

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51st STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
June 16, 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. CMBR Hill was absent, and all other Governing Body members were present in person. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Felzien, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Police Chief Honas, Parks and Rec Superintendent Brungardt, and City Clerk Nielsen. Public Works Director Scharff was present virtually.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

I. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1069
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes June 2, 2025

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

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

A. JoCo Co-Responders

Mayor Poppa introduced Jessica Murphy, the supervisor for the Johnson County Mental Health Co-Responder Program as well as Krista Walker, the evening supervisor, and Tanner Fortney, the assistant director of Johnson County Mental Health.

City Manager Moody said when the program began Roeland Park was a part of Northeast Johnson County communities that grouped together and shared one co-responder. Prairie Village and Leawood moved out of the group and now share their own responder. In 2023, the original group added a second co-responder that was made possible through a grant, which will carry them through October 2025. Mr. Moody stated they will continue to apply for the grant, but there is no guarantee. The City has, therefore, budgeted for a situation where the grant is not extended.

Mayor Poppa asked Ms. Murphy for an update to the co-responder program. Ms. Murphy stated that Roeland Park had 92 documented calls for service in the 2023-2024 timespan. After meeting with Chief Honas, it was determined that there were more calls and a change to the reporting system will now reflect more accurate numbers. To date, Roeland Park has had 75 calls for service because of the change in the way calls are reported.

The co-responder is a Johnson County Mental Health position and is someone embedded inside of the police departments. Their offices are primarily out of Merriam and Mission, but they do rotate. The responders monitor the police scanners to keep aware of situations in case they are needed. They have branded themselves and wear maroon shirts and have thus earned the nickname "The Maroons." If an officer needs assistance, they can ask for a "Maroon" instead of having to remember a name.

The co-responders provide a multitude of services and not only 911 response. They do outreach with police officers to a home or through a phone call after an incident. They follow up with those they have contacted to make sure their needs are being met and whether the resources have been helpful or if the crisis is continuing.

Ms. Murphy said they have been discussing the future of the program. They have partnered with Judge Torline in Shawnee and started a Special Services docket for individuals who have a special need. They send a co-responder who might not have come to them through an emergency call but might need social services support and they will also follow up with them. They also do trauma follow up for those affected by an accident, a home break in, or domestic violence and the like. Ms. Murphy said they are working with Police Chief Honas to continue to grow the program.

CMBR Faidley asked if their portion without grant funding would be \$23,000 a year. City Manager Moody said he will look to clarify those numbers.

Mayor Poppa asked whether the co-responders follow up with those experiencing trauma. Ms. Murphy said they check in with those who have lost someone due to a suicide fatality or an overdose because that loss is more complicated and typically unexpected. They partner with the Suicide Awareness Survivors Support group in Missouri and Kansas. When they are made aware of an incident, they send a handwritten condolence card and will follow up with a call, as well as provide resources.

Ms. Murphy said when she looked back over the last two years and the 140 incidents they responded to only one ended up in an arrest. She said that this speaks volumes to the Roeland Park Police Department in that they are oriented to seek treatment instead of jail.

CMBR Hage asked if there is any diversion between 988 and 911 calls, and whether the co-responders take 988 calls. Ms. Murphy said they have a crisis line inhouse. Of the 40,000 calls they receive annually, only 3 percent are 988 calls. They do have collaboration with them and are looking to expand that.

IV. Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's Report.

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. MARC - First Tier Suburbs Coalition

The meeting notes are attached to the agenda packet. CMBR Faidley said the next meeting will be held Friday, July 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Roeland Park Community Center. A continental breakfast will be served, and the meetings are usually finished by 10 a.m.

B. Ad-Hoc Historical Committee

The committee's meeting notes are also attached to the agenda packet. CMBR Madigan said at their May meeting they approved the verbiage for the 75th Anniversary sign. He asked the Council vote on that language.

CMBR Faidley asked where the sign would be placed. CMBR Madigan said that would be up to City Manager Moody and Public Works Director Scharff.

CMBR Hage said the information is an important part of their City's history and they want to acknowledge the work the City has done to try to rectify the future, but she expected the 75th anniversary sign to have more pride and a celebratory tone to it.

CMBR Madigan said it was designed to outline the founding of Roeland Park and to acknowledge at the time of the City's founding it had some problems. They are working on a website and will have much more information there. He said this has been a slow process and would like to have it finalized by the end of the month and asked the Councilmembers to keep that in mind if they are suggesting changes.

CMBR Faidley said the tone of the sign is talking about the founding of the City and you cannot separate that from redlining, and said this language does a good job reflecting that.

Mayor Poppa asked if this would just be for the 75th Anniversary and CMBR Madigan said it would.

MOTION: CMBR STOCKS MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE THE VERBIAGE FOR THE 75th ANNIVERSARY SIGN. (THE MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND WILL BE PLACED ON THE JULY 7, 2025, CITY COUNCIL AGENDA.)

CMBR Madigan also added that the committee has decided on three metal interpretative signs for Carpenter Park. The language for the signs is detailed in the agenda packet.

Mayor Poppa said that the Ad Hoc Historical Committee has worked diligently on the signs for years and he is glad that it is finally coming to fruition. He thanked CMBR Madigan for the hard work done by the committee.

C. Board of Zoning Appeals

Ms. Jones-Lacy said the BZA met on June 3rd to discuss two variance requests. One property owner requested a corner yard fence be moved closer into the right-of-way. the BZA denied that variance stating that it did not meet the unique qualifications. The second request was from Oak Grove Assembly Church requesting to install a 60-foot illuminated cross. Again, the board denied this variance in that it is not a unique situation.

CMBR Faidley asked if the cross could be spotlighted from the ground. Ms. Jones-Lacy said it can be, but it just cannot be internally illuminated. Ms. Jones-Lacy said there is a link to the BZA meeting in the agenda packet.

VI. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business discussed.

VII. New Business

A. Approve Co-Responder Services MOU with Johnson County

City Manager Moody said in follow-up to their original discussion, the estimate for Roeland Park's portion for the co-responder program would be \$59,000.

CMBR Hage asked if what they vote on reflects an increase in staffing costs. City Manager Moody replied that it does include an increase in cost, which has been significant over the last couple of years and is reflected in that \$59,000 estimate.

MOTION: CMBR HAGE MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR CO-RESPONDER SERVICES WITH JOHNSON COUNTY. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

B. Appoint Task Order for 51st Street Project

City Manager Moody said they are coming at this with a fiscally conservative approach. They looked at the Bike Pedestrian Master Plan and what that contemplated. They reviewed the scope of the project and found it most advantageous to install another 8-foot wide multi-purpose trail. This will be a 2026 CARS project. The specific design options will be reviewed with the Governing Body for their final design decision.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE TASK ORDER FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE 51st STREET PROJECT. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

C. Appoint Joe Schramp to the Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

MOTION: CMBR RAGLOW MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECOND TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOE SCHRAMP TO THE AD-HOC STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

A. Ordinance 1074 - Chapter 12 - Public Spaces & 1075 - Parks Committee to Chapter 1

Ms. Jones-Lacy stated following the review by the Governing Body at a prior Workshop, there were a few questions remaining. One was regarding the e-bike and other mobility devices in parks and on trails. She has included a definition of Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes for the ordinance. She suggested they allow Class 1 on unpaved trails specifically, and Classes 1 and 2 in parks. At direction of Council, the language is not to be so restrictive. Ms. Jones-Lacy added that an electric mobility device includes scooters, hover boards, and other electric things. Those definitions have remained in the ordinance. She also recommended adding a speed limit of 15 miles per hour. She adds that this will be difficult to police as nobody is actively monitoring the devices used.

CMBR Lero said regarding the Nall Park trail, the riders care for that trail and will do their own policing.

CMBR Hage asked if there needed to be some clarity around places such as play areas or the traffic garden, and whether to insert language that riders not be within close proximity to children's play spaces.

City Manager Moody said he was at R Park and noticed young children using a scooter and a razor at the traffic garden and they did not interfere with other children using the space.

Mayor Poppa asked if the term "proximity" needed to be defined further. City Attorney Felzien said it would be best to specify the number of feet. He also felt that "children's play spaces" should be specified.

Ms. Jones-Lacy said in Section 5.D, pertaining to micro-mobility devices, they recommend striking the Traffic Garden in R Park and listing the speed limit.

CMBR Lero recommended putting speed limits on the new signs in Nall Park when they are added.

CMBR Raglow asked how they can denote the "Speed Limit 34" sign as art and not an actual sign.

CMBR Madigan also suggested adding "Slow, children playing" signs. Mayor Poppa asked that CMBR Madigan suggest that to the Parks Committee and have them make the recommendation to the Governing Body.

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR LERO SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1074 RELATED TO CHAPTER 12 - PUBLIC SPACES, WITH THE VERBIAGE OF "EXCEPT FOR THE TRAFFIC GARDEN" STRICKEN IN SECTION 12 - VEHICLES IN CITY PARKS, SUBSECTION D. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

Ms. Jones-Lacy said the changes to Ordinance 1075 takes the Park Board language and puts it in Chapter 5 with the rest of the City's committees.

MOTION: CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1075, MOVING PARKS COMMITTEE LANGUAGE TO CHAPTER 1 WITH THE CITY'S OTHER COMMITTEES. (THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.)

IX. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session held.

X. Reports of City Officials

City Attorney Felzien introduced Roeland Park's summer law clerk, Katherine Plummer-Reed, a student at the University of Kansas School of Law.

The Governing Body welcomed her in joining them.

Ms. Jones-Lacy said she sent an e-mail and invited everyone for coffee to meet with the Public Art Master Plan consultant at 9 a.m. next Friday. The consultant does want to interview the Governing Body one-on-one to understand their own vision for art in the community. She hopes that everyone can come.

Police Chief Honas said the department will be co-hosting Coffee with a Cop on Friday, June 27th, 10 a.m. at Price Chopper. They will be providing coffee and donuts.

Mayor Poppa asked if they had done this before. Chief Honas said they have in the past, but that the Johnson County Sheriff's Department reached out to them, so they will be there also.


Parks and Rec Supervisor Brungardt said there will be a tree dedication Saturday by the gazebo at 9 a.m.

CMBR Faidley added that the community garden has already harvested 135 pounds of produce.

XI. Adjournment

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

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 6:57 p.m.)


Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk
Michael Poppa, Mayor