

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council was held on May 4, 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 Bob Nelson

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Building Official Jeff Baker, Public Works Director George Linngren, Police Chief Antoine, Parks and Recreation Director Anne Scanlon, Attorney John Thames, Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

VISITOR

C Meyer	459 81 st Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Halyn Roth	7914 Able Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Kristi Cobbs	8085 Jefferson Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Jaycee Kilborn	351 79 th Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Addie Davis	8007 6 th Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Mary Sabby	13124 Crane Street NW	Coon Rapids MN
Stephen Birmingham	773 83 rd Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA - None

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Addie Davis, 8007 6th Street NE, addressed the council to emphasize the importance of careful and responsible word choice by public officials, noting that language can have significant impacts even when unintended. Ms. Davis stated that individuals in public office have a responsibility to hold themselves to high standards and to demonstrate continuous improvement. She expressed concern that a council member appeared unsure of how publicly posted meeting videos are handled, noting that such practices are common across the state.

Ms. Davis challenged the notion that long-standing practices are necessarily acceptable, citing historical examples of harmful practices that persisted for years before being recognized as inappropriate. She distinguished between explanations, which help identify causes and paths forward, and excuses, which shift responsibility. She stated that providing excuses rather than accountability is unacceptable for public officials. Ms. Davis concluded by affirming that these comments reflect her views as a resident and voter in the community.

Kristi Cobbs, 8085 Jefferson Street NE, spoke about her long-standing involvement in the Spring Lake Park community and the activities that contribute to its sense of connection, safety, and belonging. She emphasized that community is built through strong leadership that unites people, listens to residents, and understands the impact of its conduct.

Ms. Cobbs expressed concern that some residents feel disconnected or unheard regarding recent council actions and discussions. She stated that the council chamber should be a place where community is strengthened, not diminished, and that leadership should demonstrate respect, responsibility, and consistent alignment with community values. She noted that the direction of the community depends on the standard of leadership residents are willing to accept and referenced the upcoming election for two council seats and the mayoral position. Ms. Cobbs stated that the community deserves leadership that demonstrates its values through actions as well as words.

Jaycee Kilborn, 351 79th Avenue NE, addressed the Council to express concerns about the conduct and interactions among council members during meetings. She noted instances she felt were disrespectful and stated that elected officials have a responsibility to communicate in a manner that represents the community appropriately. Ms. Kilborn acknowledged the Mayor's comments regarding behavior but emphasized the need for visible improvement.

Ms. Kilborn stated that residents attend meetings to stay informed and participate in the decisions that affect their community, and she expressed disagreement with the suggestion that attendees were "ganging up" on the Mayor. She stated that residents have the right to share their opinions and to feel represented, and she expressed concern that some viewpoints may not be welcomed.

Ms. Kilborn also commented on the posting and recording of public meetings, noting that recording is permitted and that statements made publicly should be expected to be accessible. She shared that the current tone of council interactions affects residents' perceptions of the community and their desire to build a future in it. She encouraged all parties to focus on managing their own conduct, avoiding unnecessary conflict, and working together civilly to support the community.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – City Council Work Session – April 6, 2026
- B. Approval of Minutes – City Council Meeting– April 6, 2026
- C. Approval of Minutes – City Council Meeting – April 20, 2026

- D. Mayor's Proclamation – Municipal Clerks Week – May 3-9, 2026
- E. Mayor's Proclamation – Building Safety Month – May 2026
- F. Mayor's Proclamation – National Police Week – May 10-16, 2026
- G. Lions Temporary Liquor License – Tower Days
- H. Approval of ROW Application – Xcel Energy – 331 Wyldwood Lane NE
- I. Contractor's Licenses

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Public Works Report

Public Works Director Linngren presented the March monthly report. He stated that the Department completed its first round of street sweeping, collecting an estimated 100 tons of debris. He said that staff has now transitioned to pothole patching until seasonal employees begin arriving in mid-May and early June.

Director Linngren stated that the Safety Committee held its regular meeting, with appreciation expressed to Wanda for her effective organization. He stated that the Department responded to one final snow-and-salt event and has since shifted to spring tasks, including leaf cleanup and preparation of the parks. He said that staff removed and replaced aging garden boxes at Sanburnol Park with eight new boxes constructed by Spring Lake Park High School students.

Public Works Director Linngren reported that tree sale participation has been lower than expected, with only 25 of the planned 50 trees sold. He noted that the sale has not been advertised as much as needed. The Tree Trust suggested shifting to a fall pickup to allow for more summer promotion and potentially increase sales. Given the low number of current orders, he stated that holding the pickup as scheduled—May 22 with distribution on June 6—may not be worthwhile.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired about the types of trees available.

Director Linngren reported that the City's tree sale offers a wide variety of species, including hawthorns, Eastern redbud clumps, Japanese lilacs, blue beech, ironwood, buckeye, honey locust, Kentucky coffee tree, white oak, Princeton elm, river birch, hackberry, linden, white pine, arborvitae, and Black Hills spruce, in addition to standard maples and lindens. He noted ongoing efforts to improve public awareness of the program through social media and Tower Days outreach, acknowledging that participation can be difficult to gauge in the first year. He recognized the \$50,000 grant from the Lions that helped launch the program.

Director Linngren emphasized that while residents may plant trees in their yards, planting on the boulevard shifts maintenance responsibility to the City; therefore, backyard or front-yard planting is preferred. He also noted interest from some townhome associations seeking replacements for lost trees. He stated that staff will continue discussions with Tree Trust, including the possibility of shifting to fall delivery to allow more time for promotion and for residents to review available tree options online.

B. Code Enforcement Report

Building Official Baker reported that he assisted with inspections in Mounds View, noting that contractors appreciated the City's ability to provide coverage. He stated he and Inspector Wertz have recently identified additional businesses operating without certificates of occupancy, including some functioning in violation of city code. He noted that coordination with the Police Department has helped address these issues, contributing to an increase in administrative citations.

Building Official Baker provided a construction update. He completed the initial walkthrough for the business at Center Drive that, noting the building is gutted to the studs and will be rebuilt according to their new plan. He has not yet conducted the walkthrough for Optimized Physical Therapy but has spoken with the owner by phone.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired about the length that a dumpster can sit in the front yard. Building Official Baker explained that staff typically monitors a complaint for about a week to determine whether any progress is being made. He stated that if no changes occur, the property owner is informed that the dumpster must be removed promptly. He noted that dumpsters left in place for more than a couple of weeks—especially when located on the boulevard or right-of-way—are considered excessive due to their visual impact and obstruction, and staff will require their removal.

8. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 2026-11, Identifying the Need for Funding to Complete the City's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update and Authorizing an Application for Planning Assistance Grant Funds

Administrator Buchholtz reported that the City will begin work on the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. He noted that staff had been waiting for the Metropolitan Council's grant program to open. He stated that unlike the last update cycle, the City is eligible for a grant of up to \$40,000. He explained that the proposed resolution authorizes the City to apply for the grant.

Motion made by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff to approve Resolution 2026-11, Identifying the Need for Funding to Complete the City's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update and Authorizing an Application for Planning Assistance Grant Funds.

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

B. Resolution 2026-12, A Resolution Authorizing Year-End Interfund Transfers Relating to Fund Closings, General Fund Surplus and Deficit Balances

Administrator Buchholtz explained that the resolution before the Council is part of the City's annual year-end financial cleanup. He stated that several funds that have fulfilled their intended purposes are proposed for closure. He noted that some of these funds have surplus balances and others have deficits; the resolution reallocates those balances accordingly. He said the resolution will eliminate small deficit balances in Funds 333 and 334, and will close Funds 304, 331, and 384, which are related to past SBM project debt service. He stated that any remaining balances after audit adjustments will be transferred to the Revolving Construction Fund.

Administrator Buchholtz noted that a portion of the tax settlement that should have been allocated to the City Hall debt service fund will be corrected through this action. The resolution also proposes allocating dollars toward capital needs, including seal coating, replenishing the severance fund, and contributing to the Equipment Fund and the Revolving Construction Fund. He said that the \$75,000 allocation to the Revolving Construction Fund will cover the City's share of the 2026 street improvement project.

Administrator Buchholtz added that the City anticipates receiving a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant, pending County Board approval. He said to prepare for potential matching requirements, staff recommends depositing \$100,000 into the Park Equipment and Improvements Fund.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve Resolution 2026-12, A Resolution Authorizing Year-End Interfund Transfers Relating to Fund Closings, General Fund Surplus and Deficit Balances.

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

9. NEW BUSINESS – None

10. REPORTS

A. Attorney Report

Attorney Thames stated that he completed his review of the 2026 Sealcoat project contracts and are just waiting for an updated insurance certificate.

B. Engineer Report - Accept report as submitted

C. Administrator Report

Administrator Buchholtz reported that there will be a work session on May 18, 2026. He stated the topic will discuss organics recycling.

11. OTHER

Councilmember Dircks announced that on Thursday, May 7, the city will host its first plant swap, along with a seed and garden tool exchange, at City Hall from 6–8 p.m. She encouraged gardeners to attend and to bring any plants, seeds, or tools they'd like to trade with others.

12. ADJOURN

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer