

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Regular was held on June 2, 2025 at the City Hall, at 7:00 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Wendling called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff

Councilmember Lisa Dircks

Councilmember April Moran

Acting Mayor Ken Wendling

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Robert Nelson

STAFF PRESENT

Sergeant Karen Fiske, Public Works Director George Linngren, Building Official Jeff Baker, Recreation Director Anne Scanlon, Attorney John Thames, Planner Phil Carlson, Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

VISITORS

Luke Fischer

Executive Director League of Minnesota Cities

Wendy Berry

Vice President League of Minnesota Cities Board

Ben Kieffer

546 Rosedale Road NE

Spring Lake Park MN

Kurt Kemmet

965 83rd Avenue NE

Spring Lake Park MN

Abby Rehberger

8406 Sunset Road NE

Spring Lake Park MN

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Administrator Buchholtz requested that Item 6D be added Right of Way Application for Action Construction Serves/Met Transit – 81st Avenue NE & University Avenue NE.

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

- A. Recognition of Outgoing LMC Board Member Daniel Buchholtz – Luke Fischer, LMC Executive Director

Luke Fischer, Executive Director of the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), expressed appreciation to the City Council and particularly to Administrator Daniel Buchholtz for his service on the League's Board. Speaking alongside League Vice President Wendy Berry,

Fischer highlighted the role of the LMC, which represents nearly all of Minnesota's 856 cities, ranging from large cities like Minneapolis to very small ones like Barry, with just 19 residents. Mr. Fischer emphasized the importance of board members like Dan, who provide essential leadership and support for the League's mission. Fischer praised Dan's dedication, noting his dual service as both a League board member and Metro Cities President, and commended his leadership, work ethic, and long-standing commitment to public service.

Wendy Berry, Vice President of the League of Minnesota Cities Board and a City Council member from West St. Paul, expressed her appreciation for Dan's service on the League's Board of Directors. She praised Dan for his active and dedicated participation since joining the board in July, 2024. She highlighted his impactful work during the legislative session, particularly on housing and zoning preemption issues, where he engaged directly with legislative committees.

Ms. Berry noted Dan's role in strengthening the relationship between Metro Cities and the League. She commended him as a strong advocate for cities statewide, especially in the metro area and Spring Lake Park, and thanked him for his contributions.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2025 City Council Meeting
- B. Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2025 City Council Work Session
- C. Contractor's Licenses
- D. Approval of Right of Way Application – Action Construction Services/Met Transit – 81st Avenue & University Avenue NE

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to approve Consent Agenda.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Public Works Report

Public Works Director Linngren provided several updates to the Council. He shared positive news that boulevard tree removal due to emerald ash borer is nearing completion, with approximately 40 trees remaining on Hayes and Garfield Streets. He said once those are addressed, the City will begin notifying private property owners about the need to remove diseased or dead trees on their lots, giving them 30–60 days to comply, with flexibility based on circumstances. Director Linngren stated stump grinding for removed trees is ongoing and should be completed before fall, with residents encouraged to water newly seeded areas.

Director Linngren said preparations are underway for Tower Days, including cleanup and participation in the parade, where the City's street sweeper will be featured. He noted that the sweeper will also be stationed at the Coon Creek Watershed tent at Lakeside Park on Sunday to promote clean water efforts.

Linngren reported that Terrace Park is nearing completion, with grading and final inspections underway. He thanked the City Council for approving the purchase of a new Hot Box, which allows asphalt to be stored and heated for up to 48 hours.

B. Code Enforcement Report

Building Official Baker provided an update of Code Enforcement activities. He stated that with the recent hiring of Nick Anderson, fire inspections are back in full swing.

Building Official Baker stated that one of the major challenges has been correcting long-standing addressing issues; for example, at the old Life Prep Academy building, formerly identified as 1628 County Highway 10. He said that the current numbering system was inconsistent and created confusion for deliveries and emergency response. Building Official Baker said that the Code Department has been working with the County to correct addresses which includes new suite designations. He said the change will take effect on August 1, 2025.

Building Official Baker said a similar issue was identified at other properties, such as 7703 Central Avenue NE. He noted that the updates will enhance public safety and clarity for businesses.

8. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 2025-21, Approving a Variance for 965 83rd Ave NE to Allow a Privacy Fence in the Front Yard Exceeding Four Feet in Height

Administrator Buchholtz reported that Kurtiss Kemmet of 965 83rd Avenue submitted a variance request to replace an existing chain link fence in his front yard with a six-foot privacy fence, exceeding the standard four-foot height limit. He said the Planning Commission held a public hearing on May 27, reviewed the request and supporting analysis, and recommended approval with conditions:

- The fence shall be located no closer than 17 feet from the back of the curb to stay outside the city right-of-way.
- The fence must be constructed with durable, residential-grade materials like vinyl, cedar, or treated wood and maintained in good condition.
- A building permit must be obtained before construction.

Acting Mayor Wendling inquired whether the only concern raised by the Planning Commission during their review of the variance request was related to the fence height and the condition requiring it to be set back 17 feet from the back of the curb.

Administrator Buchholtz explained that the primary concern was ensuring the proposed fence would not obstruct the site triangle, which it does not. He noted the property is unique in that the house faces 83rd Avenue, while the garage faces Laddie Road. He stated that the proposed six-foot fence would be located behind the garage, leaving the front of the house and intersection area open and unobstructed.

Motion made by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff to approve Resolution 2025-21, Approving a Variance for 965 83rd Ave NE to Allow a Privacy Fence in the Front Yard Exceeding Four Feet in Height.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

B. Ordinance 504, Amending the Spring Lake Park Zoning Code to Add Sports Performance Training Center Use

Planner Phil Carlson presented an ordinance amendment to add "Sports Performance Training Center" as a conditional use in the Industrial Zoning District. He said the change was prompted by a request from Optimize Physical Therapy, which seeks to occupy the former Rise building at 8406 Sunset Road. He said since this specific use is not currently listed in the code, staff reviewed similar zoning allowances in other cities and found it appropriate to add the use with defined standards. He noted that while the change was initiated for this specific location, it would apply to all properties in the Industrial district.

Attorney Thames provided a brief supplement to Planner Carlson's comments regarding the ordinance amendment for Sports Performance Training Centers. He explained that they are recommending a minor clarification to the definition language to ensure it distinguishes this use from a typical assembly use. He said that staff proposes adding to the first sentence that "tournaments and competitions may be held only occasionally and must be accessory to the primary training use." Attorney Thames stated that ensures the use remains consistent with the intent of the Industrial Zoning District, which does not permit general assembly-type uses.

Motion made by Mayor Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff to approve Ordinance 504, Amending the Spring Lake Park Zoning Code to Add Sports Performance Training Center Use as amended.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

C. Resolution 2025-22, Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 504

Motion made by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff to approve Resolution 2025-22, Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 504.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

D. Resolution 2025-23, Approving a Conditional Use Permit for Optimize Physical Therapy to Operate a Sports Performance Training Center at 8406 Sunset Road NE

Planner Carlson stated that Abby Rehberger owner of Optimize Physical Therapy submitted a conditional use permit request, which was reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission. He said that staff addressed key considerations during their review. He noted that those considerations included parking and the adaptive reuse of an existing building. Planner Carlson stated that staff recommends approval of the Conditional Use Permit.

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to approve Resolution 2025-23, Approving a Conditional Use Permit for Optimize Physical Therapy to Operate a Sports Performance Training Center at 8406 Sunset Road N.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorization to Solicit Quotes for Terrace Park Tennis and Basketball Court Pavement Replacement

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the staff would like to move forward with preparing the necessary documents to obtain quotes for the rebuild of both the basketball court and the tennis court. He stated the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the proposal and recommended that, instead of rebuilding the tennis courts as-is, the City repurpose the space by resurfacing and striping it for pickleball use.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired if tennis would still be available to the residents. Administrator Buchholtz stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation that there would be no tennis court at Terrace Park, noting that the tennis courts are available at the High School.

Councilmember Moran inquired about the cost difference between the tennis court and putting in the pickleball courts. Administrator Buchholtz stated that the cost will be for stripping and the placement of the posts for the nets.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that staff's request is to solicit quotes for the reconstruction of the asphalt surface. Councilmember Dircks concurred, requesting that the issue of the stripping the courts be added to a future work session agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to approve Authorization to Solicit Quotes for Terrace Park Tennis and Basketball Court Pavement Replacement.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

10. REPORTS

A. Attorney's Report

None

B. Engineer's Report

Report accepted as presented.

C. Administrator Report

Administrator Buchholtz provided a brief update, highlighting that the Tower Days parade will take place on Thursday. He said the parade route maps have been posted on both the Tower Days website and the City's Facebook page. He said while the route remains unchanged from previous years, residents should expect traffic disruptions as streets will be closed for parade staging between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Administrator Buchholtz noted the streets will reopen immediately after the parade concludes. He added that the weekend's Tower Days festivities, including the Lions' programming on Saturday and Community Day on Sunday, will make for a wonderful weekend.

11. OTHER

A. Closed Session - Consideration of the Purchase and the Lease of Real Property at 8478 and 8480-8492 Central Avenue Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(c)3

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to close the City Council meeting to Sequentially for Consideration of the Purchase and the Lease of Real Property at 8478 and 8480-8492 Central Avenue Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(c)3 and to discuss Labor Negotiation Strategies Pursuant to M.S. 13D.03, subd. 1(b).

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

Meeting closed at 7:37 PM.

Meeting reconvened at 8:17 PM

Attorney Thames stated that the City Council met in closed session to discuss Consideration of the Lease of Real Property at 8478 and 8480-8492 Central Avenue Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(c)3. Attorney Thames stated that City Council is prepared to make two motions to act on this matter.

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to approve the Third Amendment to the Purchase Agreement.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff to approve Resolution 2025-24, Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Execute Closing Documents for 8478 and 8480-8492 Central Avenue NE.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

B. Closed Session – Discuss Labor Negotiation Strategy Pursuant to Minn. Stat 13D.03, Subd. 1(b)

Attorney Thames stated that the City Council met in closed session to Discuss Labor Negotiation Strategy Pursuant to Minn. Stat 13D.03, Subd. 1(b). He stated that staff has been given directions.

12. ADJOURN

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to adjourn.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Acting Mayor Wendling. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Kenneth Wendling, Acting Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer