

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a duly noticed work session of the Spring Lake Park City Council was held on November 04, 2024 at the Able Park Building, 8200 Able Street NE, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember April Moran

STAFF PRESENT

Administrator Buchholtz, Attorney Thames, Police Chief Antoine

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Bauer, MnDOT

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. State Highway 47 PEL Presentation (MnDOT)

Chris Bauer, North Area Engineer from MnDOT, provided an update on the University Avenue/State Highway 47 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study. Bauer explained that the PEL study aims to improve safety on University Avenue, which experiences a high rate of serious and fatal crashes, especially in Anoka County where speeds are typically higher than in Hennepin County. Bauer stated that MnDOT is considering several design solutions, including roundabouts and grade-separated interchanges, to address these safety issues. Bauer also mentioned upcoming MnDOT projects, such as the 2028 reconstruction of Highway 65 and a \$12 million resurfacing project on University Avenue slated for 2030, which may incorporate safety improvements.

Mayor Nelson advocated for the addition of fences along the corridor to prevent pedestrians from crossing the road at non-signalized intersections. He expressed strong concern about including roundabouts in the corridor.

Councilmembers raised questions about the speed limits along the Spring Lake Park section of University Avenue/State Highway 47, the need for additional lighting along the corridor and the feasibility of pedestrian safety measures near 85th Avenue NE.

Bauer stated that MnDOT will conduct additional community engagement sessions to gather further input from the public. He added that MnDOT plans to seek federal grants to help fund University Avenue safety improvements identified in the PEL study.

B. Review Draft Cannabis Registration Ordinance (Buchholtz/Thames)

Attorney Thames and Administrator Buchholtz provided an overview of the draft cannabis registration ordinance. Attorney Thames stated that the draft ordinance aligns with state laws governing cannabis businesses. He stated that the draft ordinance establishes a buffer zone of 1,000 feet from schools and 500 feet from daycares, residential treatment facilities, and parks used by minors. Attorney Thames explained that the ordinance limits registrations to one cannabis retailer per 12,500 residents or none if the County reaches the minimum number of licensees of one per 12,500 residents countywide.

Councilmember Dircks raised a question about hours of operation, proposing consistency between sales hours and event hours. Councilmember Dircks sought clarification on whether on-site consumption would be prohibited at temporary cannabis events. Administrator Buchholtz responded affirmatively.

Councilmembers discussed the number of licenses, the level of regulation of cannabis businesses within the zoning code, and adding a buffer zone for churches. Administrator Buchholtz stated that staff would refine the ordinance based on the Council's input. He stated that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the ordinance at their November 25 meeting and that the City Council will consider the ordinance after that. He noted that the moratorium on cannabis related businesses expires on January 1, 2025.

3. REPORT

A. City Council and Staff Reports

Administrator Buchholtz shared findings from the Phase II environmental site assessment for 8478 Highway 65 NE, which revealed groundwater contamination consistent with chemicals used in dry cleaning. He stated that soil vapor levels were also found to be elevated, potentially requiring remediation. The Council discussed possible costs and liability issues and agreed to pursue enrollment in the state's Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup (VIC) program to mitigate liability concerns. Administrator Buchholtz advised that remediation expenses may limit the feasibility of leasing the property.

4. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer