

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 11, 2021**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 11, 2021 at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

(As there was not a quorum present, the Oath of Office was administered prior to the meeting being called to order.)

City Clerk/Administrator Kopischke administered the oath of office with Mayor Tom McBroom and Council Persons Bobby Houlihan and Derek Westby answering.

Roll Call: Mayor Tom McBroom; Councilmembers Bobby Houlihan, Derek Westby; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; City Attorney Jason Moran. Absent: Councilmembers Dennis Schnoor, Bryan Suemnick.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting and December 29, 2020 Special Year-End Meeting as presented.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, bills, payroll, and transfers were approved in the amount of \$63,489.20.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the January 11, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented.

Le Sueur County Commissioner Steven Rohlfiing thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and congratulated re-elected Mayor McBroom, Councilmember Houlihan, and newly elected Councilmember Westby.

Rohlfiing provided Le Sueur county-wide updates by department. The License Bureau is operating on appointment only basis for the health, safety and welfare of the public and staff. They are backed up 5 to 7 days mostly due to the enhanced license. The Planning and Zoning Department will now be overseen by WSB Engineering. The Assistant Administrator has been retained to handle the Shoreland Ordinance issues. The County Administrator has submitted his resignation. His last day will be January 22. The County Commissioners are in the process of hiring a third-party search firm to recruit a replacement. The Public Health Department has begun administering COVID-19 vaccinations. The Human Services Department continues to provide services with 1/3 of the department working from home. These employees may continue to work from home and that may affect the remodel needs of the campus. The Assessor's Office is in process of hiring a new staff member to help with assessing properties. The Highway Department continues to work on the road projects. The ½ cent local option sales tax will take effect April 1 and will generate \$750,000 annually to be spent on road projects delegated to that funding source. The Sheriff's Department is now fully staffed.

Rohlfiing noted that broadband is an issue in Elysian. He is not entirely sure what happened, but they did not identify this area as having a need for a tower. MetroNet is currently looking to install fiber in State Highway 60 through here and they have located a tower. Rohlfiing is working with Waseca County and Blue Earth County and has an application for them to facilitate something in this area. He should know something by the end of this week.

Houlihan asked if the County had any CARES ACT Funds available. Rohlifing stated the funds have all been allocated. In December there were monies available for the businesses from the State of Minnesota but no one in Le Sueur County qualified to receive the funds. There is now another round of business grants in the amount of \$10,000 available to businesses through Le Sueur County. Information for these grants is available on the County website. There are also funds available for childcare centers.

Le Sueur County Chief Deputy Greenig congratulated the re-elected and newly elected Council. He reported the Sheriff's Office is fully staffed. Two new deputies started with the department today. Greenig warned that with the warm weather ice conditions on area lakes are inconsistent.

Greenig reported the Drug Task Force 2020 statistics as follows: Le Sueur County – 69 cases, 45 search warrants, 24 controlled buys, 60 arrests, seized \$25,000 cash, 30.5 pounds of controlled substances, and 4 firearms; Elysian City – 3 cases, 4 search warrants, 2 controlled buys, and 3 arrests.

The Council expressed appreciation for the work of the Le Sueur County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Task Force over the last year.

Public Comment: None.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, the 2020 Designations were approved as presented:

- a. Regular Council meeting date and time: Second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm unless otherwise designated.
- b. Appointments / Assignments:
  - i. Mayor Pro Tem – Dennis Schnoor
  - ii. Official Depository – Elysian Bank and Northland Securities
  - iii. Official Publication – MN South Lake Region Life Enterprise
  - iv. Legal Counsel – Jason Moran, Law Firm of Christian, Keogh, Moran & King – Criminal and Civil
  - v. Auditor – Burkhardt & Burkhardt, Ltd
  - vi. Planning and Zoning
    - Member from Council – Tom McBroom – 1 year term
    - Member from Public – Jeremy Henninger - 3 year term
  - vii. EDA
    - Member from Council – Bobby Houlihan – 1 year term
    - Member from Council – Bryan Suemnick – 1 year term
    - Member from Public – Jason Dillon – 6 year term
    - Administrator – Lorri Kopischke – 1 year term
  - viii. Park Committee
    - Member from Council – Dennis Schnoor - 1 year term
    - Member from Council – Bobby Houlihan - 1 year term
    - Member from Staff – Ron Greenwald - 1 year term
    - Member from Staff – Nicole Lamont – 1 year term
  - ix. WEM Community Education Advisory Board – Tom McBroom - 1 year term
  - x. Representative to the MVCOG General Assembly – Tom McBroom - 1 year term
  - xi. Fire Relief Association
    - Member from Council – Dennis Schnoor – 1 year term

- Member Appointed – City Administrator Lorri Kopischke – 1 year term
- xii. Joint Fire Board Representative – Dennis Schnoor
- xiii. Emergency Management  
Director – Derek Westby

It was noted that due to illness, the January 2021 Fire Department Meeting was cancelled, and the Fire Department Chief Elections had not taken place. The Fire Department will hold the elections in February and the Fire Department Chief Appointments will be considered by Council at the February 8 City Council Meeting.

Elysian First Assistant Fire Chief, Rich Droog, presented the names of (5) five Fire Fighter Candidates for consideration. These candidates have all passed the background check and are in the process of Occupational Medical Exam. Candidates are Brent Kavitz, McKenzie Kuball, David Schlueter, Tonya Sturdivant, Tyrel Wendt.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the (5) five candidates for firefighter pending Occupational Medical Exam results – Brent Kavitz, McKenzie Kuball, David Schlueter, Tonya Sturdivant, Tyrel Wendt.

Droog reported the current rates of pay for firefighter training are as follows: Firefighter (160 hours) \$200, EMT (160 hours) \$200, and EMR (100 hours) \$200. Droog requested that Firefighter and EMT training pay be increased to \$500 and that EMR training be increased to \$300.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to set Firefighter training pay as follows: Firefighter \$500, EMT \$500 and EMR \$300.

Staff provided an update on operations in regard to the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic.

It was noted that the current City Disaster Declaration is set to expire on February 1. The Declaration preserves the rights to take emergency action, hold electronic meetings if need be, and most importantly helps qualify the City for federal and state aid if such becomes available.

Councilmember Houlihan introduced the resolution and was seconded by Mayor McBroom.

CITY OF ELYSIAN  
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION NO. 735/21

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council for the City of Elysian, Minnesota (“Mayor”) finds and Resolves that the following local emergency (“Emergency”) exists in the City of Elysian, Minnesota (“City”):

1. The Governor of Minnesota issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01 declaring Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota’s Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19 on March 13, 2020. This Executive Order has been extended multiple times and is currently in effect now; and
2. It is now necessary to extend the City’s Disaster Declaration Resolution until June 1, 2021 or unless terminated earlier. All of the terms and conditions of that Original Resolution shall continue on in full force and effect.

Upon vote being taken:

Council Members voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Westby.

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

Approved:

Attested:

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Thomas McBroom Sr.  
Mayor

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Lorri Kopischke  
City Administrator

City Hall is currently open by appointment only. The Tourism Center is not open to public meetings. Staff suggested that for consistency it may be beneficial to continue to be open by appointment only with the Tourism Building remaining closed.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, for City Hall to be open by appointment only and the Tourism Center to remain closed to public meetings.

Karen Cavett, Principal Engineer, SEH Engineering, presented an Agreement for Professional Services for a Feasibility Study for Municipal Radium Reduction Water Treatment. The first part of the proposal would include a study of the well water with additional tests being done. While it would be ideal to get Well #3 functional it is a long shot. The feasibility study would review the cost and feasibility of drilling a second well with lower radium levels that can then be blended with the City's existing well #2. It will also include the evaluation of pressure and gravity filter systems as well as reverse osmosis (RO).

The second part of the proposal is a Pilot Test. This will confirm the effectiveness of aeration or chemical feed to oxidize iron and manganese and the need for a detention tank prior to filtration for iron and manganese removal. The Pilot Study will also confirm which is the most effective media for treatment; (1) pyrolusite, (2) greensand, and (3) silica sand. John Throne would bring SEH's pilot trailer to Elysian on a Monday and connect to the City's main well. The test would be completed by Friday. Throne has currently received a cancellation and would be available to perform the Pilot Test in February.

The costs would be as follows: Feasibility Study - \$16,500, Pilot Study - \$8,500. Total with Pilot Study - \$25,000.

McBroom questioned the availability of grants. Cavett reported that MN PFA has an intended use program, and the City would rate high on their funding list because of the Radium. They offer 1% interest - 20-year term loans and provide supplemental grants through their Water Infrastructure Funds and also have programs of principal forgiveness. These programs are based on community affordability. SEH also has lobbyists who can request funding which is also based on affordability.

Houlihan asked if the City could just drill another well as all the equipment from Well #3 could be used. Cavett cited the risk of drilling a well near Well #3 as it may have the same issues with iron bacteria and that a well near Well #2 may have the same issues with Radium. Cavett stated she

would really recommend the Pilot Study and noted that this entire process will take quite some time to complete.

The Council thanked Cavett for the information and stated they would like some time to absorb the information and would like to discuss when all members of the Council are present.

Ron Greenwald, Public Works Director, presented two quotes for repair to the street sweeper: MacQueen Equipment \$4,859.08 and Sweeper Services LLC \$3,850.86. Greenwald noted the sweeper is older and these repairs are needed to keep it operating. Two years ago, the curb broom was rebuilt. The current quote is to repair the gears between the curb broom and the motor.

Councilmembers asked how often the sweeper was used, was it in salable condition, and the cost of a new unit. Suggestions were to investigate a used sweeper that is in better condition than our current sweeper and share the cost with another City in the area, hire the service out or rent a sweeper from a nearby City.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to table consideration of the quotes for repair to the street sweeper to the February 2021 meeting to allow staff to discuss other possibilities with surrounding communities.

Councilmember Houlihan introduced the resolution and was seconded by Councilmember Westby.

CITY OF ELYSIAN  
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION NO. 736/21  
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING A DONATION FROM  
ELYSIAN FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has received a donation in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Elysian Fire Relief Association to be used toward purchase of SCBAs and Cylinders;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA THAT: the City Council of the City of Elysian acknowledges and accepts a donation from the Elysian Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used toward purchase of SCBAs and Cylinders.

Upon vote being taken:

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Westby.

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

Approved:

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Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Mayor McBroom introduced the resolution and was seconded by Councilmember Westby.

CITY OF ELYSIAN  
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION NO. 737/21  
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING A DONATION FROM  
ELYSIAN AMERICAN LEGION POST #311

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has received a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Elysian American Legion Post #311, toward the Veterans Memorial Park at Sunset Park.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA THAT: the City Council of the City of Elysian acknowledges and accepts the donation from the Elysian American Legion Post #311 in the amount of \$1,000.00 toward the Veterans Memorial Park at Sunset Park.

Upon vote being taken:

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Westby.

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

Approved:

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Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

The 2021 Lake Francis Fishing Contest sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Post #311 has been cancelled.

Public Comment: None.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Approved:

Attested:

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Tom McBroom, Mayor

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator