

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 July 10, 2023 at the Spring Lake Park City Hall, 1301 81st Ave. NE, at 5:47 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Nelson
Councilmember Ken Wendling
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks
Councilmember April Moran (arrived at 5:40 PM)

STAFF PRESENT

Police Chief Josh Antoine, Building Official Jeff Baker, Code Enforcement Inspector Walter Morris,
Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Minnesota GreenStep Cities Discussion (Goodboe-Bisschoff/Moran)

Administrator Buchholtz introduced the item. He explained that the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program that provides a framework to help cities achieve their economic, environmental and quality of life goals. He said the program is based on 29 best practices tailored to all Minnesota cities with a focus on cost savings, energy use reduction and civic innovation.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff stated that she learned about the program at the League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference. She stated that when she reviewed the action steps under the list of best practices and determined that the City is already doing a number of them. She expressed her opinion that the City should be recognized for the good work it is doing. Councilmember Moran agreed, stating that she felt this was a beneficial program that could challenge the City to be more sustainable.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to direct the Administrator to draft a resolution participating in the GreenStep Cities program.

B. Hybrid Code Enforcement Approach Discussion (Morris)

Code Enforcement Inspector Morris stated that he is requesting the City transition to a more proactive code enforcement model. He stated that Blaine, Fridley, Coon Rapids and Mounds View provide proactive code enforcement at the discretion of their respective code enforcement officers. He stated that the model used by Blaine, Fridley and Coon Rapids is not a good fit for the City. He suggested the hybrid approach used by the City of Mounds View which allows for proactive enforcement for the most obvious violations (unnecessary clutter/junk,

parking on lawns, poorly maintained homes, etc) while utilizing complaint based code enforcement for less-frequently received complaints. He stated that this hybrid approach better suits the residents expectations for Code Enforcement while alleviating the sense that the City is picking on a particular resident whose property was the subject of a complaint when there are other similar violations on the same block.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired as to what violations would be subject to proactive code enforcement. Mr. Morris stated that he would look for violations related to noxious weeds, trash and debris, motor vehicle parking/registration, abandoned vehicles and property, discarding of debris onto public right-of-ways, property maintenance code violations, and various life safety and emergency response related codes.

Mayor Nelson expressed his vehement opposition to proactive code enforcement, stating that there could be room for abuse. He said previous code enforcement officials performed code enforcement arbitrarily and unfairly. He stated his belief that the complaint based code enforcement was the best approach.

Councilmember Goodboe Bisschoff expressed concern about proactive enforcement on recreational fire pits, noting that some had been in place prior to the Fire Code being adopted in the City.

Councilmember Dircks expressed her opinion that proactive code enforcement is important to maintaining a basic aesthetic standard in the City. She stated that she was supportive of transitioning to proactive code enforcement. Councilmember Wendling agreed. Councilmember Dircks suggested a policy be drafted to specify exactly how the hybrid code enforcement strategy would work.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to ask Code Enforcement Inspector Morris to draft a proactive code enforcement policy for potential adoption by the City Council.

Mayor Nelson left the meeting at 6:15pm.

C. Cannabis Ordinance Update Discussion (Buchholtz)

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the City Attorney recommended amending the City Code relating to the recently adopted recreational cannabis law approved by the State Legislature. He stated that the proposed ordinance would repeal the City's edible cannabinoid product ordinance, as that ordinance will be pre-empted by the new State Law in October. He said the proposed ordinance would replace the City's licensing ordinance with more basic zoning restrictions as to where such businesses may operate, in compliance with the new law. He stated that the proposed ordinance exercises the City's authority to prohibit public use of cannabis and edible cannabinoids and prohibits the possession of drug paraphernalia within the City.

Councilmembers discussed the upcoming legalization of cannabis. CONSENSUS of the City Council was to bring the proposed ordinance forward for possible adoption on August 7, 2023.

D. Concept Plan Discussion - SE Corner of CSAH 10 & Spring Lake Park Road (Buchholtz)

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the City has received an inquiry from a developer for a 100-unit, 55+ age restricted market rate apartment building to be located on a 2.66 acre parcel currently occupied by three homes at the southeast corner of CSAH 10 and Spring Lake Park Road.

City Council reviewed the proposed concept plan and expressed support for the initial concept. Administrator Buchholtz stated that he would inform the developer of the Council's discussion.

3. REPORT

- A. Council Reports – No report
- B. Administrator Report – No report.

4. ADJOURN

Acting Mayor Goodboe-Bisschoff adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer