

GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Monday, April 18, 2022, 5:00 P.M.

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

- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Michael Poppa, Council Member
- Kate Raglow, Council Member
- Michael Rebne, Council Member

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

Admin
Hill
Raglow

Finance
Madigan
Rebne

Safety
Faidley
Poppa

Public Works
Dickens
Brauer

(Governing Body Workshop Called to Order at 7:21 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

CMBR Dickens called the meeting to order. CMBR Hill appeared virtually and CMBR Raglow was absent. All other Governing Body members were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Michnick (5013 Howe) Mr. Michnick spoke to the curbside glass recycling pilot program. He believed the results from the pilot were excellent but that the expected weight numbers were not realistic and urged the City not to use an over-estimated result. He did thank them for making curbside glass recycling a possibility.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The draft minutes were available online but were not submitted in time for the packet.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Review and Discuss Pedestrian Safety Analysis and Enhancements at Roesland Elementary

Janelle Clayton from Merge Midwest Engineer is the City's Traffic Engineer. She was tasked to look at the Roesland school crosswalk from an engineering perspective. Ms. Clayton spent time reviewing the drop-off and pick-up procedures at the school. She noticed that the crossing guard was not activating the flashing beacon. Ms. Clayton spoke with the City and the school about the issue. The crossing guard said there was difficulty controlling the children while stepping back to push the button, and it was also a novelty item that it was being pushed at inappropriate times. Ms. Clayton suggested getting a student helper to work activate the light. She also noticed that the low was too low which reduced the number of cars being able to see it. The Public Works Department did raise the sign. There are also issues of cars queuing on 48th Street which reduces the visibility of the sidewalk. Ms. Clayton's recommendation is for placement of no parking, standing, or stopping signs to be placed on 48th Street.

Ms. Clayton did a nationally accepted gap study, and the site does warrant a crossing guard. In her study, she observed morning and afternoon patterns, and counted pedestrian crossings, and vehicles.

Some improvements they have already made are the use of cones and signs to delineate a no-stopping zone, and they are now correctly using the rectangular rapid flashing beacon sign.

CMBR Rebne thanked Ms. Clayton for her commendations and asked if her study included Clark Drive. Ms. Clayton said her review only included Parish Drive.

CMBR Faidley asked about the crossing on Elledge and if it will be looked at when it is reconstructed. City Administrator Moody said they will make improvements to that crossing with the project, but this request from the Roesland principal was specifically for the crossing at Parish.

CMBR Hill said she has spoken with City Administrator Moody about a crosswalk across Elledge and at Fontana, there has been a request for a middle of the street pedestrian crossing sign as there are a lot of students walking and there is no sidewalk on the north side of Elledge.

Mayor Kelly asked that when they are talking about implementing safety improvements, whether she had any suggestions or if there is a good rule of thumb to start on when talking about implementing safety improvements and a period to see what is working and what is having an impact.

Ms. Clayton said they have implemented small things which all build upon each other. She said they first try the small options and engage school staff, and that it is very important for the school crossing guard to feel safe. She also felt that the City had taken important first steps.

CMBR Madigan expressed his concern about the novelty of pushing the button on the crossing sign. He suggested reaching out to the school PTA to ensure the button is used properly. Ms. Clayton said the matter is up to the school staff. She also said that she is willing to speak directly with the school. Ms. Clayton said she has seen adults pressing the button which is a good habit for children to see so that they will press it when there is no crossing guard present.

CMBR Rebne asked Ms. Clayton on her recommendation for a crossing guard. Ms. Clayton responded yes; a guard is needed for safety reasons. CMBR Rebne said he hoped it will be taken seriously to having a professional crossing guard that is devoted and trained for that task.

CMBR Faidley said she feels that they are in the minority of communities not budgeting for this position. She said they may need to in the future look at guards for Elledge and Clark. She felt they really should allocate the funds for a crossing guard and that those would be dollars well spent.

CMBR Hill said there is a huge need to improve the safety and education is the biggest part. The must teach the children safety, but that is not the only piece. She said that not all cities have paid crossing guards. She said this is about safety for children and parents, and they need to look at education and the facts.

Mayor Kelly anyone as a crossing guard would be an improvement and said that students and parents in vehicles would not know the difference between a volunteer or a paid employee. He said this is an opportunity for utilizing their bond of trust with the Police Department on occasion to provide some enforcement which might help remind people that crosswalks are not a suggestion. He asked where the \$14,000 salary would come from and if there is a way to make that number more competitive. He also asked if there was an opportunity to collaborate with other cities who use All City Management Services for their crossing guards.

CMBR Madigan asked if they are talking about a uniformed crossing guard. Ms. Clayton said they receive official training, and it is not necessarily a uniform, but a vest and sign. CMBR Madigan added that if people are blowing through the crosswalk, they need a uniformed authority presence.

City Attorney Mauer said the issue with the school apparently is funding. They currently do not pay, do not want to pay, and would like the City to fund it. The City's issue would be paying for a vest and a sign for someone who has not authority. If utilizing school personal, they would be more likely to recognize an offending child or parent and will care more about the school than a City volunteer. If the City were to pay for the program, he recommended paying the school and let them hire the company and staff. The school would then be in control and in a better position to identify and address any issues.

City Administrator Moody said he will meet with the school district and bring to them Mr. Mauer's option. He will also reach out to other cities who have a contract and see if there is any benefit piggybacking onto their contract.

There was consent that they would like a school crossing guard.

2. Review and Preliminary Approval to CIP - Equipment Replacement Schedule

City Administrator Moody said that staff reviews all of their projects and equipment every year. They plan out within one to two years of a project what they expect to spend, which gives them more time to refine those cost estimates. Mr. Moody reviewed the projected costs of upcoming projects noting that they will be able to do a Residential Street Reconstruction (RSR) project for Phase 1 of Nall in 2025 and Phase 2 in 2029. They have applied for 80 percent of that project from STP Funds. In 2027, they will be able to do an RSR on Granada Street. In 2022, they will work on parking and drainage improvements at the Community Center.

Mr. Moody also reviewed projects, sources of funding, and timelines for the various areas of the City such as Parks and Recreation, Public Works, City Hall, and Police Department, all of which are detailed in the agenda packet.

CMBR Faidley asked if the CDBG monies they received for Elledge would impact the possibility of funding at the Community Center. City Administrator Moody said that does not limit them and are asking for the maximum of \$200,000 for 2023 and those Community Center improvements.

3. Review and Discuss Tree Inventory Proposals

Public Works Director Scharff said that staff submitted an RFP to get trees inventories for one, the City's right-of-way, and also frontage trees on private property. The staff report contains a breakdown of those bids, and they are recommending Wiregrass Ecological Associates. This will enable to the City to track their inventory, follow removal and additions, et cetera.

Mayor Kelly asked about the scoring and their choice for Wiregrass. Public Works Director Scharff said they were all qualified but felt that Wiregrass was best for the goals they are trying to achieve. Mayor Kelly asked how often the tree survey is updated. Mr. Scharff said usually every five to seven years there is an update. City Administrator Moody added that presumably they will be able to track

removal of trees and are contemplating a permitting process even if there is no associated fee; they want to be able to track removal.

CMBR Faidley thanked staff noting this is a huge amount of work. She asked about Wiregrass being located in Georgia. Public Works Scharff said they would come on-site to do the inventory. CMBR Faidley said she would like to see both the frontage and public right-of-way inventory as they need that information before moving ahead with any ordinance.

CMBR Poppa asked for clarification on the necessity of inventorying trees front yard trees outside the right-of-way.

CMBR Faidley said they do have educated estimates, but they really do not know what they have in their right-of-way and front yards. She acknowledged that it is a significant amount to spend but if they are doing a protection ordinance, they will need that information.

City Administrator Moody said if they intend to regulate trees in the front yard, then they need to know what trees would fall into the criteria. He added that it is estimated there are more trees in the front yard than the right-of-way now.

CMBR Madigan said he is not in favor of this type of an ordinance. He understands why the City would want an inventory of trees in right-of-way, but he has had numerous citizens reach out to him regarding this and that it is an attempt to take away the rights of a landowner. He said most do not favor this or a fee. He also mentioned that when the Emerald ash borer affected City trees, they were removed, but did not do anything for the residents, so he questioned why they would take these steps now. Mayor Kelly responded that action with regard to the Emerald ash borer was by a different governing body.

Mayor Kelly said the information from the survey could provide Public Works with information about their trees, tree health, potential safety issues, and how to address things like an Emerald ash borer. By having this information it will allow them to be proactive to issues and also to provide information to residents. He asked if there were any options through the forestry service, for example, grants to help with the cost of inventorying the trees. Public Works Director Scharff said he will talk to their forestry representative if there are any avenues to explore. Mayor Kelly added this is important and he supports this because it affects their quality of life, infrastructure health, public safety, and has ecological impacts.

CMBR Dickens said he does have a problem with an ordinance regulating front yard trees but does believe they need to have a larger conversation regarding this.

There was majority consensus to move forward with Wiregrass to inventory the City's trees.

4. Review Prospective CDBG Projects

Public Works Director Scharff said this is item is one requirement for the application process when requesting CDBG funds. Their 2023 application proposal is for \$200,000 for Phase 1 Community Center improvements to address ADA issues inside the building as well as some outside work, all in an effort to make the site more vibrant. Out of the project options they reviewed, this one is the most viable.

CMBR Faidley asked when the ADA Community Center assessment was done, and if they should include in the application some of the challenges they face at the Community Center.

City Administrator Moody said they have strategies they relate to the project, but admittedly, they are not the best flowery writers, but they will look to see what they draw into their description. CMBR Faidley said she noted comments with regard to seniors and childcare at the Community Center but there is also programming there for all ages.

Public Works Director Scharff said they can definitely add more information to the application.

City Administrator Moody said there will be a public hearing at their next City Council meeting, and then the Governing Body will be asked to approve which Community Development Block Grant project to apply for.

There was unanimous consensus to pursue the CDBG application for Community Center project funds.

III. COMMITTEE MINUTES

There were no items discussed.

IV. ADJOURN

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR BRAUER SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.)