

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 March 18, 2024 at the Able Park Building, 8200 Able Street NE, Spring Lake Park, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

GUESTS

Karen Skepper, Anoka County HRA

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Anoka County Housing Study Presentation

Karen Skepper, Anoka County Director of Community and Government Relations, presented the findings of the Anoka County Housing Study. She reported that the study highlighted the county's robust growth over the last decade, persistent labor shortages, a tight rental market, and a dramatic increase in home prices. She stated the study projected strong demand for housing through 2030, with an estimated need for over 18,000 new housing units. She presented recommendations for the City of Spring Lake Park, noting that the Spring Lake Park market could support 44 single family and 54 multi-family owner-occupied units, 261 rental units and 338 senior housing units between 2023 and 2030. She noted that with the City being fully developed, the majority of this growth would come through redevelopment.

Councilmembers asked questions which lead to discussions about different types of housing, such as workforce and affordable housing; the impacts of the recent National Association of Realtors settlement governing real estate commissions; and new housing trends. Councilmembers raised concerns regarding dramatic increases in rent in the City's affordable housing stock and the potential need for more affordable and subsidized housing units. Ms. Skepper concluded the item by leading a discussion on ways to encourage housing developments, including through public-private partnerships and utilizing newly available affordable housing funding.

B. Discussion of Allina Service Reductions at Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus

Administrator Buchholtz reported that the City has learned about planned service reductions at Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus. He stated that the service changes included moving all intensive care units and surgeries to Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids, with Unity Campus focusing on addiction and mental health services. He noted that Mayor Nelson sent a letter expressing the City's concerns about the planned service reduction was sent to the President of Mercy Hospital. Buchholtz stated that he and Mayor Nelson would be meeting with Mercy Hospital President Michael Johnston on Tuesday, March 19 to express the City's concerns.

Councilmembers expressed concerns about the future of hospital services at Mercy Hospital-Unity Campus. Councilmembers requested that Administrator Buchholtz and Mayor Nelson advocate for continued investment and services at the Unity Campus.

3. REPORT

A. Council Reports – No reports.

B. Administrator Report – no report.

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer