OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council was held on September 8, 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
Code Enforcement Inspector Ethan Wirtz, Public Works Director George Linngren, Attorney John Thames, Officer Charlie Bloomer, Engineer Phil Gravel, Administrator Daniel Buchholtz

VISITORS

Erin Perdu	Stantec	
Halyn Roth	7914 Able Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Rick Frith	8299 Central Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Emily Lambert	8299 Central Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Jaycee Kilborn	351 79th Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park Mn
C Meyer	459 81st Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Kristi Cobbs	8085 Jefferson Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Michelle Oler	700 Holland Lane NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Eric Julien	700 Holland Lane NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Rick Goldstein	466 Manor Drive NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Kristi Goldstein	466 Manor Drive NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Addie Davis	8007 6th Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Karen Aalund	1424 80th Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Cheri Haram	8013 6th Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Nicole Oughton	7992 Quincy Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Kristen Larson	451 Maple Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Johanna Richards	8035 Benjamin Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA - None

5. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Jaycee Kilborn, 351 79th Avenue NE, expressed concern that proposed changes to restrict or move public comment during council meetings would reduce opportunities for residents to share input on issues that directly affect them. She stated that limiting comments on agenda items or reducing discussion-from-the-floor time contradicts the Council's stated values of accountability, impartiality, and serving the public interest. She emphasized that public participation is essential to democratic governance and urged the Council to preserve meaningful opportunities for residents to speak during meetings.

Kristi Cobbs, 8035 Jefferson Street NE, asked the Council to postpone any additional funding for the Flock camera system until the results of the independent October audit are available. She noted that other Minnesota communities have reconsidered or ended use of similar technology due to privacy and data-sharing concerns. She urged the Council to wait for the audit findings before making further financial commitments, stating that doing so would allow for a more informed and responsible decision.

Karen Aalund, 1424 80th Avenue NE, raised concerns about pavement gouges left after fiber optic installation on Hayes, Garfield, and 80th. She noted that despite reporting the issue in 2024 and providing photos, no repairs have been made and communication from the city has been minimal. Because residents are still paying assessments for the street project, she requested that the city pursue corrective repairs from the fiber optic contractor responsible.

Colleen Meyer, 459 81st Avenue NE, urged the Council not to expand the Flock Safety camera program, citing concerns about privacy, data sharing, and the potential for outside agencies to access information collected in Spring Lake Park. She referenced Fridley's experience, where Flock data was accessed hundreds of thousands of times by external law enforcement and later required significant restrictions to protect privacy. She noted that other Minnesota communities, including Sherburne County and Columbia Heights, have chosen not to participate due to similar concerns. She asked the Council to prioritize public trust and carefully weigh the risks before committing additional resources to the system.

Addie Davis, 8007 6th Street NE, shared concerns from the disability advocacy community, stating that Flock Safety cameras may inadvertently violate ADA principles by enabling unintended tracking of disabled individuals who rely on micro-transit and non-emergency medical transportation. She explained that such monitoring could reveal sensitive information about the services and supports disabled residents use, compromising their privacy and access to public spaces without surveillance. She said as a parent of a vulnerable child who relies heavily on these services, she urged the Council to consider how expanded camera use could disproportionately affect disabled residents and their right to move through the community without being monitored.

Nicole Auden, 7992 Quincy Street NE, asked the Council to reconsider expanding the Flock camera program, particularly given current budget pressures. She questioned whether investing thousands of dollars in surveillance technology—currently facing lawsuits and potential federal restrictions—is prudent when other departments are facing cuts. She also expressed concern about proposals to move public comment to the end of council meetings, noting that residents need the opportunity to speak before votes are taken in order to provide meaningful input.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes - Council Work Session - August 3, 2026
B. Approval of Minutes - City Council Meeting - August 3, 2026
C. Approval of Minutes - Council Work Session - August 17, 2026
D. Approval of Minutes – City Council Meeting - August 17, 2026
E. Approval of Minutes – Special Council Meeting – August 24, 2026
F. Approval of Minutes – Joint Work Session – August 24, 2026
G. Resolution 2026-36, Accepting Donation from Keith Schweiger for Police Department Flock Camera Program
H. Resolution 2026-37, Appointing Election Judges for 2026 General Election
I. Contractor Request for Payment #15, #16 and #17 – Final – City Hall Renovation/Expansion Project - $243,573.71
J. Authorization to Begin Sergeant Promotional Process
K. Approval of Right-of-Way Application – CenterPoint Energy
L. Approval of Right-of-Way Application – Xcel Energy
M. Approval of Right-of-Way Application – Xcel Energy
N. Contractor’s Licenses

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to table and refer Resolution 2026-36, Accepting Donation from Keith Schweiger for Police Department Flock Camera Program to a Council Work Session.

Mayor Nelson and Administrator Buchholtz discussed the legal framework and departmental policies governing the use of Flock automated license plate readers. Administrator Buchholtz explained that only authorized, trained personnel may access the system, and every search must be documented with a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Buchholtz noted that all access and data sharing are logged, and Minnesota law strictly limits how automated license plate reader data can be used, including prohibiting sharing for immigration enforcement or facial recognition. He said misuse of the system can jeopardize an officer’s POST license, effectively disqualifying them from serving as a peace officer.

Administrator Buchholtz added that Spring Lake Park shares data only with Minnesota law enforcement agencies and that the city maintains a public transparency portal outlining its policies. He stated that data is limited to images of rear license plates, retained for 30 days, and automatically purged. Mayor Nelson emphasized that the city does not share information with federal immigration authorities, that the system has been helpful in investigations, and that

practices across Minnesota communities vary and continue to evolve. He recommended providing a full update at a future meeting when the Police Chief is present to address privacy safeguards and answer further questions directly.

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

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended.

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 reported that the Department successfully concluded the summer season, supported by an expanded team of seasonal workers. He stated that the remaining summer tasks, such as curb painting and yellow patching, are ongoing. He said the Department is now shifting focus to street sweeping in anticipation of early snowfall.

Linngren reported a significant sinkhole discovered on 81st Avenue NE and Monroe Street NE, approximately six to eight feet deep. He said the Department has temporarily filled the void and is monitoring it while awaiting contractors to complete grouting and long-term repairs within the coming weeks.

B. Code Enforcement Report

Code Enforcement and Housing Inspector Ethan Wirtz reported that 42 permits were issued in August, compared to 54 in the same month the previous year. He noted that 130 inspections were conducted and 11 administrative citations issued for noncompliance. Wirtz introduced a destruction letter for 8280 Taylor Street, explaining that the property has been the subject of ongoing grass, weeds, junk, and debris violations since May 27, with 12 site visits conducted. After consulting the City Attorney, staff determined that a destruction letter would be the most efficient method to move forward with abatement.

Inspector Wirtz reported that the property on Taylor Street has been under active enforcement for approximately 12 weeks, with weekly inspections and no compliance from the owner. He stated that despite repeated attempts—including posted orders, door knocks, phone calls, and administrative citations—the owner has not responded. He noted that the violations have escalated from tall grass and weeds to junk and debris, including a mattress that was moved from the driveway into the backyard, where inspectors cannot enter without permission. Mr. Wirtz stated due to the persistent noncompliance and repeated complaints from neighbors, the case was referred to the City Attorney, and staff

determined that issuing a destruction letter is the most effective next step to proceed with abatement.

Inspector Wirtz also provided construction updates: a permit has been issued for Unit 120 at 1313 Osborne Road; the Noshmi Restaurant at 8299 University Avenue has completed plan review and received a building permit; and the event center at 77 Highway 65, Unit C continues work on CUP requirements, with plan review completed and plumbing rough-ins finished.

8. ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution 2026-38, Approving a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to Amend the Future Land Use Map for 8299 Central Avenue NE

City Planner Erin Perdu presented four related requests submitted by Substance Church to support the establishment of a daycare facility within its existing building located at 8299 Center Avenue. She stated the proposal requires three approvals: a comprehensive plan amendment to change the property's future land use designation from Commercial Industrial to Commercial, a rezoning from Light Industrial (I-1) to Shopping Center Commercial (C-1), and a conditional use permit for a child care facility.

Planner Perdu explained that the church intends to allocate approximately 5,000 square feet of its existing 100,000-square-foot building for the daycare, using current classrooms and support spaces with no expansion of the structure. She noted that any modifications would be limited to meeting state licensing requirements, and that the church would continue operating under its 2014 special use permit.

Planner Perdu noted that the property's location near the intersection of Central and Trunk Highway 10 offers convenient access and that surrounding land uses include commercial, industrial, transportation-related, and institutional facilities. She said that the requested future land use amendment aligns better with the existing and proposed uses, as the Commercial designation supports services and institutional uses such as churches and childcare facilities. She noted that rezoning to C-1 would also align the property's zoning with its current and proposed functions, since childcare is not permitted within the I1 district.

Planner Perdu stated that the conditional use permit application meets all ordinance requirements. She noted that the proposed outdoor play area meets setback standards and is adequately sized for the planned capacity of 42 children. She said the site includes sufficient parking and a designated drop-off and pick-up area. She said that staff found no anticipated negative impacts to surrounding properties and recommended verification of daycare licensing, staffing, and on-site circulation prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Planner Perdu stated that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 24 and recommended approval of all requests. She said that an added condition stating that any future expansion of the daycare operation would require an amendment to the conditional use permit, with only that permit needing review and approval.

Planner Perdu stated that staff recommends approval of the comprehensive plan amendment, rezoning, and conditional use permit, subject to conditions including submission of the amendment to the Metropolitan Council and acquisition of all applicable permits and licenses. Perdu noted that the rezoning would be contingent upon approval of the comprehensive plan amendment.

Mayor Nelson inquired about spot zoning. Planner Perdu clarified that the requested amendments—changing the future land use designation to Commercial and rezoning the property to C-1—are consistent with surrounding land uses and with the existing institutional use of the site. She said that because the changes align with the character of the area and support uses already present on the property, staff concluded that the action does not represent spot zoning.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired whether the proposed childcare facility at Substance Church would operate as a for-profit business. Rick Frith, speaking on behalf of Substance Church, clarified that the childcare program would be established as a nonprofit organization focused on serving families and children in the community. He noted that while families would pay tuition, any revenue would be used solely to cover operational costs and support future program expansion. Mr. Frith emphasized that the service would be open to the broader community, not limited to church members, and that state licensing requirements currently limit capacity to 42 children.

Mr. Rick Firth, representing Substance Church, explained that the proposed childcare facility is intended as an extension of the church's ongoing efforts to support families and children. He stated that the church wishes to make fuller use of its existing facility by offering weekday childcare services that meet a demonstrated community need. Firth emphasized the church's interest in strengthening its partnership with the City of Spring Lake Park and contributing positively to the community's quality of life. He noted that the childcare program aims to provide affordable, high-quality service and that any revenue would be reinvested into expanding opportunities for local families. Firth expressed hope that the project would also support the surrounding neighborhood and generate broader economic benefits for the community.

Motion made by Mayor Nelson to approve Resolution 2026-38, Approving a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to Amend the Future Land Use Map for 8299 Central Avenue NE.

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

B. Ordinance 511, Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Spring Lake Park 8299 Central Avenue NE

Administrator Buchholtz explained that the proposed ordinance would amend the zoning map for 8299 Central Avenue NE, changing the designation from I-1 Industrial to C-1 Commercial. He noted that this rezoning is contingent upon approval of the related comprehensive plan amendment by the Metropolitan Council. Buchholtz stated that the amendment is expected to be consistent with the regional plan and anticipated Metropolitan Council support. He clarified that state law requires local land-use actions to align with an approved comprehensive plan, which is why the rezoning must be conditioned on the Metropolitan Council's approval of the amendment.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve Ordinance 511, Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Spring Lake Park 8299 Central Avenue NE.

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

C. Resolution 2026-39, Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 511, An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Spring Lake Park for 8299 Central Avenue NE

Administrator Buchholtz explained that Resolution 2026-39 authorizes summary publication of Ordinance No. 511. He noted that publishing a summary, rather than the full ordinance, reduces publication costs while ensuring the complete ordinance remains accessible on the city's website and available upon request.

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to approve Resolution 2026-39, Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 511, An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Spring Lake Park for 8299 Central Avenue NE.

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

D. Resolution 2026-40, Approving a Conditional Use Permit for a Child Daycare Facility within Substance Church – 8299 Central Avenue NE

Motion made by Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff to approve Resolution 2026-40, Approving a Conditional Use Permit for a Child Daycare Facility within Substance Church – 8299 Central Avenue NE

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

E. Resolution 2026-41, Approving a Variance from the Rear Yard Setback Requirement at 8035 Benjamin Street NE

Administrator Buchholtz provided background on a longstanding code enforcement matter involving a covered patio constructed at a property within the Spring Lake Park Villas Planned Unit Development (PUD). The owner, Joanna Richards, applied for a variance from the rear yard setback requirement in the R-3 district to allow the structure. Buchholtz explained that the patio had initially been built in 2025 without required permits, and the original variance request was withdrawn after it was determined that part of the structure encroached onto a neighboring property. The applicant subsequently modified the patio so that it is fully located on her own lot.

Buchholtz noted that the current variance request reflects a reduced structure and seeks relief only from rear yard setback requirements. Staff reviewed the application under the practical difficulties standard and found the request reasonable due to the unique design of the PUD, which features small individual lots, limited rear yard space, and larger shared common areas. The structure is residential in nature and consistent with the character of the surrounding townhouse development.

Buchholtz stated that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 24, reviewed staff's analysis and recommended conditions, and recommended approval. Staff also recommended approval of the variance, subject to conditions outlined in the resolution.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff expressed concern that the patio structure was built without required permits and initially encroached onto a neighboring property, noting similar issues in past cases. She asked whether any penalties would be imposed. Administrator Buchholtz responded that multiple administrative citations had already been issued and must be paid before the variance becomes effective. He added that, under city code, building permit fees are doubled when construction occurs before a permit is issued. While the exact amount was not available at the time, he indicated the combined penalties and fees would be substantial. He also noted that the property owner had received approval from the townhome association, although those rules are separate from city enforcement.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to approve Resolution 2026-41, Approving a Variance from the Rear Yard Setback Requirement at 8035 Benjamin Street NE.

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

F. Resolution 2026-42, Concluding Probable Belief of a Violation of SLPC 9.02.030 and Issuing a Destruction Order for Property Located at 8280 Taylor Street NE

Councilmember Dicks inquired about the allowed timeframe for compliance after an order is issued, Attorney Thames clarified that the standard period is seven days unless the Council specifies otherwise.

Motion made by Councilmember Dircks to approve Resolution 2026-42, Concluding Probable Belief of a Violation of SLPC 9.02.030 and Issuing a Destruction Order for Property Located at 8280 Taylor Street NE.

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Police Officer Candidate Conditional Job Offer

Administrator Buchholtz reported that the hiring process for a new patrol officer has been successfully completed, including application screening, oral interviews, and a comprehensive background check. He stated that the Police Chief has extended a conditional job offer to Aaron Dokka for the position of patrol officer, pending completion of required medical testing. Buchholtz requested final council approval of the hire.

Motion made by Mayor Nelson to approve Police Officer Candidate Conditional Job Offer.

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

B. Approve Quote for 2026 Pavement Markings

Engineer Gravel reported that the city performs pavement striping every one to two years on streets requiring markings. He explained that certain striping work, including side striping and major intersections, cannot be completed by city staff and must be contracted out. He stated that the low quote received for the 2026 pavement marking project was from Sir Lines A Lot in the amount of $21,508. He recommended approval of the contract.

Motion made by Councilmember Wendling to Approve Quote for 2026 Pavement Markings.

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

10. REPORTS

A. Attorney Report - None

B. Engineer Report - Accepted report as submitted

C. Administrator Report

Administrator Buchholtz reported positive news regarding the city's federal funding requests, noting that both projects seeking federal support have been included in the House appropriations bills. He stated that the full funding amount was not granted, but that receiving partial funding is a significant step forward and expressed appreciation for the congresswoman's efforts. He added that the city has not yet received an update from the Senate. Buchholtz also thanked council members who completed the comprehensive plan survey and encouraged any remaining members to do so at their earliest convenience.

11. OTHER

A. Schedule City Administrator Performance Evaluation

Administrator Buchholtz reviewed the upcoming annual performance evaluation process, noting that his evaluation is due and requesting the Council's direction on scheduling. He proposed holding the evaluation on October 5, 2026. Councilmembers agreed to that date. Buchholtz added that a self-evaluation and related forms had been provided to assist the Council in preparing for the review. The evaluation session will be conducted in a closed meeting on October 5, 2026.

Mayor Nelson highlighted two upcoming events. He announced that "Operation Zero," a suicide-prevention event supporting soldiers, will take place on Saturday, September 12 at the Anoka County Fairgrounds from noon to 10 p.m. The event will feature the Vietnam Veterans Wall, flyovers, live bands, food trucks, and additional activities. He noted the importance of recognizing the sacrifices of soldiers and first responders and shared that Spring Lake Park's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program is working to strengthen partnerships with military support networks. Mayor Nelson also reminded attendees to honor the anniversary of September 11.

Public Works Director Lindgren announced that the annual "Touch the Truck" event will take place on September 12 at Spring Lake Park High School from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. He said the event features heavy equipment from various cities and provides an opportunity for children and families to engage with public works and safety vehicles as part of the back-to-school season. He invited community members to attend.

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 8:30 PM.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer