

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 2, 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 5:30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

City Engineer Phil Gravel, Public Works Director George Linngren, Sergeant Richard Kramer, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer Daniel Buchholtz

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jaycee Kilborn	351 79 th Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Rich & Kristi Cobbs	8085 Jefferson Street NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Michelle Olek	700 Holland Lane NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Eric Julien	700 Holland Lane NE	Spring Lake Park MN
Beth Elliott	Stantec	
Chad Moren	1105 132 nd Lane NE	Blaine MN
Ashley & Kalene Haugen	467 83 rd Avenue NE	Spring Lake Park MN
C. Hanson	1075 County Hwy 10	Spring Lake Park MN

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review Feasibility Study for 2026 Street Improvement Project

City Administrator Buchholtz introduced the first agenda item, noting that the Council had received the feasibility study for the proposed 2026 Street Improvement Project and that a resolution calling for a public hearing is scheduled for the regular meeting later that evening.

City Engineer Phil Gravel reviewed the proposed project, explaining that the work would consist primarily of a mill and overlay on Plaza Boulevard, Theorin Terrace, Center Drive, Sunset Drive, and a portion of the Trunk Highway 10 Service Drive. He stated that the streets were last improved in the early 2000s and that the proposed work would involve grinding off the top portion of the asphalt and replacing it, along with resetting storm sewer castings and replacing limited sections of curb where needed.

Mayor Nelson asked whether the project would involve reconstruction down to the base material. Engineer Gravel stated that the streets remain structurally sound and that a mill and overlay would be sufficient. He noted that the City benefits from sandy soils that help preserve road conditions, reducing the need for deeper reconstruction.

Mayor Nelson expressed concern about the potential financial impact of assessments on businesses along these streets and questioned whether the project could be delayed given economic conditions. Engineer Gravel responded that while the project could technically be delayed, postponing maintenance could allow the pavement to deteriorate further and lead to higher reconstruction costs in the future. Public Works Director Linngren also noted that delaying the project would require staff to continue patching the streets and addressing localized failures, which would be difficult given current staffing levels and the workload associated with preparing other areas for the annual seal coating program.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that the total estimated project cost is approximately \$570,000, with roughly \$500,000 expected to be assessed to benefiting properties. He noted that because most of the properties in the project area are commercial or industrial, the City's assessment policy would require those properties to pay 100% of their assessable share, while residential properties are assessed at 45%. He also explained that the City would utilize its Revolving Construction Fund to finance the project rather than issuing bonds, which reduces financing costs.

Councilmember Dircks asked about the condition of underground utilities. Director Linngren stated that water and sanitary sewer infrastructure in the area is in good condition and that storm sewer structures would likely only require adjustments or ring replacements as part of the project.

Mayor Nelson stated that he would like to hear from affected businesses before making a final decision. City Administrator Buchholtz recommended proceeding with calling the improvement hearing so affected property owners can provide input before the Council decides whether to move forward with the project.

CONSENSUS of the City Council was to proceed with calling a public hearing on the proposed 2026 Street Improvement Project.

B. Business Ordinance Updates (Buchholtz)

City Administrator Buchholtz then presented an overview of several business regulation ordinances that staff is currently updating. He explained that several of the City's business ordinances are outdated and no longer reflect current state law or modern business practices.

Mr. Buchholtz stated that the catering food vehicle ordinance was originally adopted in 1975 and was designed primarily for ice cream trucks rather than modern food trucks. The proposed update would modernize the ordinance, establish reasonable operational standards, and better accommodate businesses that host food trucks.

Mayor Nelson stated that he supports updating the mobile food unit ordinance and noted that food trucks can help support local businesses and events.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff asked how sanitation and waste requirements would be monitored. Administrator Buchholtz responded that code enforcement and police personnel would address violations.

Administrator Buchholtz also reviewed the City's vehicles-for-hire ordinance, which was adopted in 1965 to regulate taxicabs. He explained that the City has not issued taxi licenses in many years and that ride share companies such as Uber and Lyft are regulated at the state level. Staff recommended repealing the ordinance.

Councilmembers indicated support for repealing the outdated vehicle for hire ordinance.

Administrator Buchholtz discussed proposed updates to the peddler, solicitor, and transient merchant ordinance. He stated that the revisions are based on the League of Minnesota Cities model ordinance and are intended to ensure compliance with current First Amendment standards.

Administrator Buchholtz reviewed revisions to the City's charitable gambling ordinance. He explained that the ordinance was originally adopted in the early 1990s and contains references to licensing categories that are no longer recognized in Minnesota law. He stated that the proposed revisions would align the ordinance with Minnesota Statutes Chapter 349 while maintaining the City's existing 3% local gambling tax.

Mayor Nelson stated that he supports maintaining the City's current approach to charitable gambling and allowing nonprofit organizations to determine how their funds are used.

Councilmembers expressed general support for the updates. Administrator Buchholtz stated that the draft ordinances would be forwarded to the City Attorney for review before being returned to the Council for formal consideration.

C. City Communications Regarding Federal Enforcement Activity (*Moran*)

Councilmember Moran requested discussion regarding a potential City statement related to federal immigration enforcement activity. She read the following statement expressing the City's commitment to being a welcoming community and acknowledging concerns among some residents.

The City of Spring Lake Park is committed to being a welcoming community where all residents are treated with dignity and respect. We believe in supporting our neighbors, fostering public safety, and strengthening the sense of belonging that makes Minnesota communities strong.

Spring Lake Park is dedicated to maintaining an inclusive and respectful environment for all who live and work here. Matters related to federal immigration enforcement fall under federal jurisdiction. The City's role remains focused on delivering high-quality municipal services, ensuring public safety, and upholding the rights and well-being of all members of our community.

Our priority is that everyone who calls Spring Lake Park home feels safe, valued, and respected.

Mayor Nelson stated that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility and expressed concern about the City issuing a statement that could be interpreted as conflicting with federal law.

Councilmember Dircks stated that the City should acknowledge the concerns of residents who may feel impacted and emphasized the importance of treating all residents with dignity and respect.

Administrator Buchholtz read a statement drafted by the Spring Lake Park Police Department, which clarifies that the department does not participate in immigration enforcement and that such enforcement is handled by federal authorities.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff stated that she supported the Police Department's statement and did not believe an additional statement from the Council was necessary.

Councilmember Wendling also expressed support for relying on the Police Department's statement.

Mayor Nelson stated that he believed the Police Department's communication sufficiently addressed the issue and that the Council should not issue an additional statement.

Councilmember Moran stated that she believed a broader message acknowledging community concerns would be appropriate.

Following discussion, the consensus of a majority of the Council was to rely on the existing statement issued by the Police Department and not issue an additional statement from the Council.

3. REPORT

A. City Council and Staff Reports

Administrator Buchholtz provided an update regarding the upcoming process to fill a captain position within the police department. He stated that the City will conduct an internal selection process for qualified personnel and that the process will be objective and competitive.

Administrator Buchholtz also discussed proposed state legislation related to housing density and zoning preemption. He explained that the legislation could limit local zoning authority and potentially allow higher-density housing in areas currently zoned for single-family homes.

Mayor Nelson stated that he strongly opposes legislation that would reduce local control over zoning decisions.

Administrator Buchholtz asked whether the Council wished staff to continue submitting letters and testimony opposing the proposed legislation.

Councilmembers indicated support for continuing to oppose the legislation.

4. ADJOURN

Mayor Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer