

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51st STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
February 2, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Poppa, Mayor• Benjamin Dickens, Council Member• Jan Faidley, Council Member• Emily Hage, Council Member• Jennifer Hill, Council Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew Lero, Council Member• Tom Madigan, Council Member• Harold Morales, Council Member• Debbi Schraeder, Council Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keith Moody, City Administrator• Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.• Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk• Cory Honas, Police Chief• Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director
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Admin
Faidley
Schraeder

Finance
Dickens
Hage

Safety
Hill
Morales

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

Ms. Jones-Lacy called the roll. Councilmembers Hill and Schraeder were absent. All other Governing Body members were present in person. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Walker, Asst. City Administrator/Finance Director Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Honas, and Parks and Rec Superintendent Brungardt.

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 made.

VI. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1083
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes January 20, 2026
- C. Committee Appointments and Reappointments

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

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

A. Legislative Update from LGR (Little Government Resources)

Stuart Little from Little Government Relations began his update stating that the Kansas legislature is moving quickly in their session. Property taxes continue to be a top priority. There has also been a lot of engagement on SNAP benefits and access to food. SB 244 said this bill related to public entities, bathroom facilities, and gender passed without any opportunity for testimony. Also, some election bills were before the legislature garnering a significant amount of testimony. There are some bills being modified or created related to the coming World Cup. A lot of housing bills are also coming up this session and are largely related to landlord issues in Olathe and Wichita.

Mayor Poppa said that most of the bills on Mr. Little's list have to do with taking local control from cities and the state of Kansas undermining home rule resulting in municipalities' lack of ability to govern their own communities as they see fit.

Mayor Poppa said that Bill 244 pulled an ideological procedural stunt and forced a hateful bathroom bill that defines gender in narrow terms and allows for the revocation of driver's licenses and birth certificates that do not align with those definitions. It creates segregation based on definition. It allows someone who perceives an invasion of privacy to file a complaint which is followed by three days for the agency to respond. He said this would create an undue burden on time and resources for their staff. Also, there are still penalties for failing to respond in time. Mayor Poppa invited Representative Susan Humphries to monitor their City restrooms and ID individuals who use them as she championed this bill.

CMBR Madigan asked if there were limits on the number of people in a bathroom. Mayor Poppa said there are limitations and exceptions for children with a guardian.

Mayor Poppa stated for the record that the comments he made during the meeting were his and not those from Mr. Little or LGR.

CMBR Faidley said she did a virtual update from the Kansas League of Municipalities, and they were asking for testimony. She said it seems to her like virtue signaling in an election year, but this is almost beyond that. She asked if it would be worth it for them to say what this will cost them to change their restrooms as they are already in their budget year and this has not been planned for and would be a real hardship.

Mr. Little said the next step is the expected Governor veto, and then a return to the House. He said the margin is very close. Any information they may be able to provide can help them build the record down the road.

Mayor Poppa and City Manager Moody are getting data together. There was no opportunity for testimony. Roeland Park encouraged Kansas residents to contact their representatives to work against imposing strict narrow views on local governments to stymie them from servicing their communities.

City Manager Moody asked Mallory Lutz from LGR to draft some talking points they can share with their constituents and representatives.

Mayor Poppa thanked Mr. Little for the work he does on their behalf every day.

VIII. Mayor's Report

A. Black History Month Proclamation

Mayor Poppa read the Black History Month Proclamation into the record. He noted there are further resources available in the agenda packet for people to learn more and act.

Brandon Calloway from Kansas City G.I.F.T (Generating Income for Tomorrow) was given the proclamation by Mayor Poppa.

Mr. Calloway, co-founder of Kansas City G.I.F.T., said his organization works to reverse the long-standing systemic racism and economic injustice in the community noting that Kansas City is a hyper-segregated city. His organization provides grants to black-owned businesses, and those funds create jobs for the people who live in those areas. They are creating a system to reverse disinvestment in certain areas of Kansas City. The organization was founded in 2020 and has created a business center that is open to anyone and provides free services to help business owners develop and grow a business.

Mayor Poppa said that what they are doing is fantastic.

CMBR Faidley asked if they could establish a grant to bring a black-owned business to Roeland Park. She noted that they have their economic development fund and Project Rise as well as a lot of empty retail space.

Mr. Calloway said they focus on the six highest low-income neighborhoods in the area. Their funding is concentrated on the highest black poverty areas which tend to be on the east side of Troost. Their business center is open to anyone, but the grants are solely for black-owned businesses. He said he would be willing to work with the City in trying to find a business for Roeland Park.

CMBR Madigan commended Mr. Calloway and the people he works with in revitalizing the east side. Mr. Calloway said the area does not have the stigma it used to. They are revitalizing the area, improving education and seeing redevelopment.

(Pictures were taken with Mr. Calloway and the Governing Body)

IX. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. Parks Committee Update

Nathan Brungardt, Parks and Rec Superintendent, provided an update on the Nall Park progress. He said they are working on their budget objective to have irrigation at R Park. Mr. Brungardt also reviewed the 2026 Quarterly Goals and Objectives as detailed in the agenda packet. They also have new members on the committee but have two vacant spots remaining.

Mr. Brungardt gave the status on The Mighty Bike play structure. He reviewed the safety features that have been tested at the structure. There seem to be ongoing issues that once something is resolved something else comes up. Currently they are addressing some inspection issues. He also reviewed

safety-related items of concern. Once they get the re-inspection completed, the hope is to get a certificate of safety to be able to open the Mighty Bike in March.

CMBR Hage said that one of the notes Dimension Innovations had was a financial concern. Mr. Brungardt said the 18 issues that need to be addressed will require additional funds above what has been budgeted.

CMBR Faidley asked about the “wobble.” Mr. Brungardt said that it will be addressed with stabilization.

CMBR Hage noted there has been significant dollars in private donation as well as what the City has made and asked if they have been in communication with the donors. City Manager Moody said they been in contact, but there is no clear timeline to share with the donor, but they have done the best they can to explain why they are in the position they are in. He noted this is frustrating for everyone. Their intent in hiring the safety consultant was to avoid getting into this situation. City Manager Moody pointed out that the safety report has a lot of suggestions, but staff believes to provide as safe of a product as they can, they should also address the suggestions. He did add that it is also frustrating that the suggestions were not brought up during the design process when it would have been easier to rectify.

CMBR Madigan said he is frustrated that this has gone on for such a long time. He asked what the final tab will be. Mr. Brungardt said at this point anything would be speculation. City Manager Moody said that more than 50 percent of the cost has been covered by donations, which speaks to those folks as good partners of the City when they can take ideas and turn them into reality. He said that R Park is recognized as one of the “coolest” parks in the metro, and this will be a unique piece that they will all be proud of.

Mayor Poppa gave staff a thank you from the Governing Body because this has been a tremendous undertaking.

X. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business discussed.

XI. New Business

A. Adopt 2026 Legislative Platform

The Governing Body reviewed the 2025 platform and Mayor Poppa asked if there was anything lacking that they would like to present in 2026. He also noted that they state their alignment with the priorities of Johnson County and the Kansas League of Municipalities.

CMBR Faidley noticed that the LKM had a special section under police powers that no municipal police department should be mandated to cooperate with other law enforcement agencies.

Mayor Poppa said that even though the LKM priorities are incorporated by reference for Roeland Park, he said they could still put them in their own priorities.

There was consensus by the Governing Body to add that to their platform. CMBR Faidley will draft language to submit to the Mayor.

CMBR Faidley also said there is a good statement in the LKM on the homeless and unsheltered. Mayor Poppa said their platform has a statement on safe and affordable housing. CMBR Hage added that mental health is expressly called out.

CMBR Faidley asked if their environmental statement mentions anything about EV charging. Mayor Poppa said they speak of fair and inclusive access to technology, etc.

CMBR Hage said that Missouri is discussing revoking red flag laws and asked if that is a conversation happening in Kansas. Mayor Poppa said that is something that is attempting to be introduced.

There was consensus that red flag law language be added to their platform. CMBR Hage will draft language to that effect and provide it to the Mayor.

There was consensus to move this item to Unfinished Business at their next meeting to see the edits to their 2026 legislative platform.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION.
(MOTION WITHDRAWN)

B. Reappoint Ad-Hoc Historical Committee for 2026

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JIM GREBE, IAN THOMPSON, LIZ VOGEL, JEN HILL, AND TOM MADIGAN TO THE AD-HOC HISTORICAL COMMITTEE FOR 2026. (MOTION CARRIES 6-0.)

XII. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Ordinance - Eminent Domain for Roe Parkway Construction Easement and Right of Way

City Manager Moody said for this project it is necessary to obtain right-of-way, permanent sidewalk/utility easements, and temporary construction easements. One property owner has not signed the easement request.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE EMINENT DOMAIN FOR THE ROE PARKWAY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

B. Ordinance - Eminent Domain for 55th Street Temporary Construction Easements

City Manager Moody said there is a need for some permanent sidewalk easements to accommodate an ADA accessible ramp, but the rest of the easements will be temporary. There are still several properties from which they need to secure those easements. Certified letters will be sent to those property owners following the meeting.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR MORALES SECONDED TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE FOR EMINENT DOMAIN FOR THE FOR 51ST STREET CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS. (THE MOTION CARRIED 5-1 WITH CMBR MADIGAN VOTING NO.)

C. Resolution - 2026 Aquatics Center Fees

Mr. Brungardt presented the 2025 numbers for the Roeland Park Aquatics Center in comparison to the proposed 2026 numbers. The anticipated revenue increase is \$10,545. This presentation is part of an annual review and was reviewed at the last Governing Body Workshop meeting.

CMBR Faidley asked if it was their intention to phase out the family pass. Mr. Brungardt said his impression was that they would keep it.

CMBR Madigan asked about the elimination of the senior membership. Mr. Brungardt said that is a typo and the Senior membership remains. CMBR Madigan said he is worried about the increase of the non-resident membership rate. Mr. Brungardt said it is still the best value around. The City is planning to spend \$300,000 to keep the pool open. They want to slow that amount down and want to be able to fund capital improvements at the aquatics center.

CMBR Faidley wanted to confirm they would continue to monitor attendance. She is interested in seeing how they do on the family passes to determine whether it is worth it to continue. Mr. Brungardt said they are not expecting an increase in non-resident pass purchases but are expecting an overall increase in attendance.

CMBR Lero said he appreciates this information but does question the resident family increase. Mr. Brungardt said they are intentionally below market to get people to come to the pool. He also provided the rates of surrounding pools. They are aware of the risk, but he still feels people will come. They have a pretty good facility, consistent operating hours and are continuing to improve.

CMBR Hage said the Aquatics Committee is continuing to add value to the pool and noted they have the Super Pass back this year.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2026 ROELAND PARK AQUATIC CENTER ADMISSION AND MEMBERSHIP FEES AS PRESENTED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

XIII. Reports of City Officials

City Manager Moody said next Monday is the budget kick-off meeting at 5, and they will be serving supper. He said it's a great review and always a good time.

Ms. Jones-Lacy said they have hired a codes enforcement officer.

Mr. Brungardt said they are also hiring for the pool starting at \$16/hr.

XIV. Adjournment

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 p.m.)

Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk

Michael Poppa, Mayor