

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
Roeland Park City Hall  
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205  
Monday, April 4, 2022, 5:00 P.M.

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

**Admin**  
Hill  
Raglow

**Finance**  
Madigan  
Rebne

**Safety**  
Faidley  
Poppa

**Public Works**  
Dickens  
Brauer

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 5:00 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. CMBRS Madigan, Hill, Brauer, Poppa, Rebne, and Mayor Kelly were present in person at City Hall. CMBR Raglow attended virtually. CMBR Dickens arrived at City Hall just following roll call, and CMBR Faidley joined the meeting later. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Moeller, Assistant City Administrator Winn, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, 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 #995**
- B. Council Minutes March 21, 2022**

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

**III. Business from the Floor - Proclamations/Applications/Presentation**

*There was no Business from the Floor*

#### **IV. Mayor's Report**

*There was no Mayor's Report.*

#### **V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committee Reports**

##### **A. Parks Committee**

Laura Savidge from the Parks Committee reviewed the Cooper Creek objective presented by CMBR Brauer. She went over the two phases of work that have been done with the citizens group. Phase 3 will have one more eradication of invasive plants and trees and will be replaced with 130 native plantings, trees, and grasses. Amenities have also been installed at the park and play elements will be added soon. Pollinator beds will also be added as a feature in the park.

The Parks Committee wanted to thank CMBR Raglow for her proposed objective of the bicycle play structure for R Park which is being designed by Matt Kirby and Matt Lero. She said it ties in perfectly with CMBR Hill's objective for the traffic garden. Mr. Kirby and Mr. Lero are currently working on safety features for the design.

Phase 3 of R Park will also consist of a new playground, sidewalks, and the traffic garden scheduled for the fall of 2022. The committee has also proposed a pollinator flower garden for a northern plot of the park.

The Parks Committee would like to discuss a seasonal employee dedicated to the City's parks to take care of weeding, gardening, mulching, garbage pickup, et cetera to help take the burden off of Public Works.

CMBR Rebne asked for clarification whether the seasonal employee would only be for R Park or all City parks. Ms. Savidge said it would be for all parks with a timeframe of end of March/April through the fall.

City Administrator Moody said they have not gotten bids for the Phase 3 R Park improvements, but once he gets more information, he will pass that along. He reiterated that they do plan for the improvements to be completed in 2022.

##### **B. Community Foundation**

Ms. Winn provided the current financials for the Community Foundation fund. She said they have received a significant amount of donations to parks and for a signature art piece. Currently there are no outstanding requests for funding. They continue to send thank you notes for donations and work to keep the books up to date.

##### **C. Racial Equity Committee**

Haile Sims, Chair of the Racial Equity Committee, said the Historical Committee made a presentation to them regarding the historic signage that is planned to be installed. In their report to the Governing Body, they provided their feedback with regard to the sign language. He said the Racial Equity Committee would like to get some feedback from the Shawnee tribe or from the Kansas City Indian

Center regarding the proposed language. They also want to be able to clarify the history on the Shawnee Indian Mission and its partnership with the Methodist church. Mr. Sims said they would like this reviewed before they spend money to get the signs printed.

CMBR Madigan said a lot of the verbiage for the signs comes off of the Shawnee tribe website and said it is safe to assume that they approve it. He said he is not sure they will be able to maintain the pricing they have, and also does not see the benefit of talking to the tribe when they took the information from off of their site.

CMBR Poppa thanked the Racial Equity Committee for looking over the proposed sign language and offering their comments. He said the Historical Committee has worked hard on this and does not want it to fall off their radar. CMBR Poppa asked who would be tasked with reaching out to the Shawnee tribe and would if there would be a timeline for edits.

Mr. Sims said they did not establish a timeline or discuss who is going to reach out to the tribe.

It was agreed that a member of the Racial Equity Committee would reach out to the Shawnee tribe and give them an opportunity to respond to the language.

CMBR Raglow said that one sign directly received language from the Shawnee website, and another did not and there was a piece of that that had questions around it. Mr. Sims said one of the proposed metal signs also raised some questions. He said it is important to also add information about the mission, the partnership between the Shawnee tribe and the Methodist church, and that the tribe wanted it on their land.

CMBR Madigan thanked Mr. Sims for the work he has done. He asked CMBR Rebne if he has found a member of the tribe to help write the language. CMBR Rebne said he was not able to get a hold of anyone as a member of the tribe, but he does think it is important to reach out to the Shawnee tribe to make sure they are not repeating a process that has been painful for a lot of people.

CMBR Madigan said they need a definitive timeline, and this cannot be left open-ended. Mayor Kelly agreed. He recommended the Historical Committee reach out to the tribe for comments on language and then come back to the Council for final approval.

Chris Wolff said he appreciates the feedback on the signs. He said he disagreed with the need to have the signs vetted by an outside party. The purpose of the signs is to tell the story of Roeland Park, which is a Roeland Park project done by the citizens of Roeland Park. It is meant to be simple and informational, and not an in-depth discussion of Native American culture or historical development. He reiterated they are informational signs with historical facts on them. Mr. Wolff added that there are three different Shawnee tribes, all with different histories and world views, and asked which one they would be speaking with.

Mayor Kelly said they are not looking to have the signs be rewritten, but they only looking for historical accuracy, and they are not calling into question Mr. Wolff's historical knowledge.

CMBR Poppa said he would like to see concrete recommendations from the Racial Equity Committee.

CMBR Madigan added that he would like the recommendations to be specific to which particular sign's language they are referring.

Mayor Kelly asked that the recommendations be in general to be in deference to the work of the Historical Committee.

CMBR Poppa said he does not want to see a redline or something that would entail more research so that they would be kind of like going back to the drawing board. He would like to see the committees work together to work out the language.

CMBR Dickens asked if CMBR Poppa's suggestion would be happening before reaching out to the tribe. CMBR Poppa said the work could be concurrent as there are sections that do not have to do with tribe but are items that the Racial Equity Committee commented on.

CMBR Raglow said the Racial Equity Committee brought up specific points and general feedback but did not change the language.

Mayor Kelly asked the two committees discussion this and bring their recommendations bring back to the Council.

Mr. Wolff suggested rather than having a back and forth on the issue he would like to sit down with a representative from the committee. Mr. Sims said he would be willing to do that.

Further direction will be provided to the Governing Body following the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Historical Committee.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Review Proposed 2023 Pay Scale**

City Administrator Moody said this item is reviewed each year. Only one position had a pay grade increase to another level and that was for a lifeguard. Supporting documentation and graphs are included in the packet. City Administrator Moody said the pay scale increase does have an impact on the 2023 budget.

CMBR Dickens said he is in full support of this item. He said they have all seen a cost of living increase and they need to keep up with inflation or they will start losing people. He added that training new employees is more costly than retaining talent they already have. CMBR Dickens said that Roeland Park prides itself on compassion for not only their residents but for those who come into the City, and they need to strengthen that going forward into the future.

Mayor Kelly added it is prudent to retain their talent.

CMBR Madigan asked what percent of employees get a merit increase each year. City Administrator Moody said about 99 percent of their employees get increases based upon merit.

CMBR Madigan said he would like to see what highest merit increases are.

Mayor Kelly recommended moving this item to the Consent Agenda at their next meeting to allow time for public comment to be submitted.

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR BRAUER SECONDED TO MOVE APPROVAL OF THE 2023 PAY SCALE TO THE CONSENT AGENDA AT THE APRIL 28, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING (MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR BRAUER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2023 PAY SCALE ADDING IT TO THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

(CMBR Faidley joined the meeting.)

**B. Review Propose 2023 Solid Waste Assessment**

City Administrator Moody stated the proposal consists of three components from WCA - curbside waste/recycling/yard waste. The administration fee covers a portion of the cost associated with handling calls and other administrative tasks associated with those solid waste services but does not include City costs for the leaf program. The proposed rate assessment is \$205 annually, a \$3.50 increase from 2022.

No fees have been added to the analysis for glass recycling, and that pilot program will be reviewed at the Workshop following the Council meeting.

CMBR Madigan asked what caused the administration costs to go up to 50 percent. City Administrator Moody said they have not been collecting as much in fees as they incur. They will still be negative in fee collections after the increase.

**C. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 Objectives Progress Report**

City Administrator Moody said two of the three first quarter objectives are complete. The acquisition of a community policing trailer remains open as well as some open objectives from prior years. Their hope is to complete those outstanding objectives this year, adding that the historical signs are an objective from a prior year they hope to complete in 2022.

CMBR Faidley asked about the 2021 objective for marquee signs on Roe. City Administrator Moody they have identified a potential spot on the north side, but the southern part of Roe is a bit more challenging due to how narrow the area is. Obstacles to overcome are having the sign large enough to be legible while not obscuring visibility.

CMBR Faidley asked if they looked further north where the stop light was taken out and it would be closer to the business district. City Administrator Moody said the two signs would then be fairly close together.

Mayor Kelly noted that on the south side when they hang a banner it begins to look bad when it starts to sag. They thought a marquee sign would be more professional. He added that he trusts the recommendations of staff.

City Administrator Moody said they are having to replace new poles because people are driving into them, noting there have been three in a two-year period. He said prior to that in his tenure none have been taken out by drivers. He said installing the marquee signs makes him nervous as they are not cheap and there isn't much of a buffer. He said they could try one at the north end and then reassess something different on the south end. He said one other option would be an elevated sign over the roadway but that is obviously more expensive.

There was consensus for staff to look at a position on the north end for a marquee sign and for a possible location on the south side for a second sign.

CMBR Rebne asked about the quarterly diversity and racial equity assessment. He said he spoke with Ms. Winn and said he appreciated that the Racial Equity Committee has developed goals, but he does not believe they capture the intent of a racial equity assessment used as a tool by the Governing Body in their decision-making. He does not see the objective as being completed in the way it is listed in the report. City Administrator Moody said they can update the language on the status part of the objective.

CMBR Hill asked for an update on the Aldi stair project. Public Works Director Scharff said when he last heard from the contractor, they were delayed due to rain, but they were anticipated to work on the stairs this week.

#### **D. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 Strategic Plan Progress Report**

City Administrator Moody said the items they have made progress on are highlighted in green in the spreadsheet attached to the agenda pack. There have been additional projects undertaken and there are now 161 initiatives which represents up to a \$29.9 million in investments. A lot of the new ones are grant-related, and they have obtained a BASE grant (Building a Stronger Economy), and also a SPARK grant (Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas). Mr. Moody said they are trying their best to leverage local resources against the federal dollars available.

### **VII. New Business**

*No new business was presented.*

### **VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions**

*No ordinances or resolutions were presented*

### **IX. Reports of City Officials**

#### **A. COVID Report**

Ms. Winn said since posting on Friday six Shawnee Mission elementary schools are now requiring masks. She said the new trigger is the absentee rate and it is impossible to determine if the COVID cases are rising. One doctor that was interviewed said they are seeing more influenza and gastrointestinal issue cases. Ms. Winn also added a new link for the dominant variant they are seeing locally. CMBR Faidley asked about Wyandotte County and Ms. Winn said they are still considered to be a high transmission community level.

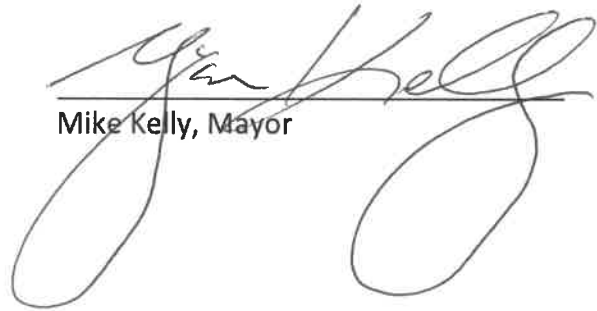
**Adjourn:**

**MOTION:** CMBR POPPA MOVED AND CMBR REBNE SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 6:09 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Mike Kelly, Mayor