations for Governing Body President with actual voting at the next meeting.

CMBR Madigan nominated CMBR Hage.

CMBR Hill nominated CMBR Faidley.

Both CMBR Hage and CMBR Faidley accepted their nomination.

CMBR Madigan asked what brought on the voting changes. Mayor Poppa said his recollection was the Governing Body wanted to give the new Councilmembers an opportunity to get to know better those running for the Council President position.

This vote will be held at the January 20 City Council meeting.

B. Approve 75th Anniversary Logo

Parks and Rec Superintendent Brungardt presented the 75th Anniversary logo renderings and asked the Governing Body to approve their choice. The 75th Anniversary Committee reviewed the logos and approved their submission to the Governing Body. City letterhead and the like will not be changed, but a few commemorative items will be created such as t-shirts.

CMBR Faidley asked about the choice of using RoeFest. In knowing its history, she asked if there was discussion by the committee about returning to use of the name and what the rush is now. CMBR Hage said that RoeFest was the last time the City had a large-scale community-wide event. The intent is to pay homage to RoeFest of the past.

Mayor Poppa said they have not had a RoeFest since 2008. CMBR Faidley said it was a fundraiser for a medical cause. Mayor Poppa said this one will not be a fundraiser but more of a celebration that will be held on Roe and not at the Community Center. They are paying homage to the community by calling it RoeFest and hope to continue it in years to come.

CMBR Madigan said that originally, they did raise money for a daycare, but it was also an opportunity for everyone to come out and try cultural foods. Even politicians came out to meet with the people.

CMBR Schraeder said she helped to organize that RoeFest, and they did not see it as raising money for the daycare, but it was a fundraiser for spinal muscular atrophy.

There was some Governing Body discussion about the tagline of “Rooted in Community” versus the City’s currently used “Uniquely Rooted.”

CMBR Hage said that RoeFest was not using the City’s tagline, but there is some intention with it to unite with the City.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR SCHRADER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE ROEFEST 2026 LOGO. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

C. Approve 75th Anniversary Email Signature

CMBR Lero said he liked the general layout and the general idea of the logo. He did feel they could do a better design, especially on the stacked logo. He did like the idea of modifying the existing logo.

CMBR Hill said they need to think about the timing and the need for them to move forward quickly, so they can get to the real work that needs to be done. She did not want to see them slow down the process.

CMBR Hage said she agreed with CMBR Hill. She said the committee approved the renderings and provided alternates and she believed what was presented should be considered. The intent remains intact but acknowledged the scaling could be better.

CMBR Madigan recommended they approve what the committee first presented.

CMBR Faidley said she is happy to go with the committee recommendation and inquired about its usage. Mr. Brungardt said that it would be up to the Governing Body's discretion. Mayor Poppa encouraged the logo to be used as they should be proud of Roeland Park's 75 years.

Mayor Poppa asked for input from each Governing Body member.

CMBR Faidley said she would go with what the committee recommended.

CMBR Madigan said he did not support any of the ones in the packet.

CMBR Dickens said he would support the committee recommendations.

CMBR Hill supported the RP75, and the stacked logo with the long branch.

Mr. Brungardt did state that the Committee was not impressed with any of the choices presented, but they had a desire to move forward.

Mayor Poppa did a count of which items were preferred.

After polling the Council, the majority approved the use of "Uniquely Rooted" as the tagline, the 75 Years with RP under the trees logo, and the 75 Years with a long branch.

CMBR Hill said she is not opposed to the use of "Rooted in Community" as it is a nice play of the City's current tagline.

Mr. Brungardt will share with everyone the new anniversary logos for staff and the Governing Body to use in their e-mails.

MOTION: CMBR LERO MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MIDDLE STACKED LOGO WITH 75 YEARS ON THE LEFT AND RP UNDER THE TREES, AND ALSO THE HORIZONTAL LOGO OF 75 YEARS ON THE LEFT WITH ROELAND PARK ON THE LONG BRANCH, AND TO INCORPORATE THE CITY'S CURRENT TAGLINE OF "UNIQUELY ROOTED" IN LIEU OF "ROOTED IN COMMUNITY." (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

D. Approve 2026 Project Rise Agreement

Ms. Jones-Lacy presented the 2026 Project Agreement with the Northeast Johnson County Chamber. She said there are not a lot of changes, but they will be removing some information requests from the business database as some of it was difficult to obtain. Rather than have an incomplete report, the decision was made to remove those items.

CMBR Faidley said she had spoken with Jan Peters who said she presented twice to the Council in 2025 and is in communication monthly with Ms. Jones-Lacy. CMBR Faidley asked her about the status of firming up any other businesses coming to the City. Ms. Peters said there are still letters of interest out there, but they did not have anything else concrete at this point. However, there continues to be some interest in the CVS location. Ms. Faidley noted she hears the frustration from the residents as to why these properties are sitting empty.

Ms. Jones-Lacy commented that they know this is a long game. She also appreciates and understands the concern and noted that the survey reflects those sentiments. Ms. Jones-Lacy said that Ms. Peters is in communication regularly with the realtor for the CVS property and added that it is nice to have someone representing the City and in constant communication with those properties. She said they continue to do everything they can to make Roeland Park as attractive as possible.

Mayor Poppa said Ms. Peters is not only in contact with the realtor but is bringing the business community in Roeland Park together and growing relationships between businesses and community members.

CMBR Madigan said there is so much communication between Ms. Jones-Lacy and Ms. Peters that he would suggest if anyone had a question, they go to Ms. Jones-Lacy, so Ms. Peters is not confused about what they are looking for and what they want. Ms. Jones-Lacy said Ms. Peters is willing to assist in any way she can, but Ms. Jones-Lacy also said she is willing to field those questions. Mayor Poppa said this is a good idea to go through staff for questions to Ms. Peters. He thanked CMBR Madigan for that suggestion.

MOTION: CMBR LERO MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2026 AGREEMENT WITH THE NEJC CHAMBER FOR PROJECT RISE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

E. Approve 2026 Extension for Street Light Maintenance Agreement

Public Works Director Scharff said this agreement extends the contract with Black & McDonald and reflects a slight increase of around \$1.52 per light annually and \$144 per signalized intersection of which the City has four. The total contract cost would be \$45,230. Mr. Scharff said they have utilized Black & McDonald for many, many years.

CMBR Faidley said she was looking for information from previous years but could not find it. Public Works Director Scharff presented a history chart of prior years' costs.

City Manager Moody said the staff report reflects numbers for 2022. They have attached and referenced updated numbers, which were not reflected in the original report.

Ms. Jones-Lacy said the numbers are now updated in the staff report.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH BLACK & MCDONALD FOR THE 2026 STREETLIGHT & TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$45,230. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0. CMBR MADIGAN WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE.)

F. Approve 2026-2028 Tree Maintenance Service Agreement

Public Works Director Scharff said they put out an RFP for tree services for larger jobs they do not have the equipment or manpower to do. Of the three responses they received, they are recommending Arbor Masters. Mr. Scharff said they are a great company to work with, and they have used them in the past.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2026-2028 TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ARBOR MASTERS. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0. CMBR MADIGAN WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE.)

XI. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Resolution 729 - Public Purpose for Eminent Domain to Secure Easements for Roe Parkway, 55th, 51st and Rosewood/Granada Street Projects

City Attorney Felzien said this is the first step in eminent domain and Kansas law requires a resolution declaring a public purpose. Once the title work is complete, an ordinance will come back to the Governing Body with details on how much land is needed and any easements that would be required.

City Manager Moody said they must get moving on the process, so they do not delay the construction projects. There are four projects to be completed this year. They do continue to work with the property owners to secure easements outside of the condemnation process. If they do not obtain those easements, they will have completed the eminent domain process to allow them to move forward with the planned projects.

The Ordinance will come back before the Governing Body at the next January meeting or the first meeting in February.

CMBR Faidley asked about the use of Orrick Acquisition Services and whether this is the first time the City has used them. City Manager Moody said they are a subcontractor of Lamp Rynearson's who prepares easement descriptions. He said the process is very time consuming for staff and they decided to incorporate this into the project scope. CMBR Faidley wanted to clarify that they do not need easements or include in the order 51st Street west of Nall to the City limits. She said as written it is from Cedar to Nall. City Manager Moody said that description is for the engineers to complete the survey work and to determine what easements are needed.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR MORALES SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 729 - PUBLIC PURPOSE FOR EMINENT DOMAIN TO SECURE EASEMENTS FOR ROE PARKWAY, 55TH, 51ST, AND ROSEWOOD/GRANADA STREET PROJECTS. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

B. Resolution 730 - Aquatics Center Fees

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Brungardt noted two typos in this report. The first is that individual memberships will be \$75 and not \$750. Also, senior memberships will now reflect the individual membership to better align the City with the prices of other Super Pass municipalities.

The proposed 2026 fees better align with other Super Pass cities, a program that Roeland Park has chosen to rejoin. He did note that some of the price increases are significant. But he also said their prices have been under market for a while now because they were not offering a comparable product.

Mr. Brungardt believes that their facility matches or mirrors what the other communities offer and the increased pricing should help to offset some of the pool subsidies. The Aquatics Committee approved the price increases with the caveat that rates do not increase again for 2027 but will be looked at again in 2028.

CMBR Faidley said she would be remiss if she did not express her concern about the affordability for families. She understands the need to better align with the other pools, but the Roeland Park pool was never intended to be a moneymaker for the City. She said the question becomes how much subsidy is too much. Historically, they have cut prices to encourage participation. They see themselves as providing amenities to everyone and not just to those that can afford them.

CMBR Hage said that she is on the Aquatics Committee and they have had a lot of discussion on this. She also noted that they have never had the actionable level of data that they do now and operating with facts is important. The pool does rely heavily on non-residents. She also wanted to point out the challenge of how much the General Fund is subsidizing the pool, which is paid for by Roeland Park residents. They need to strike a balance and look at this as a business decision, something that has not been done in the past. The Aquatics Committee stressed they do want to continue to add value to the uses and feel that by adding the Super Pass back in and staying open later do justify the cost increase.

CMBR Hill agreed with CMBR Faidley's comments and noted that this facility services Wyandotte County. She had concerns that they were more worried about money and noted that there is not another pool in the area for those Wyandotte children. They come because it is close. Also, the Governing Body knew the pool would not make them money and she would not support the price increase.

CMBR Madigan said they cannot price themselves the same as others or people will go somewhere else. He said they need to remember the income of the people from whom they are drawing. He asked if rejoining the Super Pass program was forcing them to consider raising their rates. Mr. Brungardt said that it is not the reason as they are only selling the passes to Roeland Park residents this year. Next year, if they want to continue in the Super Pass program, then their fees would have to be closer to what the other Super Pass cities are. Mr. Brungardt said they do not want to be the most expensive pool in the area and understand what they have to offer, but he also wanted to remain competitive. They may not be able to sell the non-resident Super Pass next year if rates are not competitive.

CMBR Madigan said they should remember the Governing Body gets a free membership, this does not directly affect them.

CMBR Morales said he was wondering whether the pay scale was based on income. Mr. Brungardt said he has not been able to verify income once the pool is open. When it opens, it becomes his 40-hour a week job and he does not have staff capacity to do income verification.

CMBR Lero said there has been a lot of discussion about how important it is to keep the pool affordable to everyone and he is okay with keeping the prices low because the benefits outweigh the impact on the General Fund. He feels like they are becoming hostage to the Super Pass and it is forcing them to do something they do not want to do. He thinks the Super Pass is great and has taken advantage of the benefits when possible and when Roeland Park wasn't open all the time. He said

they should think about them just wanting to be part of the Super Pass or have the pool available to the community.

CMBR Hage said they have never had comparative data or benchmarking before, but the decisions were not made in response to surrounding markets. They want to balance the business decision with the values of the City.

Mr. Brungardt said that Roeland Park's usage does mirror Fairway's. Roeland Park's usage is 63 percent non-resident and Fairway's is 68 percent non-resident. Their amenities are similar in what they each have to offer. He said one number did come up. If you take the \$230,000 and divide by the 6500 or so residents in Roeland Park, then you can give each resident \$35 to which then it makes it cheaper for them to go to the Mission pool with a non-resident pass. The thought behind the fee increases was to make it more equitable across the board and justify what they're doing at the pool.

CMBR Lero said he appreciates the comparisons but noted the population of Fairway versus Roeland Park and had similar attendance numbers. He said he did not know how helpful some of the comparisons are. People do have a lot of options that are close by. He said they cannot always compete with the facility, and they need to think about what is more desirable.

CMBR Madigan said he has been on the Aquatics Committee for a long time and one of their decisions was to lower rates for non-residents to attract them and aid a community that couldn't come to their pool. He cannot support this much of an increase.

City Manager Moody asked Mr. Brungardt to review the rate comparisons in his report. Mr. Moody also gave some historical background on the pool operations in the recent years noting that staff provides all this information to the Governing Body as they want to help them make good fiscal decisions.

Mr. Brungardt added that they are the highest paid pool in the metro and that was done intentionally to be able to keep the pool open seven days a week with the lowest prices.

MOTION: CMBR HAGE MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 730 - ROELAND PARK AQUATIC CENTER ADMISSION AND MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2026. (THE MOTION FAILED 2-6.)

City Manager Moody asked for direction from the Governing Body regarding the rates.

Mayor Poppa said he heard a lot about the non-resident family rate.

CMBR Hill wants them to put this item on an upcoming Workshop agenda and to keep the rates where they are if there is an urgency to publish the rates.

Mayor Poppa asked why the Aquatics Committee did not want to take a stairstep approach to the rates. Mr. Brungardt said that it was not supported because there would be two large increases back to back and they felt it would be easier to handle if there was only one.

Mayor Poppa asked if the Governing Body would be amenable to accept the rate increases as proposed except for the non-resident rate being the stairstep approach so there is not a huge jump for 2025 to 2026 pricing. There was not a majority support for that recommendation.

Mr. Brungardt said if they move this item to the second January meeting, he needed guidance as to whether there is an acceptable amount of increase or if there is something they do not like. He can take that information and produce a new proposal and show how it would affect revenue numbers.

Mayor Poppa asked the Governing Body what top number they would consider for a non-resident rate. CMBR Lero said the message in the pricing says we're going to raise it a little bit for residents, and we do not want non-residents because we're raising it a lot. Some of the rate jumps presented feel arbitrary versus a certain percentage. He said it is easier to justify a percentage increase across the board versus competing with neighbors.

Mayor Poppa said that costs all around are increasing and not only admission to the pools, but the operating costs are increasing as well. If they do a percent increase across the board, they need to consider the resident rate. He asked if the Governing Body would support a resident rate increase.

CMBR Faidley said what they need to give staff is where they want to be on cost recovery. Mr. Brungardt said he does not have the recovery rate yet. CMBR Faidley said the research shows if they are getting 70 percent that is a good recovery rate for a pool.

CMBR Madigan asked if there have been any complaints by non-residents. He said they should take their current prices and raise them a certain percentage across the board considering the cost of living or twice the cost of living. It will be a shock when the prices come out, and they can expect to see attendance take a nosedive.

CMBR Hill said she would like to see them focus more on special events and getting more people to the pool. She said the \$130 is difficult to produce at times. With such a high rate, they will see less people at the pool.

Mr. Brungardt said he understands the individual rates are acceptable to some and some want to see them lower. He said that he can use a percentage increase for the rates and bring that back to the Governing Body.

There was majority support by the Governing Body for Mr. Brungardt to bring back a consistent across the board rate increase.

CMBR Lero asked if there was any information on fees versus attendance. Mr. Brungardt says that he only has pre-COVID data, but the data shows that people tend to stay at the one place they're most familiar with.

C. Omnibus Charter Ordinance 42

Mayor Poppa said this is the culmination of a lot of work on a lot of different sections of the ordinance.

City Attorney Felzien said the code changes have all been combined into one ordinance. Changes include:

Change gender references to they/them where possible.
Nomination of Council President at the second Council meeting in January.
Remove the Ethics Attorney from the list of appointments.
Make the City's website the official city newspaper for publication.

An Ordinance requires two-thirds majority in support to pass.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE CHARTER ORDINANCE 42, WHICH PROVIDES MODIFICATIONS TO CODE LANGUAGE DISCUSSED AS PART OF THE CITY CODE REVIEW, AND MAKES THE CITY'S WEBSITE THE OFFICIAL CITY NEWSPAPER. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

XII. Reports of City Officials

A. 2025 4th Quarter Objectives Progress Report

City Manager Moody said there are three outstanding 2025 projects that will be completed this year. There are also some prior year objectives remaining and staff will continue to work on those while also working on the 2026 objectives.

B. Parks and Recreation Report

Mr. Brungardt said that pool employment applications are now open.

XIII. Adjournment

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Michael Poppa, Mayor