

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Monday, June 5, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Michael Poppa, Mayor○ Trisha Brauer, Council Member○ Benjamin Dickens, Council Member○ Jan Faidley, Council Member○ Jennifer Hill, Council Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Tom Madigan, Council Member○ Castagna-Herrera, Council Member○ Michael Rebne, Council Member○ Kate Raglow, Council Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Keith Moody, City Administrator○ Micah Rehmert, Asst. City Administrator○ Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk○ John Morris, Police Chief○ Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director |
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Admin
Dickens
Rebne

Finance
Hill
Castagna-Herrera

Safety
Madigan
Brauer

Public Works
Faidley
Raglow

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. All Governing Body members were present. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Felzien, Finance Director/Asst. City Administrator Rehmert, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, Parks and Rec Superintendent Marshall, and City Clerk Nielsen. The meeting was held virtually.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1021**
- B. Council Meeting Minutes May 15, 2023**

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

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

- A. Presentation from MARC on Housing Data Hub - Frank Lenk**

Mr. Lenk said at MARC they have been working hard on a variety of fronts with local governments to address housing issues in the region. He provided background information and data that can be found on the Housing Data Hub on MARC's homepage. The hub provides historical information as well as

current data. Their research shows that in the metro area Johnson County has the highest gap in housing between units and available and being affordable to the people that need them. There are not enough rental units to match the incomes of the people looking for them. Their data research shows there is a shortage of about 45,000 affordable units in Johnson County alone followed by Jackson County in Missouri. This problem largely affects people of color, households with children, the elderly and disabled.

CMBR Dickens said the information is alarming. He asked if the 30 percent monthly income for housing is based on net or gross income. Mr. Lenk said it is gross income and 30 percent is the average of what people can afford to spend on housing.

CMBR Rebne said looking at data was very troubling but not a surprise. He said as a Governing Body, they have had conversations about affordable housing and development. He asked how as a municipality they might internalize the data and where do they go from here when their data in Roeland Park might show different numbers than their data. He asked what they might do to help take ownership of this crisis metro wide. Mr. Lenk said that in an increase of housing, to think more towards workforce housing, mixed use development, and providing varying styles and sizes to meet the diversity of those seeking housing. He suggested more housing be on transit lines while also improving public transit itself. He suggested a relaxation in zoning to accommodate more units and also a community/public investment in housing through a community land trust or providing housing funds to subsidize production or home ownership.

CMBR Faidley said she heard Mr. Lenk's presentation at the First Suburbs meeting and found it very fascinating. She said another component would be coming out shortly and asked what that would include. Mr. Lenk said by looking at their blog, they can see where crowding occurs in cities, and it provides a better feel for where people are going.

Mayor Poppa expressed his thanks for what Mr. Lenk and those at MARC do to support the local municipalities.

B. Project RISE Update from the Chamber - Rebecca Galati

Ms. Galati provided an update on Project RISE noting that their website went live on May 1 during Small Business Awareness Week. She and Deb Settle, President of the Northeast Johnson County Chamber, have been working on launching this project for the City. Ms. Galati said she appreciates the support she has received from the City and Ms. Garcia, the City's PIO. They will next begin working on a sustainability plan. They have seen a good rollout to area businesses and a push for a media presence adding that several outlets including the *Shawnee Mission Post*, picked up what they are doing.

Ms. Galati went over the deliverables, which first was to develop a strategy to promote redevelopment and tenanting of underutilized and vacant commercial and residential sites, and to share that with the community. They have also developed and are implementing a City specific small business retention toolkit for how to start, plan, and grow the business. The toolkit is diverse for all the needs they have. She is continuing to develop and foster relationships within the commercial and retail development communities and will continue with those meetings as they develop best practices.

Ms. Galati was asked to provide website analytics, but they would really like to have three months of data to better provide that information. She did say, however, that in their first month they had 798 visits since launch.

In closing, Ms. Galati asked the Governing Body for direction on whether to maintain the project or expand it.

Mayor Poppa thanked Ms. Galati for her presentation, adding that it is amazing what she has accomplished in building this from the ground up. He said they are looking forward to seeing what they can do with Project RISE and small business in the city.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera asked if Ms. Galati has been contacted by anyone wanting to join the Chamber as a result of the interest expressed in Project RISE. Ms. Galati did say there has been curiosity as to what it is, and she has also been contacted by other cities who want to know what Project RISE is.

CMBR Faidley said that we want to make sure they continue those conversations. Ms. Galati said she is excited about all the potential they have with this project.

Mayor Poppa told Ms. Galati to contact them if they need anything, and she said to send her any information or events that might help further the project.

IV. Mayor's Report

A. Pride Month Proclamation

Mayor Poppa said June Pride month is a time to celebrate diversity and to commemorate the Stonewall Riots to honor the time for those fighting for LGBTQ rights. He said they are looking into what they can do legally to protect the LGBTQ community in Roeland Park.

CMBR Dickens noted that Roeland Park is one of the first cities to pass a non-discrimination ordinance, ban conversion therapy, and is a leader in protecting its citizens. He said in Roeland Park they walk the walk and representation matters. In the City, their residents have an ally in their Governing Body and staff, which makes them feel valued and seen. He added that the LGBTQ community has been an object of violence and they are seeing a renewed assault. Roeland Park is a safe place for those who need support and shelter, which is something they all can be proud of. In Roeland Park, they do not celebrate Pride month just in June but all year long. He thanked all of their allies and told them to keep fighting. He said that history bends towards the inclusive.

Mayor Poppa read the proclamation for Pride Month during June 2023 and invited all to respect the diversity of their community and for everyone to develop a culture of acceptance. The Governing Body expressed their support to the proclamation.

B. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation

Mayor Poppa spoke of the fact that many older residents want to remain in their homes for a longer time and it is important for the community to support them by helping them by creating a place where they can be active and stay engaged as long as possible. After reading the proclamation into the record, June 15th, 2023, was named World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and Mayor Poppa encouraged

the community to recognize and celebrate older adults in their city. All Governing Body members expressed their support.

C. Review League of Kansas Municipalities Code of Procedures for Kansas Cities

Mayor Poppa reviewed the taking of motions during their meetings. He said that Roeland Park does not use Robert's Rules of Order, but that most area municipalities have adopted the Kansas Municipalities Code of Procedures, which are easier and not as parliamentary.

He said going forward, he will not ask for a vote on a proclamation, but would ask the Council to weigh in on whether they will support them. He also added that if there were an issue, they would like to submit for a proclamation to let him know.

Also, for the sake of efficiency, a motion will be taken after the item has been thoroughly discussed. This allows for the Council to be able to vote on a clean motion.

CMBR Faidley asked in the event a motion happens before the chair considers the discussion closed would they take a second before continuing the discussion.

City Attorney Felzien said in his work with other municipalities, they typically do not take a motion before the end of the discussion.

CMBR Madigan asked at what point they would be able to table or un-table a motion. Mayor Poppa said that would be an alternate motion and he would likely expect that coming out of their discussion and would call for what he best understands the motion to be.

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. Aquatic Center Advisory Committee

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Marshall said they will need to adjust their schedule with fewer days and shorter times so they can have the pool staffed with 12 lifeguards each day. They would need 25 lifeguards to be open five days a week.

CMBR Raglow asked if they have any feedback as to why someone signing up to be a lifeguard did not commit to the end of the process. Mr. Marshall said he does not know whether they do not want to be a lifeguard in general or whether it's Roeland Park specifically.

Mr. Marshall said that lifeguards have decreased considerably over the metro area and provided comparisons of other cities noting that Overland Park did not open two of their pools and some in Kansas City, Kansas are closed.

CMBR Hill asked about staffing for Fairway, Prairie Village, and Mission. Mr. Marshall said he has not heard of any shortages, but normally at the end of the season is when they get information, and they meet and discuss how the season went. He said those pools are open every day, so he assumes they have enough staff.

Mr. Marshall noted that there are 18 pools within a 10-mile radius of Roeland Park with several of them being open year-round. A few also have swim teams. Most of them have an Aquatics Director with over four years' experience and Roeland Park does have the lowest pay scale.

CMBR Raglow asked if Mr. Marshall has tried to get lifeguards from other cities that might want to pick up extra shifts, especially if they have to work inside. Mr. Marshall said that Merriam and Mission do have year-round pools, but they also have outdoor in the summertime as well.

Mr. Marshall showed the Governing Body a comparison of lifeguard hourly rates with Roeland Park as the lowest at \$12.50 an hour and Overland Park as the highest at an hourly rate of \$15.

CMBR Madigan asked if they changed the rate, would it help. Mr. Marshall said it may help but all the factors play equally into the problem.

CMBR Dickens asked if they have continued the referral bonus. Mr. Marshall said they have, but the youth are more impressed with the hourly wage up front than getting something on the back end.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera asked if they could increase the rate now, or do they have to wait until budget discussions. She said in her business, kids are only looking at the hourly rate and not any perks. Mayor Poppa said they will be discussing a rate change later in the meeting that would take effect immediately.

CMBR Faidley agreed with Mr. Marshall that kids don't care about bonuses, and they should take that into consideration.

Mr. Marshall said he wants them to keep working at this and to continue trying and not give up. He said it will not be like this forever and he does see a light at the end of the tunnel. He added that there are ways to get in a better situation for future years to come.

B. MARC - Bike & Pedestrian (Jan Faidley)

CMBR Faidley noted that there is a lot of information included in the packet that came out of their long meeting.

City Administrator Moody added that he sent out information on the Regional Bikeway Plan. He said there is good information about what has happened in Roeland Park and the info will get everyone up to speed.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Approve Gateway Art Agreement with Nathan Pierce

96,000 - power to the base, build the base.

CMBR Hill asked for clarification for where the funds are coming from for the art installation. City Administrator Moody said a majority of the funds are from the Embrey 1 percent for art contribution. The Arts Committee has set aside a portion of their allotment to the Community Foundation, and a portion of this year's art annual allocation is going towards the project. There is \$114,000 set aside to

cover the artist fee and extend electric to the site. The City will be responsible for the installation of the base.

CMBR Faidley asked if a final site had been chosen and City Administrator Moody said it is up to the Arts Committee which site they prefer.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE GATEWAY ART AGREEMENT WITH NATHAN PIERCE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

VII. New Business

A. Approve Starting Wages for Lifeguards

City Administrator Moody stated there is a lag in the current starting pay for lifeguards. With the Aquatics Center operating less hours there will certainly be an offset with an increase in pay. As of right now, he can only say now what the impact will be for an increased pay, but will not know the net offset until after the close of the season.

He also said this is not a request to raise the pay scale or range.

CMBR Hill noted that each year a lifeguard returns they receive a raise. City Administrator Moody said it is their intent to apply the increase of 50 cents per year if they return.

CMBR Madigan said he hears from constituents that they are not open every day and close early. He said they are lagging behind and they need to keep up.

CMBR Faidley asked if they do the \$15 per hour would they need to amend the 2023 pay scale. City Administrator Moody said that is not required those people being paid would not be outside the pay range for lifeguards.

CMBR Raglow asked what the difference would be between \$14 and \$15 an hour. City Administrator Moody said it would be about \$6,000.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera would like to see them start at \$15 and receive increases. She said that kids can get jobs anywhere paying that. And they in turn will have more people coming to the pool if it is fully staffed and open all the time.

Mr. Marshall did say to keep in mind if they have low numbers, they might be closed or have limited hours on a Saturday or Sunday. It is always safety first. He also said that his college bound lifeguards usually start school by the end of July or beginning of August. But he added that they will be open as much as they can.

CMBR Brauer said an increase in pay could be considered an unforeseen expense. She noted that as a community they have invested a lot of money and time to improve the pool and the area and not to staff it to save a few thousand dollars contradicts the work they have done to get it to a place that's an asset to their community.

CMBR Raglow said the difference to be able to pay \$15 an hour is a benefit to the community and agreed with CMBR Brauer's comments on the remodeling done at the Aquatics Center.

Mayor Poppa said it is an important step to try to get the pool open seven days a week.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE STARTING PAY FOR LIFEGUARDS TO BE \$15 AN HOUR. (MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH CMBR MADIGAN VOTING NO.)

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Resolution 703 Expressing Intent to Issue GO Bonds

Mayor Poppa said this resolution is only precautionary if we do not close on The Rocks site. If there comes a point where they need to issue debt, then the Governing Body would have to pass a separate ordinance. This resolution preserves the opportunity to borrow the \$1.7 million for the Public Works facility should there become an issue.

CMBR Faidley asked if funds from the sale of land for The Rocks purchase was also for work at the Public Works site. City Administrator Moody said they are anticipating using the proceeds from The Rocks towards the investment of the Public Works facility.

MOTION: CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 703 EXPRESSING INTENT TO ISSUE GO BONDS. (MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH CMBR MADIGAN VOTING NO.)

B. Ordinance 1045 Changing the Name of the Racial Equity Committee to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

CMBR Raglow said this has been on her mind as they as a Governing Body have talked about diversity, equity, and inclusion at basically all of their Council meetings. She brought this suggestion to Haile Sims and CMBR Castagna-Herrera, and they were agreeable. It was also brought before the Racial Equity Committee and many of them were thinking the same thing but did not know the avenue to take to bring up the suggestion. She said from her perspective it does not diminish race but brings more light to more of their community and residents.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera said she spoke with one of the Councilmembers who felt that by omitting race it kind of generalizes it. She their intent as a community of equity, they are still talking about race as well as other areas of disability and sexual orientation. She said they will continue talking about race, but they can add to the mix inclusion and diversity issues.

CMBR Faidley said she agrees with the committee's recommendation, but drew attention to how the committee came into existence following the death of George Floyd, and it was agreed that race is the most egregious of the discriminations and they should start there. She said it is important to keep that fact in mind.

MOTION: CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR CASTAGNA-HERRERA SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1045, CHANGING THE NAME OF THE RACIAL EQUITY COMMITTEE TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

IX. Reports of City Officials


A. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Moody said that progress has begun on the Canterbury Street project, and they are also putting back some curbing. Work is progressing at the Public Works facility and the Community Center. They are anticipating the Community Center building work to be completed at the beginning of July, but they have not started renting out any of the spaces.

Adjourn:

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Michael Poppa, Mayor