

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Worksession was held on November 8, 2021 at the Spring Lake Park City Hall, 1301 81st Avenue NE, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Robert Nelson
Councilmember Ken Wendling
Councilmember Brad Delfs
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks

STAFF PRESENT

City Engineer Phil Gravel, Public Works Director Terry Randall, Recreation Director Kay Okey, Police Chief Josh Antoine, Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Proposed 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan

Administrator Buchholtz provided an overview of the proposed 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He stated that the proposed CIP has identified \$15.4 million in projects over the next five years. He noted that over half of the CIP was dedicated to one project – the renovation of the City Hall facility.

Administrator Buchholtz shared the breakdown by Department: Administration - \$8,998,450 (includes City Hall renovation); Parks and Recreation - \$1,436,650; Police Department - \$503,580; Public Utilities - \$2,991,653; Public Works - \$1,144,000 and Storm Water Utility - \$322,500.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the proposed CIP represents a financial planning document and does not represent approval of any specific project within the plan or finalize a year a particular project will take place. He stated that if the CIP is approved by the City Council, the projects identified in 2022 for implementation will become the 2022 Capital Budget.

City Council discussed various aspects of the proposed Capital Improvement Plan, focusing time on the proposed renovation of City Hall scheduled for 2023 and the five year plan for improvements to Able Park, which include a new park building.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to direct staff to schedule adoption of the proposed 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan for the December 20, 2021 City Council meeting.

B. Proposed 2022 Public Utilities Budget

Administrator Buchholtz and Public Works Director Randall presented the proposed Water, Water Treatment Plant, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Utility budgets. Administrator Buchholtz stated that the proposed budget is balanced, with revenues matching expenditures at \$1,623,779. He stated that staff is not requesting a utility rate increase for 2022, noting that 2022 will be five years since the City's last water and sanitary sewer utility rate increase. He stated that the City's water and sanitary sewer utility rates are among the lowest in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, according to the 2021 North Central Utility Rate Service by AE2S Engineering.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the storm water utility budget is proposed at \$97,500, based on a \$2.00/month per residential equivalency factor utility rate. He stated that the funds are budgeted primarily for repairs and maintenance of the existing system and capital outlay.

The City Council discussed the proposed budget and raised no objection to the utility budgets as presented.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to direct staff to add the proposed 2022 Public Utilities budgets to the December 20 City Council agenda.

C. Triangle Memorial Park Sidewalk Improvement Discussion

Engineer Gravel stated that engineering staff has reviewed three options for constructing a pedestrian crosswalk across Able Street in the area near Triangle Park: Manor Drive and Able Street, Lund Avenue and Able Street and Dee Place/84th Avenue and Able Street. He identified the crossing at the north side of the intersection of Lund Avenue and Able Street as the safest and most cost-effective option.

City Council discussed the three options in detail. Councilmember Dircks inquired about ADA accessibility at the Lund and Able Street option. Engineer Gravel stated that, with the exception of a small dip in the existing park sidewalk north of the intersection of Lund Avenue and Able Street, the sidewalk and the new crossing would comply with ADA. He stated that the dip could be removed from the existing sidewalk as part of this construction project. Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired about adding an additional crossing at Dee Place/84th Avenue and Able Street. Engineer Gravel stated that staff will monitor crossing movements at Lund Avenue and Able Street and if the additional crossing is needed, the City Council construct a second crossing at Dee Place/84th Avenue and Able Street.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to identify the intersection of Lund Avenue and Able Street as the best location for a pedestrian crosswalk and to direct staff to bid the project as an alternate with the 2022 Street Improvement Project.

D. Animal Control Discussion

Chief Antoine stated that the City entered into an animal control and impound services contract with Dover Kennel in 2018. He stated that animal control services are very limited in the city and are usually reserved for injured or dangerous animals. He said that current policy is to instruct a caller requesting animal control services for an animal not deemed injured or dangerous to release the animal or drop it off at the Humane Society. He stated that there was a situation where an animal that was released under this policy bit another animal and its owner. He said that while there were no serious injuries as a result of that incident, he expressed his belief that the current policy opened the City up to liability. He requested that the City Council authorize the expansion of animal control services to include contained dogs and other miscellaneous animal calls.

City Council discussed the request in detail. CONSENSUS of the City Council was to authorize staff to negotiate changes to the Animal Services Contract with Dover Kennel to expand animal control services in the city.

E. Discuss supporting Joint List for Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers (Buchholtz)

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the City received a request to join a jointly submitted list of nominees for the Rice Creek Watershed District Board of Managers to be submitted by the cities of Circle Pines, Lino Lakes, Blaine, Centerville, and Lexington. He said the three nominees were Jess Robertson, Blaine, Jan Kreminski, Circle Pines and Scott Robinson, Lino Lakes. He stated he would like the City to express its support for the joint list.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to direct Administrator Buchholtz to add a resolution to the November 15 City Council meeting agenda authorizing submittal of a joint list.

3. REPORT

A. Council Reports - No report.

B. Administrator Report - No report.

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer