



**CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION AGENDA
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024**

ABLE PARK BUILDING, 8200 ABLE STREET NE at 5:30 PM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. SBM Fire Department Update - Chief Dan Retka
 - B. No Mow May Discussion (*Goodboe-Bisschoff, Moran*)
 - C. Uber/Lyft Discussion (*Goodboe-Bisschoff*)
- 3. REPORT**
 - A. Council/Staff Reports
- 4. ADJOURN**



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: April 5, 2024

Subject: SBM Fire Department Update

Chief Retka, SBM Fire Department, will be attending the April 15, 2024 work session to provide the City Council with an update on the Fire Department operations.

Chief Retka will provide an update on the implementation of the Duty Crew model, as well as staffing challenges resulting from this transition. The duty crew model has dramatically reduced response times due to having firefighters staffing the stations between the hours of 5am and midnight each day. One of the challenges the Department is facing since transitioning to the duty crew model is that crews are not coming back for larger events that require more staff or for overlapping incidents. While crews are making their required percentages, they are not going above and beyond. In addition, with a number of fire departments across the Twin Cities transitioning to career, those departments have hired our trained duty crew volunteers, resulting in significant turnover.

To address this, Chief Retka would like to apply for a federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant to fund 12 positions to address the staffing need. The grant, if awarded, would fund these positions for at 100% of the cost for 3 years. After that point, the cities of Blaine, Mounds View and Spring Lake Park will need to pick up the cost of these new positions. If six positions were funded, I anticipate Spring Lake Park's share of the cost to be approximately \$120,000 for year 4, growing by an annual inflation rate each following year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: April 8, 2024

Subject: No Mow May Discussion

As we approach the upcoming spring season, we wanted to revisit the discussion surrounding the "No Mow May" initiative and seek guidance from the City Council regarding its implementation for the year 2024.

Background:

Last year, the city sponsored the "No Mow May" initiative, encouraging residents to refrain from mowing their lawns during the month of May in support of biodiversity and conservation efforts. The initiative received mixed feedback from the community, prompting us to reevaluate its pros and cons before deciding whether to continue with it this year.

Pros:

- **Biodiversity Preservation:** Allowing grass and wildflowers to grow freely during May can promote biodiversity by providing habitat and food sources for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.
- **Water Conservation:** Reduced mowing can lead to water conservation as longer grass retains moisture better, thereby reducing the need for irrigation.
- **Cost Savings:** By reducing the frequency of mowing operations, residents can potentially save on fuel, labor, and equipment maintenance costs.
- **Community Engagement:** The initiative encourages community participation in environmental conservation efforts, fostering a sense of stewardship and pride among residents.

Cons:

- **Aesthetic Concerns:** Longer grass may be perceived as unkempt or unsightly by some residents, potentially leading to complaints about neighborhood appearances.
- **Weed Growth:** Allowing grass to grow unchecked may result in weed proliferation, which could pose challenges for property maintenance and management.
- **Allergens:** Longer grass can harbor allergens such as pollen, potentially exacerbating allergies for sensitive individuals within the community.

Request for Direction:

Given the aforementioned considerations, we are seeking guidance from the City Council on whether to proceed with the "No Mow May" initiative for the year 2024. If the City Council wishes to proceed, you would adopt the resolution included in the City Council packet.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.

CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-34

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING “NO MOW MAY” IN SPRING LAKE PARK

WHEREAS, insects, especially bees, serve a significant and critical role as pollinators of plants, including agricultural plants; and

WHEREAS, the ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is one comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species and the many songbirds and other urban wildlife species that depend upon them occurs in late spring and early summer as they emerge from dormancy and require flowering plants as crucial foraging habitat; and

WHEREAS, “No Mow May” is a community science initiative that encourages property owners to limit lawn mowing practices during the month of May to provide early season foraging resources for pollinators that emerge in the spring, especially in urban landscapes when few floral resources are available; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spring Lake Park would like to encourage interested residents to increase pollinator-friendly habitat by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices on their own properties for the month of May during this formative period.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Spring Lake Park City Council proclaims May 1st – 31st, 2024 as “No Mow May” in the city of Spring Lake Park and encourage all residents who wish to participate to refrain from mowing their lawns in the month of May to provide vital early spring flowers for bees that emerge from hibernation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Spring Lake Park City Council directs staff to not issue correction notices for long grass and weed violations for the month of May, permitting all residents to voluntarily delay lawn care until June, while continuing to enforce the Minnesota State Mandate regarding the management of noxious weeds. Enforcement of long grass and weed violations will commence on June 1, 2024.

The foregoing Resolution was moved for adoption by Councilmember.

Upon Vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

And the following voted against the same:

Whereon the Mayor declared said Resolution duly passed and adopted the 15th day of April, 2024.

CITY OF SPRING LAKE PARK, MINNESOTA

Robert Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council
From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer
Date: April 8, 2024
Subject: Ride Share Apps

Councilmember Goodboe-Bisschoff asked that the pending departure of Uber/Lyft from the Twin Cities metro area be added to the work session agenda.

Ride share apps have proliferated over the past 8 years in the Twin Cities metro area. Below is a timeline:

- 2009: Taxi Magic is the first rideshare app in the Twin Cities.
- 2013: Uber and Lyft start operating in St. Paul.
- 2014: Uber and Lyft enter Minneapolis. The City Council votes 12 to 1 for an ordinance to let transportation networking companies operate in Minneapolis.
- 2015: Competing apps including New Hope-based iHail launch in Minnesota.
- 2016: Rideshare companies are allowed to pick up fares at MSP.
- 2023: Gov. Tim Walz vetoes a minimum driver pay bill and establishes a commission to study the issue.
- 2024: Minneapolis City Council passes driver minimum pay ordinance; Uber and Lyft say they'll leave May 1.

If Uber and Lyft leave the Twin Cities on May 1, there are not enough licensed taxis in the Twin Cities to fill the void, leaving a lot of people scrambling to find suitable transportation options.

It appears that the Minneapolis City Council will take up a resolution on Thursday, April 11 to reconsider the driver minimum pay ordinance.

There are few options for the City Council to address this issue outside of reaching out to members of the Minneapolis City Council to encourage them to reconsider the driver minimum pay ordinance and negotiate in good faith with Uber and Lyft on driver pay and encourage the Legislature to adopt a statewide approach.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.