

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Regular was held on July 21, 2025 at the City Hall, at 7:00 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Wendling called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Wendling
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff
Councilmember Lisa Dircks
Mayor Robert Nelson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember April Moran

STAFF PRESENT

Building Official Jeff Baker, Police Chief Josh Antoine, Recreation Director Anne Scanlon, City Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

VISITORS

Donna Eiler	8301 Pierce Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Rachel Eiler	8301 Pierce Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Gene Eiler	8301 Pierce Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA - None

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Donna Eiler, 8301 Pierce Street NE addressed several concerns regarding code enforcement and neighborhood quality in Spring Lake Park. She expressed frustration with a lack of action on issues she's reported, including overgrown lawns, dead trees, trash, and discarded furniture on her street, specifically noting properties at 8330 and 8340 Pierce Street. She said that despite previous calls and conversations with a council member, the problems persist.

Ms. Eiler urged that not only residents but also elected officials be held accountable for adhering to city codes and setting a proper example for the community. She also discussed problems related to the duplexes at 8350 and 8352 Pierce Street, noting that although neighbors were told they would not be rentals, they now appear to function as halfway houses.

She mentioned disruptive behavior by individuals in the area and asked about the terms of the rental agreements.

Ms. Eiler emphasized that many homes citywide are in visible disrepair, negatively affecting the overall appearance and morale of the community. She stressed the importance of consistent enforcement of city codes to maintain property standards and community pride.

Ms. Eiler raised concerns about the nearby collision center operating on weekends, particularly Sundays, despite previous statements to the contrary. She cited noise and paint fumes as ongoing nuisances affecting neighborhood livability.

Chief Antoine clarified that the properties in question on Pierce Street are not halfway houses but rather group homes, which typically serve individuals with medical or mental health needs, not those transitioning from jail or prison. He assured residents that if they witness disruptive behavior—such as someone yelling in the street—they should not hesitate to contact the Police Department. He stated that officers will respond promptly, work to return the individual to the residence, and communicate with the homeowner or managing company to address ongoing behavior issues.

Chief Antoine explained that residents can also report local business operating outside permitted hours (such as weekends). He said officers will document the incident, file a report, and refer it to code enforcement, which can then issue citations if warranted. He noted that specific restrictions on a business's operating hours would need to be confirmed with the City's Building Inspector.

Ms. Eiler asked about the article in the newsletter concerning homeowners being contacted about dead and dying trees on their property. She asked how was the issue going to be enforced?

City Administrator Buchholtz informed the Council that the City Forester, who also serves as the Public Works Director, will be conducting inspections to identify hazardous trees, with priority given to those posing immediate danger. He noted that while the current focus is on these priority removals, all dying Ash trees throughout the city will eventually need to be removed. He also mentioned that the city is nearly finished with its removal efforts for City Boulevard trees.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – July 7, 2025 City Council Work Session Minutes
- B. Approval of Minutes – July 7, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of June Claims List – General Disbursement #25-11 - \$724,115.64
- D. Revenue and Expense Report – June 30, 2025
- E. Resolution 2025-30, Accepting Donation from Keith Schweiger for Police Department Flock Camera Program

- F. Contractor's Request for Payment No. 1 – 2025 Street Seal Coat and Crack Repair - \$20,754.65
- G. Approval of Public Right of Way Application – Xcel Energy – 589 Rosedale Road NE
- H. Approval of Public Right of Way Application – Xcel Energy – 8001 Madison Street NE
- I. Contractor's Licenses
- J. Sign Permit

Chief Antoine stated that he would like to recognize Keith Schweiger, owner of Perfect 10 Auto Sales, for his continued partnership with the Police Department over the past three years. He said that Mr. Schweiger's contributions have helped the Police Department purchase two electric bikes for the bike patrol and, more recently, supported the installation of Flock Cameras at County Road 10 and Osborne Road.

Chief Antoine stated that the Police Department truly appreciates Mr. Schweiger for his ongoing support of the community's safety.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Code Enforcement

Building Official Baker reported that the Code Enforcement Department did 143 inspections and issued 8 administrative citations. He said that most increases in noncompliance were from commercial businesses.

Building Official Baker stated that the department is exploring a web-based compliance engine that streamlines fire and sprinkler reporting. He stated that there would be no direct cost to the City, but some cost would be coming from businesses and inspection companies.

Mr. Nelson inquired about the cost to businesses for the new software program. Building Official Baker stated that the cost per business would be \$25.00 per fire suppression or alarm system annually for the automated tracking and reporting of required inspections.

B. Police Report

Chief Antoine reported that the Police Department responded to 783 calls for service in June 2025 compared to 825 calls for service for the month of June 2024. He stated that Investigator Bennek handled 27 cases for the month of June, 26 felonies and 1 misdemeanor. He stated that Investigator Bennek is still monitoring 5 forfeiture cases and working alongside the auto theft task force. Chief Antoine stated that School Resource

Officer Imig's annual report shows that he took 82 reports at the school, had 73 student contacts, 207 escorts and other calls, and 70 follow-up investigations.

Chief Antoine stated that the Department successfully supported the Tower Days Parade with 43 volunteers from neighboring agencies. He expressed his gratitude to partner departments for their assistance.

Mayor Nelson inquired about the number of block parties are registered. Chief Antoine reported that 6 parties have preregistered for Night to Unite.

C. Parks and Recreation Report

Director Scanlon thanked everyone involved in Tower Days, noting strong support from sponsors, volunteers, council members, SBM Fire, and police officers, which made the event a success despite some challenging weather. She highlighted new volunteers who expressed interest in returning next year. Director Scanlon stated that Recreation Supervisor Waddell completed her first extended trip around Lake Michigan. Director Scanlon stated that she met with the Spring Lake Park High School Leadership Academy to encourage student involvement on city commissions and committees. She stated that the summer programs, including the Able Park drop-in program, Panther, and Munchkins, are off to a great start with excellent leadership staff and strong community participation.

8. ORDINANCES AN/OR RESOLUTIONS - None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of School Resource Officer Agreement

Chief Antoine reminded the City Council about the renegotiated contract with the school for the School Resource Officer to comply with the new state statute. He said that part of that agreement requires annual renewal. He noted that the contract amount matches \$108,490.67 for 170 days of the resource officer being at the school. Chief Antoine noted that the contract is the same as last year, however going forward only the Superintendent will sign the contract annually.

Chief Antoine is requesting approval of the School Resource Officer contract.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling for Approval of School Resource Officer Agreement.

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

10. REPORTS

A. Attorney's Report - None

B. Engineer's Report

Report accepted as presented.

C. Administrator Report – None

11. OTHER

Councilmember Dircks stated the Pokémon with the Police event took place on Sunday, July 20. She thanked Officer Imig, Crack and Hits, Hy-Vee and the Blaine/Fridley/Spring Lake Park RAID group for sponsoring and helping organizing the event. She stated the event had a turnout of 25 people. Councilmember Dircks also thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for their assistance in organizing and promoting the event on social media.

A. Closed Session – Discuss Labor Negotiation Strategy Pursuant to Minn. Stat 13D.03, Subd. 1(b)

Motion made by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff to adjourn the meeting for a closed session.

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

Meeting closed at 7:33 PM.

Meeting Reconvened at 7:42 PM

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the City Council had adjourned to a closed session held pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03, Subdivision 1(b), to discuss labor negotiation strategy. He stated staff provided the Council with an update on the status of labor negotiations and received direction.

23. ADJOURN

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer