

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Regular was held on January 20, 2026 at Spring Lake Park Community Center, 1301 81st Avenue N.E., at 7:00 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Ken Wendling

Councilmember Lisa Dircks

Mayor Robert Nelson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff

Councilmember April Moran

STAFF PRESENT

Police Chief Josh Antoine, Parks and Recreation Director Anne Scanlon, Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA - None

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR – None

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – January 5, 2026 City Council Meeting
- B. Approval of Claims List – General Disbursement #25-23 - \$776,931.09
- C. Revenue and Expenditure Report – December 2025
- D. Statement of Fund Balance – December 31, 2025
- E. Mayor's Proclamation – Winter Salt Awareness Week – January 26-30, 2026
- F. Approval of Right of Way Application – Xcel Energy – 1152 79th Ave NE
- G. Contractor's Licenses
- H. Sign Permit

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve Consent Agenda.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Dircks, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Police Report

Chief Antoine reported that the Police Department responded to 650 calls for service in December 2025 compared to 723 calls for service for the month of December 2024. He stated that the total number of calls for 2025 were 9,302. He noted that the calls were down slightly from 2024. Chief Antoine stated that School Resource Officer Imig handled 8 school-related calls, 16 student contacts, 27 escorts, and 6 follow-up investigations.

Chief Antoine said Investigator Bennek reported handling 29 cases for the month of December, 27 of which are felony in nature, 2 misdemeanor cases, while monitoring 4 forfeiture cases. He stated that Investigator Bennek closed one forfeiture case in December.

Chief Antoine stated that the administrative staff was recognized for their contributions for the year and they attended the Anoka County Chiefs Association year-end luncheon on December 22, 2025. He noted that December was busy with the hiring processes for two officers, one new position and one position to replace Investigator Bennek upon his retirement. He noted that SRO Imig, will be moving into the Investigator role. He reported that a new SRO process was also completed, and Officer Kelsey Smith will begin her assignment at the school on March 2, 2026.

Chief Antoine expressed his appreciation to officers and staff for their dedication during the holidays and throughout 2025, noting that reportable crimes decreased across all categories compared to the previous year. Chief Antoine highlighted the Everbridge Notification System, encouraging residents to register via the City website for emergency and event alerts.

B. Parks and Recreation Report

Parks and Recreation Director Scanlon noted that warming houses were not provided this year; however, the free skate and snowshoe checkout program at City Hall has been highly successful, with strong community engagement and many new skaters. She noted that the Public Works and Parks staff created a new skating loop at SanBurnol Park, offering a “lazy river on ice” experience.

Director Scanlon reported that a digital crowdfunding campaign through SeedMoney.org raised \$200, which will fund an additional bench and table at SanBurnol Park and a small garden for the Able Park summer program. She noted that raised garden beds are also being rebuilt.

Director Scanlon said that upcoming events include Snow Day at Able Park, the Valentine’s luncheon and dance, and senior programs. She stated that the City has partnered with Mounds View for Music in the Park to expand programming. Director Scanlon noted that

the City did not receive the Releaf Grant but will reapply next year. Director Scanlon concluded her report with a slide presentation of the Parks and Recreation Department.

8. ORDINANCES AN/OR RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 2026-02, A Resolution Accepting a Donation from SeedMoney to the City

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to approve a Donation from SeedMoney to the City.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Dircks, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Approval – Police Officer Conditional Job Offer

Chief Antoine reported that the Department completed its hiring processes, which included applications, oral interviews and a comprehensive background check. He stated that two candidates, Peter Barta and Philip Pouchak, successfully passed all requirements and are being recommended for conditional offers for employment. He stated that both candidates bring prior experience from other agencies. Chief Antoine is requesting council approval for conditional job offers, noting that, upon approval, the new hires would begin work in late January.

Motion made by Mayor Nelson to approve conditional job offers to Peter Barta and Philip Pouchak for employment with the Police Department.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Dircks, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

10. REPORTS

A. Attorney's Report - None

A. Engineer's Report

Report accepted as presented.

B. Administrator Report

Administrator Buchholtz reported that at the February 2, 2026 City Council Meeting, the Public Works union contract will be presented for approval. He stated that more information regarding the property located at 8466 Central Avenue will be available for review.

11. OTHER - None

12. ADJOURN

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to adjourn.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Dircks, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer