

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Monday, April 19, 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○ 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. All Governing Body members were present. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, Management Intern Verbrugge, City Attorney Felzein, and City Clerk Nielsen.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

I. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #972**
- B. Council Minutes April 5, 2021**

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

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

A. Quarterly Social Media Report by Katie Garcia

Katie Garcia, the City's PIO, reviewed their media statistics for the first quarter of 2021. Some of their major media focus has been to keep the public updated on COVID-19, community projects, local and community news. She said they have an open rate of 28 percent on their posts and are tracking at 33 percent for this month. Their click through rate is well above the industry average.

They continue to send out weekly updates on Wednesday and will do special alerts as needed. Some of the posts with the highest engagement were for the snow shoveling, the Capital riot, and the Egg Drop. They also put in some videos from the Mayor.

Roeland Park has launched an Instagram account and their follower/audience on Twitter is up.

Ms. Garcia provided some social media statistics to compare Roeland Park with neighboring cities. Those numbers are in the packet report. In all, they published over 19 posts with over 2,000 engagement responses.

As move into the second quarter, there will be more information on the pool opening and the City-wide garage sale.

CMBR Madigan asked if they could create a map to list the homes of those having garage sales much like the map they did for Halloween to identify who was handing out candy. Ms. Garcia and CMBR Madigan said they would follow-up with City Clerk Nielsen to try to create that map.

CMBR Faidley asked about making some of their videos more professional and whether they should budget for that. Ms. Garcia said that people are used to seeing in the moment real videos and sometimes a topic does not allow for a more perfected video. She did say that if there are some projects in the City such as a tour of a park or a CIP improvement, they could create a more professional informational type of video.

CMBR Faidley said that prior to opening the pool giving a video tour would be good. Ms. Garcia said she would be meeting with Parks and Rec Superintendent Tony Nichols and she will bring that up.

Mayor Kelly thanked Ms. Garcia for helping them to keep people informed about their City.

IV. Mayor's Report

A. Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation

Mayor Kelly said this is the time of year when they recognize their most valuable assets at City Hall, which is their people. He said they have a very talented staff that wears many hats, and he is grateful for the opportunity to be able to recognize the stellar work that they do.

He said they are very fortunate to have Kelley Nielsen as their City Clerk, not only because she is a resident but of her commitment to the City. He said they are always singing her praises and they receive many compliments for her outstanding work. Mayor Kelly said they appreciate her dedication in making the community stronger.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE, IN HONOR OF KELLEY NIELSEN, MAY 2-8, 2021, AS MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK IN THE CITY OF ROELAND PARK. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

B. Police Week Proclamation

Mayor Kelly expressed his appreciation for the work Police Chief Morris and his department does for Roeland Park. He said they are unique in some of the things they do to continue to build bonds of trust in the community and that reflects well on Roeland Park. He noted their work this year with the Police Policy Review Committee and helping to be current on the national conversation of race and policing. He also appreciates their proactive measures on their self-funded K-9 program as well as the TASER policy presented last week. He also noted the success with the Police Department being an ambassador with the Holiday Kindness Project which was fantastic.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE MAY 9-15, 2021, AS POLICE WEEK IN THE CITY OF ROELAND PARK. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

C. Public Works Week Proclamation

Mayor Kelly said a hallmark of their City is its trees and leaf program, which is due to the good work of the Public Works Department. He said they are doing a great job at being ambassadors for the City. The Public Works theme this year is "Stronger Together," and is an apt representation of what their Public Works Department means to them in all the ways they want to strengthen their community by promoting health and providing multi-modal transit options, keeping their streets maintained and the maintenance of their parks, buildings, and pool.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE MAY 16-22, 2021, AS PUBLIC WORKS WEEK IN THE CITY OF ROELAND PARK. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

There were no reports given.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Discuss Return to In-Person Meetings

Mayor Kelly said he appreciated the opportunity of virtual meetings to keep the public safe but to still have access to each other. He said they do have a virtual option moving forward for meetings, but something is lost in not meeting in person. He said their problem-solving is enhanced when they are together. He said as they are starting to see restrictions lifted, there are precautions they can take to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, he thinks it is time to return to in-person meetings beginning in May.

CMBR Madigan expressed his agreement with the Mayor. He said the time has come to return to the Council Chamber even though he foresees them wearing masks. He did not believe they needed Plexiglas dividers though. CMBR Madigan also said they are more official when they meet together and would vote to return ASAP.

CMBR Dickens also agreed it is time to return. He echoed CMBR Madigan's sentiments that they do not need Plexiglas dividers but would need masks.

CMBR McCormack expressed her agreement to come back to in-person meetings. She asked if there would be distancing for those in the audience. Mayor Kelly said there would have to be restrictions

such as socially distant seating, limited attendance with possible spillover seating and streaming into the courtroom. Meeting attendance options could be first come/first served or possibly reserving a spot in advance. He would like to see them maintain the virtual option and that it has been a great accommodation. It also keeps them in compliance with KOMA.

CMBR Brauer suggested using Sign-Up Genius to help limit attendance so the staff isn't overwhelmed. She said it has been positive meeting virtually and having the ability to connect with folks who otherwise would not have connected with their elected officials. She would like to see them use a hybrid model moving forward as she would hate to see them getting so good at using this technology only to abandon it.

CMBR Kelly remarked CMBR Brauer's comments were well said. He said they need to have some best practices even for smaller things such drinks and glasses with straws. Mayor Kelly said some councils have continued to meet in person throughout the pandemic and they can look to them for best practices. He said there is no perfect answer to what accommodations they should take and everyone should remain flexible to tightening or loosening of restrictions and always be considerate of others.

CMBR Rebne said he assumed that those in the audience would be wearing masks too. Mayor Kelly said it is still a requirement at City Hall and would be a requirement during Council meetings.

CMBR Faidley said the County Commission is meeting in-person with masks and distancing. Mayor Kelly said there are good lessons learned there that they could take from that.

There was majority agreement to return to in-person meetings beginning with the May 3rd City Council meeting. Staff was asked to put together some best practices and Mayor Kelly asked for everyone to comply with what staff puts together for the May 3rd meeting, and they can discuss those practices at the meeting. Mr. Felzein was asked his opinion on requesting public registration for attendance of the meeting and he said that staff has the authority to handle that.

City Administrator Moody said they can put a structure together for them to get started. Mayor Kelly said the staff has been artists creating new processes and practices during the pandemic and appreciates their willingness to continue that as they get back to meeting in person.

There was discussion whether the other committees should start meeting in person beginning May 3rd.

CMBR Madigan said they should have their May 3rd meeting before telling the committees to go ahead. They could benefit from meeting in person and some on computer and they need to look at several different types of hybrid systems.

CMBR Dickens supported hybrid meetings for committees. He also said it might be better to let the committees decide rather than have Council decide if the hybrid is an option. Mayor Kelly said as long as attending virtually is an option, he would agree with that, but the Council needs to give them that option.

CMBR Brauer requested the staff in their recommendations moving forward, they need to be mindful of how they approach each other. She said her natural inclination is to hug or offer a handshake and they need to be respectful and mindful that maybe that is not the best way to interact right now. She

said the Council needs to model the correct behavior. Mayor Kelly said that is a good suggestion and asked staff to incorporate that into the best practices and guidance in advance of the May 3rd meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Approve Proposed 2022 Pay Scale

City Administrator Moody said this would go into effect January 1, 2022. It does not have any impact on the 2022 budget or adjust anyone's pay with its implementation, but it provides a way to ensure that pay ranges remain market competitive.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2022 PAY SCALE AS PRESENTED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

B. Approve 2022 Solid Waste Assessment

City Administrator Moody said this allows them to move forward with budget. He will file this with the county for the solid waste assessment and that will become part of the 2022 tax bill.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2022 SOLID WASTE ASSESSMENT AS PRESENTED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

C. Approve Task Order for R Park Phase 3 Improvements

This item was tabled to allow the Parks Committee to discuss the matter at their meeting. The recommendation is to proceed with the task order and to look at a timeline for construction to begin around the end of 2022 to allow for certain disturbed areas to be planted for the fall 2022 planting season.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Tony Nichols said they will keep the park open during the 2022 construction and also hopes to push the work to the end of the summer to keep more of the park available for use.

CMBR McCormack said she was at the Parks Committee meeting and discussed pushing the improvements out to 2023 because she felt they needed more time to get a full grasp on the project and the costs, including CMBR Dickens' playground objective and further considerations of CMBR Hill's traffic garden objective.

CMBR Rebne said that in discussing the new playground and other improvements to R Park, he is concerned that they were only focusing on one age group at the park. He also asked if the basketball goals would remain.

Judy Hyde from the Sustainability Committee stated that Sustainability, Parks, and Citizens Fundraising Initiative committees have tried to keep the Community for All Ages lens at the forefront of their thinking when it comes to development and improvements and how that fits into R Park. She said they have areas for community and family gatherings at the pavilion. There are active areas such as the soccer field, the tennis courts, and the area for the younger children of the playground. They are also hoping to have the traffic garden which all ages could use to learn to ride a bike. She said there is a concern that there would not be enough greenspace and asked them to remember that greenspace

does not always mean a lawn. With a traffic garden, they can design the space any way they choose and can incorporate native plants, benches around the traffic garden and that all counts for greenspace. She said it can be a contemplative spot as well as for fun. She said it is not their intention to eliminate any other areas of play.

CMBR Madigan said he agreed with CMBR McCormack in waiting until 2023 to make sure funds are available to get everything done. One concern he expressed is the traffic garden. He said they can make it a showplace but is concerned about the money. He said they also need money spent on the playground, but he doesn't want them to go overboard as both amenities are for the same age group.

CMBR Faidley said she had reservations of trying to cram too much into the park. Seeing what the designers come up with hopefully will make it clearer. Once they see the dollar amount that will also help them decide, so she said they should go ahead with the task force. If they do go ahead with the work, she realizes they will lose the last part of summer and the fall, but if that is what the committee wants, then she is okay with that.

Mayor Kelly said he agrees it is right to move forward with the task order.

Mr. Nichols pointed out that Phase 3 of the project will be far less intrusive in the park. The majority of the park will still be available. Phase 3 is only the playground area and part of the trail. Most of the trail is already completed. Once the task order is approved and Confluence gets involved, then they can discuss how it all puts together. To CMBR Rebne's question, the basketball goals will remain.

MOTION: CMBR KELLY MOVED AND CMBR MCCORMACK SECONDED TO TAKE THIS ITEM FROM THE TABLE AND RESUME THE DISCUSSION. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE TASK ORDER FOR R PARK PHASE 3 IMPROVEMENTS. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

D. Approve Summer Banners for Roe Blvd

Public Works Superintendent Daniel Vandenbos showed all the sample art banners and asked the Council to accept the recommendations made by the Community Engagement Committee.

Most Councilmembers did not prefer Option #2 "Summertime" as it showed a dock and might lead people to believe there was a lake or river in the City. They felt they should focus more on the pool. Most felt they should continue with "Uniquely Rooted" theme. Everyone liked the "See Red Run" banner.

CMBR Madigan said he favors ones that say Roeland Park because that is what they are trying to sell.

CMBR Rebne said the Committee was thoughtful and flexible in their choices, but to ask a committee to select banners and then change their selection to him does not honor the work that they do. He said he does understand a compromise though and the compromise is a good one.

Mayor Kelly said them expressing their opinion is not dismissing the work of the committee. There are differences in taste and these conversations tend to last longer because of the subjective nature of art.

He appreciates the recommendations made by the committee but the decision ends ultimately with the Council.

After discussion, the majority of the Council agreed on banners 1, 4, 6, and 11, but 11 was changed to 13 as it is a different color pattern.

MOTION: CMBR KELLY MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN FOR THE FOUR BANNERS SUBSTITUTING "SUMMERTIME" WITH "BICYCLES" TO INCLUDE 1, 4, 6, AND 13 AS AMENDED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH CMBR HILL VOTING NO.)

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO AMEND THE BANNERS TO 1, 4, 6, AND 13. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH CMBR HILL VOTING NO)

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

There were no ordinances or resolutions presented.

IX. Reports of City Officials

A. COVID Report

Mr. Verbrugge reported they are in Phase 5 of vaccination distribution, and starting April 12, all appointments are available to all who are eligible. He said that Johnson County is continuing with the mask mandate.

B. City Administrator Report

City Administrator Moody said they have a walk-through punch list for the pool coming up. And they also have one for Roe Boulevard, which is coming close to the end.

CMBR Faidley noted there were no banners going north on 48th Street. Mr. Vandebos said they have to rent lift to put those up and it was returned before those banners came in. He did say the Summer banners will be on there.

CMBR Hill how much destruction to the new sod there would be with the plantings along Roe. City Administrator Moody said that most of the trees are between the sidewalk and back of curb. They will not be driving heavy equipment on there and the planting will be from the outer lane of the roadway. Most plants are consolidated at the intersections and he does not anticipate a lot of sod damage through this process.

C. Police Chief Report

Police Chief Morris said the DEA drug prescription take back is Saturday, April 24th at Price Chopper.

D. Public Works Report

Public Works Director Scharff said it feels like spring, but there is a chance of winter weather tomorrow. Public Works staff is coming in and they will monitor the situation, but they do not anticipate any problems.

Mayor Kelly reminded everyone they would need to shovel their sidewalk.

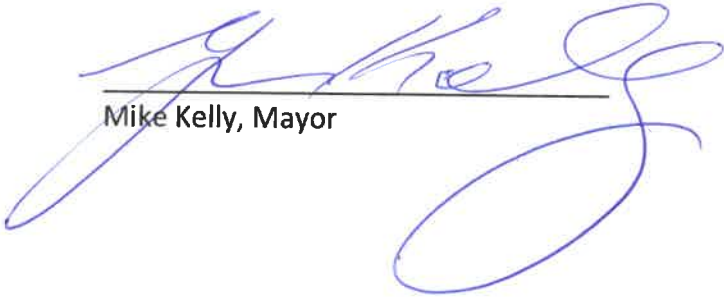
Adjourn:

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR BRAUER SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:23 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Mike Kelly, Mayor