

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 July 6, 2026 at the Spring Lake Park City Hall, 1301 81st Ave NE, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Public Works Director George Linngren, Police Chief Josh Antoine, Building Official Jeff Baker, Engineer Phil Gravel, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Daniel Buchholtz

OTHERS PRESENT:

Halyn Roth	7914 Able Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
C Meyer	459 81 st Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Kristi & Rick Cobbs	8085 Jefferson Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Michelle Oler	700 Holland Lane NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Eric Julien	700 Holland Lane NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Perry Korzenowski	8420 Laddie Road NE	Spring Lake Park MN

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Statement of Values Complaint Review – Councilmember Dircks (Nelson)

During the work session, multiple council members and staff discussed concerns regarding a rumor involving an alleged threat attributed to Mayor Nelson. Councilmember Dircks acknowledged repeating secondhand information, stated it had been based on hearsay, and offered an apology to those affected.

Councilmembers Wendling, Goodboe-Bisschoff, and Mayor Nelson expressed concerns regarding the impact of the rumor, including reputational harm, personal distress, and potential implications related to election integrity. Several members emphasized the seriousness of the allegation and requested clarification regarding its source.

Councilmember Dircks stated that she had repeated information she had heard informally and acknowledged that the story had become distorted as it was retold.

Administrator Buchholtz clarified his role in private conversations with councilmembers and reiterated that no action had been taken previously because the information appeared to

be rumor and not a credible threat. He also referenced the council's earlier handling of a similar situation involving the mayor, noting that the approach had been to acknowledge the apology and move forward with communication training.

Councilmember Moran suggested that continued discussion of the personal aspects of the issue should be addressed under Item C of the agenda, which concerns communication and teamwork. She emphasized the need to refocus on productive council work.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff requested further investigation into the matter. Mayor Nelson stated that he did not accept the apology and indicated he may explore civil options. Other councilmembers expressed that, for purposes of council business, they supported acknowledging the apology and moving forward with communication improvement efforts facilitated by the League of Minnesota Cities.

Administrator Buchholtz confirmed the consensus:

- A majority of council members acknowledge that an apology was provided.
- The council will proceed with bringing in an external communication resource.
- No formal motions will be made during the work session.
Individual members may pursue personal or civil actions independently if they choose.

B. Temporary Reduction in Code Enforcement Director Work Schedule (Buchholtz/Baker)

Administrator Buchholtz presented a request from Building Official Baker to temporarily reduce his weekly hours from 40 to 32 due to a slowdown in building permits and inspections. Building Official Baker stated the department can continue meeting service expectations and confirmed he is willing to return to full-time hours if workload increases.

Building Official Baker clarified that the request is voluntary and will not impact inspection scheduling or contractor timelines. He noted potential day-off flexibility and highlighted available support from the joint power's agreement with the City of Mounds View and upcoming licensing expansion for Inspector Wirtz.

The City Council discussed broader budget and staffing considerations. Administrator Buchholtz stated that rental housing revenue supports the Code Enforcement Inspector position and current enforcement and rental inspection workloads remain high.

Councilmembers commented on taxation concerns, staffing levels, and employee retention. Councilmember Moran expressed clear support for Jeff's request.

Consensus indicated acceptance of Building Official Baker's temporary reduction in hours, with remaining budget questions to be addressed during the upcoming budget review.

C. Communication Workshop Discussion (Buchholtz)

Administrator Buchholtz reported meeting with Amy Gourlay from the League of Minnesota Cities to discuss structuring an upcoming Council work session. He stated that Ms. Gourlay initially recommended meeting with two Council Members to set desired outcomes and focus areas.

Mayor Nelson volunteered to participate and suggested including the Acting Mayor Councilmember Goodboe-Bischoff who also volunteered. Councilmembers discussed whether two members should participate or whether all councilmembers should be involved.

Council reached consensus to have Ms. Gourlay meet with the entire Council rather than a smaller group. Administrator Buchholtz will inform her of this decision. He stated that councilmembers should share their perspectives if Ms. Gourlay.

D. Terrace Park Building Update (Buchholtz)

Administrator Buchholtz provided an update on the Terrace Park building project. He stated the City has secured a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant, with the remaining match already budgeted. He stated that at the next Council meeting, staff will request authorization to solicit bids for a general contractor. He noted that the contractor will coordinate work that the high-school trades program cannot perform, including electrical, plumbing, crane work for trusses, interior finishing, and purchasing required materials.

Staff noted ongoing coordination with the trades program advisor, who has reviewed the plans and provided input, including selecting materials the students can more easily work with. Contractors contacted by the architect are willing to work with students under supervision. Students will participate in allowable portions of construction and observe licensed professionals in restricted trades.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that a pre-bid meeting is planned for August 5 for prospective bidders to meet the trades advisor and clarify expectations. He said the bid opening is scheduled for August 17. He noted that staff is requesting a special Council meeting on August 24 at 5:00 p.m. to award the bid, allowing the project to stay on schedule so site work is completed by early October for student involvement.

Council confirmed willingness to hold the special meeting and ensured bid specifications will clearly define expectations for working with students.

3. REPORT

A. City Council and Staff Reports - None

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:19 PM.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer