

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Worksession was held on May 15, 2023 at the 1301 81st Ave NE, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Nelson

Councilmember Ken Wendling

Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff

Councilmember Lisa Dircks

Councilmember April Moran

STAFF PRESENT

Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

Police Chief Josh Antoine

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Municipal Cannabis Discussion (Goodboe-Bisschoff)

Administrator Buchholtz stated that Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff asked that a discussion on municipal cannabis be scheduled for a work session. He stated that the proposed legislation (HF 100/SF 73) would permit a City to establish, own and operate a municipal cannabis store.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff noted that it was premature to discuss this topic. She stated that a municipal cannabis store would provide the City with control over the sale of cannabis within the corporate limits of Spring Lake Park.

Administrator Buchholtz outlined a number of difficulties with operating a municipal cannabis store including 1) marijuana remains a banned Schedule 1 drug by the Federal Government; 2) marijuana sales are primarily a cash business, creating financial and crime risks; 3) whether LMCIT will insure a municipal cannabis operation; and 4) the City's lack of a retail presence after the closure of the municipal liquor store.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff stated that there are significant unknowns related to cannabis and recommended a moratorium be established to provide the City with time to establish regulations related to cannabis products. Administrator Buchholtz agreed that a moratorium would provide valuable time for the City Council to study this issue further.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to direct staff to draft an interim ordinance establishing a moratorium on the sale, testing, manufacturing, cultivating, growing, transporting, delivery and distribution of cannabis products in the City.

B. Public Works Director Position Planning

Administrator Buchholtz stated that Public Works Director Randall intends to retire in early 2024, with his last day of work the end of 2023. Buchholtz stated that he would like to start a hiring process for a new Public Works Director with an anticipated September/October start date. He said this would allow for overlap between the new Director and Director Randall, ensuring a seamless transition.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to direct the City Administrator to begin the hiring process for the Public Works Director position.

C. Police Chief Professional Development Request

Chief Antoine stated that he is exploring the possibility of completing his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration. He inquired if he could redirect \$3,000 budgeted annually for his attendance at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference toward tuition. He stated that the Criminal Justice Administration degree will benefit the City by strengthening his leadership and public administration skills in managing the day to day operations of the Department.

Administrator Buchholtz noted that this would have no impact on the budget as the funds are already in the budget but would be used in a different way.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to reallocate the funding in the Police Department budget for the IACP Conference toward his tuition for his Criminal Justice Administration degree until such time as the degree is completed.

D. Administrator Counter-Offer Review

Administrator Buchholtz noted that he had been offered a City Manager job in another community. He said that Mayor Nelson and he discussed a counter-offer that would allow him to remain in Spring Lake Park. He stated that the offer was to change the salary grade for the Administrator position to Grade 21 in the pay plan and to grant him an additional week of vacation each year. He said this would be on the agenda for the May 15 meeting.

Councilmembers expressed their satisfaction with Administrator Buchholtz's job performance and their desire to retain Buchholtz as Administrator.

3. REPORT

A. City Council and Staff Reports – None

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the work session at 6:36 pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer