

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

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

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

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting and the November 15, 2021 Budget Workshop Meeting as presented.

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

1. Le Sueur County Commissioner Steve Rohlfling
2. Le Sueur County Captain Bruce Collins

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to close the meeting and open the Public Hearing at 6:02 pm.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public input on the final 2022 budget and the tax levy for 2021 payable 2022.

Staff presented the final tax levy for 2021 payable 2022 in the amount of \$761,450. This is a 5.9% increase from the payable 2021 tax levy in the amount of \$719,037. Increases to the levy include increased health, liability and work comp insurance costs, projected increased fuel, electric and natural gas costs, election year, increased sheriff costs, and maintenance equipment costs.

The City's tax rate has decreased over the last 2 years as follows: 2020 – 65.256%, 2021 – 65.144%, and 2022 – 62.520%. So effectively, if there are no changes to the value of a home, or the homestead status, etc. the city portion of the taxes would be reduced.

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 6:05 pm.

Le Sueur County Commissioner Steve Rohlfling stated the preliminary tax levy increase for Le Sueur County is at 6.8%. The Commissioners hope to reduce that to 4.8% for the final levy. The amount of levy increase is due to wages, health insurance costs and two bond payments. The County is currently negotiating a 3-year contract with 5 bargaining units.

Le Sueur County Captain Bruce Collins reported it has been relatively quiet in the City with a couple calls of suspicious activity at the rest area and some issues at the storage units. There is no new information on the vandalism at the Lake Francis Park restrooms.

Mayor McBroom reported his attendance at a meeting with Waterville Elysian Morrystown representatives Joel Whitehurst and Jay Schneider, Little League representative Kyle Short, and Elysian Public Works Director Ron Greenwald, to discuss the City taking over the little league field

and the tennis courts at the elementary school for repurpose. The WEM Board is in favor with the stipulation that the property not be used for residential or commercial purposes.

The Elysian Area Little League plans to revamp the field and the Elysian Park Board will be looking into options to revitalize the tennis courts.

Mark Muellerleile, President, Elysian Fire Relief Association, presented the Council with a tax relief donation in the amount of \$18,000.

Muellerleile presented a request from the Elysian Fire Department to increase the Annual Retirement Benefit Level. The Council thanked Muellerleile and stated they will take it under consideration.

Wayne Schwartz, Sharon Township, representing Le Sueur County Citizens Concerned with Election Integrity, addressed the Council with the following concerns:

1. Voter Identification
2. Extended Voting before and after election day
3. Secure machines
4. Mail in ballots.

The Council thanked them for the information they provided.

Public Comment: None.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 764/21

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE REDISTRIBUTION OF
UNREQUESTED CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND
ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

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 Fiscal Recovery Funds provides for \$19.53 billion in payments to be made to States and territories which will distribute the funds to non-entitlement units of local government (NEUs).

WHEREAS, NEUs generally have populations below 50,000.

WHEREAS, The ARPA requires that States and territories allocate funding to NEUs in an amount that bears the same proportion as the population of the NEU bears to the total population of all NEUs in the State or territory.

WHEREAS, after the deadline of October 11, 2021, passed for NEUs to request ARPA funds, nearly \$12 million of the \$377 million available to Minnesota's NEUs remained unrequested.

WHEREAS, as allowed by the U.S. Treasury, the State of Minnesota has redistributed these remaining funds amongst eligible local governments who requested ARPA funds.

WHEREAS, the redistribution amount is approximately \$3.47 per capita, capped at 75% of the most recent budget adopted as of January 27, 2020.

WHEREAS, \$1,325.45 has been allocated to the City of Elysian ("City") pursuant to the ARPA (Redistribution).

WHEREAS, the Redistribution will be distributed in two tranches with half received in 2021 and the second half in 2022.

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

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

1. The City accepts the Redistribution of coronavirus local fiscal recovery fund established under the ARPA to be used in a manner consistent with guidance adopted by the United State Department of Treasury.
2. The City Clerk/Administrator and Mayor are authorized to take actions to secure the Redistribution for the City, if necessary.

Upon vote being taken:

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Schnoor

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of Elysian, Minnesota this 13th day of December, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

A Water Treatment Plant Kick Off Meeting was held at City Hall on November 9, 2021 at 10:00 am. Representatives of SEH Engineering, Mayor McBroom, Councilmember Schnoor, Administrator Kopischke, Public Works Director Greenwald, Public Works Worker Doehling, and a representative of Minnesota Rural Water were present. This was a brainstorming / information gathering meeting. Ideas were shared and the engineers will use the input to develop preliminary design and determine possible locations for the water treatment plant.

Mayor McBroom, Councilmember Schnoor, Kopischke, and Greenwald also participated in a tour of two water treatment plants, Le Center and New Prague, with representatives of SEH Engineering on December 7, 2021. Le Center is a smaller sand filtration system with reverse osmosis. New Prague has a larger capacity and utilizes a package plant system with no reverse osmosis. The tours were informative, and the operators explained the pros and cons of each system.

Public Works Director Ron Greenwald reported on the financing options for the tractors that have been discussed. Smiths Mill (New Holland) does not offer a lease. They would provide a 2–3 year payment plan. John Deere is recovering from the recent employee strike, and they do not have a timetable for the availability of or pricing on their unit. Greenwald will provide the Council with this information as soon as it becomes available.

The Council noted the fabulous job Public Works did managing clean up of the recent 12-inch snowfall. They appreciated the good work.

Greenwald reported he was not able to cancel the no parking signs discussed at the November meeting. The posts will be used for other projects. He noted there were other street signs included in that purchase order for streets in the Sakatah Trails Development and streets on the east side of the City.

Greenwald stated the new park signs are installed at Lake Francis and Tustin Park. They are 100% maintenance free, and all three parks now have the same type of signage. Greenwald reported the Waterville FFA will be collecting the aluminum cans in the bins next to the City shop.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to accept the resignation from the Elysian Fire Department of Ryan Frederick.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the 2022 Le Sueur County Election Agreement. This agreement will be in effect January 2022 through December 2025.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 765/21

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING DELINQUENT UTILITY CHARGES BE PLACED
ON THE PROPERTY TAXES PAYABLE IN 2022

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 13, 2021 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 2022, against the specified properties as set forth in "Exhibit A".

Upon vote being taken:

Council Members voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Schnoor

Council Members voting in the negative: None

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 13th day of December, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Resolution No 765/21 - Exhibit A

DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2021

SUBJECT: DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS YEAR 2021 FOR CERTIFICATION TO TAXES PAYABLE YEAR 2022

Last Name	First Name	Address	PID #	Amount to Certify
		106 Second Street NE	R-16.440.0690	\$277.80
		401 First Street N	R-16.035.0600	\$78.26
		302 Park Avenue NE	R-16.440.0290	\$579.72
		1278 Lewis Lane	R-16.435.0050	\$270.96
		112 Park Avenue NE	R-16.440.0480	\$364.51
			Total	\$1,571.25

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 766/21

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING UNPAID MOWING CHARGES
BE PLACED ON THE PROPERTY TAXES PAYABLE IN 2022

WHEREAS, Elysian City Code of Ordinance Chapter 91: Health and Sanitation; Nuisances § 91.11 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 2022, against the specified properties as set forth in "Exhibit A".

Upon vote being taken:

Council Members voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Schnoor

Council Members voting in the negative: None

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 13th day of December, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

RESOLUTION NO. 766/21
"EXHIBIT A"

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY BENEFITTED AND PROPERTY TO BE ASSESSED

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	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 2022 On Sale, Off Sale, Sunday, 3.2 On Sale, 3.2 Off Sale, and Soft Drink Licenses as follows:

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
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

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, to NOT waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. § 466.04, to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve 2022 Health Insurance Benefits for Full-Time Employees as follows:

<u>Health Single Coverage</u>	Total Annual Premium	Total Monthly Premium	City Portion		Employee Monthly Cost	Annual Employee Cost	Annual Employer Cost
Advantage HSA Option	\$5,239.2	\$436.60	\$436.60		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,239.20
<u>Health Family Coverage</u>	Total Annual Premium	Total Monthly Premium	City Portion		Employee Monthly Cost	Annual Employee Cost	Annual Employer Cost
Advantage HSA Option	\$13,933.44	\$1,161.12	\$580.56		\$580.56	\$6,966.72	\$6,966.72

<u>Dental Single Coverage</u>	\$140.64	\$11.72	\$11.72		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$140.64
<u>Life Basic</u>	\$21.60	\$1.80	\$1.80		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21.60

HSA Contribution: The City of Elysian will contribute \$3,650 into the TASC HSA account for both single and family insurance.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 767/21
 RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL 2021 TAX LEVY, PAYABLE 2022
 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 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	\$ 9,544
Total Final Levy	\$761,450

Voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Schnoor.

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 13, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

RESOLUTION NO. 768/21
RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2022 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 2022;
and

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

Upon vote being taken:

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

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Dated this 13th day of December, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 769/21

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT
FOR THE ELYSIAN PARK BOARD

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Elysian, Minnesota, has previously determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Elysian to establish a Park Board to promote the general welfare of the people of the City of Elysian, and preserve its parks; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has met, and discussed the requirement that at large Park Board commission members be City of Elysian residents, and has determined that this residency requirement is in the best interest of the City of Elysian by encouraging City of Elysian residents to be active in the City's park operations as City residents have a vested financial interest in the sound fiscal operation of the parks.

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

1. That at large Park Board commissioners must reside within the City of Elysian corporate limits. All members shall be appointed by and confirmed by the Elysian City Council. Further, that the requirements herein shall take effect on January 10, 2022.

Upon vote being taken:

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

Council Members voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 13th day of December, 2021.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to schedule the 2022 End of Year Council Meeting for Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Thank you to all those in the community who made 2022 Christmas in Elysian such a success. Thank you to Lake Area Women for the trees in the pots on Main Street. Thank you to Bryan Suemnick for providing the equipment and assisting in hanging the lights on Main Street.

City Attorney Jason Moran presented a Letter Agreement with Metro Fibernet, LLC “MetroNet”. The Letter Agreement will authorize MetroNet to start construction in the City of Elysian.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the Letter of Agreement with Metro Fibernet, LLC “MetroNet”.

Moran presented Ordinance No. 100/22 – An Ordinance Granting a Franchise to CMN-RUS, Inc. “MetroNet” to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable System in the City of Elysian. The agreement provides 5% franchise fees, caps the right-of-way fees at \$1,500, provides a 50% discount in service fees with free drops at the Fire Hall, City Hall and Tourism Center.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, to schedule a public hearing to receive citizen input in regard to Ordinance No. 100/22 – An Ordinance Granting a Franchise to CMN-RUS Inc. “MetroNet” to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable System in the City of Elysian for Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Moran reported there has been some progress on the nuisance issues located at 402 Frank Avenue NW. The gas lines have been relocated and the fence has been removed.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, bills, payroll, and transfers were approved in the amount of \$145,928.74.

Public Comment:

Mark Sybilrud, 514 Lake Avenue NW, asked when Lake Avenue NW was going to be completed. He thought that when the Carpenter Nelson property was developed the City would finish the paving of Lake Avenue. Sybilrud stated that the three properties where he is located were all assessed the maximum amount and he thought the assessment should be split like the three cabins on Fifth Street NW were. Sybilrud stated he does not own any property that abuts Lake Avenue, yet he was charged a full assessment. The people further up on Lake Avenue come out and use the street and they were not assessed at all. He feels he was assessed unfairly, and the others didn’t get assessed and they still use the road like he does.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Schnoor, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator