

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 February 08, 2021 at the City Hall, 1301 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park, at 5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the City Council work session to order at 5:30pm.

Present: Councilmembers Wendling, Delfs, Goodboe-Bisschoff, Dircks, Mayor Nelson

Absent: None

Staff Present: Police Chief Ebeltoft, Building Official Baker, City Planner Lauren Walburg (Stantec), and Administrator Buchholtz

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Rental Housing Study Presentation and Discussion

City Planner Carlson presented the results of the rental housing study. He noted that the study reviewed maintenance issues at rental properties, including yard maintenance, trash and parking issues; conduct issues at rental properties by residents or their guests including noise complaints and other police calls; and issues with administering the rental ordinance, including: follow-through and enforcement of rental inspections, contacting rental managers (especially larger companies) and license renewal process.

City Planner Carlson provided the following recommendations: 1) adopt a property maintenance inspection process; adopt language that explicitly requires property owners (or their formally designated agent) to conduct the inspection and reinspection process with the building official; utilize abatement as an option for handling nuisance issues at rental properties; consider single-family rental properties include a crime-free/drug-free addendum in their tenant leases; require rental property owners to conduct criminal background checks on all tenants; consider targeted improvements to application requirements to alleviate issues with contacting property owners/management companies; update the municipal code to strengthen language addressing revocation of rental licenses; and consider increasing fees for the rental housing license program to pay additional staff time needed to enforce the ordinance.

The City Council discussed the recommendations in depth. **CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL** was to authorize the Administrator and Building Official to draft an ordinance amendment implementing the City Planner's recommendations with the exception of the crime free/drug free addendum language to single-family leases.

B. Targeted Residential Picketing Ordinance (*Nelson*)

Mayor Nelson stated that he would like the City to adopt an ordinance regulated targeted picketing in residential neighborhoods. He stated that the protest that took place in a residential neighborhood in Hugo brought this to the forefront of his mind. He stated that the a number of north metro cities have adopted the ordinance, including Hugo, Lino Lakes, Centerville and Blaine. He noted that M.S. 609.748 already outlaws targeted residential picketing, it requires the picketing to happen more than once. He stated that a City ordinance would outlaw it on the first offense.

City Council reviewed the draft ordinance language. CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL was to direct staff to add the proposed ordinance to a future City Council meeting for adoption.

C. Discussion of Resolution of Support for SF 82/HF 185 (*Nelson*)

Mayor Nelson requested the City Council provide a resolution of support for SF 82/HF 185, which would increase the penalty for certain attempts to commit murder the first degree to life incarceration with a minimum of 30 years served in prison before being eligible for release.

CONSENSUS OF THE CITY COUNCIL was to add the proposed resolution of support to a future City Council agenda.

D. Median Safety Ordinance (*Nelson*)

Mayor Nelson requested the City Council discuss an ordinance prohibiting the extended occupation of high traffic intersection, noting that there has been an increase in the number of pedestrians occupying the medians of our busiest roadways for significant periods of time which creates a dangerous situation for both the pedestrian and the driver. He stated that the ordinance would apply to the City's seven signalized intersections along University Avenue, Highway 65 and County Road 10 corridors. He noted the ordinance prohibits an individual from staying the median through two consecutive opportunities to cross the roadway and also prohibits the operator of a motor vehicle from responding to a person violating the median safety ordinance. He stated that there are limited exceptions in the ordinance. He noted the law enforcement would first education pedestrians on the ordinance prior to enforcement.

City Councilmembers discussed the ordinance in depth. CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL is to schedule the proposed median safety ordinance on a future City Council meeting for approval.

E. 1628 County Highway 10 Discussion (*Buchholtz*)

Administrator Buchholtz stated that he received a call from the owner of 1628 County Highway 10 about prospective tenants for a vacant commercial space. City Council reviewed the potential options and provided staff with direction. No further action was taken on the item.

F. Tower Days Funding Request (*Buchholtz/Okey*)

Administrator Buchholtz noted that the Spring Lake Park Lions would not be donating their usual sponsorship to the City for Tower Days. He noted that this was due to reduced charitable gaming proceeds as a result of the restaurant and bar shutdowns ordered by Governor Walz in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that City staff is requesting the City Council authorize a transfer of \$15,000 from the General Fund to the Tower Days Fund to provide the Recreation Department with the funding necessary to schedule events for the 2021 Tower Days Festival.

City Councilmembers were supportive of the request. **CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL** was to direct the Administrator to schedule the fund transfer for a future City Council meeting agenda.

A. Administrator Reports

No reports were given.

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the work session meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

