

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 June 15, 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, Parks and Recreation Director Anne Scanlon, Police Chief Josh Antoine, Engineer Phil Gravel, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Daniel Buchholtz

OTHERS PRESENT:

Halyn Roth	7914 Able Street NE	Spring Lake Park
Jill Curran	Anoka County	Anoka
Jeff Newsom	Walter's Recycling and Refuse	Blaine

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Organics Collection Discussion Follow-up (Buchholtz)

Administrator Buchholtz reminded the Council that this is a follow-up discussion regarding the state's new MPCA mandate requiring increased organics diversion by 2030. The Council reviewed the MPCA mandate to shift from current waste practices toward curbside organics collection to help meet the state goal of raising diversion rates from roughly 40% to 75%. Jill Curran, Anoka County, and Jeff Newsom, Walters Recycling & Refuse, provided updates: the county outlined the state solid waste policy plan, funding options, and the requirement to expand organics and recycling programs. Mr. Newsom presented Walters food-scrap bag program and explained the infrastructure, odor-control measures, permitting, and capacity at their Blaine transfer station.

Councilmembers raised concerns about costs to residents, equity, differences between Anoka and Ramsey County, capacity limits, and potential neighborhood impacts such as odor. They also discussed the challenge of maintaining consistency across a city that spans two counties, how other haulers might respond, and whether alternatives or competitors could emerge before 2030. Walters explained that their bag-based system avoids extra carts and trucks, contains odor, and can be implemented citywide regardless of hauler. Because capacity statewide is limited, early participation would secure a spot for the city.

Council expressed interest in continuing discussions, gathering firmer cost estimates, and allowing staff to work with Walters to develop a more detailed proposal. Councilmembers agreed that while costs and resident impact are major concerns, the mandate is unavoidable, and the Walters program appears to be the most viable current option.

Consensus of the Council was to move forward with further evaluation and staff-level planning.

B. Lakeside Camera System (Antoine)

Police Chief Antoine and The Council reviewed the failing 2016 camera system at Lions Lakeside Park, which is no longer repairable and must be replaced. Chief Antoine presented a 2025 quote of \$11,720 to upgrade the system to match all other city parks, using the same software and hardware. He stated that because the park is shared with Mounds View, he is requesting direction to meet with Mounds View to discuss cost-sharing options. Councilmember Wendling also asked about adding a camera near the west shelter; staff will check feasibility and costs.

Consensus of the Council was to direct staff to continue discussions with the City of Mounds View and return with a formal proposal and finalized cost estimates.

C. Council Salary Discussion (Buchholtz)

The Council reviewed Mayor and Council salaries, which are set by ordinance and can only be changed before a municipal election, taking effect the following January. Administrator Buchholtz noted salaries have not been increased since 2008 and provided a comparison survey. Council discussed options for adjusting pay but expressed strong concern about resident financial pressures and general fund impacts.

Consensus of the Council was to maintain Council salaries at the current levels.

3. REPORT

A. City Council and Staff Reports - None

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:46 PM.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer