

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 14, 2021**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 14, 2021 at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call: Mayor Tom McBroom; Councilmembers Bobby Houlihan, Dennis Schnoor, Bryan Suemnick, Derek Westby; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; City Attorney Jason Moran (attended by phone). Absent: None.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting and June 2, 2021 Special Meeting as presented.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Schnoor, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting with the following addition:

1. Le Sueur County Captain Bruce Collins

Public Comment: None.

Bruce Collins, Captain, Le Sueur County, noted that with the hotter weather the lakes are busier. He asked the Council to contact the Sheriff's Office and report any issues they see.

Collins reported that the Sheriff's Office is working closely with MnDOT and the MN State Patrol to work through issues, concerns, and complaints with both the official and unofficial detours related to the State Hwy 60 project.

Collins reported Chief Deputy Greenig has met with the sponsors of Elysian Dayz to discuss security. McBroom suggested a meeting with law enforcement following the event to discuss what went well and what could be done better at a future event.

Collins reported a suspect in the burglaries and thefts in Elysian, Le Center, and Cleveland, is in custody in Iowa. The suspect has been charged in Le Sueur County and an extractable warrant has been issued.

Schnoor noted there has been activity at the Cedar Hill Cemetery after dark. Collins stated a deputy will swing through that area when they are in town.

City Attorney Moran reported a nuisance on the property located at 402 Frank Avenue NW. The nuisance is in the form of a dilapidated mobile home that has been on the property for a lengthy amount of time. A summons has been served and a lawsuit will be initiated in 20 days if the owner does not start the removal process. Moran reported the owner has contacted him and does intend to remove the mobile home. Moran has directed the homeowner to submit a plan by June 18. If the mobile home is not removed the City will have it removed and assess the property taxes for the costs. Moran stated there are some trees there that need to be removed as well. Overall, the discussions with the property owner have been positive.

The Council considered Resolution No. 747/21- Ordering the Abatement of Nuisance Conditions at 402 Frank Avenue NW, Elysian, MN 56028. No action was taken on the resolution.

Moran reported that the camper that was located at 171 Shoreview Drive has been voluntarily removed. The owner of the property has submitted a letter stating that the camper has been

permanently removed from the property and that he has no intention of bringing the camper back to that location.

Jane Doran, owner of OnFireGuy located at 122 East Main Street, presented a request to have the alleyway north of the businesses on East Main Street paved. She spent \$20,000 to have the parking lot behind her building paved to provide off-street parking for her employees. Vehicles continue to speed down the alleyway, rocks fly up and hit her employees' cars and the rocks are also breaking down the pavement on her parking lot. The ruts fill with water and get soft and in the winter it freezes. Last year she and the owner of the Thirsty Beaver had to deice that alleyway and it is very expensive. The business owners on Main Street East own the property the alley is located on, but everyone uses it. The residences north of the alleyway get rocks in their grass and the storm drains fill with gravel and need to be cleaned out. Vehicles are also running over the little grass area by the Elysian Library building.

Doran reported she has visited with all business owners along the alleyway. Each one has a different idea. Some owners were willing to pay the cost to pave their portion of the alley. Some did not care and would not contribute to the cost in any way.

Doran stated the benefits to the city of paving the alley include no need to keep adding gravel and grading, there would not be continuous gravel filling up the storm sewer, it will look nicer, and it would provide some off-street parking.

Doran stated she has to make a choice of either getting help with the paving of the alleyway, investing and keeping her business in Elysian or using her property as a rental property and locating her business somewhere else. She has tried to get all the property owners on board with the blacktop, but it doesn't seem possible.

Possibilities including EDA assistance, 2022 budgeted improvement, and dust control were discussed.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to direct Public Works to obtain quotes for dust control application for the alley north of Main Street and the alley north of State Hwy 60.

Staff provided an update on COVID-19. The Federal Government has allocated funds for local government as part of the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Council considered Resolution No. 748/21 – To apply for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established under the American Rescue Plan Act. This will allow City staff to apply for the funds and allow City staff along with the Mayor and City Attorney to make decisions as to allocation of those funds.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 748/21

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR THE CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND
ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

WHEREAS, since the first case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was discovered in the United States in January 2020, the disease has infected over 32 million and killed over 575,000

Americans (“Pandemic”). The disease has impacted every part of life: as social distancing became a necessity, businesses closed, schools transitioned to remote education, travel was sharply reduced, and millions of Americans lost their jobs;

WHEREAS, as a result of the Pandemic cities have been called on to respond to the needs of their communities through the prevention, treatment, and vaccination of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, city revenues, businesses and nonprofits in the city have faced economic impacts due to the Pandemic.

WHEREAS, Congress adopted the American Rescue Plan Act in March 2021 (“ARPA”) which included \$65 billion in recovery funds for cities across the country.

WHEREAS, ARPA funds are intended to provide support to state, local, and tribal governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 in their communities, residents, and businesses.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Treasury has adopted guidance regarding the use of ARPA funds.

WHEREAS, the City, in response to the Pandemic, has had expenditures and anticipates future expenditures consistent with the Department of Treasury’s ARPA guidance.

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota will distribute ARPA funds to the City because its population is less than 50,000.

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

1. City staff is authorized to apply for funding from the ARPA.
2. The City intends to collect its share of ARPA funds from the State of Minnesota to use in a manner consistent with the Department of Treasury’s guidance.
3. City staff, together with the Mayor and the City Attorney are hereby authorized to take any actions necessary to receive the City’s share of ARPA funds from the State of Minnesota for expenses incurred because of the Pandemic.
4. City staff, together with the Mayor and the City Attorney are hereby authorized to make recommendations to the City Council for future expenditures that may be reimbursed with ARPA funds.

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 14th day of June, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Public Works Director Ron Greenwald reported the mill and overlay project on Main Street from Second Street NE to Fifth Street NW is scheduled to begin on July 12, 2021. The curbing on the corner of County Road 11 and Main Street will all be replaced as well as the step at Fischer's Bar. Main Street will be a bit rough for the 4th of July parade as the contractor has asked that no cold patch be placed between now and the road work.

The Council discussed water conservation due to the current drought conditions. There was Council consensus to educate residents at this time and not place any specific restrictions on water usage. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting if drought conditions continue.

John Manning reported on the goose eradication program. Manning confirmed that the geese are not being run out of the sewer pond area to nearby farms. The geese are looking for areas with water and green grass. Next year it may be beneficial to apply for intensive harvest permits. Manning and several Councilmembers reported positive feedback from residents on the efforts.

Council discussed the parking and logistics for the Elysian Dayz event.

Greenwald reported that the power at the City Shop on Second Street NE had been disrupted. It was discovered that an underground power line had been grazed during the 2018 SUIP. Volkman was able to repair the 2-foot chunk of wire and the power is back to normal.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 745/21

AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK TO FILE AT APPLICATION
WITH THE MINNESOTA MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET OFFICE
FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Management and Budget Office, will release application instructions for local governments and political subdivisions for 2021 capital budget requests, and

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has need for and intends to significantly improve its public infrastructure in the community, and

WHEREAS, all requests must be made to the Minnesota Management and Budget Office by June 18, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has identified this project as its number one priority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA THAT: the City Clerk is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the City of Elysian with the Minnesota Management and Budget Office for the Infrastructure Improvement Project.

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 14th day of June, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 746/21
REQUEST FOR OFF SITE LAWFUL GAMBLING

WHEREAS: the Elysian City Council was presented with a request from the Elysian Fire Department Relief Association for one-day off site lawful gambling license on July 4, 2021.

WHEREAS: State Laws of Minnesota require approval be granted by the local governing body, thus the City of Elysian.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA THAT: the Elysian City Council grants approval for a one-day off site lawful gambling license for July 4, 2021 to the Elysian Fire Department Relief Association.

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 14th day of June, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Council discussed the State Hwy 60 Project and the associated detours. It was noted that large trucks are driving down Blue Bay Lane. Greenwald will place a “dead end” sign at the entrance of Blue Bay Lane. Any questions or concerns regarding the project should be directed to Todd Kjolstad, Construction Supervisor, MnDOT: 507-381-0307 or todd.kjolstad@state.mn.us.

There have been no further discussions with MN DNR regarding the Wayside Rest or the Alley.

Thank you to Lake Area Women for donating the flowers for the pots on Main Street.

Thank you to Jerry and Cheryl Ellingsworth for planting and weeding the flower beds at the east and west entrance to the City on State Highway 60.

The Spring 2021 Lake Francis Association Newsletter was distributed.

The Council considered a quote from VackerSign in the amount of \$3,158.00 for an identification sign at Tustin Park and Lake Francis Park. The sign will be similar to the sign at Sunset Park. Flower boxes will be considered at a later date due to the current high cost of lumber.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to approve the quote for (2) two identification signs, one for Tustin Park and one for Lake Francis Park in the total amount of \$3,158.00

Schnoor reported the Park Board is supportive of the proposed Water Treatment Plant being located at Sunset Park. The Board requested input in the design of the Plant.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, bills, payroll, and transfers were approved in the amount of \$116,291.68.

Public Comment: None.

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

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator