

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:00 P.M.**

- Mike Kelly, Mayor
- Trisha Brauer, Council Member
- Benjamin Dickens, Council Member
- Jan Faidley, Council Member
- Jennifer Hill, Council Member

- Jim Kelly, Council Member
- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Claudia McCormack, Council Member
- Michael Rebne, Council Member

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

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. All Governing Body members were present. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Nichols, Management Intern Verbrugge, City Attorney Mauer, and City Clerk Nielsen.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications made to the agenda.

I. Citizen Comments

Matt Thomas - Mr. Thomas spoke to the enforcement of the City's noise ordinance. He said he lives close to Lowe's and that they have been doing demolition in the middle of the night and dumping rubble into bins in the parking lot. He has contacted the store manager, the police station, and 911 and the noise has stopped. He asked that the Council handle this issue if it happens again as they do not want this noise in Roeland Park.

Jesse Brown - Mr. Brown stated he did not feel that law enforcement is enforcing the rules on Roe Boulevard, and specifically his issue is at the stop at 52nd and Roe. He said that people are using it as a rolling stop and is frustrated he and his children are dodging traffic. He has contacted Mayor Kelly. He said that CMBR Rebne met with him and commented it is dangerous. He also does not see police officers during peak hours of traffic. Mr. Brown said he feels that no one is listening to him and would like to see a traffic safety study done much like the one on Nall.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #966
- B. Council Minutes December 21, 2020
- C. Council Minutes January 4, 2021

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

III. Business from the Floor

- A. Applications/Presentations

IV. Mayor's Report

A. George Schlegel

Mayor Kelly shared the news that George Schlegel had passed away suddenly. He said that he was a titan in the Arts Committee and that the gallery in City Hall is named in his honor. Mayor Kelly said he enjoyed the opportunity to be able to work with him.

(A moment of silence was offered in honor of Mr. Schlegel)

B. Attack on U.S. Capital

Mayor Kelly made the following statement on behalf of the Governing Body:

“Roeland Park's Governing Body condemns the seditious acts that occurred in the Capitol Building on January 6, 2021. We stand with all Americans committed to the peaceful transfer of power and decry violence, misinformation, and all who seek to undermine our Constitutional process.”

CMBR Dickens said he watched as it occurred and it really shook him. He said it is important that everyone speak out against acts of sedition and that we are better than that. Tomorrow will be a better day and brings a new administration.

CMBR Rebne said they are glad they are drawing the lines where they are. He also said that he has reflected on Martin Luther King's comments and what vexed him the most is white moderates who say one thing about justice and then do something else. He encouraged everyone to reflect on that. He also noted the sharing of a photo of the confederate flag in the capital that was ironically in front of a photo of Charles Sumner, a leading abolitionist. CMBR Rebne asked what does an abolitionist look like now and would they continue to take a stand today.

CMBR Hill recognized that there is such a divisiveness that has made a wedge even between families. She wanted to remind everyone that they are a non-partisan Governing Body and are there to serve everyone. She said they want to make an impact on everyone's lives and improve them.

CMBR McCormack said she echoed the comments of the other Councilmembers. She said this is an unprecedented time and encouraged everyone to move forward and look at a new beginning and work to eliminate division. She said they need to try to find ways to connect and move forward with love.

CMBR Kelly said he was horrified by the events that took place and the loss of civility. They need to be able to get back to having a civil discussion on the issues. He asked everyone to let their senators and representative know how you feel about the issues before them.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR MCCORMACK SECONDED TO FORMALLY ADOPT THE STATEMENT AS READ BY MAYOR KELLY. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. Ad Hoc Police Policy Review Committee - Report on Chapter 4

Lisa Brunner, Committee Chair, provided a status update on their police policy review. She said they have met weekly since September having smaller workgroup meetings but will now meet as needed going forward. She said they have made it through every policy and now it needs to be put through the larger committee. She said they have reviewed over 50 policies and believes they will be done by March with the remaining policies. They will then be brought for review to the Governing Body.

Policy 405 addresses ride-alongs. She said this policy is just as important as reviewing use of force. The committee says ride-alongs are a good old-fashioned way of building relationships within the community. It provides positive interactions between the police and community in a good way.

Policy Number 428 addresses homeless persons in the City. She said it is the most empathetic writing and the language shows a respect for human dignity. This policy also has a mental health component and they will be having the co-responder look at it and if there is anything else they need to know. The co-responders are playing an important role in this review process.

Mayor Kelly recommended the ride-along stating it is a huge learning opportunity and quite an experience.

The Mayor also thanked Ms. Brunner for her comments about dignity and they always want that as part of their work.

Police Chief Morris said everything with the committee and the review is going well and has been a good experience. Sgt. Chaffee, the legal department, City Administrator Moody, and Ms. Brunner are doing good work. Once the policies are in place, it will take the burden off the City and the committee will work to make any updates as necessary. He thanked the Governing Body for purchasing the program and believes everyone will be pleased when it is completely done.

CMBR Hill said they owe a huge debt of gratitude to Ms. Brunner, that this has been a lot of work and they appreciate it.

Ms. Brunner said Haile Sims put in a lot of work on the committee and should receive a lot of credit as well as the input from the Racial Equity Committee and the Safe and Welcoming Roeland Park group who have also been a great resource and they are grateful for their help.

CMBR Hill said the purpose of the committee was to vet policies focusing on reasonable use of force and that some being reviewed are not part of that goal. She wanted to know why the committee is asking them to go through and look those more deeply.

CMBR Faidley asked about Policy 428, homelessness, and if the Police Department currently as a liaison officer as it mentioned in the policy. Police Chief Morris said that is going to be a part of their community policing. They do not have a specific person yet, but they do expect all officers to work on this. Each of his officers have collateral duties, but this duty will more than likely be designated to someone with more maturity and compassion, but one will be designated.

CMBR Faidley also asked about the mental health aspect of homeless individuals in Roeland Park and what triggers a call for the co-responder. Police Chief Morris said anytime there is a need they call the co-responder, whether on the phone or having them respond in person. The officers also have a list of resources available to individuals. The co-responder has access to all their police reports for their review, plus they also work in conjunction with Johnson County Mental Health.

CMBR Rebne said he also felt the policy language was empathetic. He said he often thinks of homeless as being so of their own volition. He said they should think of them differently as un-housed or houseless, knowing that people will take care of their own space. He added that he appreciates the work being done on this review process.

Mayor Kelly thanked all who serve on the committee.

B. Arts Update

CMBR Hill said they are working on mural design and hope to have that going in March. They are also working on a memorial ceremony for Mr. Schlegel.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Discuss Design Options for Entryway Signs

The Council was asked to discuss the lighting, whether standard or RGB, and the finished materials for the entryway signs approved at an earlier meeting. The final option that was decided on was over budget and City Administrator Moody has been looking at ways and options for staying within the budget. The finish material of granite with the RGB lighting is putting them over budget. One recommendation was to stain the concrete back of the sign to match the granite on the sides and front. The stained portion would be covered by landscaping.

Nick King from Dimensional Innovations said the granite is a high cost item. He said they looked for ways to get the design intent while staying within budget. Mr. King presented three options.

- Option 1 uses static white LED and does not have RGB capability. Cost \$194,399
- Option 2 RGB lighting, 3-sided granite, stained concrete back with landscaping. Cost \$214,172
- Option 3 is the full plan, sign as designed, full granite, full RGB lighting. Cost \$224,391

CMBR Dickens said he was partial to Option 2. He asked about the upkeep on the back side of the stained concrete. Mr. King said they may have to seal it at times similar to the granite. It would probably require routine cleaning or enhancement as colors fade.

CMBR Rebne said he thinks the RGB is a cool feature beyond the granite. He asked if there was ongoing maintenance for the lights and whether internet was required for the lighting. Mr. King said their tech group with work with Public Works to where it does not need to have data constantly. Their tech group

would also train them on some of the preset options. He said he has never seen the lighting as a maintenance issue and they use them frequently on their projects.

CMBR Faidley confirmed the budget amount as \$200,000. She if that is the case, then only Option 1 is their only option. City Administrator Moody said they have a contingency allowance of \$7,000 bringing them to 202,000. CMBR Faidley said she was inclined to go with Option 1.

CMBR Kelly asked if the lights have to be on to recognize the wording "Roeland Park". Photos from the presentation were shown reflecting the sign during the daytime. CMBR Kelly asked if each letter could have a different color such as rainbow colors.

CMBR Hill said in reality why are they spending this much money when at the north end of City it is not interactive with everyone and they can take the opportunity to save money.

CMBR Madigan said he is a fan of Option 1 with white lights and it does away with the need for computerization. He said just because they have a budget of \$200,000 does not mean they need to use it all.

CMBR Kelly said they have RGB lights at the north sign and one of the south signs could be lit and the other one unlit.

City Administrator Moody said he was asked to look into alternatives to granite. Some of the possible options such as Corian and other manmade materials are not as durable. With quartz there is a little cost savings, but there is concern with how UV rays would affect. Granite provides a nice substantial structure and meets their design expectation. City Administrator Moody talked about potentially eliminating the step part of the sign. Mr. King said it does not change the design intent but eliminates a three-dimensional plane that saves some cost but not substantial.

Mayor Kelly said they have put a lot of time and attention into the design of this project and its expenses. Entryway signs are what residents in town see, but they are also a gateway element and it has a material impact on impression. Providing the color spectrum lighting is an exciting opportunity. He appreciates everyone being good stewards with taxpayer funds, but the price increase provides dynamic options.

CMBR Rebne asked if they go with cheaper Option 1, where would the unused funds go. City Administrator Moody responded that it is not a grant funding element. The dollars would add to the reserve balance of the funds of either the Special Infrastructure Fund or it would be combined with the Streets and Highway Fund.

CMBR McCormack said she echoed CMBR Dickens and Mayor Kelly sentiments and the color opportunities. Roeland Park prides itself on having their finger on what is important and what is progressive and they reflect that in their choices, but they also want to convey through their aesthetics and through art in the community showing their Roeland Park pride. She said being able to reflect on what is important and what they value, whether the Chiefs, the Royals or Black Lives Matter is important. She suggested that maybe they not do every sign in the RGB but maybe the more noticeable ones.

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. King for all the work done by Dimensional Innovations.

City Administrator Moody said they do not have a location for the Johnson and Roe sign and they need to do that before they can place the sign in front. They need to get an easement from Commerce Bank before they can determine the location. Mr. Moody was also looking for Council support on the refurbishment or renovation to the other welcome sign on Roeland Drive at the sound end of Cooper Creek.

Mayor Kelly said it would be a great to refurbish the sign if they cannot get the easement from Commerce and that the improvements to Cooper Creek look great.

CMBR Faidley said if they are able to get the easement, she would like to see the sign placed in relationship to the art put in by Commerce. City Administrator Moody said they have taken a look at the site and the art sits to the north of a storm system junction box and is closer to the corner than was originally shown in their art plan. He does not believe their placement of the sign will obscure the view of art. He also added it is subjective whether their sign would compete with the art piece.

Everyone was in support of updating the sign at Roeland Park and Ash at Cooper Creek should they not be able to receive the easement from Commerce at the southwest corner.

City Administrator Moody will put together a schematic showing the location of Commerce's art piece in relation to the proposed sign.

CMBR Kelly asked if it is possible to remove Commerce's art. City Administrator Moody said it is possible, but the City does not own the piece and they would need to work with Commerce. Commerce put it there and it is where they wanted it, but they also knew of the entryway sign they were planning. That intent was provided well before they located their art piece.

MOTION: CMBR MCCORMACK MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECOND TO APPROVE OPTION NUMBER 2 (THE MOTION CARRIED 5-3 WITH CMBRS FAIDLEY, MADIGAN AND HILL VOTING NO.)

(CMBR Madigan left the meeting at 7:18 p.m.)

VII. New Business

A. Committee Appointments and Reappointments

Mayor Kelly read the list of candidates presented to appoint Anita Macek, Sara Coe, and Judy Hyde to the Parks Committee; Matthew Lero to the Planning Commission; reappoint Carol Fields to the Sustainability Committee; and reappoint Judy Orth to the Roeland Park Community Foundation Board.

MOTION: CMBR MCCORMACK MOVED AND CMBR KELLY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES PRESENTED. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

B. Reappoint Ad-Hoc Development Committee

Mayor Kelly said he is confident the committee will find a solution option for The Rocks and presented Councilmembers Jim Kelly, Jan Faidley, Tom Madigan, Benjamin Dickens, and resident Tim Janssen for reappointment to the Ad-Hoc Development Committee.

MOTION: CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO REAPPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE AD-HOC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0)

C. Reappoint Ad-Hoc Historical Committee Members

Mayor Kelly said the challenges of the pandemic have slowed the work of the committee, but he is excited for what is contemplated to come to show their community pride while honoring the history of Roeland Park. The candidates presented for reappointment to the Ad Hoc Historical Committee are Councilmembers Tom Madigan and Michael Rebne, and residents Barbara Wall, Chris Wolffe, Kevin Martin and Jim Grebe.

CMBR Faidley said that Ms. Wall has withdrawn her application.

MOTION: CMBR KELLY MOVED AND CMBR MCCORMACK SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED SLATE OF CANDIDATES. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0)

D. Approve Task Order for 2021 Street Maintenance Program

Mayor Kelly appreciates the commitment to maintain their streets with UBAS. The task order being presented is with Lamp Rynearson, the City engineer.

Public Works Director Scharff said they are using UBAS and chip seal in 2021. They have prepped 11 streets for 2021. He said progress has been slower due to COVID and they could not prep as much as they wanted. Also 55th Street is the largest project in this year's maintenance along with doing some curb work.

MOTION: CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR MCCORMACK SECONDED TO APPROVE THE TASK ORDER FOR THE 2021 STREET MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

E. Approve Agreement with MARC for Traffic Signal Monitoring through Operation Green Light

CMBR Rebne said this sounds like an awesome idea. He asked if MARC's interest was in the metro area as a whole, and with Roeland Park participating would they see a domino effect going into other areas such as KCK.

Public Works Director Scharff introduced Ray Webb with MARC's Operation Green Light. Mr. Webb said they have doing signal work on this program since 2005. Lee's Summit and Kansas City, Kansas are already in the program. Roeland Park will be the 27th agency to join in. Some of the services they provide is signal timing and operations and detection. If a signal is out or not working correctly, they can identify that and dispatch help.

MOTION: CMBR BRAUER MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH MARC FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL MONITORING THROUGH OPERATION GREEN LIGHT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$3,600. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0)

(CMBR Madigan rejoined the meeting at 7:44)

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

No ordinances or resolutions were presented.

IX. Reports of City Officials

A. Holiday Kindness Program Report - Chief Morris

Police Chief Morris spoke to the comments made earlier about his department. He said he has received e-mails from Mr. Browns. Traffic counts were done in front of his residence between April 15th and May 1st noting in total there were 67,607 in his residence, of which 22 vehicles were 11 to 15 mph over the speed limit. They do take actions and they are concerned with traffic safety all through the community. He is very proud of their community. He also said that large vehicles are scary and they will continue to monitor things but they cannot be there every time there is a complaint. Chief Morris said they have addressed it, done the study, and beefed up the enforcement. He also said there is a traffic complaint form on the City's website.

Chief Morris then spoke to the Holiday Kindness Project and said whoever thought this up had a fabulous idea. They collected \$3,365 of gift cards and a late donation of \$200. They had gift cards from various locations, but the overall hit was from Aldi and Walmart. He said they all had a good time and it was a lot of fun for the officers. They made a lot of good contacts and it made the holiday spirit truly great and also increased morale. He said he is looking forward to doing it again later this year.

Mayor Kelly also thanked the Neighbors for a Better Roeland Park for coordinating this.

Police Chief Morris said he would love to do it year-round and it is a good tool for police relations. He has also received thank you cards from recipients.

B. COVID Report

Chris Verbrugge gave some highlights of his report. He said the City testing site has closed but over 1 million tests were given in the state of Kansas in 2020.

They expect Phase 2 of vaccines to start in mid-February. Those who would be a part of that are listed in the packet report.

There is also a survey that residents are being asked to take which will help determine demand and is something that Johnson County can use to fight for a large batch of the vaccine.

Residents are also encouraged to use the hashtag #SleeveUpJoCo when posting on social media they have received the vaccine.

Of note, the City has received \$215,287 of CARES funding, which is the full allocation.

Mayor Kelly stated 48,000 vaccines may be available within 48 hours and are being made available if they have filled out a survey for Phase 2. He also asked everyone to keep in mind those who have lost a loved one to COVID.

C. City Administrator's Report

City Administrator Moody asked for direction of the alignment of the stairway to be built by Aldi. He presented two stair options. The utility pole is causing the need for readjustment. The first options is a

straight staircase and curving in the parking lot. The second more expensive option is a turn change in the middle of the sidewalk.

CMBR Hill suggested they go with Design Option 1.

CMBR Faidley said they still need an easement from Aldi. City Administrator Moody said Aldi will entertain an easement. The City is at the point now where they can give them an idea of where the sidewalk will be. They will present them with their draft plans and an easement request.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR REBNE SECONDED TO APPROVE DESIGN OPTION 1, THE STRAIGHT STAIRCASE. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0)


D. Assistant City Administrator's Report

Ms. Jones-Lacy reminded the Governing Body of the Joint Planning Commission and Council meeting on universal design to be held Tuesday, February 16th.

X. Adjourn

MOTION: CMBR MCCORMACK MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:52 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Mike Kelly, Mayor