

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 13, 2021 at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

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

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Suemnick, all voting in favor, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting, the August 30, 2021 Budget Workshop Meeting, and the August 30, 2021 Special Meeting Water Treatment Plant.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Schnoor, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting with the following additions:

1. Le Sueur County Captain Bruce Collins
2. Public Works – Quotes for Tractors
3. Administration – 4H Week – October 3 – 9, 2021

Bruce Collins, Le Sueur County Captain, reported that the traffic issues resulting from the State Highway 60 project did improve with the enhanced enforcement. The Council expressed appreciation for the attention to the traffic issues.

Houlihan asked if there will be more enforcement efforts to keep State Hwy 60 traffic to the posted 45 mph speed limit? MnDOT plans to complete a speed study and the Council does not want to see the posted speed limit increased. Collins stated he would let the Deputies know.

Public Comment:

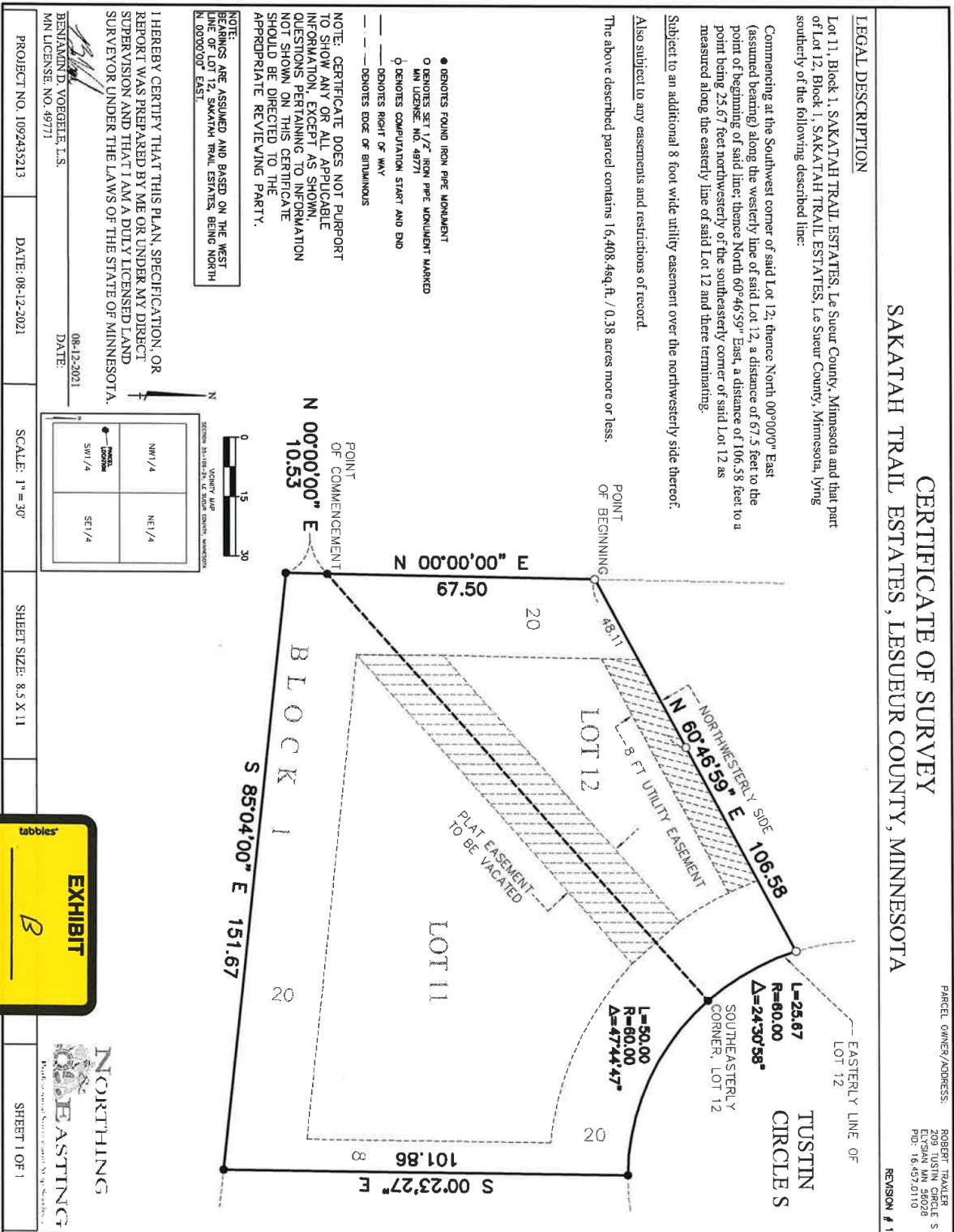
Pam Peterson, 50676 Breezy Point Lane, requested there be additional signage while traveling southbound on CSAH 11 to inform of the reduced speed of 30 mph. She noted the Knotty Bar was for sale and suggested ways to increase their business such as a sign on State Hwy 60 and pizza delivery around Lake Francis. She reported she has worked in the restaurant business since she was 15 years old and would like to apply for a liquor license and buy the Knotty.

Mayor McBroom recognized Rose Hollermann, Elysian native, member of Team USA who playing in her third Paralympics, finished the game against Germany with 12 points, 12 rebounds, and 11 assists. Hollermann was a gold medal winner in the 2016 Rio Paralympics. Team USA claimed the bronze medal this year with a 64-51 win over Germany. Hollermann does a terrific job of representing Minnesota and the City of Elysian. Accolades to her wide diversity. McBroom wished her many congratulations on her accomplishments.

Houlihan stated he had watched the games and the athletes are impressive. Schnoor expressed credit to all the athletes.

The Council considered an agreement establishing a utility easement and vacating a previously established easement. Robert and Nancy Traxler purchased a lot and one half of the adjacent lot in the Sakatah Trails Estates Addition and would like to vacate and relocate a storm water easement and pipe on 209 Tustin Circle South (see Exhibit B). The plan has been reviewed by the City Engineer and the Public Works Director.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Suemnick, all voting in favor, to approve an agreement establishing a utility easement and vacating a previously established easement for Robert and Nancy Traxler, as described below.



There were no staff updates for COVID – 19. Council had no comments.

Chris Cavett, SEH Engineering, presented a Supplemental Letter Agreement for the Preliminary Design Phase of the new Water Treatment Plant in the amount not to exceed \$126,200. With this phase and a specific scope, SEH will work with the City of Elysian to develop a design, refine the project scope, and establish an updated overall budget and timeline.

Schnoor asked what would happen if the City Council would approve the Letter Agreement and move ahead with the Preliminary Design Phase but then received only the Bonding Funds and not the WIF Grant? Cavett stated that the project would not be able to move forward. The City would need to reapply for funding the following year and continue to do so until the project was funded. No dollars, no project.

Schnoor asked how the SEH costs would be paid if the City Council approves the Letter Agreement and moves ahead with the Preliminary Design Phase and is not awarded funding? Would SEH wait to be paid? Cavett replied that SEH would expect to be paid when the services are rendered. The fees would be reimbursable to the City when funding was secured.

Schnoor asked if the plan included Reverse Osmosis (RO). Cavett stated the design will include space for RO so it can be added at a later date if needed. The current water issues do not require RO. There is not a chlorine issue with the wastewater.

Houlihan stated the price seems really high for new construction and asked if this should be put out for competitive bids? Cavett stated everyone in the water team is very qualified and their prices are comparable with other firms in the State. Competitive bids are not required for professional services. The Preliminary Design Phase work will provide a much better idea of the overall cost of the project.

McBroom stated he believes the City has gone too far into the project to stop and go for competitive bids. The water is not getting better but continues to get worse. The Council should show they are making an effort to protect the citizens and improve the safety measures for the drinking water.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Suernnick, to approve the Supplemental Letter Agreement for the Preliminary Design Phase of the new Water Treatment Plant in the amount not to exceed \$126,200. Voting on the motion: Aye: McBroom, Suernnick. Nay: Houlihan, Schnoor. Motion failed. (Houlihan stated he was opposed because the City gets multiple bids on everything else they do and now they don't require multiple bids on a \$7 million project.)

The Council asked Cavett if the fee for the Preliminary Design Phase was negotiable and could be reduced. The Council expressed concerns of expending the City's entire water reserves on this Project.

Cavett suggested interim funding for this portion of the project. He stated he would also discuss reducing the scope of this portion of the project with his colleagues to determine if the fee could be reduced.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, to approve the Supplemental Letter Agreement for the Preliminary Design Phase of the new Water Treatment Plant with a renegotiation of the price with SEH Engineering and obtaining interim funding so as not to drain the City water reserve fund.

John Manning reported that the recent controlled / direct harvest of geese at the sewer treatment plant was successful. To date 54 birds have been harvested and every one was used as a food product. The harvesting efforts will rest now until mid-October.

Houlihan asked if the harvest were local geese. Manning stated he believed so as there has not been a migration yet this season.

The Council thanked Manning stating that the participants in the harvest were professional and did a good job. Manning stated the harvest will provide a positive impact to the local waters.

Public Works Worker Doehling noted that recently there has been discussion on who is responsible for the maintenance at the Veteran's Memorial located at Sunset Park. There is the general maintenance such as weeding and watering, as well as the long-term maintenance of the pavers, flags, etc. McBroom stated he will bring this issue to the American Legion Board and provide feedback from the members for further discussion.

Doehling reported that Public Works employees will be attending the Fall Equipment Expo in Forest Lake in October to view equipment options and hope to obtain some good bids through the show.

Garbage and recycle rates will be increasing by 2% per West Central contract on October 1, 2021.

City of Elysian 2021 employee evaluations are underway. On motion by Schnoor, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, to set the City Administrator employee evaluation for Monday, October 11, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Le Sueur County Elected Official's Meeting will be Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Location TBD.

Council discussed the State Hwy 60 Project and the associated detours. 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](mailto:todd.kjolstad@state.mn.us).

4H Week is October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. The Farmers Friend 4H Club will be setting up a promotional display at the Tourism Center.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 756/21  
RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET  
FOR THE CITY OF ELYSIAN  
LESUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has considered and discussed the budget for the year 2022;  
and

WHEREAS, the 2022 proposed 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 proposed budget for 2022 marked as "Exhibit A" is hereby adopted.

Upon vote being taken:

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

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

Approved:

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Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

RESOLUTION NO. 757/21  
RESOLUTION ADOPTING PRELIMINARY 2021 TAX LEVY, PAYABLE 2022  
CITY OF ELYSIAN  
LE SUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has adopted the proposed budget for the year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has determined the tax levy for taxes payable in the year 2022 to be in the amount of \$761,450.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA; that the following sums of money are levied for the current year, collectible in 2022, upon taxable property in the City of Elysian, for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$516,410
Fire Relief	\$ 3,000
Maintenance Replacement Eq.	\$ 10,000
Storm Sewer	\$ 5,000
Kaplan	\$ 8,000
2012 Local Improvement Levy	\$ 50,000
2016 Local Improvement Levy	\$ 29,000
2018 Local Improvement Levy	\$110,000
2016 Fire Truck Debt	\$ 20,496
SCBA Tank Fire Debt	<u>\$ 9,544</u>
Total Preliminary Levy	\$761,450

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

Councilmembers 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 September 13, 2021.

Approved:

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Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, to set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 13, 2021 at 6:01 pm. Public comment will be taken on the 2022 proposed budget and the 2021 Tax Levy, payable in 2022.

City Attorney Jason Moran reported he is still negotiating a letter agreement and franchise agreement with MetroNet. He hopes to have something for consideration at the October 2021 Council meeting.

Moran reported the nuisance located at 402 Frank Avenue NW still exists. The property owner is still waiting for James Bros. Construction to remove the building.

On motion by Suemnick, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, bills, payroll, and transfers were approved in the amount of \$120,649.10.

Public Comment: None.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Schnoor, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm.

Approved:

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Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator