

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Worksession was held on June 16, 2025 at the City Hall, 1301 81st Ave NE, Spring Lake Park, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Ken Wendling

Councilmember Lisa Dircks

Councilmember April Moran

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff

Mayor Robert Nelson

STAFF PRESENT

Public Works Director George Linngren, City Engineer Phil Gravel, Parks and Recreation Director Anne Scanlon, Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 79th Avenue On-Street Parking Discussion

Administrator Buchholtz summarized neighborhood complaints regarding student parking on Van Buren Street near the high school. He stated that vehicles have been blocking mailboxes and driveways, prompting residents to request “No Parking During School Hours” signage. He noted that a new ordinance approved by the City Council prohibits parking within ten feet of a mailbox and that State Law allows the Police Department to tow illegally parked vehicles that remain unmoved for four hours.

Buchholtz stated the core issue is the shortage of student parking at the high school. He noted the school has 343 designated student spaces for which parking permits are sold (oversold by 5%) and an additional 70 staff parking spaces allocated to PSEO and part-time students. He stated most permits are issued to juniors and seniors, with very limited exceptions for sophomores.

Buchholtz stated that he and Chief Antoine propose a designated on-street parking zone on the north side of 79th Avenue, creating 27 striped parking spaces near the school. He explained the proposed parking zone abuts side yards of adjacent residential properties, minimizing residential impact. Buchholtz said that staff had asked the Fire Department for their opinion and the Fire Department had no objections.

Councilmember Wendling supported the idea as a reasonable compromise. Councilmember Dircks stated that she favored the plan but emphasized the need for data, not anecdotal

complaints, if the City is to consider restricting parking on other residential streets. Councilmember Moran expressed support for the plan.

Councilmembers discussed whether to include a second parking segment between Taylor Street and Highway 65 that would add another 10 parking spaces. Buchholtz recommended proceeding only with the initial 27-space segment due to the lack of a sidewalk along 79th Avenue east of Taylor Street.

CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL was to proceed with the 27-space striped parking zone as proposed. Administrator Buchholtz stated that he would prepare a resolution for City Council action at its July 7, 2025 meeting.

B. Terrace Park Tennis Court Striping

Administrator Buchholtz opened the discussion on striping the resurfaced Terrace Park tennis courts.

Councilmember Wendling stated she supported converting the area to pickleball courts and noted the Park and Recreation Commission had recommended that approach due to the availability of high-quality tennis courts at the high school.

Councilmember Dircks expressed concern about noise associated with pickleball and referenced complaints in other communities. Councilmember Wendling stated that the distance between homes on Terrace Road and the tennis courts in Terrace Park — approximately 200 feet—should mitigate concerns. Councilmembers discussed noise-dampening fencing materials as a potential way to address noise complaints, but noted the cost and visibility trade-offs.

Councilmember Moran expressed full support for the conversion, citing increased demand for pickleball and the location's suitability.

CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL was to proceed with converting the Terrace Park courts into four pickleball courts.

C. Discussion of Humane Pet Store Ordinance (Dircks)

Administrator Buchholtz introduced the draft ordinance. He stated that the ordinance is similar to ordinances approved in communities such as Oak Grove, Coon Rapids, Columbia Heights and other communities. He noted that the draft ordinance specifies that hobby breeders who breed and sell animals exclusively from their residence, and produce no more than 2 litters per year across all breeds and does not operate as a commercial enterprise are not included in the definition of a pet store. He stated that this inclusion was based on feedback provided by Mayor Nelson during previous discussions.

Councilmember Dircks voiced strong support, stating that the ordinance was well-written and ethically grounded. She emphasized the harm caused by large-scale breeding operations and their impact on shelters and rescues. Councilmember Wendling and Councilmember Moran expressed their support for the proposed ordinance.

CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL was to schedule the Humane Pet Store ordinance for action at the July 7, 2025 City Council meeting.

3. REPORT

A. Council and Staff Reports

Councilmember Moran asked that staff research the issue of cannabis cultivation in residential areas. She expressed concern about odor complaints during the flowering period, stating that one household's plants have affected her entire block. Administrator Buchholtz stated that he would research the matter and schedule a discussion for a future work session.

4. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

Ken Wendling, Acting Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer