

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51ST STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
November 20, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

- Michael Poppa, Mayor
- Trisha Brauer, Council Member
- Benjamin Dickens, Council Member
- Jan Faidley, Council Member
- Jennifer Hill, Council Member

- *Open*
- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Michael Rebne, Council Member
- Kate Raglow, Council Member

- Keith Moody, City Administrator
- Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.
- Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk
- John Morris, Police Chief
- Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director

Admin
Dickens
Rebne

Finance
Hill

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

Roll Call

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. CMBR Brauer was absent. All other Governing Body members were present. Staff present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Walker, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Jones-Lacy, Police Chief Morris, and City Clerk Nielsen.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

I. Public Comments

There were no public comments made.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1032**
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes November 6, 2023**
- C. 2024 Cereal Malt Beverage Renewals**

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

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

There was no Business from the Floor.

IV. Mayor's Report

A. Notice of Ward 4 Vacancy and Call for Applicants

Mayor Poppa stated that CMBR Castagna-Herrera has resigned. He noted she was a strong leader, a valuable member of the team, and a pleasure to work with. She will be out of the country for four months and has made the extremely difficult decision to put her Ward 4 constituents first, stating it is not fair to them not to have a voice on the Council. Mayor Poppa thanked her for her service and hoped she would remain engaged with the City.

Per City Code, they will begin the appointment process for filling the vacant Council seat. Mayor Poppa said if anyone is interested in applying to call City Hall or fill out the form on the City's website. He hopes to have someone seated by the second Council meeting in January 2024.

CMBR Madigan said they should make public the names of those who apply. Mayor Poppa thanked CMBR Madigan and said that it is noted.

CMBR Faidley asked as Councilmembers would they be able to see the applications and résumés. Mayor Poppa said if that is part of the process, then they would.

B. Holiday Tree Lighting

Mayor Poppa said there will be the annual Roeland Park Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony on December 6th followed by holiday carols from Roesland Elementary School choir. "Brinner" will also be served with the Governing Body flipping pancakes in the Community Center for everyone who attends.

Mayor Poppa asked for volunteers from the Governing Body to help with setting up, working the event, and cleaning up afterwards. Mayor Poppa said he would pick up the groceries. CMBRS Faidley, Madigan, Dickens, and Raglow offered to help set up. CMBRS Dickens, Madigan, Raglow, and Hill volunteered to clean up. Mayor Poppa said he was excited to serve the community in a different way. He also requested all Governing Body members be there to help with the cooking.

CMBR Rebne said he will be coaching basketball but one of his children will be helping during the performances.

(There was informal conversation amongst the Councilmembers regarding working the event)

Mayor Poppa thanked the Council for helping and hoped they could make "Brinner" part of the annual tree lighting event.

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. Sustainability Committee

Megan Rivas, Chair of the Sustainability Committee said they had their biannual cleanup on October 14th. They had a good turnout despite the weather.

The committee is also involved with the bike share planning process, and they will continue to stay engaged to provide insight into where locations are needed.

Also, they had a potential member attend their last meeting. The committee also had involvements in the Sustainability Fair and the KC Climate Action Summit. The committee is working hard to stay engaged.

Mayor Poppa asked what they can do as a Governing Body to support the committee. Ms. Rivas said the Governing Body talking about their ideas such as planting native species and items such as that is helpful noting that outreach is a big component of how they get the word out.

B. MARC – Bike & Pedestrian (Jan Faidley)

CMBR Faidley provided her report in the agenda packet. She also noted that CMBR Hill presented on the traffic garden at their last meeting.

C. Project Rise Service Agreement Recommendation by Task Group

Ms. Jones-Lacy provided an update and did not ask for a recommendation from the Governing Body. She noted the task force has met several times and reviewed the goals and objectives for 2023. They have also developed a list of objectives for Project Rise to accomplish in 2024. One of the objectives is to split certain tasks with Gather Media handling the communications component of the project regarding social media and the website. The Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce and Rebecca Galati will work on project management and strategy. The primary objective of Project Rise is to identify vacant tenant spaces in the City with a focus on the commercial corridor of Roe Boulevard. It is noted that these are mostly privately owned but they would like to develop relationships with the owners in the hope of being able to fill those spaces. They want to be able to provide resources and tools to those wanting to establish a business in Roeland Park with the relationships they have to those locations.

Mayor Poppa thanked Ms. Jones-Lacy for coalescing all the information together and making sure, as a task, force their meetings are productive. He also thanked her for being their point person with the Chamber.

CMBR Faidley noted this item was on the Workshop and transferred to the Council agenda. Mayor Poppa stated that was correct. CMBR Faidley questioned whether the list of 2023 goals have been met or are they still a work in progress. Ms. Jones-Lacy said the initial Council direction for the project was broad and to let Project Rise develop a strategy. She has met with Ms. Galati and Deb Settle of the NEJC Chamber to review the goals and to outline some of the items. They are developing a strategy for Roeland Park and will bring that to the Governing Body next year. They have hopes of working with a real estate group to be able to connect future tenants as space becomes available in Roeland Park. Things are still developing, a lot is in process, but a lot of those initial items have been met. Their focus continues to be on the Roeland Park community.

CMBR Madigan said they have tried to make more receivables for 2024 they are able to define. They are bringing at least four new businesses to the City and are trying to hone down to make it easier to know what the City should be doing.

Mayor Poppa reiterated that the group is making measurable goals to meet certain milestones throughout the project. At the December 4th meeting he hopes to have appointments to the task force to replace CMBR Brauer and CMBR Castagna-Herrera.

VI. Unfinished Business

No Unfinished Business was discussed.

VII. Ordinances and Resolutions

No ordinances or resolutions were presented.

VIII. New Business

A. Discuss Recruiter Service Agreement for Assistant Chief Position

City Manager Moody said they have obtained three proposals for those specializing in governmental recruiting. The proposals were reviewed and scored by a committee with the SGR firm receiving the highest average composite score and is recommended by the committee. He also added that the decision to use a recruiting firm has not been made.

Mayor Poppa thanked Mr. Moody for putting the information together and including the cost. As a member of the committee, he was concerned about utilizing a recruiting firm and looking outside the City for an assistant chief. He strongly believes they should develop their own internal talent and at least one candidate has been mentioned as a viable option. He would like to see those funds be used towards the personal and professional development of an existing employee rather than being spent on a recruiter.

Police Chief Morris stated he agreed that the concept of what City Manager Moody has put together has merit. He said that it makes sense going through internal hiring versus recruiting and outlined several reasons. He said that traditionally police chiefs have worked their way up through the ranks. Normally they have a second in command, which can help avoid a time-consuming search. The police chief will still need to work the streets in Roeland Park as they are a small department. He said it also creates a positive influence on those who are now working in the department to know they have the ability of being able to rise through the ranks. Having an outside recruiting firm reduces that incentive. Police Chief Morris agreed the cost is expensive and the funds could be used for other things. He also noted the person in their department now has more education and knowledge than he did when he took over the position and also knows Roeland Park. Police Chief Morris said he has always been a straight shooter with the Governing Body and the person he is considering is the same way. This officer has also been at the Police Department almost as long as he has. He also went over the traits needed for the position and how this individual meets them.

CMBR Dickens said looking within does let their people know there is a career path with Roeland Park and to immediately go outside for recruitment is a morale killer with a hefty price tag without first doing any of their own recruiting. He said that if they look inside first and do not find a qualified candidate or no one who wants to step into that position, then looking at a recruiter would be okay with him at that point.

CMBR Faidley asked about the newly hired officer. Police Chief Morris said he's working out great and just finished the first week. CMBR Faidley said overall as a Council as well as residents, they are happy with the culture of the Roeland Park Police Department, and they want to keep that dynamic.

CMBR Raglow expressed her agreement with CMBR Dickens and Police Chief Morris to try and recruit from within.

CMBR Madigan spoke about the positives of their Police Department that he hears from residents, and he is not in favor of spending over \$30,000 on recruitment unless they find they need to look outside their department.

Police Chief Morris said that the most training they would need would be in budget preparation and this individual has been going through that with him. Police Chief Morris said he got his expertise and knowledge from the Finance Director and City Manager.

Mayor Poppa looked for a motion to hire an outside recruiting firm. There was no motion made but there was consensus to look inside their own Police Department before external recruitment.

B. Reappoint Judy Hyde to the Parks Committee

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JUDY HYDE TO THE PARKS COMMITTEE. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

C. Approve Utility Easement on Community Center Site

City Manager Moody stated this utility easement should have been recorded originally as part of the plat. There are existing in-ground utilities along the corridor. The gas company is bringing this up as part of the work they are doing in the northeast part of the City. City Manager Moody reviewed previous individual utility easements on the site and showed the proposed gas line to be installed noting this would be a general utility easement.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR REBNE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 15' WIDE GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENT ALONG THE SOUTH PROPERTY LINE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER LOT. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0.)

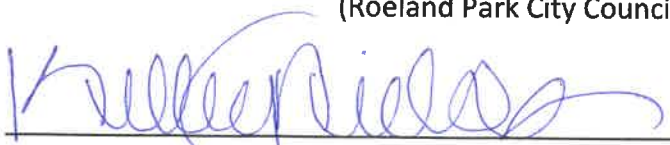
IX. Reports of City Officials

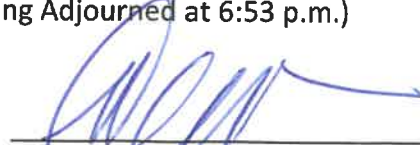
No reports were given.

Adjourn:

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 6:53 p.m.)


Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk


Michael Poppa, Mayor