

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2025**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 2025, at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

(As there was not a quorum present, the Oath of Office was administered prior to the meeting being called to order.)

City Clerk/Administrator Kopischke administered the oath of office with Mayor Tom McBroom, Sr. and Councilmember Paul Hunter answering.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

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

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 Regular Meeting and December 30, 2024 Special Year-End Meeting as presented.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

Le Sueur County Commissioner Steve Rohlring congratulated Mayor McBroom and Councilmember Hunter and thanked them for serving. He reported that he has been working on getting Lake Francis added to the priority list of the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Hunter noted a recurring theme of vehicles speeding through and around the City. He asked if the County could look at reducing the speed limit on County Road 11 past the public access. Could there be a transition from 30 mph to 45 mph and then 55 mph? Rohlring stated that MnDOT had reviewed this, and it did not meet their criteria for a speed limit reduction. Rohlring will discuss it with the County Engineer.

Le Sueur County Chief Deputy Nick Greenig reported that there has not been much happening within the City. There have been no issues on local area lakes.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Schnoor, all voting in favor, to close the Regular Meeting and open the Public Hearing at 6:10 pm.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public input from citizens on proposed Ordinance No. 127/24 – Prohibiting Private Wells in the City of Elysian.

City Attorney Moran stated that the City has a Wellhead Protection Plan with the State to help ensure that the well will not become contaminated. Allowing private wells could lead to contamination. The language in the current ordinance with regard to private wells is archaic and this ordinance is meant to clean that up. Many cities in the State of MN prohibit private wells while others allow sand point wells for watering lawns/gardens, etc. The Council will need to determine if private wells are prohibited entirely or if they would like to allow sand point wells. Moran noted that the enforceability can be difficult if allowing sand point wells based on the definition of those types of wells.

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 6:13 pm.

Public Comment: None.

The Council considered proposed Ordinance 127/24 – Prohibiting Private Wells in the City of Elysian. Schnoor asked if there are any existing private wells in City limits. Staff is not aware of any existing private wells.

Mayor McBroom introduced Ordinance No. 127/24 and was seconded by Councilmember Hunter.

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 127/24
AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING PRIVATE WELLS IN THE CITY OF ELSIAN

Whereas, the City Council for the City of Elysian has the authority under Minnesota Law, to regulate land uses including prohibiting private wells.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council for the City of Elysian, hereby and herein Ordains as follows:

1. That private water wells shall be strictly prohibited in the City of Elysian. No person or corporate entity shall construct any private well, no matter its depth or size, in the corporate limits of the City of Elysian.
2. This prohibition on private water wells shall be placed in Chapter 51: Water Ordinances.

Duly passed and adopted this 13th day of January, 2025.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon publication.

Tom McBroom, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the following designations:

- a. Regular Council meeting date and time: Second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm unless otherwise designated.
- b. Appointments / Assignments:
 - i. Mayor Pro Tem – Dennis Schnoor
 - ii. Official Depository – Elysian Bank and Northland Securities
 - iii. Official Publication – MN South Lake Region Life Enterprise
 - iv. Legal Counsel – Jason Moran, Law Firm of Christian, Keogh, and Moran – Criminal and Civil
 - v. Auditor – Burkhardt & Burkhardt, Ltd.

The Council considered the 2024 Appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Economic Development Authority. Patrick Ely and Kimberlynn Denn, Planning and Zoning appointees and Samantha Williams, Economic Development Authority appointee, introduced themselves to the Council.

Patrick Ely, 104 Lake Avenue NE, stated that he has lived in Elysian all his life and has recently joined the Fire Department. He is excited to join the Planning and Zoning Commission and get a sense of what goes on behind the scenes.

Kim Denn, 207 Park Avenue NW, stated that she had moved to Elysian five years ago with her husband. She has been involved with the Chamber, Lake Area Women, and has requested information regarding the water situation. She is looking for ways to get involved in the community.

Samantha Williams, 104 Lake Avenue NE, stated that she was born and raised here and moved from one side of the lake to the other. She has a son who is eighteen months old, and she would like to be more involved in the community and help the community to grow.

The Council welcomed the new members and thanked them for being involved.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the following appointments:

- vi. Planning and Zoning
 - Member from Council – Paul Hunter – 1 year term
 - Member from Public – Kimberlynn Denn – 3 year term
 - Member from Public – Patrick Ely – 3 year term
- vii. EDA
 - Member from Council – Tom McBroom, Sr. – 1 year term
 - Member from Council – Derek Westby – 1 year term
 - Member from Public – Samantha Williams – 6 year term
 - Administrator – Lorri Kopischke – 1 year term

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the following appointments:

- viii. Park Board
 - Member from Council – Tom McBroom, Sr. – 1 year term
 - Member from Council – Bryan Suemnick – 1 year term
 - Member from Staff – Ron Greenwald – 1 year term
 - Member from Staff – Nicole Lamont – 1 year term
 - Member from Public – Shayne Danielson-Copeland – 1 year term
 - Member from Public – Jane Lebert – 1 year term
 - Member from Public – Roger Quiram – 1 year term

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the following appointments:

- ix. Representative to the MVCOG General Assembly – Tom McBroom, Sr. 1 year term
- x. Fire Relief Association
 - Member from Council – Dennis Schnoor – 1 year term
 - Member Appointed – City Administrator Lorri Kopischke – 1 year term

On motion by Hunter, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, to approve the following appointments:

- xi. Joint Fire Board Representative – Dennis Schnoor
- xii. Emergency Management Director – Dennis Schnoor

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the following Fire Department Chiefs appointments:

- a. Chief- Jason James
- b. First Assistant Chief – Jacob James
- c. Second Assistant Chief – Justin Scheurer

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the Meeting/Monthly Payment Amounts:

- a. Fire Chief - \$316.67 per month
- b. Planning and Zoning Commissioners - \$50 per meeting / training
- c. EDA Commissioners/Administrator - \$40 per month plus \$40 per special meeting / training
- d. Park Board Members - \$25 per meeting
- e. Fire Relief Representative - \$25 per meeting
- f. Joint Fire Board Representative - \$25 per meeting

Brent Kavitz, SEH Engineering, presented the Supplemental Letter Agreement for General Engineering Services provided in calendar year 2025. Services will be provided on an hourly basis, not-to-exceed a total of \$10,000 in the calendar year. This would be services outside of a project and as requested by the City. The services may include zoning, park, and inspection, etc.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the Supplemental Letter Agreement for General Engineering Services provided in calendar year 2025 billed on an hourly basis not-to-exceed a total of \$10,000 without approval from the client.

Kopischke presented an estimate from Sweeper Services, LLC for repairs to the 1996 Elgin Pelican SE street sweeper in the amount of \$15,750.00. There are too many repairs to be done on site. The sweeper would need to be delivered to the shop in St. Paul. Quotes for that service were also provided as follows: 1. Affordable Towing of Mankato - \$855 each way, and 2. Steve James Excavating - \$750.00 each way.

Sweeper Services, LLC has also provided a flyer with photos and specs of a 2005 Elgin Pelican P street sweeper. The price with trade in of the 1996 street sweeper is \$31,500 plus delivery.

The 1996 street sweeper has had the following recent repair costs: 2019 - \$5,093.00, 2021 - \$2,687.00, 2022 - \$1,036, 2023 - \$991, and 2024 - \$4,932.

There was Council consensus for Public Works employee to travel to Sweeper Services LLC in St. Paul to view the 2005 street sweeper and perform a test drive/inspection.

The Council did not discuss the compact tractor purchase due to Public Works not being present at the meeting.

The Council considered Resolution No. 937/25 – Authorizing the Purchase of Real Estate. The proposed property is vacant and is located at the intersection of Main Street West and Fifth Street

NW. The property includes four parcels as follows: Parcel Identification Nos. 16.410.0595, 16.410.0596, 16.410.0597, and 16.410.0598. The property would be ideal for future city infrastructure expansion such as city hall, fire hall, or city shop. The property could also be sold to a developer for residential or commercial construction.

The purchase agreement is approved via passage of Resolution No. 937/25. The purchase price of the real estate is \$115,000.00. The closing will be on or before April 1, 2025. The real estate taxes for 2025 shall be pro-rated between the parties to the date of closing. Closing costs will be split between buyer and seller. The City will absorb the special assessments on the real estate in the amount of \$17,220.

The City Financial Advisor and the City Auditor have been contacted with regard to the best means of payment for this real estate. The City has been advised by the City Auditor Greg Burkhardt as follows: "I reviewed the city's cash summary, and I am confident the city can support a disbursement of \$125K for the land we discussed."

Hunter asked what the term "future" as contained in Resolution No. 937/25 meant in regard to City planning. Schnoor explained that as the City continues to expand and more apartments are built, the need for a ladder truck increases. There will be a need to expand the fire hall in the future. The Public Works Department has their equipment spread between three shops and it would be practical to have all their equipment located in one central location. There are no imminent plans for this real estate. Purchase of this property provides an optionality for the City but does not obligate them to anything.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 937/25
AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE

Whereas, the City Council for the City of Elysian met on the 13th day of January 2025;

Whereas, at that meeting a discussion was held regarding the purchase of real estate in the corporate limits of the City of Elysian;

Whereas, Theresa A. James, as trustee of the Revocable Trust Agreement of Wayne O. James dated March 17, 2016, has proposed to sell to the City that real estate contained in the attached purchase agreement to the City upon the terms and conditions of that purchase agreement;

Whereas, the City Council met and discussed this proposed purchase. The City Council finds that this real estate would be beneficial to the City and its future needs. The property is vacant land and would be ideal to develop. There are no buildings on it to contend with. This property is centrally located geographically with easy access to Highway 60. The property would be ideal for future city infrastructure expansion be that public works, administration, or utility. In addition, the property would additionally be ideal for possible future residential or commercial construction;

Whereas, the City Council has met, discussed the terms of purchase in the attached Purchase Agreement, and finds the proposed price to be reasonable considering the current value of the real estate and its future value to the City;

Whereas, upon motion made by Councilmember Schnoor, duly seconded by Mayor McBroom, and passed unanimously, the Mayor and the City Administrator are authorized to enter into and bind the City of Elysian to the purchase agreement attached hereto. The Mayor and City Administrator are further authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate the terms of the attached purchase agreement and acquire that real estate covered by it.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2025.

Tom McBroom, Sr., Mayor – Elysian

ATTEST:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 938/25
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND ACCEPTING A DONATION
FROM ELYSIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHARITABLE GAMBLING ACCOUNT

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has received a donation in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the Elysian Volunteer Fire Department Charitable Gambling Account (Tax Relief) toward the purchase of equipment (truck).

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 from the Elysian Volunteer Fire Department Charitable Gambling Account (Tax Relief) in the amount of \$15,000.00 toward the purchase of equipment (truck).

Upon vote being taken:

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Hunter, McBroom, Schnoor

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 13th day of January, 2025.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Sr., Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Councilmember Schnor introduced the resolution and was seconded by Councilmember Hunter.

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 939/25
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND ACCEPTING
A DONATION FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT (TRUCK)

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has received a donation in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Loretta Johnson toward the purchase of equipment (truck).

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 from Loretta Johnson in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used toward the purchase of equipment (truck).

Upon vote being taken:

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

Council Members voting in the negative: None

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 13th day of January, 2025.

Approved:

Tom McBroom Sr., Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 940/25
REQUEST FOR LAWFUL GAMBLING
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #311 RAFFLE

WHEREAS, the Elysian City Council was presented with a request from the Sons of American Legion Post #311 for a lawful gambling event – raffle: date of drawing March 22, 2025.

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 to the Sons of the American Legion Post #311 for a lawful gambling event – raffle: date of drawing March 22, 2025.

Upon vote being taken:

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Hunter, McBroom, Schnoor

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 13th day of January 2025.

Approved:

Tom McBroom Sr., Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

The Council considered the proposed updates to the City Fee Schedule. On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the proposed City of Elysian 2025 Fee Schedule with the deletion of the proposed Meter Profile Read Fee Service Fee.

The MN Department of Health has presented an Amended Compliance Agreement for PWSID 1400003 consideration. This agreement sets the schedule for agreed upon corrective actions with regard to combined radium 226 & 228 in the community water system. The schedule is as follows:

Actions Required:	Complete No Later Than:
A. Elysian will secure funding for treatment installation to meet the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.	July 1, 2026
B. Elysian will advertise the project for bid. Note that this project has received MDH Plan approval (Project #240639).	October 1, 2026
C. After bidding process is complete, Elysian will provide MDH with a final construction schedule.	November 30, 2026
D. Sign and return new compliance agreement along with final construction schedule as provided by Elysian in item C above.	January 1, 2017

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Schnoor, all voting in favor, to approve the Amended Compliance Agreement between the Elysian Water System and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regarding the correction of the water quality violation(s).

Roundtable discussions were conducted recently with Senator Rich Draheim, representatives of Senator Klobuchar and Senator Smith's office, MN House of Representative District 22B Terry Stier, and a representative of Representative Angie Craig's office to determine how to improve our applications for federal and state funding for the water treatment plant project. The representatives were very positive and supportive of Elysian's needs and requests.

David Olsen, Area 4C Supervisor, Parks and Trails, MN DNR, has advised that there is no DNR Lands Bill included in this legislative session to help with the transfer of the state trail land to the city, but their intentions with the city have not changed and they plan to try and get it into the lands bill next year.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, bills, payroll, and transfers were approved in the amount of \$364,874.73.

Public Comment: Mark Sybilrud, 514 Lake Avenue NW, asked the price and the zoning of the real estate approved for purchase this evening. He stated that the property owners there are expecting houses to go on that land not a Fire Hall.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Schnoor, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Sr., Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator