

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 8, 2025, at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

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

Roll Call: Mayor Dennis Schnoor; Councilmembers Bobby Houlihan and Paul Hunter; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald. Absent: Councilmember Derek Westby and City Attorney Jason Moran.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

Le Sueur County Patrol Sergeant Dan Tousley reported 35.75 hours of patrol in the City in the past month.

Hunter thanked the Sheriff's Office for performing speed stops in different areas of the City.

Public Comment: None.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the following items:

- Minutes Approval – August 11, 2025 Regular Meeting, August 18, 2025 Budget Workshop Meeting, and September 3, 2025 Budget Workshop and Council Interview Meeting
- Bills, Payroll, and Transfers in the amount of \$152,692.51
- Minnesota House of Representative Terry Stier has been selected by the League of Minnesota Cities as a League of Minnesota Cities Legislator of Distinction for 2025.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 966/25
A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT A COUNCILMEMBER
TO FILL A VACANCY

WHEREAS, the Elysian City Council did declare a vacancy on the City Council at their regular meeting on August 11, 2025;

WHEREAS, the vacancy created therein shall be filled by appointment by the City Council pursuant to Minnesota State Statute §412.02 Subd. 2a;

WHEREAS, the City Council shall vote to make the appointment at the September 8, 2025 City Council Meeting;

WHEREAS, the appointed person shall fill the vacancy until the special election held on November 3, 2026 with seating for the same occurring at the first council meeting in January 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA, to appoint Steve Hoppe as Councilmember to the Elysian City Council to

fill the said vacancy until the special election held on November 3, 2026 with seating for the same occurring at the first council meeting in January 2027.

Upon vote being taken:

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

Council Members voting in the negative: None

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 8th of September, 2025.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Hunter reported that there were six applicants for the Council vacancy. All were interviewed and were very qualified. This was not an easy decision. He urged those who were not selected to get involved with City sub-committees and to keep an eye open for future election and to re-engage as a candidate of that election. He thanked them for their interest and again urged them to stay involved.

Schnoor noted that in a City of just under 800 residents, there were seven interested in the job. That is outstanding. There are openings on the Park Board, Economic Development Authority, and the Planning and Zoning. These openings are advertised on Facebook and in the local newspaper. Don't be afraid to put your name down. He thanked all those who applied.

The Council considered Ordinance No. 131/25 – An Ordinance Amending Elysian City Code §153.01 – Driveways (H) Surfacing Requirements, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Hunter explained that this Ordinance will give the City Council more options when considering impervious surface coverage and variance requests. There are new products available for surfacing driveways and addressing the required 24 feet that are pervious and are as effective as concrete, bituminous and pavers. The amendment to (H) will allow the Council to consider different options and look at other products. The amendment to (I) changes what will trigger the requirement for a non-compliant driveway to become compliant. The amendment will require the first 24 feet of an existing driveway to be brought into compliance in conjunction with any new building permit for an existing building addition or an additional building being constructed on the property.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to set a Public Hearing for Monday, October 13, 2025 at 6:10 pm for consideration of Ordinance No. 131/25 – An Ordinance Amending Elysian City Code §153.01 – Driveways (H) Surfacing Requirements.

The Council considered a Policy concerning the vacation of alleys, streets, or easements within the corporate limits of the City of Elysian. This policy was drafted by the City Attorney and is designed to provide City Staff with general directives on how to handle vacation requests. While each situation is unique, this policy will give staff a guide on how to process the request and where additional information is needed.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the Policy Concerning the Vacation of Alleys, Streets, or Easements within the Corporate Limits of the City of Elysian.

Lee Istvanovich, SEH Engineering, presented a Supplemental Letter Agreement for 2025 General Engineering Services in the amount of \$5,000. SEH Engineering has billed a substantial portion of the original contract's not-to-exceed fee of \$10,000 for 2025 General Engineering Services. This adjustment will bring the total contract value to \$15,000 and allow SEH to continue providing timely and effective services through year-end.

Hunter asked if there was an hourly rate? He asked how the City knows if the junior engineer is doing the work when qualified rather than the senior engineer doing the work and charging the City a higher rate?

Istvanovich reported that he is the junior engineer, and he performs the field work. Kavitz is the senior engineer, and he performs the administrative engineering services.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the SEH Engineering Supplemental Letter Agreement: 2025 General Engineering Services – Amendment No. 1 in the amount of \$5,000.

Schnoor reported that the sump pump in the property of 1278 Lewis Lane has not quit running all year. It runs into the backyard and into the non-improved street behind the property. He asked why it is not hooked up to the storm sewer. There has been a puddle on Fourth Street SW all summer with algae growing on it. It is a mosquito trap.

Istvanovich reported that the sump pumps runs out of the back of this property rather than in the front like the adjacent properties.

Staff presented an excerpt of October 14, 2024 City Council minutes where this was last discussed. During that meeting, the Council considered a quote from WW Blacktopping in the amount of \$3,340 for the installation of drain tile to an additional yard drain and sump basket. The Council made a motion to NOT accept the quote from WW Blacktopping, Inc. for the 4th Street Corridor Yard Drain and to monitor the area for any issues.

Council asked Public Works if they could provide a tile line and install a box to hook this property's drainage into the storm sewer. Public Works responded that this could be done.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, for Public Works to run a tile line and install a yard drain and sump box in the right-of-way in the back of the property to service 1278 Lewis Lane in an amount less than \$3,000. The property owner will be responsible for hooking his sump pump line to this sump box.

City staff will consult with the City Attorney with regard to an ordinance to require that when a street is reconstructed the property sump pump must be hooked directly into the storm sewer.

Greenwald presented quotes for repair to the Third Street NE and Frank Avenue NE sanitary sewer and the Roemhildt's Waters Edge Third Addition sanitary sewer.

Empire Pipe Service has provided a quote to remove the root intrusion, perform a heavy cleaning, and perform inline repair to the sanitary sewer on Third Street NE in the amount of \$12,248. Steve James Excavating, Inc. provided a quote for open cut repair in the amount of \$4,000 and James Bros. Construction, Inc. provided a quote for open cut repair in the amount of \$5,200. There was Council

consensus that the inline repair with the heavy cleaning of the root and debris would be more effective in the area. This would also avoid any damage to the street in that area.

The repair in Roemhildt's is in a grassy area. There was Council consensus that an open cut repair to that sanitary sewer would be appropriate. Quotes were received from Steve James Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$2,000 and James Bros. Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$4,500.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to accept the quote from Empire Pipe Services for the inline repair to Third Avenue NE sanitary sewer in the amount of \$12,248 and the quote from Steve James Excavating, Inc. for the open cut repair to the Roemhildt's Waters Edge Third Addition sanitary sewer in the amount of \$2,000.

Greenwald reported that the stator in the pump in Lift Station #2 has gone out. It is a 2007-2008 pump and there is no warranty. Minnesota Pump Works has provided a quote to replace the pump with a new pump in the amount of \$12,687.85. Minnesota Pump Works has provided a quote to rebuild the old pump in the amount of \$7,146.85. Greenwald noted that Minnesota Pump has provided a loaner pump to keep the Lift Station functioning with two pumps.

Greenwald requested that the Council consider purchasing the new pump and rebuilding the old pump so the City would have a backup pump on hand. The Council asked if Minnesota Pump Works would sell the City the pump that is on loan for use as a backup pump.

On motion by Schnoor to obtain a price for the pump that is currently on loan and if the price is less than \$7,000, to purchase that pump and purchase the new pump in the 2026 budget. Motion died for lack of a second.

Greenwald stated that he did not know the age of the loaner pump but that it was pretty old. The rebuilt pump would have everything replaced except the volute and impeller.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the quote from Minnesota Pump Works for a new pump in the amount of \$12,687.85 and to authorize Greenwald to negotiate a price for the rebuilt pump or the loaner pump to purchase as a back up pump for Lift Station #2.

Greenwald presented a Scheduled Pump Maintenance Agreement from Minnesota Pump Works that would provide inspection of (4) four lift stations (8) eight pumps for one inspection per year at a price of \$1,456 per inspection.

The Council asked how many other cities do this. Greenwald stated that a ton of other cities do this. So many cities do this that it is tough to get on the schedule. This service should be included in the yearly budget.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the quote from Minnesota Pump Works for Scheduled Pump Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$1,456 for one year.

Greenwald presented quotes for repair to the concrete curb and approach due to the force main break at Motor Works – 203 Main Street East: Clayton Roemhildt & Sons Concrete in the amount of \$2,500 and ICON Concrete in the amount of \$3,150. The City Public Works Department will make the repairs to the lawn.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the quote from Clayton Roemhildt & Sons Concrete in the amount of \$2,500 to repair the concrete curb and approach due to the force main break at Motor Works – 203 Main Street East.

Greenwald noted that there have been several repairs to the force main connections between pipes in that area. SEH is suggesting that the City should consider looking into repairing or abandoning and rerouting that force main.

Greenwald explained that Lake Boys Sales & Service has recommended that the City purchase a Flotation Device to aid in the removal of the pier from Lake Francis this fall. Greenwald has not received a quote for the device. The removal will be fairly easy with the device, and the pier can be pulled up onto the beach in the volleyball area. Without the device, removal will have to be contracted.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the purchase of the Flotation Device in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 and to pursue reimbursement of the cost through the DNR grant.

Greenwald reported that there are two or three substantial, very deep potholes on Willow Point Drive that need to be repaired. He asked for approval to repair the potholes with cold patch.

The Council acknowledged that Willow Point Drive is a private drive.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to send a letter to the road committee at Willow Point Drive that the owners of Willow Point Drive will need to repair the potholes or the City will not snowplow the road this winter.

Greenwald discussed some of the issues and considerations involved with the completion of the grant application to assist in the cost of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Infestation.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to schedule a workshop to discuss the Emerald Ash Borer Infestation Plan for Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 10 am to 12 noon.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 967/25
ADOPTING THE 2026 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 2026; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 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 2026 marked as "Exhibit A" is hereby adopted.

Upon vote being taken:

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, Hunter, Schnoor

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2025.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

The Preliminary 2025 Tax Levy, Payable in 2026 was presented for consideration. The proposed general fund levy amount is \$59,472 higher than last year's general fund levy amount. The total proposed levy is \$967,712 which is \$42,964 (4.6%) increase from the previous year. The main reasons for the increase to the levy is an increase in the Fire Department budget of \$10,000, a 3% COLA for full time employees, security and IT, 2026 election year, increase in police protection rate, dangerous tree removal, water tower cleaning, and generator at Lift Station B. The Council will continue to work with the budget to try to reduce the levy increase.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 968/25
RESOLUTION ADOPTING PRELIMINARY 2025 TAX LEVY, PAYABLE 2026
CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has adopted the proposed budget for the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has determined the tax levy for taxes payable in the year 2026 to be in the amount of \$967,712.

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 2026, upon taxable property in the City of Elysian, for the following purposes:

General Fund	\$656,613
Fire Relief	\$ 7,537
Maintenance Replacement Eq.	\$ 25,000
Storm Sewer	\$ 5,000
Kaplan	\$ 13,000
2016 Local Improvement Levy	\$102,000
2018 Local Improvement Levy	\$108,555
2023 Local Improvement Levy	\$ 34,834
Equipment Street Lights	\$ 15,173
Total Preliminary Levy	\$967,712

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, Hunter, Schnoor

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 8th 2025.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to set the Truth and Taxation Hearing for December 8, 2025 at 6:10 pm at City Hall. Comments will be taken on the 2026 Proposed Budget and the 2025 Tax Levy payable in 2026.

Employee performance evaluations are underway.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to set the City Administrator performance evaluation for October 13, 2025 at 5:30 pm.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to plant a remembrance tree with a memorial plaque at Sunset Park in honor of Mayor Tom McBroom, Sr.

Public Comment:

Michael Jacobs, 120 Willow Point Drive, stated that he has lived here for two years, so he does not know what happened with Willow Point being a private drive rather than a city street. Some of us are talking and we are looking for solutions and not hurdles. We are trying to get some people together to see what can be done. I wasn't aware that there was a vacation policy for consideration tonight. I would love to see a copy. We have a memo floating around for several of us talking about getting that fixed on a permanent basis. There is no road committee. There is no association. The potholes are bad, and they need to be fixed before winter. If the City does not plan on snowplowing the road then that is a different issue that I first heard of tonight. The main point I want you to know is that there is a group of people looking for solutions. We are looking at getting a surveyor, vacating the easement, and getting a correct one in place. All of us on Willow Point Drive are all paying taxes and if you are not going to be snowplowing, I guess we need to talk about solutions sooner rather than later.

David Arnold, 119 Willow Point Drive, stated that they have lived on Willow Point for 26 years and the road that is there now has always been there but there was an old road that was closer to the lake and we all got building permits to build our homes on our lots with a variation that we could build on the old easement. Everything was going smooth on that until the homes are much greater in value now and we had a neighbor that the person who was purchasing the home was getting a mortgage and the mortgage company needed title insurance. The title insurance company won't issue title policies anymore so that's why we need the abandonment of the old road. There are a number of us that want to get this done and we want to do it as economically as possible. We appreciate that you are doing a policy. There is one family that did it on their own and we heard that it was pretty expensive and we are trying to avoid that. If you look on the map, this affects all the homes that are facing west. We appreciate it and hopefully we can get the old road abandoned.

Leo Brown, 117 Willow Point Drive, stated that this has been an ongoing issue. The Council mentioned earlier that 4th Street was not a street even though it is platted. Earlier tonight you approved up to \$3,000 for Ron to put a box in there and it's not even a street. It has no utilities and taxes like we are paying at Willow Point Drive. Ron said that you have fixed holes in Willow Point in the past. And the point of getting it fixed sooner rather than later, we don't have a lot of time to get the potholes fixed. And Ron has the supplies to do it. So, I think that it would be good courtesy all around to get that taken care of to show us that you are willing to work with us as a good starting point. When you removed that hump there on Willow Point Drive that is excellent that that is fixed. There is one major problem with that though, there is a manhole cover in the middle of that street that is 3-4 inches deep that there should have been a ring put around it so that then they blacktopped up to it. I am hoping that it is on the agenda to get that fixed. When you take care of that and then spend up to \$3,000 for that box and then spend up to \$3,000 fixing potholes or something. That would solve a lot of problems as well. Appreciate your time.

There were no further public comments.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator