

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Monday, May 2, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

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

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

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

Admin
Hill
Raglow

Finance
Madigan
Rebne

Safety
Faidley
Poppa

Public Works
Dickens
Brauer

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:04 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, City Attorney Felzien, Assistant City Administrator Winn, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, and City Clerk Nielsen.

Modification of Agenda

CMBR Poppa requested moving Item VII-A, related to the historical signage, to the May 16th City Council meeting. They have been contacted by the Tribal Chief for the Shawnee tribe who would like an opportunity to review the proposed sign language and offer feedback.

MOTION: CMBR POPPA MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO MOVE ITEM VII - A TO THE MAY 16, 2022, CITY COUNCIL MEETING. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

CMBR Madigan requested that the Fair Housing Proclamation be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Mayor's Items along with the Bike Month Proclamation noting that this item is of equal importance.

I. Public Hearing - CDBG Project

Mayor Kelly stated as required by the Community Development Block Grant process, we have an opportunity to apply for additional funding for the 2023 CDBG application. Staff is asking for direction for the Community Center's Phase 1 improvements.

Mayor Kelly opened the public hearing. No comments were made regarding the CDBG application, and the hearing was closed. The Governing Body would discuss the application later in the meeting.

II. Citizen Comments

Tokeya Waci U Richardson “Comes Dancing First” (4411 Wimbledon Dr) Mr. Richardson from the Oglala Lakota tribe said he was contacted by friends in Roeland Park about the historical signs. He said he read the language and stated it is inaccurate as it does not speak to the true history of the kids, the removal of the people, and what happened here in the area. Mr. Richardson said he was mad that the City did not properly reach out to the Shawnee tribe to get their input. He wanted to remind them if they are going to speak about a culture that is not their own, then they need to involve them.

Robert Hicks (Lawrence, KS) Mr. Hicks said he was representing the Indigenous Community Center of Lawrence and spoke to the historical signs and the information for the Shawnee Indian Mission school, which he stated was a labor school with assimilation practices and cultural genocide. He added that the proposal of the signs removes Indigenous history and noted they have not consulted with the Shawnee tribe. Mr. Hicks said in their review, it gives them the opportunity to bring the right history and give them an opportunity to heal.

Monique Mercurio (2557 Stowe, Lawrence) Ms. Mercurio, also a representative from the Indigenous Community Center of Lawrence, said that she is a survivor of colonial abuse. She said that approving the signs is perpetuating the emotional abuse of native people. She felt the sign language continues to manipulate history with certain people trying to control the narrative by not notifying those whose history is directly affected. She suggested they begin to change the narrative and bring knowledge and healing as all people are connected together.

Curtis Herrera (5230 Buena Vista) Mr. Herrera said he is a member of the Apache tribe and was previously on the Racial Equity Committee. He said they are all asking and pleading for the Governing Body to do the right thing and that as proposed, the plaques do not tell the truth. As part of the Racial Equity Committee he presented a plan to be able to teach the right history, but it went no further. He asked for them to put politics aside and do the right thing.

Miel Castagna-Herrera (5230 Buena Vista) Ms. Herrera said she opposed the use of tax dollars to put up any historical signs as they are all whitewashed. She said there is no mention of any people who gave to the community except for Whites. She said there have to be other narratives. Ms. Herrera also stated that redlining and racial covenants are not a side note for plaques. And further, the information about the Mission school is woefully inaccurate. Ms. Herrera said she was contacted by Shawnee Chief Barnes who was upset and angry that he was not asked if the plaques are accurate. She said they need to look deeper and try to think about the children and the stories they need to see.

Mayor Kelly thanked everyone for sharing their deeply personal comments and also for their willingness to come and speak to them.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #997
- B. Council Minutes April 18, 2022
- ~~C. Fair Housing Month Proclamation~~ (this was moved to Item V.)
- D. Interlocal Agreement with Mission for Johnson Drive Project
- E. Approve Embree Donation in Lieu of Providing Art
- F. Lease for 4800 Johnson Drive
- G. Lease for 4812 Johnson Drive

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

IV. Business from the Floor - Proclamations/Applications/Presentation

A. County Update - Commissioner Fast

Johnson County Commissioner Becky Fast provided an update to the Governing Body on the work of the Commission. Ms. Fast said she represents 11 cities and 100,000 people in Northeast Johnson County.

Commissioner Fast first noted the critical CARS program noting that Roeland Park has been approved for three programs. Ms. Fast said that funding to CARS was not impacted during the pandemic.

Ms. Fast is on the SMAC committee along with Public Works Director Scharff, who she says represents Roeland Park very well. She said there is a new flood buy-out program and some homes in Cooper Creek would qualify as they are in the floodplain. It was also noted that the stormwater management has been moved to a watershed.

The Nelson Treatment facility will be getting a new plant that will be more energy efficient and will also address air quality issues that residents have expressed dissatisfaction with over the years. The plant will be able to create and recreate energy for area farmers. The plant will also have a green buffer around it.

Commissioner Fast said that sustainability has not been a priority until the past few years. The county will be conducting a greenhouse gas inventory and noted that Roeland Park already completed their first inventory in 2013. The county will be gathering data and looking for federal grant opportunities.

A new hazardous waste site is being built further to the south of the county. The hope is that it will be a one-stop shop where people can take their glass, compost, and hazardous materials.

The Board of Commissioners remanded back to the Planning Commission the proposed solar facility with the intent to allow more large scale, use of more acreage, and flexibility to those in rural Johnson County. The increased solar operation could provide energy for about 40,000 homes. This would be a huge benefit to the county to be able to have renewable energy.

Regarding the Johnson County Mental Health Center, it was noted there are a large number of calls to the crisis line. Commissioner Fast thanked Roeland Park for funding the co-responder program. Her desire is to be able to move mental health staff to 911 so that those needs are addressed more quickly and accurately.

The Commissioners have also been working on programs for inmates to work, receive training, and support for reentry into society. It was noted that 30 percent of those incarcerated have mental health concerns. The goal is to help them become more self-sufficient.

Housing in Johnson County is making it more difficult for people to own a home, seniors to age in place, and for improvements to be made. The county recently conducted a housing study and Ms. Fast

thanked Roeland Park for contributing. They have been approved to hire a housing coordinator who will work with cities on the housing issue.

To date, no decision has been made with regard to ARPA funding. They would like to address the childcare shortage, housing issues, the workforce shortage crises and retention. Ms. Fast also stated that there is no year-round homeless shelter in Johnson County.

There is a committee that is investigating the history of Negro Creek and changing its name. Commissioner Fast said that Haile Sims from the Racial Equity Committee is on that county committee. It has been slow getting into the archives and the government is also looking at racial names of places throughout the country. The local committee is also looking into African-Americans who may have lived along the creek for further historical information.

Commissioner Fast noted that there are new parks to visit including Lake Lexington, the observation tower at Kill Creek, Cedar Nile Park, and Meadowbrook Park which has an accessible playground.

Cedar Roe Library renovations are also continuing. Merriam will also be having a groundbreaking on their new library.

Commissioner Fast said that she appreciates Mayor Kelly and City Administrator Moody connecting with her and sharing ways she can be an advocate for Roeland Park to the Commission.

Mayor Kelly thanked Ms. Fast for all her work on the Commission and that she is such a zealous advocate for them, especially with regard to mental health.

CMBR Faidley said she was glad to see the hotline. She also asked if the fencing would be replaced around the HVAC unit at the library and if there were any plans for the parking lot. Ms. Fast said there are a number of renovations for Cedar Roe library in the county's comprehensive plan.

CMBR Rebne asked about the housing study and if there was any other support coming from the Commission to help local government assist with affordable housing. Commissioner Fast said that the Kansas legislature is working on the housing tax credit. They also want to be able to preserve affordable housing units and hope to use some of the ARPA funds as well as government funds. They are also looking into a housing trust as there is a need for gap funding to bring those costs down.

Mayor Kelly asked about the sports dome replacement set for the end of the year. City Administrator Moody said he has been working with John Jacobson and they are able to make this work with their current codes. Mayor Kelly said he wants to make sure that the entire complex receives the due attention and care it deserves.

V. Mayor's Report

A. Bike Month Proclamation

MOTION: CMBR BRAUER MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE BIKE MONTH PROCLAMATION FOR MAY 2022. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

B. Fair Housing Month Proclamation

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE FAIR HOUSING MONTH PROCLAMATION FOR MAY 2022. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

VI. Reports of City Liaisons and Committee

A. MARC - First Tier Suburbs

CMBR Faidley submitted her notes in the agenda packet. She said they met in-person for the first time since the pandemic.

B. Racial Equity Committee

Haile Sims, Chair of the Racial Equity Committee, addressed the proposed Historical Committee signs. He and Chris Wolffe met to discuss the language. Mr. Sims said he was not comfortable with making any adjustments; therefore, it is the recommendation of the Racial Equity Committee for the City to speak with the Shawnee tribe to provide more accuracy to the signage.

Also, the committee hosts monthly a racial equity education series. These are recorded and on the City's website and he encouraged everyone to listen in and participate as they are very informative.

In May, the committee will not be meeting, but they will be celebrating Juneteenth and have other events planned through October.

Mr. Simms said that Commissioner Fast mentioned the Racial Equity and Communities Pilot Program. He has been meeting with them and will see how he can take that information and use it to help the City.

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. Sims and said he appreciates the work that he does and also the Racial Equity Committee.

CMBR Madigan said the plaques have become a hot issue. He felt that now is the time to bring in professional help and not only have a volunteer organization working on this as there is too much of a chance for misunderstanding. He said they need to be out in the open, transparent, and they all need to agree.

Mr. Sims said the committee also wants the Shawnee tribe involved in writing the history of the area. The recommendation is that the Historical Committee, the Shawnee tribe, the Racial Equity Committee, and any members of the Governing Body also be involved in that process.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Approval of Historical Sign Proposal from Historical Committee

This item will be discussed at the May 16, 2022, City Council meeting.

VIII. Ordinance and Resolutions

A. Ordinance Identifying Public Need for Condemnation of Easements for Elledge Drive Project

MOTION: CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 1030, APPROVING THE DESCRIPTION AND SURVEY OF LANDS NECESSARY FOR CONSTRUCTING,

RECONSTRUCTING, AND MAINTAINING ELLEDGE DRIVE AND PROCEEDING TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AS AUTHORIZED BY RESOLUTION NO. 696, PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY ON APRIL 18, 2022. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

B. Ordinance Approving 47th Street Overlay District Revisions

CMBR Faidley asked if the area covered is significantly smaller. Ms. Winn said it is actually larger and goes further east and west than it did before.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1031, APPROVING THE 47th STREET OVERLAY DISTRICT REVISIONS. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

IX. New Business

A. Approve Purchase of Playground Equipment for Phase 3 R Park Project

This item will be discussed at the May 16th City Council meeting.

B. Approve 2023 CDBG Project Application

Mayor Kelly noted there was a public hearing regarding the CDBG application earlier in the meeting. The proposed application is for the Community Center Phase 1 improvements.

Public Works Director Scharff stated that staff recommends approval of the application. He noted that the City has been able to secure funding for mill and overlay projects and this project is better suited for this CDBG application.

CMBR Faidley stated she fully supports the application for the Phase 1 improvements. She noted they only have only one tract left in the City that is eligible for the CDBG funds and the Community Center falls within that tract. As a former 1950s elementary school, it has a significant potential, but it also has significant needs for updates. She said she is in support of the work that was done by staff to put this together.

MOTION: CMBR POPPA MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE SUBMITTAL OF THE 2023 CDBG PROJECT APPLICATION FOR PHASE 1 COMMUNITY CENTER IMPROVEMENTS. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

C. Approve Purchase of Patrol Unit

Ms. Winn said from the totaled vehicle they will get \$12,000 from insurance. If the Council chooses to go with a gas-powered vehicle, it will be around \$32,000 after insurance. The hybrid models are not available for order yet. For reference, the City hybrid ordered in February was \$38,000.

Police Chief Morris said they had an opportunity to talk with a Ford dealer and with MARC and vehicles are just not available. They were able to locate this 2015 Ford from a supplier and anticipate a turnaround of about 30 days, give or take. They will need to have the radar, camera, and radio installed. Chief Morris also said there is not a timeline on new hybrids and that MARC has begun cancelling orders. He stressed that his department is down one car and most of the other units are over 100,000 miles.

Mayor Kelly said he wants to make sure the Police Department has tools they need. Police Chief Morris added that for the gas this is a fantastic deal.

CMBR Faidley asked how they function when they are down a vehicle. Police Chief Morris said they are driving the vehicles they have more. The motorcycle and bicycle units are also out more.

Mayor Kelly asked if this vehicle purchase would be considered a one-for-one. City Administrator Moody said they plan on vehicles for 150,000 miles or ten years. They keep track of the investment and noted that the older a vehicle is it becomes more expensive. They also take into consideration the ever increasing price of new vehicles as well as the installation of required equipment.

Police Chief Morris said all in-car cameras are slated for replacement this year, and they try to retrofit as best as they can.

CMBR Hill asked if anything was salvageable from the totaled patrol car. Police Chief Morris said the computer, camera, and radio were salvageable.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR POPPA SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2015 FORD EXPLORER POLICE CAR TO REPLACE A VEHICLE THAT WAS RECENTLY TOTALED IN AN ACCIDENT. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

D. Approve Tree Inventory Proposal

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO AUTHORIZE COMPLETION OF AN INVENTORY OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AND FRONT YARD TREES WITH WIREGRASS ECOLOGICAL, PER THEIR PROPOSAL, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$27,000. (MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH CMBR MADIGAN VOTING NO.)

E. Approve Task Order for 2023 NSRP for Canterbury

Mayor Kelly said this is an incredible project that has been years in the making. The cost of the task order represents 15 percent of estimated costs to the \$1.2 million overall plan for the street reconstruction project.

Public Works Director Scharff commented that they will be adding two sections of sidewalk to provide more connectivity.

CMBR Faidley asked what the rationale is for the placement of the sidewalk. Public Works Director Scharff said they look at what side of the street has the least conflicts such as mature trees, driveways, and easements.

City Administrator Moody said this is a medium priority sidewalk shown on their master plan but is most cost effective to do at this time.

Dan Miller, the City's Engineer, said they will continue to evaluate the placement of the sidewalks and the City's Complete Streets recommendations as they work through the process. He added that he appreciates the opportunity to work with the City.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE A TASK ORDER WITH LAMP RYNEARSON TO PROVIDE, SURVEY, DESIGN, BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION SERVICES FOR THE 2023 NEIGHBORHOOD STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT ON CANTERBURY FROM 47th STREET TO 51st STREET AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$178,400. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

X. Reports of City Officials

A. COVID Report

The report is included in the agenda packet.

CMBR Faidley asked about positivity rate in Johnson County. Ms. Winn said as of Friday, the community rating remains low.

B. 1st Quarter - Public Safety Report

Police Chief Morris said that theft and shoplifting continue to be a concern. His detailed report is in the agenda packet, but he reviewed the location of crimes, demographics, arrests. Chief Morris also provided numbers of citations and warnings issued broken down by each officer. Traffic warning and citation demographics were also provided in the report. Statistics for Animal Control and Johnson County Mental Health Statistics were also given.

Chief Morris said that Rango is doing fine as well as the school resource officer. Their new UTV is up and about, and they will be adding a few more decals. The UTV was at the Easter Egg Hunt recently. Police Chief Morris also noted that they are finally fully staffed.

CMBR Faidley noted the difference in individual officers' statistics with regard to citations and warnings. Police Chief Morris said an officer working day shift will write more tickets versus the night shift. He also said the report is for the first quarter and traffic is very heavy on cold nights. He said they will likely see that fluctuate more with the warmer weather. They also rotate the officers' shifts every two months.

CMBR Dickens thanked Chief Morris for the work done by his department. He relayed a personal story where his pup got out late one night and the officers stayed with his dog until he was able to get there. He said that is why the Police Department makes such a positive difference in their community.

CMBR Hill noted that the new Roeland Park officers are coming from the high school where she teaches.

CMBR Madigan said the officers responded to an issue in his neighborhood and an individual was very abusive to the officer. He said the officer handled the situation professionally with no reaction. Many of his neighbors saw that and wanted him to thank the department. Police Chief Morris said thank you and that there is always room for improvement, but he does run a tight ship.

Mayor Kelly spoke to them tying into the national hot line for mental health/suicide. He also added that he appreciates the bonds of trust the Police Department is creating with their community and hope access to the hotline will be another way to help people get the care they need.

C. 1st Quarter Financial Report

Ms. Winn highlighted the City's sales tax income noting it is high when compared to last year and is up 25 percent. Other indicators of revenue and expenses are on par. Franchise fees are also up significantly due to natural gas prices. Court fees are something they continue to watch but don't see it as an area of concern as it is not used as a significant revenue stream.

CMBR Faidley said she likes the new format. Ms. Winn said she plans to put it out on social media and hopes it is more engaging.

CMBR Madigan said with regard to the court fines, their reduction was a Council goal. He said they are seeing that come to fruition and did not view it as a concern. Ms. Winn said that is a good point and also their budget does reflect the lower fines anticipated to be collected.

D. 1st Quarter - Public Works Report

Public Works Director Scharff said they still have a vacant position in the Public Works Department. Mr. Scharff said the Park and Recreation Superintendent position and Maintenance Supervisor positions have been filed. He also provided a breakdown of staff hours showing a majority of their time is spent on greenspace and parks maintenance. Mr. Scharff also showed slides of project updates for parks, as well as the Community Center parking and drainage improvements.

CMBR Faidley asked about the brushing of the concrete. Public Works Director Scharff said it makes it more slip-resistant.

Public Works Director Scharff said the Aldi stair project is underway and the stairs have been poured. The artistic element will be applied soon. A crosswalk will also be put in later at Elledge and Roe Lane.

Mr. Scharff said the three CARS projects will begin in May and June. The street sweeping program collected 170 cubic yards. He also provided a map of the upcoming 2022 Contract Street Maintenance Program and the 2022 Streetlight Maintenance Programs.

It was noted that work continues at Cooper Creek with the invasive species eradication and plantings, as well as amenities being added to the park such as play features. They continue to look for a Public Works location. Also, Stantec will be driving all the City streets evaluating the condition of the pavement. This survey is done every three years and aids them in prioritizing streets projects.

Public Works Director Scharff said they are also currently recruiting for the seasonal Public Works positions and the information has been shared with the PIO to advertise on social media.

E. City Administrator's Report

City Administrator Moody said he agreed with CMBR Madigan that it seems to be time to engage an expert historian to facilitate the inclusion and participation of all the appropriate interested parties with regard to the historical signs.

CMBR Hill suggested they need to look at all of the proposed signs and not just the one related to the Shawnee Indian Mission.

Mayor Kelly said they would be interested to see staff's recommendation as it pertains to a consultant.

CMBR Poppa asked about their choice to defer the item to the 16th. Mayor Kelly said if it is not fully able to be considered, then they will not put it on the agenda.


F. Assistant City Administrator's Report

Ms. Winn said that Intern Morehead has chosen to go with Johnson County and their new intern, Madison, will be joining them mid-June.

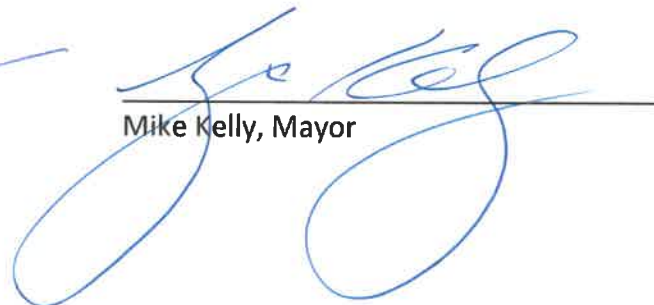
Adjourn:

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Mike Kelly, Mayor