

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 6, 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 5:30pm.

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, Attorney Thames, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer Daniel Buchholtz

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kristi Cobbs	8085 Jefferson Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Hayln Roth		Spring Lake Park MN

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Business Ordinance Updates (*Buchholtz*)

Administrator Buchholtz presented the remaining business ordinance updates, noting the primary goals were to modernize the City Code, improve clarity, and ensure alignment with current state law. Updates included minor organizational changes to the liquor ordinance; revisions to the tobacco ordinance to reflect state law changes emphasizing non-criminal, diversion-based penalties for minors; strengthened regulations for massage services with incorporation of sauna-related provisions; consolidation of pawnbroker and secondhand goods ordinances with enhanced transaction tracking requirements; updates to sexually oriented business regulations based on model standards; clarification of licensing and zoning requirements for used motor vehicle dealers; and cleanup of the license background check ordinance to remove outdated references and clarify procedures.

Councilmembers asked clarifying questions regarding enforcement, consistency with state law, and potential impacts on local businesses. Discussion generally focused on ensuring ordinances provide appropriate enforcement tools while avoiding unnecessary regulatory burden. No significant policy concerns were raised, and there was general consensus to proceed. The City Council directed the City Attorney to finalize the ordinance revisions for future formal consideration.

B. State Flag Discussion (Nelson)

Mayor Robert Nelson introduced the discussion regarding the potential display of the former Minnesota state flag in the City Council Chambers. He stated his opinion that the current flag was adopted without sufficient public input and expressed support for returning to the prior flag.

Councilmember Moran expressed concern that adopting a resolution to display the former flag could be perceived as a political statement and could negatively impact the City's reputation and relationships with state officials. She noted that the flag redesign process included over 3,000 design submissions and 30,000 public comments. Councilmember Dircks inquired about the timing of the discussion, noting that the new flag was approved approximately two years ago.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff stated she did not support a process governed by a small group appointed by the Governor without a vote of the public during a general election. Councilmember Dircks questioned how reverting to the former flag would differ from the process used by the state to adopt the current flag.

CONSENSUS of a majority of the Council was to direct staff to include a resolution regarding the display of the former Minnesota state flag on the April 6 City Council agenda.

3. REPORT**A. City Council and Staff Reports -- None****4. ADJOURN**

Mayor Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:36 pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer