

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Regular was held on May 18, 2020 at the City Hall, at 7:00 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Mayor Robert Nelson
Councilmember Ken Wendling
Councilmember Brad Delfs
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks

STAFF PRESENT:

Public Works Director Randall, Police Chief Ebeltoft, Engineer Gravel, City Assessor Tolzmann, Attorney Thames, Parks and Recreation Director Okey and Administrator Buchholtz

VISITORS:

Christine Jones, 8081 Garfield Street NE
Karen Eggert, 8065 Garfield Street NE

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA – None

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Christine Jones, 8082 Garfield Street NE, stated that she would like a status update on the Garfield Pond Improvement project. She stated that she has several concerns including the clean up around the pond, the odor coming from the pond, mosquito and gnat control, the sloping of the pond and fencing around the pond. She stated that there is an odor coming from the newly dredged pond. She stated that she has informed City staff of the odor. She reported that the mosquitos and gnats are more noticeable since the pond construction has taken place. She reported that she has witnessed children stuck in the mud in the middle of the pond and the children have been disturbing the wildlife near the pond.

Karen Eggert, 8065 Garfield Street NE, expressed her concern that the newly installed drainage pipe is not working properly as she noticed with the most recent rain the slope of the pipe did not drain the water towards Spring Lake. She is concerned that the pipe is not sloped correctly. She expressed concern with the gnat problem.

Engineer Gravel reported that the drainage pipe is sloped correctly. He stated that the drainage into Spring Lake will be noticeable once a significant rain fall occurs. He stated that with the recent rain fall, it has not been enough water to utilize the new emergency overflow into the lake.

Mr. Gravel stated that a punch list has been given to the contractor regarding clean up around the pond. He stated that the Public Works Department has been cleaning up debris around the pond. He reported that Mosquito Control has been contacted. He stated that a plan is being discussed for the gnat control.

Mr. Gravel reported that the City will be placing lime into the pond to help with the reported odor of the pond. He stated that City and engineering staff has not noticed an odor when on-site.

Mr. Gravel reported that discussions were held regarding a fence around the pond. He stated that with the proposed slope and landscaping around the pond, the consensus was that there would not be a need for fencing along 81st Avenue. He stated that the City is working on accelerating the planting of landscaping and trees within the next four weeks.

Mr. Gravel stated that the pond improvement project had the goals of treating storm water run-off, removal of sediment near the inlet pipe, expand the pond capacity and add a second drain pipe into Spring Lake. He stated that the pond depth was achieved with the removal of sediment in the pond. He explained that the pond was sloped toward the middle to avoid disturbance of the existing retaining walls. He stated that there was a misunderstanding between the staff and residents regarding the depth of the dredging.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired as to why only four feet of sediment was removed in certain areas of the pond rather than the entire pond. Mr. Gravel explained that the removal as a gradual slope and at the deepest point the four feet would meet the water quality goals of the project.

Mayor Nelson explained that the gradual slope was necessary because of the retaining walls and the fear of the walls collapsing. He stated that for safety reason a sloped design into the pond is a better design than a quick drop off.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff stated that the communication of the plans to the residents was not done well. Mayor Nelson expressed his apologies and reminded residents that this project is to improve a storm water pond, not a beautification pond. He stated that this project was completed by the City, whereas a beautification project would be done by the residents living on the near the pond. He stated that mistakes were made but it was a learning project for future storm water projects.

Councilmember Dircks suggested that future projects, such as pond improvement, provide better education to the residents and offer more question/answer opportunities before the future project starts.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes- May 4, 2020 City Council Meeting
- B. General Operations Disbursements #20-07 \$514,437.19
- C. Proclamation - Public Works Week (May 17-23, 2020)
- D. Right of Way Permit - Centerpoint Energy
- E. Contractor's Licenses
- F. Sign Permit
- G. Resolution 20-19, Certifying Delinquent Accounts - Anoka County
- H. Resolution 20-20, A Resolution Repealing Resolution 20-12 and Authorizing Municipal State Aid Street Revision
- I. Ordinance 465, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 70 of the Spring Lake Park City Code Relating to Traffic Regulations

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff stated that she would like it noted that the residents at 8464 Westwood Drive request a privacy fence added to their property as part of the variance that was approved for 8457 Sunset Road NE at the May 4, 2020 Council meeting.

Councilmember Wendling stated that it was discussed at the City Council meeting and that additional privacy screening would be reviewed at the time of the site plan review.

Mayor Nelson stated that the variance was only approved at May 4, 2020 meeting and the site plan review will take place at a later date.

Council member Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired if the ground water levels have been reviewed at the properties near 8457 Sunset Road. She stated that homeowner's sump pump runs frequently. Mr. Randall stated that he would review this, but noted that the water table is very high.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired on Item 6G. Resolution 20-19, Certifying Delinquent Accounts – Anoka County. She inquired as to what the resolution referred to. Administrator Buchholtz reported that an applicant had applied for a zoning change and with the plan review and the City's costs, the amount exceeded what was collected for Escrow. He reported that the applicant was invoiced for the additional amount and it was not paid. He stated that at the time of the application, the applicant waives their right to appeal any fees that may be assessed in excess to the amount of Escrow. He stated that the invoiced amount will be assessed to the applicant's property taxes and cannot be appealed.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve Consent agenda.

Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Delfs, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks. Motion carried.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. City Assessor Report

Assessor Tolzmann provided a report on the 2020 Assessment for Taxes Payable 2021 and an overview of the assessment process.

Mr. Tolzmann reported that there were 80 qualified residential sales within the City during the sales period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019, and after value adjustments made accordingly by zone, the result was an assessment that qualifies as “excellent” in the eyes of the Minnesota Department of Revenue with a median sales ratio of 94.41. He stated that there were five qualified commercial/industrial sales reflecting a sales ratio of 95.46 as well one qualified apartment sale reflecting a median ratio of 95.2.

Mr. Tolzmann reported the median sales price went from \$221,000 in 2018, to \$225,500 in 2019. He stated that while the level of growth is less than that of last years’ 12% increase in values, it remains good news for the homeowners of Spring Lake Park.

Mr. Tolzmann reported that market values increased by 2% in the City last year and noted that values have increased by 32.7% over the past four years.

Mr. Tolzmann stated that he has reviewed the improvement listings for 2020 and certified the amounts to be correct. He reminded the City Council and residents that homes are physically assessed every five years and often dramatic improvements are discovered.

Councilmember Wendling inquired on how long Mr. Tolzmann has been the assessor for the City of Spring Lake Park. Mr. Tolzmann reported that he has been the assessor since 2008.

Mayor Nelson thanked Mr. Tolzmann for his professionalism and hard work with the City. He thanked Mr. Tolzmann for his report.

B. Police Report

Police Chief Ebeltoft reviewed the monthly staff report.

C. Parks and Recreation Report

Parks and Recreation Director Okey reviewed the monthly staff report. She reported that playground equipment at the parks reopened on May 18, 2020. She reminded residents that the equipment is not sanitized and to use at residents’ own discretion.

Councilmember Delfs inquired if the nets and hoops have been reinstalled. Ms. Okey reported that they are in the process of being installed.

Councilmember Delfs inquired if any summer programs will be taking place later this summer should COVID-19 restrictions be lifted. Ms. Okey reported that staff is continuously brainstorming of ways to allow the programs to take place. She stated that she hopes the playground program can be run on a modified version. She reported that the softball season has been postponed until August.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired if all the community garden plots at Sanburnol Park have been reserved. Ms. Okey reported that all but three of the plots were reserved. She stated that Parks and Recreation staff planted flowers and vegetables for the community in the three remaining plots.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020 Seal Coat Project Bid Results

Engineer Gravel reported that bids were opened for the 2020 Seal Coat Project on May 1, 2020. He reported that the project will include the streets east of Highway 65 except for 81st Avenue, Arthur, Garfield and Hayes streets. He reported that three bids were received and provided the following bid results.

	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Total Base Bid</u>
Low	Allied Blacktop Company	\$126,465.00
#2	Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation, a/k/a ASTECH Corp.	\$130,945.00
#3	Pearson Bros., Inc.	\$133,485.00

Mr. Gravel reported that Allied Blacktop was the low bidder with a Total Base Bid Amount of \$126,465.00. He reported that the bid includes the striping of all of the City. He reported that the Public Works Department has been filling cracks and patching pot holes in preparation to the seal coat project. He stated that Pleasantview Road was milled and edged in preparation.

Councilmember Delfs inquired if there was any reason not to accept the low bid. Mayor Nelson stated that it is common practice to accept the low bidder unless there are some underlying circumstances from previous work on projects.

Mayor Nelson inquired if there are products that would adhere to the streets better with high humidity levels. Mr. Gravel stated that there are products on the market however the City prefers to use the traditional oil and rock method.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve Allied Blacktop Company with a Total Base Bid of \$126,465.00 for the 2020 Seal Coat Project.

Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Delfs, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks. Motion carried.

9. REPORTS

A. Engineer's Report

Engineer Gravel had no new items to report.

B. Attorney's Report

Attorney Thames had no items to report.

C. Administrator Report

Administrator Buchholtz reported that he had been in communication with the County Assessor and County officials regarding the correspondence sent to Councilmembers by the County Assessor regarding the proposed improvement amounts on property tax statements.

Administrator Buchholtz reported that City Hall opened with a "soft opening" on May 18, 2020. He said that City Hall will be ready for a full opening on June 1, 2020 and will be advertised as being open to the public again after being closed for public traffic for eight weeks. He stated that face masks will be required and additional protocols have been taken for a safe environment for the public and employees.

Administrator Buchholtz reported that staff has started preparing for the primary and general election. He stated that staff will be meeting with School District staff regarding the use of the school buildings for the primary and general elections. He encouraged residents to request an absentee ballot to ease the pressure voting places and on the election judges.

Administrator Buchholtz shared a proposed tree planting map for the Garfield Pond Improvement project. He stated that the plan will be shared with the homeowners and discussions will take place. He stated that he is trying to get the plans finalized so plantings can take place soon.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired if signs are posted at City Hall stating face masks are required and what will happen if a resident is not wearing one. Councilmember Wendling stated that signs are posted and the resident will not be allowed into City Hall.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired if the homeowner who had siding damage from the contractor near the Garfield Pond project has been taken care of. Administrator Buchholtz reported that the damage has been repaired.

10. OTHER

Mayor Nelson reported that the concert benefiting the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon will be airing on the local cable channel on May 20, 2020. He reported that the concert will be replayed at several other days and times.

11. ADJOURN

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to adjourn.

Voting Yea: Mayor Nelson, Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Delfs, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer