

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 November 14, 2022 at the City Hall, at 5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Robert Nelson

Councilmember Ken Wendling

Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff

Councilmember Lisa Dircks

STAFF PRESENT

Administrator Buchholtz

Police Chief Antoine

Public Works Director Randall

Building Official Jeff Baker

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilmember Elect April Moran

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review Proposed 2023 Public Utilities Budget

Administrator Buchholtz reviewed the proposed 2023 Public Utilities budget. He stated that revenues and expenditures are projected to increase by 9.7% due to the incorporation of the treatment plan debt service rate into the water base rate schedule and the offsetting transfer from the Public Utility Enterprise Fund to the Building Maintenance Fund. He said that staff is not proposing a utility rate increase for 2023, the sixth consecutive year without a rate increase. He stated that the water treatment plant debt service budget shows a significant deficit that will be covered with existing fund balance. He noted that the Water Treatment Plant PFA note will be paid off in August 2023. He stated that the storm water utility rate will also remain flat in 2023.

Councilmembers discussed the proposed budget. CONSENSUS of the City Council was to forward the proposed 2023 Public Utilities Budget to the next City Council for potential action.

B. 2023 Equipment Certificate Discussion

Administrator Buchholtz reported that the 2018 Equipment Certificate is set to conclude at the end of 2022. He presented a list of projects for inclusion in the next Equipment Certificate, which were also included in the proposed 2023-2027 CIP.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that he would like the City Council to consider transitioning away from issuing Equipment Certificates and move to a "Pay As You Go" strategy. He stated that the portion of the tax levy currently allocated for debt service for the 2018 Equipment Certificate could be redirected to an Equipment Fund from which the proposed projects would be paid. He said this strategy would allow for approximately \$100,000 to be repurposed from interest payments and bond issuance expenses to fund capital improvements.

Councilmembers liked transitioning away from an Equipment Certificate to a "Pay As You Go" strategy. Councilmembers raised no objections to the proposed equipment list.

No further action was taken on the item.

C. City Hall Renovation Discussion

Administrator Buchholtz presented three potential layouts for public bathrooms in the proposed City Hall renovation plan. Councilmembers spent time discussing the pros and cons of unisex bathroom closets versus traditional men's and women's restrooms. Mayor Nelson expressed his opinion that bathroom closets should be identified for men and women and that the men's bathroom closets have urinals. Councilmembers Goodboe-Bisschoff and Dircks inquired about bathroom inclusivity, particularly for transgendered people. Administrator Buchholtz stated that the bathroom closet proposal was more inclusive than traditional mens and womens rooms.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that he would share the City Council's discussion with the architect for an alternative to present to the City Council in the future.

Administrator Buchholtz asked for ideas on how to engage the public on the need for the City Hall remodel. He suggested holding an open house and having City Council members identify and personally invite residents to the open house. Councilmembers agreed that a robust public engagement process was important to ensure community acceptance of the project.

Councilmember Wendling requested Buchholtz solicit a quote from consultant Jill Brown on a communications strategy. Administrator Buchholtz stated that he would obtain a quote for those services and present them to the City Council.

D. City Code Update

Administrator Buchholtz presented proposed code amendmnets to Chapters 1 and 3 of the City Code. Discussion ensued on the proposed code amendments, particularly amendments to Section 3.16.020 of the City Code relating to Enforcement. Administrator Buchholtz assured Councilmembers that the Police Department would handle state law complaints while Code

Enforcement staff would be limited to City Code enforcement, as is currently contemplated by City Council direction. Mayor Nelson asked if the ordinance would require staff to obtain a warrant if a property owner would not permit inspection of a property. Administrator Buchholtz responded affirmatively.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to recommend approval of the proposed ordinance updates and to forward the proposed updates to a future City Council agenda for possible adoption.

E. Council Workshops - Purpose and Outcomes (Delfs)

Councilmember Delfs expressed concern that Councilmembers are not properly communicating the outcomes of City Council work session discussions to the public. He stated that he wants to see work sessions be a productive use of time, rather than having the same conversations over and over.

Councilmembers discussed the purpose of Council work sessions, noting the importance of accurately stating the City Council's consensus while retaining the right to disagree with the consensus of the majority.

3. REPORT

No reports.

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the work session at 7:38 P.M.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer