

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2020**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 14, 2020 at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call: Mayor Tom McBroom; Councilmembers Bobby Houlihan, Mary Opsahl, Dennis Schnoor, Bryan Suemnick; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; City Attorney Jason Moran. Absent: None.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 Regular Meeting and November 13, 2020 Special Meeting as presented.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting with the following addition:

1. Captain Bruce Collins, Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to close the meeting and open the Public Hearing at 6:01 pm.

The purpose of the hearing is to allow public input from citizens on the City of Elysian Final 2021 Budget and Tax Levy for 2020 payable 2021.

The City Final Tax Levy Payable 2021 is \$719,037 which is an increase of 3.9% above the Payable 2020 City Tax Levy of \$691,613.

The City of Elysian 2021 Budget includes expenditures in the amount of \$1,566,111 and revenues in the amount of \$1,529,166. The main increases to the budget include increased health, liability, and work comp insurance costs, 2% increase full time employee compensation, increased technology costs, \$50,000 budgeted for street repairs, and expense of SCBA Air Tanks and related equipment.

There were no public comments. No written comments were received.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Schnoor, all voting in favor, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting at 6:03 pm.

Jerry Braam, CEO, Twin Cities Summer Jam, stated he was interested in sponsoring an event in Elysian on June 18 and 19, 2021. The event would be called Elysian Dayz and would be held at the Lake Francis Park. The event would include bands, kids' activities, and vendors. Braam would handle the logistics, security, sponsors, and entertainment. This would be a free event and would rely on the sponsorships. The event would run Friday afternoon and all day Saturday and would shut down by 10:30 each evening. Braam stated he would not be looking to make income from the event. He would hope to be able to cover his bills and then donate the excess back to enhancements to the City.

McBroom noted this event would be used to pull in residents from the surrounding communities and advertise the 4th of July celebration. The goal would be to generate money for the businesses to replace the lost revenue from the shutdowns.

The Council expressed general support for the event. Braam will move forward with planning of the event and report back at a future Council meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Matthew Brostrom, Brostrom Holdings LLC and Christa Wolner, Connect Real Estate Group, were present to discuss recent blight issues at the Elysian Manor Apartments, 203 First Street North.

Wolner stated Connect Real Estate Group had managed the property for four years prior to Brostrom purchasing the property. She acknowledged the April and August 2020 complaints of non-operable cars and noted those issues had been resolved immediately. She stated that she checks on the property every couple weeks and it is always quiet.

City Attorney Moran stated the property has been an absolute mess for past six months. There have been ongoing issues here since May 2020. If the management company had been doing weekly checks the blight issues could not have been missed. There have been trucks up on blocks, hoods open, lights shining with trucks being worked on at all times of the night. He asked to see the inspection records that Wolner was referencing.

Brostrom stated he owns the 203 First Street North property, and he has not been checking on this property because he had a property management company hired to do that and thought they were doing a good job. He owns other property as well and he assured the Council this is not how he operates. He has inspected the property. New signs will be installed as well as new lighting above the parking area. The unit in question is being redone, new windows are being installed on the building, the shed will be replaced, and the Lawn Barber has been contracted to address landscaping issues on the lot. Brostrom stated he takes a lot of pride in his investments and has a lot of friends on the lake and he will not let this happen again.

Moran stated the Council will expect there to be additional inspections on the property. Brostrom stated this will be done. The property will be cleaned up and inspected more often.

Leonard Kline, 206 Frank Ave NE, Jake Kline, 1270 Lewis Lane, and Cody Sutter, 1278 Lewis Lane, addressed the Council regarding flooding of Lewis Lane, a berm blocking the water and the tile intakes.

Leonard Kline reported numerous flooding issues on the Lewis Lane properties and reported the tiling and piping that he knew had been done since November 2001. Kline stated that following a heavy rain event this past summer, he had removed a small part of a berm that is located in the alleyway between 4th and 3rd Street SW and sloped the remaining berm to allow the water to flow out of the cul-de-sac. Now the City has replaced the berm and made it higher than it was before.

Sutter suggested that if the berm is necessary to stop corn stalks and debris from floating in there and clogging the catch basin, a chicken wire fence could be installed to hold back the debris. He would keep it clean.

Chris Cavett, SEH Engineering, stated this area had been identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as having a lack of storm water management. There is no formal storm sewer plan in this area. It is low and does hold water and the problem is compounded with the water flowing in from other areas of the City. The storm water management in this area will be addressed with the next street and utility project.

Leonard Kline did not believe it could wait that long. Something needs to be done now.

Houlihan asked if the water could be pumped to the nearest storm sewer. Leonard Kline stated that if a foot of the berm was cut off, the tile may be able to keep up.

Jake Kline stated it is an eyesore down in that area and he cannot afford to continue to take days off to watch his pumps so that his property does not flood.

Suemnick suggested a floodgate be installed and that FEMA be contacted to assist with funding.

The Council thanked Sutter, Leonard Kline, and Jake Kline for their input.

Bruce Collins, Captain, Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department, reported that those who were arrested at the apartment building last month are out of jail now and are back in the metro area. The matter at the apartment building has been resolved. He had nothing else to report.

Mack Evans, representing the American Legion Post #311, thanked the Council for hearing his request. Evans reported members of the American Legion are requesting permission to place a military equipment display at Sunset Park near the Veteran's Memorial. They are requesting a helicopter but do not know what type of military equipment they will be granted. Evans reported he had presented this request to the Park Board and they voted unanimously to approve.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Suemnick, all voting in favor, to allow the American Legion Post #311 to move forward with the request for a military equipment display at Sunset Park.

Kevin Rients reported that he owns 21 acres of property between Lake View Manor and the sewer ponds within City limits. 14 acres are farmed, and 7 acres are CRP land. The CRP is expiring and will not renew due to the number of trees on the property. Rients would like to clear the trees, put the land into production for several years and then re-enroll in the CRP program. He would like to have a contractor come in and bulldoze the trees and then burn them. He is requesting a permit to burn the trees. The trees are cedar and poplar. They should light well and burn fast. He estimates it will take approximately 4 days to get the property cleared and trees burned. The property is surrounded by a lake and field. He has contacted the DNR and they do not have any restrictions as the land is zoned agricultural.

Suemnick noted there are contractors who will come in and grind the trees and haul away at no cost to use the material for bioenergy. The stumps would still have to be dealt with, but they can be buried.

Rients stated he would be interested in investigating that option.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Opsahl, all voting in favor, to approve a burning permit for Kevin Rients, to allow him to remove the trees on PID #16.036.0200 and #16.035.2800 by burning them if other options are not available to him and that the City will provide notice of the burn to all surrounding property owners.

Staff provided an update on operations in regard to the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic. It was noted that Governor Walz had placed a four-week dial back plan effective on November 20th at midnight affecting bars, restaurants, gyms, etc. City Hall is currently closed with appointment only. The Tourism Center is also closed. All other City operations are open as usual.

Karen Cavett, Principal Engineer, SEH Engineering, discussed the MN Department of Health Notice of Violation – Combined Radium 226+228 Maximum Contaminant Level Exceedance received in November. The rolling annual average is 5.6 pCi/L which is above the allowed maximum annual average of 5.4 pCi/L. The amount of Radium is low enough that if residents have a water softener it will remove 50% which removes enough for the drinking water to be safe. However, the City is required by the State of Minnesota Department of Health to perform a study on how to treat the drinking water to meet the State requirements for Radium.

Cavett noted the City has two wells, Well #2 with radium and Well #3 with iron bacteria.

The first solution to lower the amount of Radium would be to work with the source of the water. One option would be to drill a new well near Well #2 and blend the water. The risk is that the new well may have the same level of Radium as the existing well. Another option would be to attempt to get Well #3 functional.

The second solution would be to build a treatment facility and install a sand filter using gravity or pressure.

The third solution would be reverse osmosis. This would result in softened water. The Department of Health does require a 3-month pilot which they must approve.

Cavett recommended the City participate in a pilot study to determine what is really needed and what will work best with the water the City has.

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.

Houlihan asked why the Radium results are increasing. Cavett noted the City's results have been on the border of allowable for a while now. In 2019 the results were 6.1 and now the July 2020 result of 6.5 put the rolling annual average over the allowed maximum.

Schnoor asked if it would be possible to blend water from Well #2 and Well #3. Cavett stated it would be difficult with the iron bacteria, but she would like to take a closer look at the water from that well.

Cavett will draft a proposal for a feasibility study for the Council to consider at their next Council meeting.

Ron Greenwald, Public Works Director, reported that a requirement of the Notice of Violation in regard to Radium is that a plan of action is drafted and submitted within 45 days. This was written and submitted to Todd Johnson, State of MN, on December 9, 2020.

Greenwald reported there are some leaky manholes around town. He is requesting estimates to repair and will submit them to the Council when received.

Greenwald stated Public Works staff is changing out old and damaged street signs.

Greenwald reported the Minnesota garden at Sunset Park is completed. He invited Councilmembers to drive out and take a look.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 729/20

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING DELINQUENT UTILITY CHARGES BE PLACED
ON THE PROPERTY TAXES PAYABLE IN 2021

WHEREAS, Elysian City Code provides for the City to place utility charges on the succeeding year property tax rolls for the specified properties; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has scheduled the consideration of the certification of such charges and has caused notice to be mailed to the affected property owners; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered such charges at its regular council meeting of December 14, 2020 and has made a determination that delinquent utility charges exist for the specified properties set forth in "Exhibit A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Elysian, Minnesota as follows:

That the Le Sueur County Auditor-Treasurer's Office is hereby authorized to place the delinquent utility charges on the property taxes payable in 2021, against the specified properties as set forth in "Exhibit A".

Upon vote being taken:

Council Members voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick.

Council Members voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 14th day of December, 2020.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Exhibit A

DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2020

SUBJECT: DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS YEAR 2020 FOR CERTIFICATION TO TAXES PAYABLE YEAR 2021

Address	PID #	Amount to Certify
401 First Street N	R-16.035.0600	\$886.14
200 Frank Avenue NE	R-16.440.0150	\$277.11
302 Park Avenue NE	R-16.440.0290	\$671.72
309 First Street N	R-16.035.0500	\$368.59
202 Fifth Street NW	R-16.410.0552	\$918.84
1278 Lewis Lane	R-16.435.0050	\$748.97
205 Frank Avenue NW	R-16.410.0380	\$88.55
304 Park Avenue NW	R-16.410.0510	\$932.89

Total **\$4,892.81**

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 730/20

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING UNPAID MOWING CHARGES
BE PLACED ON THE PROPERTY TAXES PAYABLE IN 2021

WHEREAS, Elysian City Code Ordinance 16 provides that all grass or weeds on private property or commercial property in the City limits of the City of Elysian shall be cut at regular intervals in order to maintain a continuity of order and benefit to property owners and to all property owners surrounding effective property; and

WHEREAS, property owners whose grass or weeds on private or commercial property that is longer than six (6) inches have been noticed and have a five (5) day window to have the grass or weeds cut or removed. If property owner ignores order, the City of Elysian has proceeded with the cutting or removal of grass or weeds and costs have been billed to the property owner; and

WHEREAS, the specified properties as set forth in "Exhibit A" have ignored the order, the grass or weeds have been cut or removed, the property owner has been billed and received final notification that unpaid amounts will be assessed on the respective property tax rolls.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Elysian, Minnesota as follows:

That the Le Sueur County Auditor-Treasurer's Office is hereby authorized to place the delinquent mowing charges on the property taxes payable in 2021, against the specified properties as set forth in "Exhibit A".

Upon vote being taken:

Council Members voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick.

Council Members voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 14th day of December, 2020.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

RESOLUTION NO. 730/20
 "EXHIBIT A"
 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY BENEFITTED AND PROPERTY TO BE ASSESSED

ADDRESS	PID #	AMOUNT TO CERTIFY
302 PARK AVE NE	16.440.0290	\$300.00
Total for Certification		\$300.00

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the On Sale, Off Sale, Sunday, 3.2 On Sale, 3.2 Off Sale and Soft Drink Licenses for 2021 as follows:

2021 Licenses for Approval

Fischer's Corner Bar Inc.	On Sale, Off Sale, Soft Drink, Sunday
Tom's Bar Inc. dba Thirsty Beaver Bar	On Sale, Off Sale, Soft Drink, Sunday
Tuckers Tavern Inc.	On Sale, Off Sale, Soft Drink, Sunday
The Knotty Bar & Grill	On Sale, Soft Drink, Sunday
American Legion 311	Club, Soft Drink, Sunday
Trostem's Shady Shores	3.2 On Sale, Soft Drink
S&K Roemhildt LLC dba Pit Stop	3.2 Off Sale, Soft Drink, Off Sale
Casey's	Soft Drink
Alley Scoops LLC	Soft Drink
Mama's Mercantile Bakery & Cafe	Soft Drink
Fire Department	Soft Drink

The Council then discussed the license fees for On Sale, Off Sale, Sunday, 3.2 On Sale, and 3.2 Off Sale Licenses. The businesses required to obtain these licenses were closed per Governor Executive Order from March 17 to June 10 and are now closed again per Governor Executive Order.

Following a lengthy discussion, on motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to waive the fee for the Off Sale Liquor and 3.2 Off Sale Liquor License for the full calendar year 2021 and to waive the fee for the On Sale Liquor, Club License, Sunday Liquor, and 3.2 On Sale Liquor License for six months with second half payment being due July 1, 2021.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Opsahl, all voting in favor, for approval to NOT waive monetary limits on Municipal Tort Liability established by MN Statutes #466.04.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 731/20
RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL 2020 TAX LEVY, PAYABLE 2021
CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES

BE IT RESOLVED; the Elysian City Council of the City of Elysian, Le Sueur and Waseca Counties, Minnesota that the following sums of money are levied for the current year, collectible in 2021, upon taxable property in the City of Elysian, for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$459,657
Fire Relief	\$ 3,340
Maintenance Replacement Eq.	\$ 10,000
Storm Sewer	\$ 5,000
Kaplan	\$ 10,000
City Hall Debt	\$ 11,000
2012 Local Improvement Levy	\$ 50,000
2016 Local Improvement Levy	\$ 30,000
2018 Local Improvement Levy	\$110,000
2016 Fire Truck Debt	\$ 20,496
SCBA Tank Fire Debt	\$ 9,544
Total Final Levy	\$719,037

Voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick.

Voting in the negative: None.

The City Administrator is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the County Auditor for Le Sueur County and Waseca County, Minnesota.

Adopted by the Elysian City Council on December 14, 2020.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

RESOLUTION NO. 732/20
RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2021 FINAL BUDGET
FOR THE CITY OF ELYSIAN
LESUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has considered and discussed the budget for the year 2021;
and

WHEREAS, the 2021 FINAL budget is attached to this Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA:

1. That the attached final budget for year 2021 marked as "Exhibit A" is hereby adopted.

Upon vote being taken:

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2020.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to schedule the Year-End Meeting for Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Councilmembers were given a Recap of Economic Development Authority Activities for 2020 as follows:

Published (2) Business Spotlights on the EDA Website – Trailside Trims and Elysian Auto Service.

Provided revolving loan to assist fitness center upgrade security system.

Provided 0% interest COVID 19 Operating Loans and deferred required monthly payments of existing revolving loans with no penalty for a period of (90) ninety days / July 1 (which was later extended to August 8) when the Stay-at-Home Order was issued in March.

Held Facebook drawings for gift cards to the local businesses who were shuttered during the Stay-at-Home Order to promote the businesses.

Facilitated Small Business Grants for (8) eight businesses with CARES Act Funding received by the City of Elysian in July.

Authorized Staff to move ahead with the update / improvement of the website to be hosted via a different platform.

Thank you to Lake Area Women for the trees in the pots on Main Street. Thank you to Tony Rogers for providing the equipment and assisting in hanging the Christmas lights on Main Street.

Councilmembers directed Staff to invite Le Sueur County Commissioner Rohlifing to the January 11, 2021 Meeting to provide an update on county activities.

Mayor McBroom presented a plaque of appreciation to Councilmember Opsahl for her years of service on the Elysian City Council.

“Presented to Mary Opsahl – Councilperson February 2003 to December 2020. Thank you for your dedicated service to the Citizens of Elysian, the City Council and the Economic Development Authority. Your forward thinking was a tremendous asset to all of us.”

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, bills, payroll, and transfers were approved in the amount of \$69,047.80.

Public Comment: None.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Suemnick, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator