

# City of Spring Lake Park Staff Report



Agenda Date	Status
May 4, 2026	Work Session
Requestor	Agenda Section
Buchholtz	Discussion
Agenda Item #:	
Council Communication Work Session Discussion	
Executive Summary	
<p>Staff is seeking direction from the City Council regarding next steps for a Council communication work session to be facilitated by the League of Minnesota Cities. Staff met with Aimee Gourlay from the League of Minnesota Cities on June 30, 2026, to discuss the current situation and potential approaches for structuring a productive session with the City Council.</p> <p>Ms. Gourlay recommended first meeting with two members of the City Council at City Hall to discuss the desired outcomes for the work session, identify key areas of focus, and help build Council buy-in before scheduling a full Council work session. Staff is requesting that the City Council identify two Councilmembers to meet with Ms. Gourlay as part of this preliminary planning process.</p>	
Background	
<p>The City has been discussing the need for improved communication, meeting conduct, and working relationships among members of the City Council. To assist with this effort, staff contacted the League of Minnesota Cities regarding potential facilitation support for a Council communication work session.</p> <p>On June 30, 2026, staff met with Aimee Gourlay from the League of Minnesota Cities to discuss the situation and possible next steps. Based on that discussion, Ms. Gourlay recommended a preliminary planning meeting with two members of the City Council before scheduling a full Council work session.</p> <p>The purpose of the preliminary meeting would be to help define what the City Council would like to achieve through the communication work session. This would include identifying key issues to address, desired outcomes, expectations for participation, and an overall structure</p>	

for the full Council session. The preliminary meeting would also help ensure there is Council buy-in before the full work session is scheduled.

Staff is requesting that the City Council identify two Councilmembers to meet with Ms. Gourlay at City Hall for this planning meeting. Following that meeting, staff would work with Ms. Gourlay to schedule a facilitated work session with the full City Council.

**Board/Commission Review**

N/A

**Financial Impact**

None

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council identify two Councilmembers to meet with Aimee Gourlay from the League of Minnesota Cities at City Hall to assist in planning a facilitated Council communication work session. Following that preliminary meeting, staff will coordinate with Ms. Gourlay to schedule the full Council work session.

**Attachments**