

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 March 14, 2022 at the Spring Lake Park City Hall, 1301 81st Avenue NE, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Robert Nelson
Councilmember Ken Wendling
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember Brad Delfs

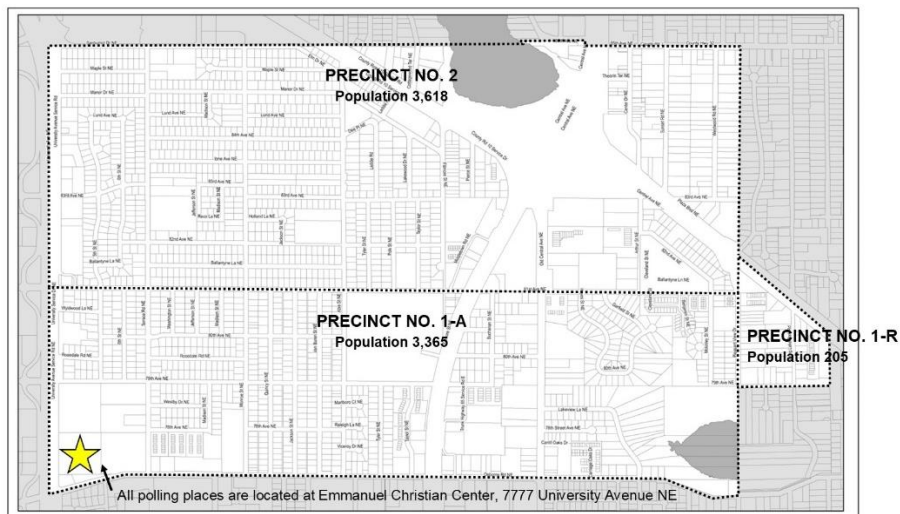
STAFF PRESENT

City Engineer Phil Gravel, Public Works Director Terry Randall, Police Chief Josh Antoine, Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Redistricting Discussion

Administrator Buchholtz provided an overview of the redistricting process. He stated that a special redistricting panel appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court drew new congressional district and legislative district maps. He said that cities now have to establish ward and precinct maps by March 29. He presented a new map based on the new legislative district maps established by the Court.



Buchholtz stated that the benefit would be reduced election costs and the need for less personnel to manage the election. He said the polling places would remain at Emmanuel Christian Center, which worked extremely well for the 2020 Election.

City Council discussed the proposed map and raised no objections to the proposed precinct map.

CONSENSUS OF THE CITY COUNCIL was to direct staff to add the adoption of the 2022 Redistricting Map to the March 21 agenda.

B. Guidance on Use of ARPA Funding

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the City has been allocated \$756,124 in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He said those funds can be used for the following purposes: 1) responding to the public health emergency; 2) responding to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic; 3) offering premium pay to essential workers; 4) replacing revenue for the provision of government services to the extent the reduction in revenue is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and 5) investing in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the final rule from the Department of Treasury stated that cities may elect a standard allowance under the revenue replacement category to spend on government services. He said that government services include the following categories: 1) road building and maintenance, and other infrastructure; 2) health services; 3) general government administration, staff and administrative facilities; 4) environmental remediation; and 5) provision of police, fire and other public safety services (including purchase of fire trucks and police vehicles). He said the standard allowance cap is \$10 million.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the administrative burden of utilizing the standard allowance is significantly less and recommended using the ARPA funds to pay for the 2022 Street Improvement Project and the 2022 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project. He said that the funds that would have otherwise been used for these projects can be repurposed for future projects.

City Council discussed the Administrator's recommendation and concurred that electing the standard allowance and utilizing the ARPA funding for the 2022 Street Improvement Project and 2022 Sanitary Sewer Lining project would be good uses of the funds.

CONSENSUS OF THE CITY COUNCIL was to direct staff to place a resolution electing the standard allowance on the agenda for the March 21 City Council meeting.

C. City Hall Security Fencing Discussion

Chief Antoine stated that since early 2020 there have been several high-profile cases/deaths involving law enforcement officers both in Minnesota and nationally. He said that with these

high-profile cases comes increases in civil unrest, protests and threats to government owned buildings. He said that the Anoka County Chiefs of Police have been discussing this issue and are researching creation of a consortium of cities to purchase fencing to protect government buildings. He reported that there would be an annual membership fee to be able to access the fencing and, if a city needs the fencing, it can rent the fencing from the consortium on a first-come, first serve basis. He said that he is also studying additional security measures to protect City Hall should such a scenario occur at City Hall.

Councilmember discussed the purchase of the fencing and found it to be a cost-effective insurance policy to protect City Hall in case of civil unrest in the community. Councilmembers encouraged staff to study alternative ways to protect the building as well.

D. Traffic Lane Reconfiguration - 81st Avenue between Pleasantview Drive and CSAH 35

Administrator Buchholtz stated that 81st Avenue between Old Central (CSAH 35) and Pleasantview Drive is scheduled to be seal coated in 2022. He stated that staff is proposing to transition this segment of roadway from a four-lane section to a three-lane section with one lane of travel in each direction with a two-way left-turn lane in the center. He stated that staff believes that this traffic configuration will calm traffic, reduce rear end and left turn crashes, simplify left turns from side streets, reduce the number of traffic lanes for pedestrians to cross and provide space for future bicycle lanes.

Mayor Nelson expressed his opposition to the three-lane conversion, stating that the current road configuration functions well. He noted that in times of street flooding, the four-lane configuration allows vehicles to drive closer to the crown of the road, reducing the potential for vehicle damage from a flooded road. Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff did not feel she would be comfortable riding a bicycle on a three-lane road configuration.

Councilmembers Dircks and Wendling expressed support for the four to three-lane conversion, citing the benefits of fewer rear-end and left turn crashes and smoother traffic flow. They noted that if the conversion does not work as advertised, the roadway can be restriped back to the four-lane conversion.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that he would place this item on a future City Council agenda for a final decision.

E. 2022 Sidewalk Projects (Triangle Memorial Park and City Hall)

Administrator Buchholtz presented the bid results for two sidewalk projects that were included as alternates with the 2022 Street Improvement Project. He said the Triangle Park sidewalk project, which would create a crosswalk at the intersection of Lund Avenue and Able Street, establish a flume along Able Street to reduce street flooding, and repair a dip in the existing sidewalk in Triangle Memorial Park, would cost \$22,324. He said the 81st Avenue sidewalk project would cost \$98,650 if the City extended the project to the ISD 16 District Service Center,

of which the City and ISD 16 would split the cost equally. He said if City only extended the sidewalk to the existing City Hall sidewalk, the project would cost \$40,743.

Councilmembers expressed strong support for the Triangle Memorial Park sidewalk project.

Mayor Nelson expressed opposition to extending the sidewalk to the ISD 16 District Service Center for the additional cost. Administrator Buchholtz noted that in a normal situation, the City would require a property owner to extend the sidewalk to the property line, so an equal split between the City and ISD 16 would represent a fair partnership between the two entities. Councilmembers Wendling and Dircks expressed support for extending an offer to ISD 16 to participate in the sidewalk project.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that he would reach out to ISD 16 Superintendent Ronneberg about a partnership and report back to the City Council.

F. Ramsey County CSAH 10 Trail Project Update

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the City of Mounds View has requested that the City participate in the 2022-2023 Street Project by including a segment of trail along the south side of County Road 10. He said the estimated project cost was originally \$104,641.21. He said that the bids came in well below that at \$78,526.73. He said the project was eligible for MSA funding. He asked if there was consensus to move forward on the project.

The City Council discussed the project. The City Council discussed whether there was a need to light the trail. The City Council decided to delete the lighting system from the City's portion of the trail project, which would save \$43,125 and reduce the project cost to \$35,401.73. Members noted that lighting could be added to this segment at a later time should it be needed.

CONSENSUS OF THE CITY COUNCIL was to proceed with the CSAH 10 trail project, without the lighting component. Mayor Nelson expressed his opposition to the CSAH 10 trail project.

3. REPORT

A. Administrator Report

Administrator Buchholtz inquired if the City Council wanted to participate in the Tower Days parade. The City Council responded affirmatively.

Chief Antoine asked for authority to begin an eligibility list for a future police officer position. The City Council responded affirmatively.

Administrator Buchholtz noted that the assessment hearing for the 2022 Street Improvement Project would be held at the March 21 City Council meeting. He stated that if there was no appeals of the proposed assessment, he would ask the City Council to award bids for the 2022 Street Improvement Project.

B. Councilmember Reports -- None

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the work session at 6:50pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer