

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Monday February 1, 2021 6:00 P.M.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mike Kelly, Mayor○ Trisha Brauer, Council Member○ Benjamin Dickens, Council Member○ Jan Faidley, Council Member○ Jennifer Hill, Council Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Jim Kelly, Council Member○ Tom Madigan, Council Member○ Claudia McCormack, Council Member○ Michael Rebne, Council Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Keith Moody, City Administrator○ Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. Admin.○ Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk○ John Morris, Police Chief○ Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director |
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Admin
Brauer
Hill

Finance
McCormack
Madigan

Safety
Rebne
Faidley

Public Works
Kelly
Dickens

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. CMBR McCormack was absent. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, Public Works Superintendent Vandebos, Management Intern Verbrugge, City Attorney Felzein, and City Clerk Nielsen.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

I. Citizen Comments

Karen Grotewohl (5049 Parish) Ms. Grotewohl said with Roeland Park continuing to be a Tree City and the installation of the R Park Arboretum, she has an issue concerning the tearing down of mature trees for the building of new homes. She asked if there was any control over the size of a lot and trees being torn down. She said that greenspaces and mature trees are an important part of the neighborhood. She added that she was be happy to be involved on an oversight committee for this.

Mayor Kelly responded that this topic was and continues to be addressed through their Comprehensive Plan and by the Planning Commission. He said that Mrs. Grotewohl is right and that the Parks and Sustainability Committees also have an interest in the preservation of trees in the City. He said that she can expect some follow-up from the Governing Body on ways for her to become more involved or to get additional information on this topic. He thanked her for bringing this to their attention.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #967
- B. Council Minutes January 19, 2021

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0)

III. Business from the Floor – Proclamations/Applications/Presentation

A. Adopt a Family Program Report

City Clerk Nielsen reported that between the cities of Mission and Roeland Park, 84 families were adopted and provided meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Gifts were provided to 57 families, 9 of which live in Roeland Park. The program also received donations of \$1,000 in cash and over \$1,000 in gift cards. There were also 350 wrapped gifts donated by residents, staff, Councilmembers, and committee members.

Mayor Kelly thanked City Clerk Nielsen for being the liaison on the program and with 2020 being a tough year, the generosity was great. He also thanked Joanna Rush, the program coordinator, and other volunteers and residents who gave their time and treasure to make this a successful program.

IV. Mayors Report

Mayor Kelly congratulated Andree Gross, Police Department Clerk, on her retirement and sent best wishes from all.

February 1st begins Black History Month. Mayor Kelly said it is important every year but given the national conversation and based on the Black Lives Matter protests and recognitions, he has taken it as a personal challenge to educate himself more this year. Mayor Kelly is proud of the work that has been done in Roeland Park with the creation of the Racial Equity and Inclusion Committee. He said that serving on the committee has been very rewarding thus far and looking forward to continuing the good work by the City.

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. Ad Hoc Development Committee Update

Tim Janssen, member of the Ad Hoc Development Committee and prior Councilmember, reported the committee has held six meetings over the past year to discuss development opportunities around the City. He said he is excited that the Northeast Johnson Drive & Roe site is meeting their June completion date with a 100 percent occupancy on opening.

The Rocks continue to pose to be a challenging development project site. Staff and the committee continue to think of new ways to generate new leads. They have fielded inquiries that represent several possible concepts such as multi-family, senior living, climate-controlled storage, or a car wash. The hope is that as more development to the north commences there will be more interest. Cherise Sedlock with Evergreen real estate will be working with them on the marking of the site. Ms. Jones-Lacy has provided her with an overview of information, the City's Comprehensive Plan and the possible development options and incentives of the site.

Mr. Janssen said they are hoping to work with the United Government so they can provide notification to residents to prepare for blasting as they begin building a Menards north of the City.

Mr. Janssen said they are also seeking additional members to add to their committee, and they will be doing a social media blast.

Coming up, the committee will be bringing to the Council a request to expand their scope to include all prospective development sites in the City and not just be limited to the business corridor.

Mayor Kelly thanked the committee for their success at Johnson Drive and Roe. He said it took a long time coming and also finding a good tenant. He also said he hopes the streak of success continues with the Rocks and other City development.

B. MARC – Bike & Pedestrian (Jan Faidley)

CMBR Faidley said her information was included in the agenda packet. She said she is amazed at the work that MARC does for the region and in particular for Roeland Park.

CMBR Rebne asked if KDOT is promising any money and if that is what they meant by support. CMBR Faidley said KDOT is an enigma to her. They have attended a couple of meetings where projects were discussed. They are very open to working with municipal governments to make things happen. She said there is also a new transportation program in Kansas called IKE where money is made available to projects. MARC wants to work with state government as much as possible.

CMBR Rebne also asked if there was a mention of reducing statutory speed limits. City Administrator Moody said they might add that later, but he couldn't respond to it at this time.

C. MARC – First Tier Suburbs (Jan Faidley and Benjamin Dickens Alt.)

CMBR Faidley said there was a lot of information and notes provided in the packet. She said there were interesting speakers such as the Director of Habitat for Humanity from Denver, and a representative from the City of Raleigh, North Carolina. Christie Bauman announced that the regional housing study done by Johnson County is going to be released soon. It is over 300 pages and includes 19 communities and will give Roeland Park a good place to start as there has been an overwhelming interest in the task force on affordable housing. They are looking to round out that group with 18-24-year-olds, persons of color, and developers as they want a balanced viewpoint on the task force.

Mayor Kelly thanked CMBR Faidley for participating on those committees.

VI. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Ordinance 1006 – Sidewalk Snow Removal Exemption

CMBR Faidley asked if only the properties being used residentially would be exempted and if there is a plan to notify the residents or the public in general. City Administrator Moody agreed that is the case. City Administrator Moody said they will mail a notice to the residents exempted and they will also do a notice on social media.

CMBR Hill asked how many businesses in the area of exemption. City Administrator Moody did not have that number. CMBR Hill said her concern is if only one in-home business is in the area is there a reason to leave that one house out.

MOTION: CMBR KELLY MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1006 - A SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL EXEMPTION ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13-315 OF THE ROELAND PARK MUNICIPAL CODE. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed.

VIII. New Business

A. Direction to Staff to Remove Snow From Sidewalk on West Side of Roe Adjacent to Residential Properties

CMBR Kelly asked about snow removal on public streets in the City's parks. City Administrator Moody said Public Works will be clearing sidewalks adjacent to publicly owned property in addition to the section along Roe. There are also some refuge islands in the right-of-way that they will remove the snow.

CMBR Hill stated they should vote on the equipment to be used first before the actual snow removal considerations.

CMBR Faidley said it is a significant sum of money for the equipment and they need to take that into consideration. She asked if it was necessary for a cab option considering the amount of time it will take to do that one stretch of sidewalk. City Administrator Moody said they will also be using it for other City facilities and sidewalks adjacent to the parks.

Public Works Director Scharff said the cab will allow one worker to do all the work and eliminate the need to switch out operators because of working in cold weather. The unit has a heater, lights, and a windshield wiper. They did research different options for a sidewalk removal vehicle. They can also use the cab for mowing and retrofit existing equipment for other options.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO REMOVE SNOW FROM THE SIDEWALK ON THE WEST SIDE OF ROE ADJACENT TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0)

B. Approval of Snow Removal Equipment Purchase

CMBR Rebne asked about whether CMBR Kelly's question was answered about removing snow in parks. Mayor Kelly said snow will be removed from sidewalks on City-owned property.

CMBR Kelly asked if the equipment being purchased will be new or used. Public Works Director Scharff said the cab will be new and the broom will be used.

CMBR Faidley asked if the sidewalk on Roe is the only 8-foot sidewalk in the City. Public Works Director Scharff that is correct.

CMBR Kelly said not all areas are 8 feet and some parts are only 6 feet.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE EQUIPING GRASSHOPPER WITH A CAB AND SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0)

C. Approve Spring Banners for Roe Boulevard

Daniel Vandebos, Public Works Superintendent, showed some custom art designs from residents. He said these designs were not recommended by the committee and showed different options that matched the winter banner designs. He also added that the “uniquely rooted” tree design was CMBR Madigan’s idea. The committee decided not to use the Easter bunny design because it points to a religious holiday.

Mayor Kelly said he liked the uniquely rooted tree concept. He also stated he does not have a problem with the bunny as they do an annual egg hunt in the City.

CMBR Faidley said if the bunny was an issue, then why do they still have a basket with the spring banner. Mr. Vandebos said the committee never brought that up as an issue. CMBR Rebne said the Art committee just did not like the bunny.

CMBR Dickens said he did not have an issue with the egg basket, but if everyone did, then maybe they could replace it with flowers. He asked if the banners needed Roeland Park branding in the corner as “uniquely rooted” is unique to their residents.

CMBR Rebne said the committee chose to remove the bunny and eggs. The Parks Committee liked the branding, but the Art Committee did not like the branding in the daisy and they deferred to them.

CMBR Madigan said to remember the banners have to be read. If they make Roeland Park barely readable then they can’t tell where they are. He also didn’t want to get rid of the basket because of the egg hunt they hold in the City which is for everyone. He did not want to go overboard in being politically correct.

CMBR Brauer agreed that they could also replace the eggs with flowers.

CMBR Faidley said they don’t need “RP” on every banner as they are going to have entryway signs.

City Administrator Moody said they have tried to incorporate the logo, but they are not urging that they be on every banner.

CMBR Rebne said that “uniquely rooted” with the eggs was not something the committee suggested doing away with, but just the bunny.

Mr. Vandebos said they did not like the art of the bunny, and it was not for religious reasons. Also, the banner flags will be staggered, and they will have the branding intermixed.

CMBR Kelly said he prefers the banners on the second slide and if they do not start using the abbreviated branding no one will get used to it. CMBR Hill and Mayor Kelly agreed with those comments.

Mayor Kelly said he likes the diversity of artwork on the first slide and its use of branding.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO CALL THE QUESTION ON THE PENDING MOTION.

MOTION: CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE DESIGN AND PURCHASE OF SPRING BANNERS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE. (MOTION FAILS 3-4 WITH CMBRS DICKENS, HILL, KELLY, AND BRAUER VOTING NO.)

CMBR Faidley saw things on slide 2 she likes and understands the concerns about the branding issue and also those banner submissions were not intended to be all together but was work from different people.

CMBR Rebne said in looking at slide 3, they seem to be similar to the winter banners and provides a more cohesive look.

Mr. Vandebos said they were designed by the same person and designed to flow together from season to season. If they are using slide 2, then they can anticipate a lot more changes in the summer and then into the fall.

CMBR Madigan asked if they could pick different banners from different slides.

CMBR Faidley wanted to reiterate how much she appreciates the work done by resident committees and noted it is all volunteer work. She said they do not necessarily have to go with their recommendations, but she did want to recognize the time they put into their recommendations. Her process for deciding on the banners also includes the thought of the winter ones they approved.

Mayor Kelly said he appreciates the time the committee donates to help beautify the City. He does not always agree with their recommendation, but that does not lessen his appreciation of their time.

City Administrator Moody said that the slide 2 designs were not developed to be complementary to one another. The professional designs on slide 3 were done by the same company who did the winter banners and were designed to be complementary with those. They have also done work for the fall and summer banners. He did say that variety can interest to the banners. He said they should step back and look at the different design concept as a family of designs and determine if that is where they want to go.

CMBR Hill said the second slide of banners works well together and shows their branding.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR KELLY SECONDED TO CALL THE QUESTION.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO MOVE TO PURCHASE THE SLIDE 2 BANNERS. (MOTION CARRIED 4-3 WITH CMBRS MADIGAN, FAIDLEY AND REBNE VOTING NO.)

CMBR Faidley noted there were a lot of color combinations in the slide 2 options and asked if there would be an increased cost. Mr. Vandebos said that cost is not the issue, but that they would not stand out as they hoped they would, especially on the first banner design.

IX. Reports of City Officials

A. Police Year End Activity Report

Police Chief Morris said he would try to provide all the statistical data he could to answer the Governing Body's questions. He said if they still had further questions to email him. The department is working on a dashboard system that would be available to provide all of the statistical information at any time.

Chief Morris provided the 2020 UCR report which showed that theft continues to be their biggest program with 147 incidents. He also reviewed the other UCR categories and said the statistics are comparable to prior years. However, the crime rate is down overall. He also provided comparison data from 2006-2020 for inside Roeland Park and statistics in how Roeland Park compares with other surrounding cities.

He said the department has taken less calls in 2020 and attributes that to COVID and more people being home.

Chief Morris also reviewed the business district crime stats and where they individually have occurred. The business district continues to be their highest area of crime in the City.

Chief also made sure to note that citations are written based on the incident and are not based on race, ethnicity, national origin or religion. They do not racially profile anyone in Roeland Park. They have never had any complaints of racial bias or any claims of excessive use of force by anyone or any inappropriate behavior related to traffic stops on anyone. He also provided statistics based on race for violations from various sources.

He said that under his watch they treat everyone the same and will continue to treat everyone the same. Police Chief Morris said he believes they are doing a good job, but there is always room for improvement.

To wrap-up, they will continue to work on the dashboard, and he told the Governing Body that if there were anything they would like to see to let him know. He and his department are doing everything they can to keep the community, their kids and the residents safe in the City.

Mayor Kelly thanked Chief Morris for the data and the work the department has done to keep Roeland Park safe. He said he knows Chief has integrity and his officers have integrity.

CMBR Rebne said he appreciates the transparency, but he believes that bias lives in all. He said they are looking at the police in all aspects of the City and he appreciates Chief Morris being in conversation with them.

B. 4th Quarterly Public Works Report

Public Works Director Scharff said he was giving an annual report and not just a 4th quarter report. He said in 2020, they were not able to do as much especially on street because of COVID and the way they had to work their staffing hours. They focused more on greenspace over street maintenance. Mr. Scharff also reviewed the parks maintenance improvements for Nall Park and Cooper Park and the new art pieces that have been installed.

R Park Phase 1 and 2 improvements are pretty much complete. Mr. Scharff said he has seen people utilizing the park more now that the work is done.

The Roe 2020 project is about 95 percent complete. All traffic signals are in except for the one at 48th & Skyline. He said the project looks good.

They are continuing their 2020 stormwater maintenance on Roeland Drive as a result from an emergency project from 2017.

Public Works Director Scharff also provided updates on capital projects for the Community Center parking lot, the survey for Reinhardt, wayfinding signs, the 2021 CARS program north of 48th Street, and the street sweeping, details of which can be found in the agenda packet.

Public Works Director Scharff reviewed Council objectives for 2020 and their status noting they are still looking for a location of a new Public Works building.

Mayor Kelly thanked the Public Works staff. He said that Roe looks great, and they get a lot of compliments about it. He thanked them for making them look good.

CMBR Rebne wanted to follow-up on black cables at the base of poles around the City that are coiled at the bottom of the pole. Public Works Director Scharff has contacted the communication line companies and believes they belong to Google who has been doing some repair work on the east side of the City. They are working on getting that issue rectified.

CMBR Faidley asked if there was a plan to water and maintain the landscaping along Roe until they are established. Public Works Director Scharff said the City is responsible for maintaining the landscaping once the maintenance period of the contractor is over. He is working with the Parks & Rec superintendent to create a master list for greenspace maintenance to include locations, timing, needs, etc.

City Administrator Moody said the bid package for landscaping provides a base bid for installation of trees and plants. The Council will see the costs of planting in the spring versus in the fall. Spring planting will likely be more costly as the contractor will need to water throughout the summer.

C. Report on Leaf Collection Program for 2020-2021

Public Works Director Scharff provided a comparison report for this year versus last year. He said the program went very well this year. They actually reduced the amount of pick up days by nine. The weather also cooperated better this year and the leaf machine operated well. They were also able to reduce overtime hours this fall as leaves all fell at once due to a cold snap. They did see an increase in cubic yards of what was collected this year. City participation continues to be consistent of years past of about 30 percent. Overall residents seem pleased, and they did not receive a lot of complaints. Having one operator operating the leaf vac has been a huge success for their department versus all the manpower needed for the previous method. They will, however, continue to work on the efficiency of the program.

CMBR Madigan complimented Public Works Director Scharff and the accomplishments of his department. In 2019, Mr. Scharff said it would be a learning experience and with time they would become more efficient. CMBR Madigan said the numbers prove that he was correct. He also asked because of the lessening of expenses would that translate into a lower cost for his property.

City Administrator Moody said they will review the costs of the program as part of the solid waste assessment as part of the budget like they do every year. He said their solid waste contractual services will increase with WCA for at least the next five years. He added that it is not often they can obtain a 53

percent cost reduction in a new method of a mature program. He said it is a huge accomplishment that they have achieved, and it provides a clear picture of how successful this approach has been.

D. Review Solar Installation Project Progress

City Administrator Moody provided in the packet a step-by-step of what has been done and what needs to be done to City Hall and the Community Center on the solar project.

CMBR Faidley said it was fun to see the aerial photographs of both buildings and seeing a lot has happened up on the roofs. She asked why some of the panels on City Hall appear to be white and the Community Center panels were black. City Administrator Moody said it had snowed when they took a picture of City Hall.

Mayor Kelly said the City Hall roof array is planned to be energized mid-March and the first of April the Community Center will become operational.

E. COVID Report

City Intern Chris Verbrugge reported that Johnson County has moved into Phase 2, Tier 1 for vaccinations and that is targeted for the elderly, school staff and emergency responders. He will provide an update when they move into Tier 2. His entire report is included in the agenda packet.

CMBR Rebne said a lot of elders are having trouble getting vaccination and asked if there is anything additional they can do to help them get their vaccinations. Mr. Verbrugge said he has reached out to Johnson County and his only suggestion is for everyone to fill out the interest survey on the county website and they will be contacted based on their interest and eligibility.

Ms. Jones-Lacy added that based on a press release today, Johnson County is partnering with hospitals for vaccinations in the next tier. Hospitals will be contacting those who have been patients within the last three years urging them to get their vaccinations. The hospitals will be reaching out so there is no need to contact the hospitals.

Mr. Verbrugge added that the survey can be filled out on behalf of someone who does not have access to a computer.

CMBR Hill asked if there was a hold up on individuals 80 and over. Mr. Verbrugge said they are still working on those over 80 and included in Tier 1. They are also opening it up to those 65 and over starting tomorrow. They are still trying to get the 80 and over population as well as frontline workers, but they have hit their internal threshold to be able to move on to the next group.


F. Assistant City Manager Report

Ms. Jones-Lacy said she is working with Roesland on their Teacher Appreciation Week. She reached out to the Governing Body to see if they would be willing to participate in purchasing lunch for the teachers that week. The Governing Body showed their intent they would like to help out and Ms. Jones-Lacy will coordinate that. She added that Neighbors for a Better Roeland Park are also working on something for the teachers.

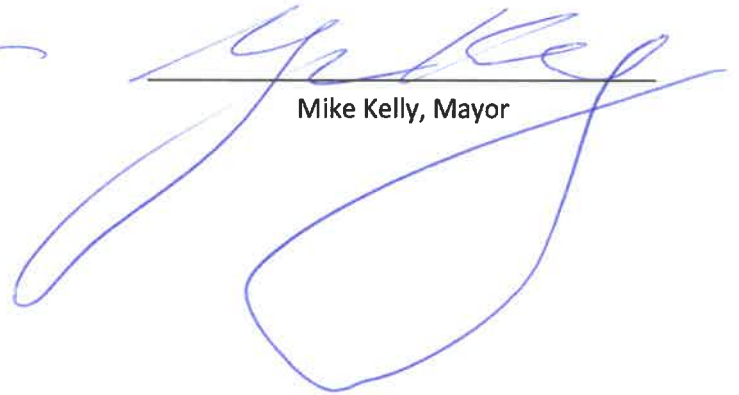
Adjourn:

MOTION: CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR KELLY SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Mike Kelly, Mayor