

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Worksession was held on March 20, 2023 at the 1301 81st Ave NE, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Goodboe-Bisschoff called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Nelson (arrived at 6:00 P.M.)
Councilmember Ken Wendling
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember April Moran

STAFF PRESENT

Administrator Daniel Buchholtz
Recreation Director Kay Okey

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. No Mow May (Councilmember Moran)

Administrator Buchholtz stated that “No Mow May” is an initiative that encourages people to stop mowing or mow less often during the month of May to create habitat and provide resources for bees and other early-season pollinators. He inquired if there was interest in participating in the program. He stated that should the City Council wish to participate in “No Mow May,” City Council would direct staff to refrain from enforcing its long grass nuisance ordinance during the month of May.

Councilmembers discussed the benefits and drawbacks of “No Mow May”. Mayor Nelson expressed concern about the initiative, expressing his opinion that the City will receive complaints from those who choose not to participate about the lack of enforcement of City Code. The other Councilmembers disagreed, expressing their support for providing critical early season habitat for pollinators.

CONSENSUS of the Council was to have the City participate in “No Mow May” and direct staff to prepare a resolution directing staff to refrain from enforcing the City’s long grass nuisance ordinance.

B. OSA Performance Measurement Program Participation

Administrator Buchholtz provided an overview of the voluntary Performance Measurement Program that is administered by the Office of the State Auditor. He stated that he would like the City to begin participating in the program. He expressed his belief that the City would receive valuable information from the program to help further improve service delivery. He presented a list of performance measures that would be used to evaluate the City's service delivery, as well as a proposed survey for residents to complete. He noted that the City would be eligible for a reimbursement from the State of approximately \$1,000 and would be exempt from levy limits under M.S. §§ 275.70 to 275.74, if they are in effect.

CONSENSUS of the Council was to allow the City to participate in the Performance Measurement Program through the Office of the State Auditor.

C. City Hall Renovation/Expansion Project Update

Administrator Buchholtz provided an update on the proposed City Hall Renovation/Expansion project. He stated that the latest design increased the size of the multi-purpose room by eliminating the Council Library and video room and shifting the Council Chambers to the west. He stated the conference room identified as room 131 on the plans would serve as the Council Library.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the open house for the project is scheduled for Monday, May 8 from 5:30-7:30pm at City Hall. He said a flyer informing the public about the project and the open house would be included with the next utility bill and would be included in the next City newsletter and on the City's Facebook page.

Mayor Nelson expressed concern about security measures in the building, stating that protecting the building and City employees during a period of civil unrest is important. Administrator Buchholtz stated that security measures would be incorporated in the building design.

Mayor Nelson asked about use of a larger meeting room, citing the example of Councilmembers meeting with staff and contractors during the 1998 Pavement Management program implementation. Administrator Buchholtz noted that there is a larger conference/training room (room 135) and that the multi-purpose room could be utilized for larger gatherings.

CONSENSUS of the Council was to accept the proposed plan and to have the architect begin preparing plans and specifications for bid. The Council also directed staff to study implementation of security measures, particularly for exterior glass surfaces, for the building that will be presented to the City Council.

3. REPORT

A. City Council and Staff Reports – None

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the work session at 6:40 pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer