

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Regular was held on August 18, 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 Kenneth Wendling
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks
Councilmember April Moran

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mayor Robert Nelson

STAFF PRESENT

Police Chief Josh Antoine, Recreation Director Anne Scanlon, Attorney John Thames, Engineer Phil Gravel, City Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

VISITORS

Ken Kirchner	7955 Van Buren Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Derek Lind	Anoka County Election Integrity Team	Ramsey MN
Ben Kieffer	546 Rosedale Road	Spring Lake Park MN

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Administrator Buchholtz requested that Item 6M Approval of Public Right of Way Application for CenterPoint Energy at 7811 Jackson Street NE be added to the agenda.

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Ken Kirchner, 7955 Van Buren Street NE, inquired about the parking issue on Van Buren Street NE.

Administrator Buchholtz reported that several actions are being taken to improve the parking situation near the high school. He stated that the City is reconfiguring parking on 79th Avenue between Able Street and Highway 65, shifting parking from the south side to the north side, which will create 25 additional on-street stalls. He noted that the parking spots will be free for students and will not require permits.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the School District is working with the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, located north of McDonald's, to allow students to park in their lot during the school day. He said that Metro Transit is launching a new "Metro Micro" service—similar to Uber or Lyft—that will serve the high school along with parts of Blaine and Coon Rapids, providing students with another transportation option, especially after school activities.

Administrator Buchholtz noted that the City and School District will monitor the situation throughout the school year and make further adjustments if needed. He stated that the District will encourage students to avoid parking on Van Buren Street and in nearby neighborhoods, instead using 79th Avenue and other designated options.

Mr. Kirchner stated that the biggest concerns he has heard from residents relate to accessibility issues caused by parking. He noted that if residents are unable to get out of their driveways, receive their mail, or have their trash and recycling collected, then there is a significant problem that needs to be addressed.

Administrator Buchholtz acknowledged the concerns and reminded the Council that an ordinance amendment was recently approved requiring a 10-foot buffer zone on either side of mailboxes. He stated that USPS confirmed this distance is sufficient for carriers to access mailboxes, and the Police Department will patrol the area at the start of and throughout the school year to ensure compliance, issuing citations as needed.

Administrator Buchholtz noted that, in most cases, trash and recycling receptacles are placed near driveways, which are generally within 10 feet of the mailbox, allowing for collection without issue. He said if residents encounter problems with trash pickup due to parking, they are encouraged to contact the City, and police will respond and issue citations as necessary. He said that with the 25 new parking stalls near the high school, the need for parking on Van Buren should be significantly reduced.

Derek Lind, a resident of Ramsey and member of the Anoka County Election Integrity Team, addressed the Council regarding concerns over county control of elections. He stated that the county has taken authority away from cities in decisions such as the use of electronic poll pads. Lin argued that, under state statute and a 1987 amendment, counties must seek city approval to implement electronic rosters, since they are not mandated by the state.

Mr. Lind emphasized that the broader issue is about protecting city autonomy in election matters, warning that future decisions—such as ranked choice voting or the use of artificial intelligence—could also be imposed by the county without city input. He maintained that election authority should remain at the city level, as cities are closer to the people and more directly accountable. He provided informational packets, referenced explanatory videos previously shared with council members, and encouraged the Council to review them.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the City's position has consistently been that poll pads are a highly effective tool for election administration. He noted that the City has a strong, collaborative relationship with Anoka County, which does an excellent job managing elections

on the City's behalf. He stated that in today's environment, voters expect timely and accurate results. He said eliminating poll pads in favor of paper-based systems would slow down the voting process, delay results, and reduce transparency and accountability. He said the technology works, and residents are increasingly recognizing and appreciating how it has streamlined the voting experience and protects their right to vote efficiently.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – August 4, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of July Claims List – General Disbursement #25-13 - \$315,666.51
- C. Revenue and Expense Report – July, 2025
- D. Contractor's Request for Payment No. 2 – \$116,059.65
- E. Approve Tower Inspection Services – KLM Engineering
- F. Resolution 2025-32, Accepting Donation from Lisa Dircks and Steve Birmingham
- G. Accept Letter of Resignation from Parks and Recreation Supervisor Wesley Goldberg
- H. Approval of Public Right of Way Application – Xcel Energy – 8040 Able Street NE
- I. Approval of Public Right of Way Application – Comcast – 8436 Terrace Road NE
- J. Contractor's Licenses
- K. Business License (tabled from 8/4/25)
- L. Sign Permit
- M. Approval of Public Right of Way Application – CenterPoint Energy – 7811 Jackson Street NE

Councilmember Dircks shared that, in celebration of the building renovation project, she obtained a locally framed Adam Turman print titled *Hydrated Landmarks*, which depicts water towers from several Minnesota communities including Spring Lake Park. She noted that the artwork is currently displayed in the building's link area as a way to honor the hard work of city staff and to complement the renovated space with meaningful art.

Administrator Buchholtz reported that the property at 8407 Plaza Boulevard has new ownership, and city code requires the new operators of Dala1 Thai Banquet Hall and Restaurant to complete the full liquor licensing process. The new owners, based in Eagan with 30 years of business experience, passed police background checks and are expected to maintain similar operations. He noted that liquor license issuance and renewal remain at the council's discretion, and staff recommend approval.

Motion made by Councilmember Moran to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Police Report

Chief Antoine reported that the Police Department responded to 870 calls for service in July 2025, an increase from 857 calls in July 2024. He stated that Investigator Bennek handled 25 cases during the month of July, including 24 felonies and 1 misdemeanor. He noted that Investigator Bennek is monitoring four forfeiture cases and has closed one case. He stated that Investigator Bennek provided a fraud and elderly exploitation prevention presentation to seniors at Emmanuel Christian.

8. ORDINANCES AN/OR RESOLUTIONS - None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Axon Contract

Chief Antoine reported on the Police Department's long-standing partnership with Axon Enterprises (formerly Taser International), whose equipment the department has relied on for over two decades. He said the current five-year contract for body cameras, squad cameras, and tasers expires in 2026. Chief Antoine explored new contract options noting that the annual cost increases of 12–15% and the discontinuation of the department's existing bundle package.

Chief Antoine negotiated a new agreement with Axon, which must be signed by September 1, 2025. He is recommending a 10-year contract instead of a five-year contract. He said the 10-year option would spread out costs, avoid sharp increases, and provide significant upgrades, including new body-worn and squad cameras, Taser 10 devices, real-time video access for supervisors and dispatch, and unlimited third-party video storage for investigations.

Chief Antoine explained that although the department reviewed other vendors, the overall costs were comparable once factoring in tasers, cartridges, and training, making Axon the more practical option. He said the 10-year agreement also includes four full equipment replacements during the contract term—compared to just one with a five-year deal—and is projected to save the City approximately \$223,000 over the contract period.

Chief Antoine is recommending Council approval of the 10-year contract with Axon Enterprises.

Motion made by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff to Approve a 10-year Contract with Axon.

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

B. Authorization to Advertise for Parks and Recreation Supervisor

Parks and Recreation Director Scanlon informed the Council that staff member Wesley Goldberg has resigned to accept a position with another city. Director Scanlon noted the loss to the Department and requested Council approval to begin advertising for a replacement. She stated that the 2025 salary range for the position is \$35.13 to \$43.18 per an hour and anticipates hiring at Step 1 of the scale.

Motion made by Acting Mayor Wendling to authorize staff to advertise for the Parks and Recreation Supervisor position.

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 – None

11. OTHER

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

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to adjourn the meeting for a closed session.

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

Meeting closed at 7:32 PM.

Meeting Reconvened at 7:41 PM

Attorney Thames stated that the City Council had adjourned to a closed session held pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03, Subdivision 1(b), to discuss labor negotiation strategy. He stated staff has been provided direction.

13. 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 7:42 PM.

Kenneth Wendling, Acting Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer