

NOTES FROM CITY HALL – NOVEMBER 2017

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Elysian Spook Trail Event. Whether you helped decorate, served hot dogs, donated money or candy, or simply walked the trail – you made a difference!

Small Business Saturday in Elysian at the Fire Hall, November 25th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. A perfect opportunity to get a head start on your Holiday Shopping. There will be some awesome crafts and vendors. Also check out the local businesses that day for special offers and deals.

Shopping with Mrs. Claus, Saturday, December 2nd sponsored by the Lake Area Women, held at the Elysian Fire Hall, from 8:30 to 10:30 am with a free breakfast provided by the Elysian Firefighters for all children ages 2 through 3rd grade, their parents, and grandparents. Children ages through 3rd grade are invited to shop for gifts for their parents, sisters, brothers, and grandparents. Santa will also be present. Have your picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Thanks to Nu-Chek Prep for their generous donation of goodie bags for each of the children. A holiday bake sale will also be available. All proceeds from the event go to provide community activities and beautification.

Elysian Holidazzle Parade, Saturday, December 2nd sponsored by the City of Elysian and volunteers of the Elysian Horizons Group. Parade starts at 6:30 pm. All units will be lit with holiday lights. A donation truck will be at the front of the parade for collection of food or cash donations for the WE Share Food Shelf. Please bring items to the truck as it passes by you. Holidazzle benefits the local Food Shelf, the Library, and the Giving Tree. For more information and registration call Megan James at 507-267-4200.

Fire Department Bingo on Saturday, December 2nd at the Elysian Fire Hall immediately following the Holidazzle Parade. Let's help support the local Fire Department.

The Sakatah Trails Sno-Cruisers will be sponsoring Youth Snowmobile Training on Saturday, December 9th at 12:00 noon at the Waterville School cafeteria. Students need to be 12 years old by April 1st, 2018 to take the course. The cost is \$15 per student. Registration will be held on Monday, November 20th from 6:00-7:00 pm at the Waterville Town Hall, 419 South Third Street. If you are unable to attend registration or have any questions, please contact Chris Lamont at 507-381-8964.

Holiday Lighting Contest. The Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce will again be sponsoring the Residential and Business Holiday Lighting Contest. Judging will be held on December 16th. Contest winners in each category will receive: First Place - \$50; Second Place - \$25; and Third Place - \$10.

Giving Tree – The tree will be located at the Elysian Area Library and Heritage Center and will be accessible during open Library hours. The tree will be up with cards on the tree by November 20th and gifts must be returned to the tree by December 12th. Cards may be picked off the tree, a gift is purchased and then the gift is returned to the tree, unwrapped. Anyone knowing of someone with a need please contact Pat Nusbaum at 507-317-0532. Those purchasing the gifts do not know for whom they are buying and persons receiving the gifts do not know who gave the gift. Gifts will be delivered the week of Christmas. The Giving Tree is sponsored by the Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce and is restricted to those in need in the Elysian Community. Anyone knowing of a person or a family needing a little boost this holiday season, please call. You will remain anonymous.

The City Brush Pile (located at the sanitary sewer pond off County Road 14) will be open Wednesday, November 22nd from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. It will then be closed until next Spring.

Per State Statute 88.171, there is no open burning of garbage allowed in the City of Elysian. Please be respectful to your neighbors and to the environment.

BINGO – Sponsored by Horizons. Every Friday night, 6:30 pm at the Elysian American Legion Post #311. Proceeds go to community endeavors.

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 13, 2017 AT 6:00 PM**

Present were: Mayor Clinton Stoen; Councilmembers Robert Houlihan, Tom McBroom, Mary Opsahl, and Dennis Schnoor; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; City Utility Clerk Nicole Lamont; and City Attorney Jason Moran. Absent: None.

Held a Public Hearing and approved Resolution 596/17 – Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans 2018 Street and Utility Improvement Project.

Public Comments are summarized as follows (full transcript will be included in the approved minutes):

Public comments included questions regarding design, City bonding debt limits, timing issues with the 4th of July celebration, assessment amounts and if the alley behind the businesses on Main Street could be included in the project.

Approved the minutes of the October 9, 2017 Regular Meeting and October 16, 2017 Workshop Meeting with MnDOT.

Le Sueur County Chief Deputy Nick Greenig reported all has been quiet in the City except for some minor thefts. The bids for the new Justice Center came in 20% lower than expected resulting in a savings of \$1.1 million and dirt work on the project started last Thursday. A 2018 contract for police service has been submitted to the City for consideration by the Council at their December meeting.

Public Comment – None.

Called a Public Hearing for December 11, 2017 at 6:15 pm to consider the request of John H Carpenter, Ramona M Carpenter, and Barbara C Nelson that the City of Elysian officially close and vacate the alley located on Block 005 Elysium Townsite, Amended Plat, City of Elysian, PID # R16.410.1000.

Approved Resolution 594/17 – Receiving Report and Calling Hearing on Improvement 2018 Street and Utility Improvement Project (AMENDED).

Approved Resolution 596/17 – Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans 2018 Street and Utility Improvement Project.

Approved the Professional Services Proposal / Agreement for SEH Engineering to provide engineering services for the remaining final design, bidding, assessments, (Phase 2) and construction engineering (Phase 3) of the project.

Discussed the possibility of a Highway 60 underpass as part of the MnDOT 2020 reconstruction project. The estimated cost of an underpass is in the range of \$500,000 to \$750,000. The feasibility of striped crosswalks and crosswalks with lighted caution signs was also discussed again. The Council expressed concern for the safety of pedestrians crossing Highway 60. The MnDOT Project Manager of the 2020 Highway 60 reconstruction project will be contacted to schedule another workshop with the Council.

Several dead trees and dangerous limbs in need of removal were identified and will be removed.

Approved Resolution 591/17 – Request for Off Site Lawful Gambling from the Elysian Fire Department Relief Association for December 2, 2017.

Approved Resolution 592/17 – Acknowledging and Accepting a Donation from the Elysian Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$6,000 toward the purchase of a sliding unit for the grass rig.

Approved Resolution 593/17 – Acknowledging and Accepting a Donation from Elysian Co-Ed Volleyball League in the amount of \$300 for Lake Francis Park Maintenance.

Approved Resolution 595/17 – Designating Polling Places for the 2018 State Primary and General Elections.

Set a Budget and 2018 Utility Rate Workshop Meeting for November 28, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Called a Truth in Taxation Hearing on the Final 2017 Tax Levy – Payable 2018 for Monday, December 11, 2017 at 6:01 pm.

Approved to close City Hall office on Friday, November 24, 2017 with employees not working that day to use either vacation, floating holiday or comp time.

Elysian's local Horizon's Group is sponsoring a meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at the Elysian Tourism Center at 7:00 pm to discuss consideration of the creation of a Community Legacy Foundation.

An update on 6 Cedar Point Drive NW was provided. The homeowner did comply with the Council requests in regard to trees and did reduce the patio in the OHWM setback to less than 630 square feet.

The Council thanked all the volunteers, businesses, community members, and City staff that contributed to the 2017 Spook Trail. The new trail route worked well.

The Wilderness will be up for auction on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 11:00 am.

City Attorney Jason Moran reported that he is in the process of renegotiating the City's Franchise Agreements. He will also be revising the City's Right-of-Way Ordinance and addressing a Small Cell Tower / Antenna Ordinance.

Reported that the City Administrator Employee Evaluation had been performed during closed session on October 9, 2017. The Administrator met or exceeded all expectations of the position.

Approved bills, payroll, and transfers in the amount of \$59,798.67.

Public Comment:

Nicole Lamont, 400 Jason Drive, spoke in favor of the installation of sidewalks to aid pedestrians crossing Highway 60 to get to the trail safely. She believes the sidewalks will improve the safety even if striped crosswalks are not provided.

The meeting adjourned to closed session to discuss Attorney Client Matter and Land Acquisition at 7:32 pm.