

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 April 15, 2024 at the Able Park Building, 8200 Able Street NE, Spring Lake Park, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Ken Wendling
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks
Councilmember April Moran
Mayor Nelson

STAFF PRESENT

Administrator Daniel Buchholtz, Building Official Jeff Baker

GUESTS

Dan Retka, SBM Fire Chief

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. SBM Fire Department Update – Chief Dan Retka

Chief Dan Retka, SBM Fire Department, presented an overview of the duty crew model that was implemented in January 2024 and summarized the staffing issues being faced by SBM. He stated that while the duty crew model has dropped response times considerably, the Department has been facing shortages in firefighters being called back outside of their scheduled duty crew shifts. He stated that SBM would like to apply for a federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant to fund 12 full time firefighter positions. He said these positions, supplemented by the existing duty crew firefighters and city daytime providers, would ensure a consistent response 24 hours per day. He noted that if SBM is successful in obtaining the SAFER grant, the 12 positions would be funded at 100% for 3 years, after which time the cities will be responsible for covering the costs.

Councilmembers asked questions about the current response model, short and long term needs of the Department, and the Department's capital improvement plan.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to support SBM's application for the federal SAFER grant.

B. No Mow May Discussion

Administrator Buchholtz asked the City Council if they wished to sponsor “No Mow May” for this year.

CONSENSUS of the Council was to support the reauthorization of No Mow May within the City of Spring Lake Park. Administrator Buchholtz noted that a resolution adopting No Mow May is included in the April 15 Council meeting packet.

C. Uber/Lyft Discussion

Administrator Buchholtz provided an overview of the actions that led to Uber and Lyft threatening to leave Minnesota due to minimum driver pay for rideshare drivers.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff noted that Minneapolis had delayed the effective date of the minimum driver pay ordinance for two months. She inquired what the City could do to preserve Uber/Lyft service in the metropolitan area, noting that there are many residents with disabilities or who are unable to drive that rely on those rideshare services to make appointments. Councilmember Wendling encouraged Councilmembers to reach out to Councilmembers in Minneapolis to encourage them to find a compromise that keeps Uber and Lyft serving all residents of the Twin Cities and Minnesota.

No action was taken on the item.

3. REPORT

A. Council Reports – No reports.

B. Administrator Report – No report.

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer