

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Spring Lake Park City Council was held on February 18, 2020 at the Spring Lake Park Community Center, 1301 81st Avenue N.E., at 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Councilmembers Wendling, Goodboe-Bisschoff, Dircks and Mayor Nelson

Members Absent: Councilmember Delfs

Staff Present: Police Chief Ebeltoft; Public Works Director Randall, Building Inspector Baker; Attorney Carson; Parks and Recreation Director Okey; Administrator Buchholtz and Executive Assistant Gooden

Visitors: Tony Scavo, 8012 Hayes Street NE

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Additions or Corrections to Agenda

Administrator Buchholtz asked that a letter of resignation from Accountant Anderson be added to the agenda as Item 10C. He asked that a letter of resignation from Police Reserve Officer Davids be added to the agenda at Item 10D.

5. Discussion From The Floor

Tony Scavo, 8012 Hayes Street NE, addressed the Council with some concerns regarding the City. He expressed how disappointed he is as a resident to see the increase in crime related incidents. He stated that he is disappointed to see such a small community that has a Police Department has had to respond to so many violent crimes including incidents involving shootings, a recent residential SWAT raid and drug incidents.

Mayor Nelson reported that Police Chief Ebeltoft and Administrator Buchholtz recently had a meeting with the owners of Dala and had a discussion on the incident at their business. He stated that a summary of their meeting will be shared once decisions are made. He stated that he takes pride in the Police Department and feels that they are doing their jobs and taking care of the residents. He stated that a lot of the issues that are taking place are from people traveling through the community and not necessarily residents of the City.

Police Chief Ebeltoft reported that Spring Lake Park is ranked lower in the crime statistics than the information that Mr. Scavo had provided in correspondence to the Council members. He stated that although he is not proud of the crime ranking of the City, he stated that many cities that are ranked lower than the City of Spring Lake Park are much further away from city limits and see less traffic traveling from the other more populated cities. He stated that with Spring Lake Park being a city where from major highways pass through the city, there are going to be more incidents.

Police Chief Ebeltoft reported that the incident at Dala was an event planned by an out of state promoter and had the details been shared with the City, the event would not have been allowed to take place.

He reminded Mr. Scavo and the general public that he is always welcome to discuss any issues in the community and is willing to have an open discussion with the public and residents.

6. Consent Agenda:

Mayor Nelson reviewed the following Consent Agenda items:

- A. Approval of Minutes – February 3, 2020
- B. Disbursements
 - 1. General Operations Disbursement Claim No. 20-01 \$559,640.32
- C. Approval of Animal Control Agreement – North Metro Animal Care and Control
- D. Approve January 2020 MNSPECT Invoice
- E. Suburban Rate Authority Invoice – First Half Assessment
- F. Contractor's Request for Payment No. 1 – Garfield Pond Improvement Project-Jacon, LLC
- G. Sign Permit
- H. Contractor's Licenses
- I. Correspondence

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired on Item F as to why a payment request was being made when no work has started on the Garfield Pond Project to date. Administrator Buchholtz stated that the contractor has incurred some costs such as the bond fees and preparation costs for the project. He stated that the permit was approved and the stormwater models have been revised so work on the project should begin within a few weeks.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff requested to pull Item C for further discussion and requested that it be added to a work session for the Council to discuss. She requested a report of the outcome of the animals that have been sent to the facility from the City in the past year. Chief Ebeltoft stated that no report exists at this time. He stated that he does not recall any animals being taken to the shelter in the past year. He stated that the Police Department does not collect or pick up stray animals. He stated that only dangerous animals or animals required by the City ordinance are picked up within the City.

Chief Ebeltoft explained that the fees listed in the proposed contract are the same as the what is required by state statute to be charged. He stated that boarding fees are the only fees set by the boarding facility as they are an operating business.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff requested that the fees, possible dangerous dog situations and more information on the facilities be discussed. Mayor Nelson stated that the Animal Control Agreement could be added to an upcoming work session.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WENDLING APPROVING THE CONSENT AGENDA. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Police Report

Police Chief Ebeltoft reviewed the January 2020 department statistics.

Chief Ebeltoft reported that the Police Department responded to six hundred fifty calls for service for the month of January 2020 compared to five hundred ninety nine calls for service in January 2019.

Chief Ebeltoft reported that Investigator Bennek reports to handling caseload of 25 cases for the month of January 2020. He reported that Investigator Bennek continues to monitor forfeiture cases assigned to him and is happy to advise that one case has been concluded, with six cases remaining.

Chief Ebeltoft reported that School Resource Officer Fiske reported handling 15 calls for service along with 27 student contact, three escorts and 13 follow-up investigations into school related incidents. He reported that Officer Fiske attended eight basketball games and a Pep Fest for the month.

Chief Ebeltoft reported that the Spring Lake Park Police Department will be partnering with “Ring.com” and joining the “Ring Neighborhood App” for making communities safer. He reported that this app will provide the residents the ability to have access to community videos voluntarily submitted to the app by members of the community, as well as providing another potential way of communicating with the Police Department regarding specific events that may have occurred in the community. He reported that residents will be able to join the “Ring Neighborhood App” even if they do not currently own a ring system or may have another brand of monitoring system. He stated that the Police Department will be introducing this collaboration on the Facebook page, Twitter Account and local community notification board, along with introducing it to the “Neighborhood Crime Watch Groups” in the near future.

Chief Ebeltoft reported, in addition to addressing the day-to-day operations of the Department, he attended numerous meetings throughout the month representing Spring Lake Park Police Department and the City of Spring Lake Park.

Mayor Nelson stated that he is happy with the Ring Neighborhood App for residents. Chief Ebeltoft reminded the Council that it will be voluntary participation by the residents and will be up to the residents to volunteer the videos from their home systems.

8. Parks and Recreation Report

Parks and Recreation Director Okey provided a summary of the programs and trips that took place in January. She reported that the outdoor family day at Able Park had a great turn out. She reported that staff has been busy preparing for the Senior Valentine luncheon and the Sweetheart dance.

Ms. Okey reported that staff has been busy receiving softball registrations, garden plot applications and youth activities registrations. She reported that Tower Days applications and contracts are being returned and processed. She reported that the Tower Days parade will be Thursday, June 4, 2020 and the all-day events will be Sunday, June 7, 2020.

Ms. Okey reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission met and elected officers for the upcoming year.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired if the Grand Marshall for the parade has been chosen. Ms. Okey reported that former Parks and Recreation Commissioner Ann Radichel will be the Grand Marshall.

9. Ordinances And/Or Resolutions

A. Resolution 20-07 Approving Monroe Park Addition Final Plat

Administrator Buchholtz reported that JP Brooks, Inc. applied for final approval of final plat for Monroe Park Addition. He reported that the Monroe Park Addition is the subdivision that is located on a parcel totaling approximately two acres in size. He stated that the City Council approved the preliminary plat, subject to

conditions, at the December 2, 2019, meeting.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired if the new housing development will be marketed as the Monroe Park Addition. Administrator Buchholtz stated that is the formal name of the plat so its marketing could include the plat name.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DIRCKS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-07 APPROVING MONROE PARK ADDITION FINAL PLAT. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

10. New Business

A. MSA Map Amendment – 81st Avenue

Administrator Buchholtz reported that pursuant to the City Council's direction, staff has begun the process to amend the City's MSA system to remove a portion of 81st Avenue from MSA system in an effort to reduce through-truck traffic along 81st Avenue between Trunk Highway 47 (University Avenue) and Trunk Highway 65.

Administrator Buchholtz provided a map showing the MSA map revisions being proposed to MnDOT. He stated that the City would revoke a portion of 81st Avenue between University Avenue and Terrace Road NE and a portion of the University Avenue Service Road between 83rd Avenue and 81st Avenue and replace it with a section of Able Street between 81st Avenue and Osborne Road. He stated that the remainder of the system will remain the same. He reported that the MSA system revisions were submitted to the MnDOT on January 23, 2020.

Administrator Buchholtz provided a draft signage plan and stated that staff is seeking Council feedback regarding the placement of signs along 81st Avenue to inform drivers of the prohibition of trucks. He stated that in addition, staff has created a preliminary draft of an ordinance amendment to Chapter 70 creating the legal restriction to operate trucks with a gross weight of more than 7000 pounds on the stretch of 81st Avenue between University Avenue Service Road and Terrace Road. He stated that exceptions would be made for delivery trucks, garbage trucks and commercial vehicles permitted to be parked in residential districts in accordance with the City's zoning code.

Mayor Nelson stated that he agrees that removing the semi-truck traffic from 81st Avenue will help keep the road in good condition. He stated that he feels that the gross weight limit is too low and would like to discuss the weight requirement at a work session. He stated that there are a number of residents who live near 81st Avenue with commercial work vehicles and use 81st Avenue as their main roadway.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired if there would be new signage added to eastbound Highway 65 denoting the truck route. Administrator Buchholtz stated that there are no plans to add signage in Fridley. He feels that there should be enough education and notice provided to the local trucking companies to have them aware of the change.

Councilmember Dircks inquired if it is expected that trucks will use Terrace Road as an alternative even though it will not be designated as a truck route. Administrator Buchholtz stated that Terrace Road will not be designated a truck route.

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff inquired as to where the closest weight scale for commercial vehicles was in the area. Police Chief Ebeltoft stated that it would be the Elk River location. He stated that that State Patrol has a Weights and Measures Division if assistance was necessary. He reported that portable weight stations are available but are a costly piece of equipment and require constant calibration.

B. Schedule March Work Session – March 9, 2020

Administrator Buchholtz reported that staff is requesting the City Council schedule a work session for March 9, 2020, at 5:30 PM. He stated that potential topics include: Garfield Pond update; Lawful (charitable) gambling ordinance update and iPad purchase for City Council.

Administrator Buchholtz reported that Councilmember Delfs is not available on March 9, 2020.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that an additional work session could be scheduled for March 2, 2020 at 5:30 PM for a recap of the meeting with Dala staff; and the iPad purchases, allowing Councilmember Delfs to participate. He stated that the signage plan for 81st Avenue and the Animal Control Agreement would be added to the March 9 work session.

The consensus of the City Council was to hold work sessions on March 2, 2020 at 5:30 PM and March 9, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

C. Accept Letter of Retirement from Peggy Anderson

Administrator Buchholtz reported that he received a letter from Accountant Peggy Anderson announcing her retirement from the City of Spring Lake Park, effective March 13, 2020. He reported that Ms. Anderson has served the citizens of Spring Lake Park for over 24 years. He stated that he is grateful for her service and wish her the best as she enters a new chapter in her life.

Administrator Buchholtz stated that he is seeking the City Council to accept Ms. Anderson's retirement letter and to authorize the hiring process of finding a new Accountant.

MOTION MADE BY MAYOR NELSON TO ACCEPT LETTER OF RETIREMENT FROM PEGGY ANDERSON AND AUTHORIZE THE HIRING PROCESS FOR ACCOUNTANT POSITION. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Accept Letter of Resignation from Police Reserve Officer Nicholas Davids

Chief Ebeltoft reported that he received a letter of resignation from Spring Lake Park Police Department Reserve officer Nicholas Davids. He reported that Mr. Davids letter thanked the Police Department for their skills, training and experience during his three years with the Reserves.

MOTION MADE BY MAYOR NELSON TO ACCEPT LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM POLICE RESERVE OFFICER DAVIDS. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

11. Engineer's Report - None

12. Attorney's Report – None

13. Reports - None

14. OtherA. Administrator Reports

Administrator Buchholtz reported that he sent correspondence to the local legislators regarding the incorrect information they have been given on building permit costs and development fees by the Building Association of the Twin Cities. He provided each of the local legislators with correct information and sample permit fees.

Administrator Buchholtz reported that Election Judge training and the Public Accuracy test will take place on February 19, 2020, for the upcoming Presidential Nominating Primary. He reported that he and Executive Assistant Gooden attended a kick off meeting for the Agenda Management system and training will start soon. He reported that the tobacco ordinance change will be on the March 16, 2020, agenda. He stated that the proposed changes have been sent to local business owners for their input on the ordinance change.

Administrator Buchholtz reported that staff expects that Hampton Companies will be submitting a Planned Unit Development application for the property at 525 Osborne Road in early April. He reported that the meeting with Hampton Companies went well. He reported that he attended the Senior Valentine luncheon and commended Parks and Recreation staff as well as the Spring Lake Park Lions on all their hard work to make the event a success.

15. Adjourn

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WENDLING TO ADJOURN. VOICE VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Robert Nelson, Mayor

Attest:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer