

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL  
4600 WEST 51<sup>st</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205  
January 21, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

- Michael Poppa, Mayor
- Benjamin Dickens, Council Member
- Jan Faidley, Council Member
- Emily Hage, Council Member
- Jennifer Hill, Council Member

- Matthew Lero, Council Member
- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Kate Raglow, Council Member
- Jeffrey Stocks, Council Member

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

**Admin**  
Lero  
Faidley

**Finance**  
Stocks  
Dickens

**Safety**  
Hage  
Hill

**Public Works**  
Raglow  
Madigan

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:02 p.m.)

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Poppa called the 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 in person. Staff present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Walker, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Honas, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Marshall, and City Clerk Nielsen.

### **Modification of Agenda**

*There were no modifications to the agenda.*

### **Swearing in of New Roeland Park Police Chief**

City Clerk Nielsen administered the oath to Roeland Park's new Police Chief Cory Honas.

Police Chief Honas thanked the Governing Body and City Manager Moody for this opportunity stating that he looks forward in continuing to work with them and alongside their very talented police department, but most importantly serving the residents of Roeland Park as their police chief. He also recognized his family and thanked them for their support.

Mayor Poppa also thanked Chief Honas' family for letting him serve the City recognizing the sacrifice they make.

### **I. Public Comments**

**Todd Zimmer** (5621 Roe) Mr. Zimmer expressed his satisfaction with the Roeland Park crew that cleared the streets after the major snowfall. He also spoke to the ordinance that requires shoveling of the public sidewalk. He noted that not everyone is able to do that but as a community if someone is able, they should step up and do that to help their neighbors.

Mayor Poppa asked if there was a group of Snow Angels this year. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they had a small but mighty group out there shoveling snow. Mayor Poppa also asked if the Neighbors Helping Neighbors would be an appropriate use of the program. Ms. Jones-Lacy said the purpose is to utilize volunteers for the program and it has been a challenge at times. She said they sometimes refer to it as the Corporations Helping Neighbors. They are still working on the Snow Angels program and want to develop it into something more structured. Neighbors Helping Neighbors is something they could investigate including if the Council wanted to make amendments to the program. For now, they are trying to use the volunteer method.

CMBR Hill gave a shout out to CMBR Hage and her family for acting as Snow Angels and helping with the snow.

CMBR Faidley asked Ms. Jones-Lacy about the snow machine for the Roe Boulevard sidewalk and is it intended to take care of their public sidewalks. Ms. Jones-Lacy said with the recent snowfall it could not clear some of the snow because of the depth.

City Manager Moody added that they were able to use the snow blower on some of the sidewalks and over at the Community Center as well. They also rented a stand-on bladed machine to help clear other areas. They are investigating what type of attachment would add versatility to the Grasshopper. Also, the Police Department utility vehicle may be able to have a blade attached. He said the research into other options continues.

**Kay Jones** (5307 Roe) Ms. Jones echoed Mr. Zimmer's comments that the City does a wonderful job with the snow. She asked if there has been any discussion of the City clearing sidewalks on the east side of Roe as they do on the west side. The east side of the Roe sidewalk also gets a lot of foot traffic and needs a safe access to the bus stop and it is important to shovel the sidewalk. Her property has a lot of frontage to a sidewalk, but the one on Roe was too much for her to handle.

Mayor Poppa said this can be discussed later and staff can follow up on this. He also stated Ms. Jones could reach out to her ward Councilmembers Lero and Stocks.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1059**
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes January 6, 2025**
- C. Approve Updates to Employee Handbook**
- D. Approve Small Business Incentives**
- E. Approve Elected Officials Fitness Room and Aquatics Membership**

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

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

- A. Report on Assistance Program Participation in 2024**

Khal Miller with Neighborhood Services reviewed the City's Annual Grant Program. Mr. Miller outlined the types of grant programs available to the residents and between the City and Johnson County's contributions they budgeted \$173,800 for grants in 2024. He also provided a graph breakdown reflecting how \$157,054 of that was spent. Mr. Miller also provided before and after photos of projects cleaned up through the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program.

CMBR Hage asked why the Habitat Community Revitalization Program had 18 applicants that qualified but only 7 projects were approved. Mr. Miller said they had limited funding, and the projects were prioritized as to the highest need.

CMBR Faidley asked about the unused balances held in some of the programs and whether those funds remain available for the City's use. Ms. Jones-Lacy said the county is not as efficient at processing applications as they are at the city level and there have been staffing issues but there are adequate funds available to the City.

Mr. Miller continued his presentation on the various programs available to residents. He said they were able to help the 27 qualified applicants that applied to the Property Tax Rebate Program, and those recipients were incredibly grateful.

CMBR Hill stated they raised the amount of money that homeowners could qualify for in the program and wanted to know if that was in effect for 2024. Mr. Miller said those additional funds will be available for 2025.

Mayor Poppa asked about the ARPA funds for the Habitat Community Revitalization Program. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they combined the ARPA funds with the Homebuyer Assistance Program. She said there was one Homebuyer Assistance grant applied for, and it was approved last year and will be funded for this year.

CMBR Faidley asked if that is something they want to look at further funding because the ARPA funds are gone. City Manager Moody said they have expended all their ARPA funds. CMBR Faidley stated if the Governing Body chooses to continue with down payment assistance for homebuyers or for revitalization, they will need to allocate new funds to the budget. City Manager Moody acknowledged that is the case. Ms. Jones-Lacy said the intent of the program was for minor home repair and not for down payments.

Mayor Poppa said it sounds like a great budget objective and CMBR Faidley agreed.

CMBR Hage asked about the county's criteria versus Roeland Park's grant criteria. Mr. Miller said the property tax assistance income levels are about the same, but the county has restrictions on when someone can apply. He will check further into the similarities, differences, and report back.

Mayor Poppa said he was at the State House and spoke with a couple of representatives from the Johnson County Commission on Aging and he wanted to find out if their eligibility criteria lined up with theirs. He plans to schedule a meeting with them to go over that. Mr. Miller said all the grant programs that are income based aligned with HUD. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they also use the same criteria, but they just loosened theirs for the property tax assistance program. They do communicate

and share with applicants the Johnson County programs as well when they ask for a Roeland Park application.

Mayor Poppa said they have been able to identify needs through Meals on Wheels reaching out to them of someone who may need assistance.

CMBR Hill said from her time on the committee, the only ones ever denied were those that were not current on their property taxes.

Mr. Miller thanked the Governing Body for allowing him to make his presentation. He said they will be advertising the grant programs more and asked the Governing Body to reach out to him with any suggestions on how to do that or for any other input they may have.

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

##### **A. National Religious Freedom Day Proclamation**

Mayor Poppa said the proclamation declares January 16<sup>th</sup> as Religious Freedom Day in Roeland Park. He reviewed the proclamation that gives the right to any person to pursue any religious belief as they choose, and it is to protect the vulnerable among them by using their chosen religion as a shield and not a sword. He said these principles are a part of their democracy.

##### **B. Council Appointment on Committees**

Mayor Poppa said they will be appointing Councilmembers at the next meeting for committees and those appointments will be made official at that time.

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

##### **A. Community Foundation**

Mayor Poppa said the report is in the agenda packet.

#### **VI. Unfinished Business**

*There was no Unfinished Business discussed.*

#### **VII. New Business**

##### **A. Discuss Converting a Corporal Position into a Fourth Sergeant Position**

Police Chief Honas said this is his first objective as Chief of Police. The purpose is to convert a corporal position to give them a four sergeant rotation. All law enforcement agency's officers and sergeants are the most important part of the organization. Sergeants need to be ready to make split second decisions and it is important to have them available. As a small organization, they need to have as much leadership around the clock to ensure they have it when they need it.

Chief Honas thanked the Governing Body for approving the change and he appreciates everything they do for the department.

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE CONVERTING A CORPORAL POSITION TO A FOURTH SERGEANT POSITION WITHIN THE ROELAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**B. Elect a Council President for 2025**

CMBR Madigan says there is nothing in the ordinance that states a current Council president cannot serve two consecutive terms and nominated CMBR Raglow who accepted the nomination.

CMBR Dickens nominated CMBR Hill as Council president.

CMBR Raglow said it has been a pleasure to serve as Council President the past year. She said they all know that staff puts in a lot of work to move the City forward as well as their goals and objectives. She noted that whoever is president does not change the work they do on the dais and what brings them together does not change.

CMBR Hill said it is an honor and a privilege to be a candidate. She has served the Council for the past seven years and twice as Council President. This has caused her to have a deepened commitment to City, the Council, and the residents. She spoke to the diversity of the Council and how they work together. As Council President, she would be responsible in creating an environment where every voice is heard, foster respect, and where collaboration triumphs over division. She would ensure the Council operates as a cohesive and effective body. CMBR Hill said she would also remain focused on moving the City forward for all of its residents. She also thanked everyone for the work they do to serve and to make their City better.

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED TO ELECT CMBR RAGLOW AS THE 2025 COUNCIL PRESIDENT. AFTER A SHOW OF HANDS, THE NOMINATION PASSED 5-3 WITH CMBRS FAIDLEY, DICKENS, AND HILL NOT RAISING THEIR HANDS.

**C. Approve Update and Translate Procedural Rules Printed on the Back of City Council and Governing Body Workshop Agendas**

Mayor Poppa said the edits were made during their last Workshop and are included in the packet.

CMBR Faidley asked about the translation into Spanish. Mayor Poppa said they spoke at the Workshop to place a QR code on the back of the agenda to be able to translate it into many other languages.

CMBR Dickens said that he would like to see a translation into Spanish as QR codes are not always user friendly to some. He would like to see the Spanish translation printed on the agendas.

CMBR Hill said that most people have translation apps on their phones and there are so many different languages, and it is not necessary to translate into one when there are opportunities for any language.

CMBR Hage asked about the demographics of Roeland Parkers to see what the need is and whether there is a meaningful level of Spanish-speaking residents. She also asked about the cost of translation services, which is something they would then need to consider.

CMBR Raglow asked if there was an agreement to translate the agenda into Spanish. She recognized there is also a need for other languages and cost would play a role in that. She also agreed with CMBR Dickens that a QR code is not always in the forefront of someone's mind.

Mayor Poppa said they have the ability on the website to translate to other languages and they could create a hyperlink to translate into hundreds of other languages.

CMBR Dickens said they could also use Chat GPT, but they would need someone to verify its accuracy. Mayor Poppa said in his experience that translation costs have not been a hurdle.

CMBR Madigan asked for clarification on what would be included. Mayor Poppa said the first and second most spoken language in Roeland Park would be on the agenda and include a QR code and link that would direct to a page on the City's website that can be translated into other languages.

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE UPDATES AND TRANSLATION OF THE PROCEDURAL RULES AS INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA PACKET TO INCLUDE THE SECOND MOST SPOKEN LANGUAGE IN ROELAND PARK BASED ON CENSUS DATA TO BE PHYSICALLY ON THE PRINTED MATERIAL ALONG WITH A QR CODE AND LINK TO THE CITY'S WEBSITE TO TRANSLATE INTO ANY LANGUAGE ON THE SITE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**D. Approve Payton Smith to the Sustainability Committee**

CMBR Faidley said that Ms. Smith attended the last Sustainability Committee meeting. She added that Ms. Smith is a brand new resident of Roeland Park and part of the reason she moved here is because of the initiatives Roeland Park undertakes regarding sustainability. She has studied urban planning and sustainability issues. CMBR Faidley added that a lot of very dedicated young people are on the committee and is glad that Ms. Smith has come on board.

**MOTION:** CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR STOCKS SECONDED TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF PAYTON SMITH TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**E. Approve 2025 Streetlight and Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract Extension**

Public Works Director Scharff noted this contract extension is with Black & McDonald who has been the City's streetlight and traffic signal maintenance provider. He added that they have done an excellent job. The contract proposes a 3 percent cost increase.

CMBR Stocks asked if Black & McDonald monitored outages or is it the responsibility of the residents to report that. Public Works Director Scharff said Black & McDonald does manage any outages.

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2025 STREETLIGHT AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

**VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions**

**A. Ordinance 1069 - Chapter 9 - Municipal Court**

As discussed in Workshop there were no major changes to this ordinance and reflects an update to the pronouns.

**MOTION:** CMBR LERO MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 1069 - CHAPTER 9 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING MUNICIPAL COURT. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

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

### **A. 4<sup>TH</sup> Quarter Public Works Reports**

Public Works Director Scharff reported they are back to a full staff. Since they have moved into their new Public Works building, they have spent more time on building maintenance. Mr. Scharff also reviewed the time spent on park maintenance. He noted they collected 164 cubic yards of debris in the street sweeping program. The leaf collection program was delayed due to the recent snow event and two areas remain to be picked up. They are waiting for the leaves to thaw, and they will then be able to finish up the program.

Mr. Scharff also reviewed the upcoming projects that include the Johnson Drive/Roe Boulevard signal replacement, the El Monte sidewalk extension, and the Mission Road and Nall Avenue improvements.

CMBR Faidley asked if Nall and Mission will be under construction at the same time. Public Works Director Scharff believes that the Mission Road project will start later, and they are trying to transition that to when school is out for the summer. Nall is anticipated to begin around April.

### **B. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Public Safety Report**

Police Chief Honas reported there were 259 incidents in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter with 44 of them being U.C.R. and 223 being Non-U.C.R. Total incidents for the year were 848. He directed the Governing Body to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter thefts being high, which is attributed to a couple of the City's businesses who really hammered thefts with their loss prevention, and so his department was called out more frequently to make reports and arrests if someone was in custody. In the future his breakdown of location by arrests will identify businesses on the east and west sides of Roe to hopefully explain a little better the information provided. Chief Honas also reviewed the arrest demographics and numbers. Also included in his report were traffic enforcement incidents, which were also broken down by demographic. He noted that most of the traffic accidents were spread throughout the City and were mostly minor.

Currently the department is down two officers and Chief Honas has asked a couple of applicants to come back to see if they are still interested in the position. They continue to do a thorough job hiring.

Chief Honas said that Rango will be retiring. He is still with the Roeland Park Police Department. They are looking for after care and putting something together for his retirement which will be brought before the Council. He said the K-9 unit is very specific and a dedicated position that has a lot of components. He is looking into his officers to see who is interested and qualified to become the next K-9 handler.

CMBR Raglow asked if they could have a retirement party for Rango. Police Chief Honas said they could definitely do something for him.

CMBR Madigan said they should make it a community event as Rango has been such great PR for the City.

Police Chief Honas said that Rango is the best partner he ever had and has been a great asset to the City.

**C. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024 Objectives Progress Report**

City Manager Moody said the City completed two of the three 2024 objectives. The only one not completed was the consistent signage within the parks and is scheduled to be complete the first quarter of 2025.

They were able to take a big bite into the outstanding 2017 objectives and significant efforts have been put in to bring them to completion.

The 2024 objectives completed reflect an investment of \$14,000 and are under the \$18,000 budgeted. There were also major initiatives that were not objectives that were also worked on in 2024. Four of the objectives from prior years they will be working on this year along with the nine adopted objectives for 2025 and the hope is to be able to accomplish all 13 of them this year.

**D. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Strategic Plan Progress Report**

City Manager Moody said the Strategic Plan was adopted in 2015 and included 5 “Goal” areas and 17 “Strategy” areas. They have catalogued 196 initiatives during this 10-year period, which amounts to a \$36 million investment in their community. The catalogue of those strategies is exceptionally long and is a testament to what they put down in writing and then challenged the staff and elected officials to implement strategies to move the goals forward which yielded those results. City Manager Moody said that one of the objectives for 2025 is to update the Strategic Plan. This will be the last report on this Strategic Plan.

CMBR Faidley said as they are redoing the Strategic Plan it is an opportunity to continue some of the same types of areas that were previously included such as collaboration with other communities and other areas across the region. City Manager Moody said that many municipal strategic plans have common themes, and he would anticipate the areas of importance of ten years ago to be similar to the areas of importance for the next ten years. The strategies may be different, and they will learn about those as they engage the public and go through the process.

CMBR Faidley noted that to date that funding for the Nall Park improvements with Nall Park has not been identified nor has the connector trail to Nall Park. They have also not secured any funding for the reconstruction of Nall from 51<sup>st</sup> Street north to the dead-end cul-de-sac. City Manager Moody responded that they had applied for STP funds, but they did not score high enough. They also do not have a high enough traffic count to be eligible for CARS funding. This leaves them in a position where the project may be funded entirely locally.

**E. Asst. City Administrator Comments**

Ms. Jones-Lacy stated that dual factor authentication will be going into effect. She asked the Governing Body to download the app so they will be in compliance with their standards.

**F. City Manager Comments**



City Manager Moody said he did a quick search of their census data and 4.3 percent of the population in Roeland Park speaks Spanish.

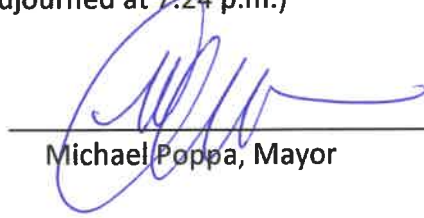
**X. Adjournment**

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:24 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Michael Poppa, Mayor