OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Regular was held on October 5, 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 Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks
Councilmember April Moran
Mayor Robert Nelson

STAFF PRESENT
Police Chief Josh Antoine, Attorney Thames, Engineer Phil Gravel, City Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

VISITORS

Kristi Cobbs	8085 Jefferson Street NE	Spring Lake Park
Perry Korzenowski	8420 Laddie Road NE	Spring Lake Park
Halyn Roth	7914 Able Street NE	Spring Lake Park
C Meyer	459 81st Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park
Kenneth Kirchner	7955 Van Buren Street NE	Spring Lake Park
Tim Marrs	658 79th Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park
Katie Kelly	Alexandra House Community Outreach Coordinator	

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA - None

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

C. Meyer, 459 81st Avenue NE, voiced concern over the Council's acceptance of an additional Flock camera despite resident objections and questioned the assurance of seven-day data deletion. She also opposed proposed limits to public comment, stating they may discourage resident participation.

Ken Kirchner, 7955 Van Buren Street NE, stated his opposition to Flock cameras, expressing concern that surveillance may treat law-abiding residents as potential criminals. He questioned the security of data transmitted over Wi-Fi based on his technical experience and argued that

such systems remain vulnerable to unauthorized access. He concluded by reiterating that he sees no justification for surveilling residents who have no criminal history. Mr. Kirchner requested clarification regarding repainting stop-sign markings near his property, noting that current markings do not meet the 30-foot standard he believes is required. He also expressed concern over proposals to limit public comment, stating that elected officials are accountable to residents.

Kristi Cobbs, 8085 Jefferson Street NE, stated concern that recent Council actions and lack of responses to resident emails give the impression that resident input is not welcomed. She emphasized that public comment is essential for community engagement and that residents should have reasonable access to their elected officials. She noted her consistent attendance at meetings and reiterated that her participation is not to create conflict but to address decisions affecting the community. She concluded by expressing support for allowing backyard chickens.

6. PRESENTATION

A. Presentation of Mayor's Proclamation – Domestic Violence Awareness Month to Alexandra House

Mayor Nelson presented a proclamation designating October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Spring Lake Park. He outlined the widespread impact of domestic violence, recognized the work of Alexandria House and community partners in supporting survivors, and encouraged residents to promote safe and respectful relationships.

Katie Kelly, Community Outreach Coordinator for Alexandra House and a Spring Lake Park resident, thanked the Mayor and Council for recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month. She highlighted the importance of awareness efforts, shared key statistics on intimate partner violence, and encouraged residents to participate by displaying yard signs, wearing purple, and engaging in community conversations. She expressed appreciation for the City's partnership and support in promoting safety and advocacy for survivors.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – City Council Work Session Meeting – September 21, 2026
B. Approval of Minutes – City Council Meeting – September 21, 2026
C. Accept Letter of Retirement from Sgt. Karen Fiske
D. Authorization to Begin Hiring Process for a Police Officer Position
E. Contractor's Request for Payment #1 – 2026 Street Improvement Project - $374,116.77
F. Contractor's Licenses
G. Sign Permits

Mayor Nelson reflected on Sgt. Fiske's service to the city, praising her strong de-escalation skills, dedication, and positive impact on the community. He noted her long tenure,

professionalism, and the respect she brought to the department, stating she will be greatly missed.

Councilmember Wendling asked whether the requested hiring process was for Sgt. Fiske's replacement. Chief Antoine confirmed that the process would fill her vacant officer position, noting that two sergeant promotions are underway and the city will hire a new officer while promoting from within.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve Consent Agenda.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Dircks, Councilmember Moran, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Public Works Report

Public Works Director Linngren reported that tree planting funded by a Lions grant is nearly complete and asked residents to watch for vandalism of the newly planted trees. He added that street sweeping for the season's first round is finished, with asphalt patching and additional sweeping to follow.

B. Code Enforcement Report

Building Official Baker reported that utility disconnections for the Terrace Park warming house have been resolved after delays with service providers. He noted ongoing work with Spring Lake Park Schools regarding the scoreboard project and provided construction updates, including inspections at The Grey, progress on Nashmi Restaurant, and completion of rough-in inspections for the planned event center at 7777 Highway 65.

9. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS -

A. Ordinance No. 512, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16 of the Spring Lake Park City Code Relating to Secondary School Stadium Video Displays

Administrator Buchholtz explained that Ordinance 512 updates the city's zoning code to regulate secondary school stadium video displays after the high school installed a new scoreboard not covered by existing rules. He stated that the ordinance creates standards that allow stadiums to use video displays for events while protecting nearby homes from excessive brightness, size, and nighttime operation.

Administrator Buchholtz said key provisions include limits on height, width, display area, brightness, operating hours, and proximity to residential properties. He stated that only one display is allowed per campus, and it must face the field and be designed to minimize

impacts on neighbors. He noted the applications require detailed technical and lighting plans, with the option for independent review. He said that the ordinance also includes enforcement and ongoing compliance requirements.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the Planning Commission added one amendment to allow use during private rental events and unanimously recommended approval. Buchholtz noted that the city has little authority over the school district, so enforcing zoning requirements is the primary way to ensure compliance.

Mayor Nelson reflected on the Planning Commission's discussion, raising concerns about doubling the school district's permit fees and the resulting tax impact on residents. He questioned whether standard fees should apply instead and asked the City Attorney whether a memorandum of understanding could help ensure the school district follows permit requirements in the future. He emphasized the need for clearer processes to prevent recurring violations.

Attorney Thames responded that an additional agreement is unnecessary because permitting rules were already clear and communicated. He suggested the issue stemmed from the applicant, not the process. He noted the Council may choose to waive the doubled fee but advised that the school district should continue to be treated like any other land-use applicant going forward.

Motion by Councilmember Dircks to amend the ordinance to limit stadium sign operation to no earlier than dawn and no later than midnight.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Moran, Mayor Nelson. Abstain: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mayor Nelson to approve Ordinance No. 512, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16 of the Spring Lake Park City Code Relating to Secondary School Stadium Video Displays.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Moran, Mayor Nelson. Abstain: Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff. Motion carried.

B. Resolution 2026-46, Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 512, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16 of the Spring Lake Park City Code Relating to Secondary School Stadium Video Displays

Motion made by Councilmember Mayor Nelson to approve Resolution 2026-46, Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 512, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 16 of the Spring Lake Park City Code Relating to Secondary School Stadium Video Displays

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Moran, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

C. Resolution 2026-47, Rejecting All Bids for the Terrace Park Building Replacement Project

Administrator Buchholtz reported that project bids came in at nearly double the engineer's estimate, prompting a redesign to reduce costs. He noted that significant square footage and amenities had already been removed, yet bids remained unexpectedly high. He stated that staff will revisit the building plan to identify more cost-effective alternatives.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve Resolution 2026-47, Rejecting All Bids for the Terrace Park Building Replacement Project.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Moran, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Conditional Sign Permit Approval – Spring Lake Park High School Stadium Video Display – 1100 81st Avenue NE

Administrator Buchholtz reported that the school district has submitted a sign permit for the new scoreboard. He recommended conditional approval to allow completion of remaining permitting and compliance requirements, including a building permit and a photometric plan. He stated that while the district requested the City waive the photometric requirement, he advised retaining it to ensure proper evaluation of compliance under the newly adopted ordinance.

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to approve Conditional Sign Permit Approval – Spring Lake Park High School Stadium Video Display – 1100 81st Avenue NE.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Moran, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

11. REPORTS

A. Attorney's Report

Attorney Thames reported reviewing the City's commercial cellular leases in preparation for upcoming water tower painting projects. He thanked Deputy Clerk Brown for assisting in locating the agreements and clarified that the review pertains only to equipment located on top of the tower.

B. Engineer's Report

Report accepted as presented.

C. Administrator Report

Administrator Buchholtz acknowledged Sgt. Fiske's retirement, noting her outstanding service to the community, particularly through her years as a school resource officer. He expressed appreciation for her positive impact on residents and announced that a retirement celebration is planned for the afternoon of November 30, with additional details to follow.

12. OTHER

A. Close City Council Meeting to Conduct City Administrator Performance Evaluation, pursuant to M.S. 13D.05, subd. 3a

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to recess the meeting for a closed session.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Moran, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

Meeting recessed at 7:58 PM

Meeting reconvened at 8:22 PM

Attorney Thames stated that the City Council had adjourned to a closed session held pursuant to Minnesota Statue 13D.05, subd. 3a, to discuss the City Administrator's Performance Evaluation. He stated an update will be given at the next meeting.

Councilmember Moran announced that Park and Recreation is running its final set of advertisements, including a large billboard on Highway 65.

13. ADJOURN

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to adjourn.

Voting Aye: Councilmember Wendling, Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff, Councilmember Moran, Mayor Nelson. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer