

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Work Session was held on May 4, 2026 at the Spring Lake Park City Hall, 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:

Councilmember Ken Wendling
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks
Councilmember April Moran
Mayor Robert Nelson

STAFF PRESENT:

Public Works Director George Linngren, Police Chief Josh Antoine, Attorney Thames, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer Daniel Buchholtz

OTHERS PRESENT:

C. Meyer, 459 81st Ave NE; Halyn Roth, 7914 Able Street NE; Kristi Cobbs, 8085 Jefferson St NE; Jaycee Kilborn, 351 79th Ave NE; Addie Davis, 8007 6th Street NE; Stephen Birmingham, 773 83rd Ave NE; Mary Sabby, 13124 Crane Street NW, Coon Rapids.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Ordinance Review – Traffic and Parking Ordinance (Buchholtz)

Administrator Buchholtz stated staff has been reviewing and updating older ordinances throughout the City Code, noting many had not been updated for a significant period of time. He stated staff recently completed updates to business licensing ordinances and is now reviewing traffic and public safety ordinances. He stated the Police Chief reviewed the proposed changes and is supportive of the revisions. He stated staff was seeking consensus to forward the proposed ordinance amendments to the City Attorney for legal review.

Administrator Buchholtz reviewed proposed amendments related to traffic and parking regulations, including updated definitions and regulations relating to electric-assisted bicycles, e-bikes, electric motorcycles, UTVs, side-by-sides, and other off-road vehicles. He stated many of these devices did not exist when the ordinance was originally adopted.

Councilmember Dircks inquired about whether e-scooters were covered under the draft ordinance. She stated that this was a topic at a recent Anoka County Local Government Officials meeting regarding safety concerns associated with e-scooters. Administrator Buchholtz stated that he would add a definition for e-scooters and would include them in the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired about vehicle impoundment and storage procedures. Chief Antoine explained the City's contracted towing provider handles impoundment and storage pursuant to state law and noted the City does not retain impounded vehicles directly.

Consensus of the Council was provided authorizing staff to forward the proposed ordinance amendment to the City Attorney for legal review and future consideration by the City Council.

B. University Avenue Service Drive Traffic and Safety Concerns (Goodboe-Bisschoff)

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff stated a resident raised concerns regarding traffic and speeding occurring through the University Avenue service drive area near Rosedale Road.

Police Chief Antoine stated the Police Department deployed a speed trailer in the area and initially found the device was capturing significant traffic data from University Avenue itself. He stated the trailer was later relocated into the church parking lot to better isolate traffic using the service drive.

Antoine stated the Police Department observed limited traffic utilizing the University Service Drive area and did not observe the contractor vehicle referenced in the resident complaint. He stated officers also conducted directed patrols in the area and did not witness violations.

Discussion followed regarding potential options to discourage through traffic, including installation of "No Through Traffic" or "Private Drive" signage and requesting mapping services such as Google Maps identify the area as a private drive.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff read a follow-up email from the resident indicating traffic appeared reduced when the speed trailer was located closer to the entrance drive.

Discussion followed regarding additional traffic calming options, including signage and speed feedback devices. Chief Antoine stated speed bumps would likely worsen noise and vibration concerns associated with trailers.

Consensus of the Council supported installation of "No Through Traffic" signage and continued monitoring of the area.

C. Statement of Values Complaint – Direction on Next Steps (Buchholtz)

City Administrator Buchholtz stated staff received a complaint alleging conduct during a recent Council work session violated the City's adopted Statement of Values. He stated staff completed a preliminary review pursuant to the policy and determined the complaint met the threshold to proceed for Council discussion and direction.

Buchholtz stated the policy allows the Council to determine whether additional action is warranted, including dismissal of the complaint, further investigation, informal corrective action, or formal censure.

Councilmember Moran discussed concerns regarding conduct during recent meetings, including interruptions, yelling, profanity, threatening behavior, and discriminatory remarks. She stated the conduct negatively impacted the Council's ability to function collaboratively and professionally.

Mayor Nelson apologized for comments and acknowledged his communication style can be blunt and opinionated. He stated he would work to improve communication moving forward.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff stated she reviewed recordings of the meeting in question and believed multiple parties contributed to the escalation of tensions during the discussion.

City Attorney Thames reviewed available options under the policy, including formal censure, informal corrective action, additional training, or procedural changes to Council meetings.

Councilmember Moran stated she did not believe a third-party investigator was necessary but believed corrective action and accountability were warranted moving forward.

Discussion followed regarding measures to improve meeting decorum and communication, including recording future work sessions, utilizing parliamentary procedures during work sessions, and participating in communication or conflict resolution training through the League of Minnesota Cities.

Consensus of the City Council supported 1) video recording future City Council work sessions; 2) utilizing Robert's Rules of Order during work sessions; and 3) requesting a facilitator from the League of Minnesota Cities to help improve communication.

3. REPORT

A. City Council and Staff Reports

Police Chief Antoine discussed a request from Oakcrest Senior Apartments to allow temporary overnight street parking during upcoming parking lot reconstruction work. He stated residents would temporarily utilize nearby residential streets for parking while construction is underway.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff discussed litter concerns in several areas of the City following recent community cleanup efforts. Discussion followed regarding possible anti-litter signage, volunteer cleanup efforts, and enforcement challenges related to littering and illegal dumping. Police Chief Antoine noted officers address violations when directly observed. Consensus of the Council supported staff reviewing signage options for identified problem areas.

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer