



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| AGENDA SECTION | CONSENT      |
| MEETING DATE   | JUNE 8, 2026 |

|                                                                                                                             |                                                  |                                                                             |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| ITEM:                                                                                                                       | Authorization to Purchase Replacement Toro 5910. |                                                                             |  |
| Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich                                                                                             |                                                  |                                                                             |  |
| DEPARTMENT: Public Works                                                                                                    |                                                  | BY/DATE: David Cullen / May 1st, 2026                                       |  |
| <b>CORE CITY STRATEGIES:</b> <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i> |                                                  |                                                                             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity                                                       |                                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Quality Public Spaces                                                              |                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Resilient and Prosperous Economy                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone                                                            |                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive and Connected Community                  |  |

### BACKGROUND

The Columbia Heights park system presents unique challenges for mowing operations, including steep terrain, wide open spaces, tight and confined areas, and geographically dispersed park locations throughout the city.

In 1996, the City purchased its first winged mower, a Toro Groundsmaster 5910—a diesel-powered, cab-enclosed, triple-deck mower with a 16-foot cutting width. Prior to 1996, during periods of heavy turf growth, crews were often unable to keep up with mowing demands. This resulted in frequent overtime and significant time spent raking and disposing of large volumes of grass clippings, reducing overall productivity. The introduction of the winged mower significantly improved efficiency, reducing bulk mowing time from approximately 54 hours per week to 25 hours per week.

The Toro 5910 is equipped with a Traction-Plus system that enhances performance on slopes by detecting wheel slippage and automatically lifting the uphill wing deck to transfer weight and improve traction. The wing decks are also designed with a mechanical breakaway feature. If a deck strikes a stationary object, it releases to prevent damage and can be reset by the operator by backing up. In addition, the wing decks automatically lock into the transport position when raised, improving safety and ease of operation.

Industry standards, along with the City's historical experience, indicate a typical replacement cycle for this type of mower of approximately five years or 2,000 operating hours to maintain reliability and performance.

### SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

The most recent Toro 5910 was purchased in 2018 and currently has approximately 3020 operating hours. At five years of age, the unit is within the expected service life and aligns with the City's typical replacement cycle for this type of equipment.

Beginning in 2015, EPA Tier 4 Final emissions standards required diesel engines to include full emissions systems, including aftertreatment components such as diesel particulate filters (DPF). While these systems reduce emissions, they also increase equipment complexity and have, at times, resulted in longer repair durations and increased downtime.

As mowing operations have evolved from multiple smaller, less efficient mowers to reliance on larger, high-capacity winged mowers, the City has become increasingly dependent on this type of equipment to maintain park turf. Equipment breakdowns, extended repair times, and periods of heavy rainfall continue to impact the City's ability to keep up with mowing demands.

The City has limited backup capacity if the Toro 5910 is down for repairs, creating challenges in maintaining service levels and meeting resident expectations during peak growing conditions.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the purchase of a new Toro 5910 mower from MTI Distributing through the State of Minnesota cooperative contract (#284699) in the amount of \$167,188.98.

Staff also recommends retaining the current Unit #0240 rather than trading or selling it. The unit 0240 will serve as a backup when the primary mower is out of service for maintenance—particularly during peak mowing months when extended repair times can impact operations. In addition, the backup unit will provide supplemental mowing capacity following significant rain events and during periods of rapid turf growth.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):**

MOTION: Motion to approve the purchase of a Toro 5910 mower from MTI Distributing through the State of Minnesota cooperative contract (#284699) in the amount of \$167,188.98, fund 431.5200.45180 and to authorize retention of Unit 0240 for use as a backup and supplemental mowing unit.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

MTI Distributing Toro Quote

T-755(5) State Contract Release

T-7755(5) State Contract Price Toro