

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51st STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
April 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
Faidley
Stocks

Finance
Dickens
Hage

Safety
Hill
Raglow

Public Works
Madigan
Lero

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 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 with CMBR Stocks attending online. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Felzien, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Honas, and City Clerk Nielsen.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

I. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1065
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes April 7, 2025
- C. Approve Settlement Agreement with Aquilla

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

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

- A. 1st Quarter Social Media Report - Katie Garcia

Katie Garcia, the City's Public Information Officer, provided her quarterly report on the City's metrics related to social media. She said they were very engaged with the winter and severe weather. The City continues to send out weekly e-mails and they have a 53 percent open rate with desktops continuing to be the primary device used. They are also having a good response to using LinkedIn. Ms. Garcia then reviewed some of the social media posts during the first quarter and the community engagement with those posts.

Mayor Poppa thanked Ms. Garcia for her report and for making them look good online.

IV. Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's Report.

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. MARC - Bike & Pedestrian

CMBR Faidley said the highlight of their meeting was the news of the update to the AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) Bike Guide, 5th Edition. This new update conforms to the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) with a focus on increasing the comfort level of cyclists and their separation from vehicular traffic. The area is advancing rapidly, and new data is changing the way they look at things. CMBR Faidley's report is enclosed in the agenda packet.

B. Community Foundation

The Community Foundation report is available in the agenda packet.

C. Parks Committee Update

Sarah Martin, Chair of the Parks Committee, stated they are focusing on a redo of the plantings at R Park. The original landscaping around the See Red Run sculpture is not doing well, and many plants have died. She also said they are expanding the area around the whirly-gig sculpture to include a "grass walk" with native plants, grasses and perennials more consistent with the park's master plan. The area will provide a more sensory experience. Ms. Martin also shared the committee's proposed checklist of what they want to accomplish and associated timelines.

CMBR Hill asked what would be planted around See Red Run once the barberry bushes are removed as they were planted to deter climbing and activity around the sculpture. Ms. Martin said the plan is to keep the original idea and keep the plantings standoffish. They anticipate some varieties of sedum. The barberry bushes are being replaced as they attract ticks. She added that they have not decided what to plant around the electric box.

Mayor Poppa asked about the area around the whirly-gig. Ms. Martin said the area is to be expanded and pull away from the art sculpture. Mayor Poppa asked if there were plans or drawings that could be shared with the Governing Body. Ms. Martin said they are hand drawn but will share them with the Council following the meeting. Mayor Poppa also asked about maintenance of the new landscaping and if the new irrigation would be available to them. Ms. Martin said the Park volunteers will do the initial watering, but they do not anticipate much maintenance beyond year two. The irrigation system

is not intended for the “grass walk” as that is to be native vegetation and drought tolerant. Mayor Poppa asked if Parks has consulted with the Arts Committee regarding the landscaping around the sculpture. Ms. Martin said they did work with Sustainability, but did not reach out to Arts. She did say that one of the committee’s goals this year is to liaise with other committees and get their feedback as well. Mayor Poppa said the Arts Committee does want to discourage touching of the art piece and for landscaping to be a barrier around that.

Mayor Poppa asked to put a pause on the landscape changes until the Arts Committee has a chance to look at this, and then requested the item be brought back to the Council.

CMBR Faidley stated that Ms. Martin and the Parks Committee have already picked up the plants and the volunteers are signed up for this coming weekend. Ms. Martin said it was her understanding it was okay to move forward with the project. She said she would immediately reach out to the Arts Committee.

CMBR Lero said he would hate to push this out to where they could lose out on the weather helping that process along. He said the sooner they move on this, the better.

CMBR Hill said the concept idea is beautiful. Going forward she requested this type of thing come to the Governing Body first as they might have different concepts for what they want to see in the parks and do not want to create bigger problems. She also said she found out about this on Facebook, which is not how she wants to get her news, and requested the Governing Body be told ahead of time.

City Manager Moody said the amount of landscaping that has been added in the parks over the past seven to eight years has been significant. They are sensitive to the talk about plantings as they do not like to see their efforts in creating landscapes fail. He said this does not represent the efforts of Public Works. Mr. Moody said it is important to be cognizant that even when they are doing these projects with volunteers that is just the initial effort, and the continuing efforts fall to Public Works.

Mayor Poppa said he does not want to stop progress, but he does want to hear from the Arts Committee. He said this is a change of landscape and will alter the viewing experience.

CMBR Hage asked if there is any education about how this space is meant to be used. They want R Park to be accessible for all and she is unsure of the message of trying to keep children or others away from certain elements. Ms. Martin said it has always been their intention to have educational elements. Her vision for the sensory experience is more the sound, the view, and the ability to touch the grasses. She said educational opportunities are key.

CMBR Madigan said the committee has ordered plants and asked what they are suggesting they would do with them. Mayor Poppa said the Arts Committee meets in two weeks and he would like to get their feedback.

There was general discussion that the plants might not hold that long.

There was consensus to allow the Parks Committee to move forward pending input from the Arts Committee, who Ms. Martin would contact following the meeting. Also, before Parks ordered signage, the Governing Body would like to be able to give their input.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business discussed.

VII. New Business

A. Approve Consulting Agreement for Strategic Plan Update

Mayor Poppa said the Co-founder of PorchLight Insights, Kate Bender, was present at the meeting and that they are looking forward to working with her on the strategic plan.

City Manager Moody said that PorchLight was chosen by the election committee, and the agreement is attached to the agenda packet. The agreement with PorchLight will update the City's strategic plan, create a park master plan, and creates a mission and vision setting as well.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSULTING AGREEMENT FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE WITH PORCHLIGHT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

B. Approve Proposed 2026 Solid Waste Assessment

Mayor Poppa stated this item was discussed at their last Workshop meeting. City Manager Moody said no changes have been made since the Governing Body's last review.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2026 SOLID WASTE ASSESSMENT. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

C. Approve 2026 Storm Water Utility Rate and Special Assessments

This item was also discussed at the last Workshop and no changes have been made since that time.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HAGE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2026 STORM WATER UTILITY RATE AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

D. Approve Proposed Pay Scale for 2026

This item was also discussed at the last Workshop and no changes have been made since then.

CMBR Hage asked if they still felt their salaries are competitive as they are down two police officers. City Manager Moody said they do feel like this pay scale keeps them in a market competitive position.

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2026 PAY SCALE, TAKING EFFECT 1/1/26, FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF EMPLOYEE MERIT INCREASES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

E. Appoint Brandon Martin to the Sustainability Committee; Appoint Carrie Paulette, Jen Hill, Phil Baniewicz, Deb Settle and Lisa Brunner to the Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

CMBR Madigan asked if anyone from the Sustainability Committee is on the Strategic Planning Committee as that was one of their goals. Mayor Poppa said they do not have someone as of yet.

CMBR Faidley said she would pass that along and that it did not get on the agenda at their last meeting.

MOTION: CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF BRANDON MARTIN TO THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AND CARRIE PAULETTE, JEN HILL, PHIL BANIEWICZ, DEB SETTLE, AND LISA BRUNNER TO THE AD-HOC STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Ordinance 1073 - Chapter 11 - Public Offenses

Police Chief Honas stated there have been no changes since the Governing Body last discussed this item.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1073 - CHAPTER 11 - PUBLIC OFFENSES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

IX. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session held.

X. Reports of City Officials

A. 2025 1st Quarter Objectives Progress Report

City Manager Moody said they have made good progress on all their objectives for 2025 to date. Their individual status is available in the report in the agenda packet.

CMBR Madigan asked where they stood on the bus stop. Public Works Director Scharff is collecting cost estimates and options for the covered bus benches and that will be presented at the next Workshop.

CMBR Madigan asked if the transit authority is interested in adding anything to this. City Manager Moody said they indicated that the ridership in Roeland Park does not meet their requirement to provide a covered structure, which then it falls on the City if they want to do something.

B. 2025 1st Quarter Public Works Report

Public Works Director Scharff reviewed his report beginning with a comparison of staff hours compared to last year. There are a lot more staff hours, especially with the winter weather. He reviewed the accomplishments his department had with maintenance and the work on green spaces. He added that they are spending a lot of hours on greenspace and added the caveat that with the amount of landscaping going in it is not a burden on his department, but it does take away hours trying to initiate work for other items. He also reviewed the upcoming projects they have.

CMBR Faidley asked what a "ghost plot" is regarding applying for a property easement and whether that meant no owner is indicated. City Attorney Felzien said it applies to property with no surviving heirs. The City must publish their intent and to serve the "heirs," existing or not, and thus the term ghost tract.

C. 2025 1st Quarter Public Safety Report

Police Chief Honas noted that the UCR reports have increased related to thefts and attributed it to businesses reporting more crime and people were leaving their cars unattended in the winter weather. He noted his department apprehended an individual in Roeland Park that was committing crimes over the metro area. They do apprehensions for other agencies if the person is in Roeland Park even if the individual is not from the city. His officers had an increase in DUI arrests and served warrants for other agencies. Traffic citations were down in general as the officers were not able to do as much enforcement as they were working other cases. There were no major crashes and just some fender benders with minor injuries. He noted that their police clerk is leaving Roeland Park, but will be staying on part-time and one officer is leaving patrol to take over the clerk position. Chief Honas said they are continuing to look for officers who are highly qualified and the right fit for Roeland Park.

Mayor Poppa requested that the UCR definitions be included in future reports.

D. Assistant City Administrator's Report


Ms. Jones-Lacy said the ribbon cutting for the Nall Park Trail will be held April 26 at 10 a.m. It will be a festive event, but they realize that rain is predicted. The Arts Committee will be there and there will also be family activities, a donut truck, and images on display of the master plan for Nall Park.

CMBR Faidley asked where the ribbon cutting would be in the park. Ms. Jones-Lacy believed it would be towards the base of the trail.

XI. Adjournment

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 p.m.)


Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk
Michael Poppa, Mayor