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 October 5, 2026 at the Spring Lake Park City Hall, 1301 81st Ave NE, at 5:30 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Councilmember Ken Wendling
Councilmember Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff (arrived at 5:35pm)
Councilmember Lisa Dircks
Councilmember April Moran
Mayor Robert Nelson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:
Public Works Director George Linngren, Police Chief Josh Antoine, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer Daniel Buchholtz

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion from the Floor Rule Update Discussion (Goodboe-Bisschoff)

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff requested that the City Council consider revisions to the rules governing the Discussion from the Floor portion of regular City Council meetings. She expressed support for establishing time limits for individual speakers and the overall agenda item, as well as eliminating back-and-forth debate between speakers and the Council. She referenced the recently adopted rules of procedure of the North Metro Telecommunications Commission as a potential model for the City to consider.

The City Council discussed the importance of providing residents an opportunity to address the Council while maintaining orderly and efficient meetings. Councilmembers

generally agreed that the existing three-minute speaking limit had not always been consistently enforced and that clearer procedures would be beneficial.

City Administrator Buchholtz recommended that the Council refrain from engaging in discussion or debate with speakers during Discussion from the Floor. Instead, staff would follow up with individuals regarding their concerns and provide updates to the Council, as appropriate. He also suggested consistently enforcing speaking limits while allowing the Council discretion to grant additional time when warranted.

Following discussion, the Council reached a consensus to establish a two-minute limit per speaker and a maximum of 20 minutes for the Discussion from the Floor agenda item. The Council also supported eliminating back-and-forth discussion between speakers and Councilmembers, with staff responsible for following up on concerns raised.

The Council also discussed whether participation should be limited to City residents or include nonresident property owners and business owners. Councilmembers expressed differing opinions regarding eligibility, including concerns about individuals without a direct connection to the City using the public comment period. No final consensus was reached on this issue.

Consensus of the City Council was to request Administrator Buchholtz prepare revised rules of procedure reflecting the Council's direction for consideration at a future City Council meeting.

B. Backyard Chicken Policy Discussion (Moran)

Councilmember Moran initiated a discussion regarding potentially allowing backyard chickens within the City. She noted that several neighboring communities, including Blaine, Coon Rapids, Fridley, and Columbia Heights, permit backyard chickens subject to certain regulations.

The Council discussed potential ordinance requirements, including limiting the number of chickens to four hens, prohibiting roosters, establishing setbacks for chicken coops, requiring permits, and providing for proper sanitation and maintenance. Councilmembers also discussed requiring applicants to complete an educational course on chicken care before obtaining a permit.

Mayor Nelson expressed concerns regarding avian influenza, potential odors, noise, predators, neighborhood conflicts, and additional code enforcement responsibilities. Councilmembers discussed whether annual permit renewals and associated fees could help offset administrative and enforcement costs.

The discussion also included the possibility of allowing quail and establishing regulations for backyard beekeeping.

Following discussion, a majority of the Council expressed support for further exploring an ordinance allowing backyard chickens and beekeeping. City Administrator Buchholtz noted that staff is currently reviewing the City's animal regulations and would include draft language for backyard chickens and beekeeping into that review.

C. Potential 2027 Street Improvement Project (Buchholtz)

Engineer Gravel presented a potential 2027 street improvement project involving portions of Tyler Street and Cottagewood Terrace near the Spring Lake Park–Blaine municipal boundary. He stated that the City of Blaine is planning street improvements in the area and has approached Spring Lake Park regarding the possibility of incorporating the City's adjoining street segments into Blaine's project.

Engineer Gravel explained that Blaine would manage the project, while Spring Lake Park would be responsible for conducting its own assessment process and funding its share of the improvements. He said the proposed work would generally consist of a mill and overlay on Cottagewood Terrace and reconstruction of the Spring Lake Park portion of Tyler Street, where curb and gutter improvements are necessary. He noted the project would also include certain water utility improvements, including replacement of hydrants and valves, with those expenses funded through the City's Water Utility Fund.

Councilmembers discussed the condition of the streets, stormwater drainage, potential assessments to affected property owners, and the benefits of coordinating construction with Blaine. Staff confirmed that Spring Lake Park's assessment policy would apply to properties within the City.

The Council expressed general support for proceeding with the project development process. Staff will prepare the necessary information and correspondence to begin the process, including future consideration of assessments and opportunities for affected property owners to provide input.

D. Terrace Park Field Drainage Project Update (Scanlon)

Recreation Director Scanlon provided an update on the proposed Terrace Park drainage improvement project. She said the project is intended to address longstanding drainage issues affecting the City's softball fields, which have resulted in canceled games, delayed field use, and poor playing conditions following rainfall.

Director Scanlon stated that the City received seven quotations for the proposed improvements, ranging from approximately $113,600 to $172,400, with Valley-Rich, Inc. submitting the lowest quotation. The original project estimate was approximately $65,000, including a $15,000 Minnesota Twins Fields for Kids grant.

Engineer Gravel explained that the higher-than-anticipated project cost was primarily attributable to the need for dewatering during construction because of groundwater and saturated soil conditions. He stated that the proposed improvements include approximately 513 linear feet of perforated drain pipe, connections to the existing storm sewer system, associated drainage structures, and site restoration.

Councilmembers discussed the project's cost, drainage benefits, impacts on the existing stormwater system, and competing infrastructure priorities throughout the City. Questions were also raised regarding the number of games canceled annually because of field conditions and the associated financial impact.

The Consensus of the Council was to defer further consideration of the project until staff could research the financial impact of canceled games and contact the Minnesota Twins regarding the possibility of extending the grant deadline.

3. REPORT

A. City Council and Staff Reports - None

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer