

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council Worksession was held on July 15, 2024 at the Able Park Building, 8200 Able Street, at 5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember April Moran

STAFF PRESENT

Administrator Buchholtz

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion of Humane Pet Store Ordinance (Dircks)

Councilmember Dircks stated that she had been approached by the Animal Humane Society of Minnesota to see if the City Council would consider adopting a humane pet store ordinance to prohibit sale of pets from puppy and kitten mills. She stated that the goal would be to reduce demand for animals from inhumane breeding facilities, thereby decreasing the risk of zoonotic diseases and other health issues associated with poorly bred animals. She stated that seven cities in Minnesota and 400 cities nationwide have adopted a similar ordinance

Mayor Nelson expressed his opposition to a humane pet store ordinance. He stated that it was beyond the scope of local authority to regulate pet stores. He stated that pet regulation should be a state responsibility. He proposed further discussions where representatives from both sides of the issue can educate the City Council.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to add this item to a future work session agenda and to invite representatives from both sides of the issue to attend and present their position to the City Council.

B. Minnesota Cannabis Store Mandate (Goodboe-Bisschoff)

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff expressed her opposition to the State mandate that the city be required to allow at least one cannabis licensee to register for operation in the city. She inquired if it was legal for the City to become a silent partner with the successful licensee to ensure greater control over the sale of cannabis in the City. Administrator Buchholtz stated

that the State has preempted local control when it comes to the licensing of cannabis. He stated that M.S. § 342.13 gives the city the authority to regulate the time, place and manner of cannabis business operations within its boundaries. He stated that he is drafting an amendment to the zoning code establishing performance standards for adult use cannabis businesses that he hopes to present to the City Council in September for feedback.

No further action was taken on this item.

C. Discussion on Racially Restrictive Covenants in Spring Lake Park (Buchholtz)

Administrator Buchholtz explained that racially restrictive covenants are clauses in property deeds that were used to prevent people of certain races from purchasing, leasing or occupying properties. He noted that while these covenants are no longer enforceable, their presence in property records serves as a painful reminder of past discrimination and segregation. He stated that a recent review of property records shows that there are 53 properties in the city that have a racially restrictive covenant recorded with the property. He requested authority from the City Council to send letters to these property owners and provide them with the form to facilitate the discharge.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff expressed her concern about stirring up controversy by sending out letters regarding racially restrictive covenants. She stated that she would prefer to implement a point of sale ordinance to address the discharge of these covenants during the selling process. She stated that she did not support allocating funds to pay the document recording cost. Administrator Buchholtz stated that he was only seeking a voluntary solution but noted that the City Council could address this through a point of sale ordinance.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to ask Administrator Buchholtz to draft a letter informing the property owners with a racially restrictive covenant for review by the City Council and to draft a point-of-sale ordinance for review by the City Council.

3. REPORT

A. City Council / Staff Reports – None.

4. ADJOURN

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

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer