

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 8, 2021 at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call: Mayor Tom McBroom; Councilmembers Bobby Houlihan, Dennis Schnoor, Bryan Suemnick (arrived at 6:06 pm), Derek Westby (attended via Zoom); City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; City Attorney Jason Moran. Absent: None.

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

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Schnoor, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the February 8, 2021 Regular Meeting with the following addition:

1. Le Sueur County Captain Bruce Collins

Le Sueur County Captain Bruce Collins reported activities in the County have been relatively quiet. The cold weather tends to slow things down.

Houlihan asked if there had been any break-ins to ice houses in the area and if the vacant cabins were being checked due to the increase in break-ins. Collins reported that most of the break-ins are occurring in Nicollet and Sibley County but did confirm that there was extra patrol of the unoccupied cabins in the area.

Public Comment: None.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the Fire Department Chief Appointments as follows:

- a. Chief – Jason James
- b. First Assistant Chief – Richard Droog
- c. Second Assistant Chief – Jacob James

Staff reported there are no changes regarding the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic. Council will consider reopening City buildings at the March 8 Council Meeting.

Councilmember Suemnick arrived at 6:06 pm.

Karen Cavett, Principal Engineer, SEH Engineering, was present to answer any questions on the Agreement for Professional Services for a Feasibility Study for Municipal Radium Reduction Water Treatment.

Houlihan asked if the Pilot Study was necessary. Cavett stressed the importance of the Pilot Test. The Study 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. This will help determine the capital costs and operational costs going forward.

Houlihan asked if Well #3 could be made the primary well. Cavett stated Well #3 will be examined and tested but there may not be a solution for that well. It has such a large casing which provides the perfect environment for the iron bacteria to grow.

Houlihan asked if Well #3 was deeper than most wells in the area. Cavett stated it is not. There are several wells in the area that are 300 to 400 feet deep.

Public Works Director Greenwald noted that even though Well #2 is older and smaller it has better water quality with an excellent taste and great testing results. Well #3 has several issues including system, type, and depth.

City Attorney Moran stated he would like the City to pursue a special bonding bill. Cavett agreed that would be a good funding option along with PFA loans and possibly DEED monies.

Schnoor asked if it was alright to use Well #3 after it was flushed for a while. Greenwald stated it is, but it should be chlorinated and then if chlorinated the water will turn to a tea brown. It will then be necessary to add more chemicals to suspend the chlorine, so the water will not stain everything.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve and enter into Agreement with Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. for Professional Services Feasibility Study / Pilot Study for Municipal Radium Reduction Water Treatment in the amount of \$25,000.

Lee Martin, Meter and Technology Solutions (MTS) explained that the current style radio transmitter tops on the meters have been discontinued and are no longer available. They are warranted for 20 years from purchase. The new style radio transmitter tops are cellular which means they transmit data via the cellular towers and no longer need to be read with the handheld. However, they will require an upgraded BEACON AMA Software. The BEACON AMA Software quote includes: BEACON Engagement Fee, Start-Up and Activation and onsite BEACON Training by MTS staff. The cost of the software is \$5,000 and there are no monthly or annual fees for using BEACON. The current software (Read Center) does require an annual fee of \$1,560. Once the cellular meters start being used, there is a monthly fee per meter of \$0.89. Also included is a Cellular Network Warranty of 20 years.

Greenwald reported the City has 6 – 10 of the current style radio transmitters tops meters on hand.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, to approve the purchase of the BEACON AMA Software in the amount of \$5,000.

Greenwald reported that the street sweeper is currently running fine even without the requested repair to the chain and bearing. Public Works tries to stay ahead of the game, and each winter identifies what is not operating properly and tries to get it repaired. At the January Council meeting quotes were presented to repair the chain drive for the gutter broom. The quotes are MacQueen Equipment in the amount of \$4,859.08 and Sweeper Services LLC in the amount of \$3,850.86. Council then directed staff to provide quotes for new and used street sweepers and check with other cities in the area to see if they are interested in a cost share or rental agreement.

Greenwald presented quotes for used street sweepers in the amounts of \$115,000, \$44,000, \$48,750, and \$64,000. A new unit is \$207,381 which with MN State Contract would be approximately \$33,000 year for 8 years. The trade in value of the current sweeper is \$10,000. Another option is to have the City's current sweeper completely overhauled. The price would be \$20,000 to \$25,000 and there would be a 1-year warranty on all refurbished parts. It was also noted that there was no interest expressed by other cities in a cost share for a street sweeper.

Greenwald again stated that the current street sweeper runs well. Almost all hydraulic hoses in the unit have been replaced and the curb broom was rebuilt last year. He noted the new units would have a better filter system, better vision, and a better cab. The new units are hydrostatic, ours is

chain and link. The motor in the new units is the same as the motor in the current unit – a John Deere Diesel.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Suemnick, all voting in favor, to approve the estimate in the amount of \$3,850.86 from Sweeper Services LLC to repair the 1996 Elgin Pelican SE street sweeper.

Greenwald reported that February 4, 2021 there was a low water issue at the tower. The low pressure light was on, the tower was calling for water, and the well engaged but was not pumping. After speaking with well specialists and having the system inspected, it is possible a piece of the screen fell in and was lodged against the motor. The pump has not been pulled and the entire unit inspected in some time. The system will be inspected and serviced this spring. Also, a dialer alarm system similar to the ones on the lift stations will be installed as soon as possible.

Houlihan suggested that if there is another issue with Well #2 that flushing of Well #3 be started right away so that system will be ready if needed.

McBroom requested that Greenwald establish a text chain on his cell phone to include the City Administrator, Mayor and Fire Chief. If there is any major event, a short text should be sent to that link and a follow up text to notify when the situation is resolved. The City Administrator can then notify the Councilmembers.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 738/21
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING A DONATION FROM
GARY MITTELSTEADT

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has received a donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Gary Mittelsteadt to the Elysian Fire Department.

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 in the amount of \$50.00 from Gary Mittelsteadt to the Elysian Fire Department.

Upon vote being taken:

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

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 8th day of February, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Suemnick, all voting in favor, to approve the cost estimate from American Legal Publishing in the amount of \$600-\$1,200 (+S/H) and \$200-\$400 for the online/Folio updates to update the Elysian Code of Ordinances.

There was Council consensus to schedule a City-wide Clean Up for the spring. West Central will be contacted to obtain a date for the Clean Up.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the 2021 Pay Equity Compliance Report as prepared by Minnesota Valley Council of Governments.

An update on the State Hwy 60 project was presented. MnDOT has an interactive map on the website that demonstrates the phases of the project and shows the detours. The website is: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/hwy60madisonlake/index.html>. The two main focuses of the phases were built around not affecting Paddle Fish Days in Madison Lake and 4th of July in Elysian. Phase 1 needs to be complete by July 16th and Phase 2 cannot start until July 6th. Tree clearing for the project will start on March 4th. The road portion of the project is set to start early April - weather permitting. MnDOT has adjusted their design to accommodate paved shoulders through Elysian. Anyone with questions should contact Forrest Hasty at 507-508-4018, forrest.hasty@state.mn.us.

Elysian Planning and Zoning has requested that a separate flyer be included in the City utility bill to businesses to update them on the project and invite them to City Hall to visit the online MnDOT link.

The Elysian Economic Development Authority (EDA) voted at their March 4, 2021 meeting to approve a quote from Minnesota Design Studio, LLC in the amount of \$1,350 to update the website. The quote includes design, transfer of the information and training. A mockup will be presented to the EDA at their March 4 meeting and the new website should be online by mid-March.

The EDA is suggesting a meeting be held with the Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce members to discuss the status of the 2021 July 4th Celebration. The Council requested a meeting be scheduled for the week of February 22, 2021.

The Council received a letter of support from the EDA for the Elysian Dayz celebration to be held June 18 and 19, 2021 at the Lake Francis Park. "They believe it will be a fun family filled two-day event that will attract a lot of people to the City. This will be a benefit in helping raise the spirits of people dealing with the pandemic and provide a boost to the businesses in the City who have been affected by the mandated closures of the past year."

Attorney Moran expressed his intent to reach out to legislators for special funding to help with the Radium Reduction Water Treatment.

Moran also reported an investigation into a camper / recreational vehicle that is parked in Roemhildt Addition on a lot without a principal structure. This is a violation of the Zoning Ordinance.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, bills, payroll, and transfers were approved in the amount of \$473,442.86.

Public Comment: None.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Suemnick, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator