

ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2025

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 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 Steve Hoppe, 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 Hoppe, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting with the following addition:

10I. Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. Agreement for Professional Services for the Project described as: Verizon MN10 Elysian Repeater.

Public Comment: None.

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

- Minutes Approval – November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting
- Bills, Payroll, and Transfers in the amount of \$319,132.95
- Approval of 2026 On Sale, Off Sale, Club, Sunday, and Soft Drink Licenses as follows:
 - Fischer's Bar Inc. (On Sale, Off Sale, Sunday, Soft Drink)
 - KRO Bar Inc. dba Thirsty Beaver Bar (On Sale, Off Sale, Sunday, Soft Drink)
 - Tuckers Tavern Inc. (On Sale, Sunday, Soft Drink)
 - Ahavah Drops LLC (On Sale, Off Sale, Sunday, Soft Drink)
 - American Legion 311 (Club, Sunday, Soft Drink)
 - BT Liquor LLC (Off Sale, Soft Drink)
 - Casey's (Soft Drink)
 - Scoops LLC (Soft Drink)
 - Lolli-Pops Bakery (Soft Drink)
 - Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce (Soft Drink)

Public Works Greenwald reported that the water leak at 153 Shoreview Drive has been repaired. The street will be patched next Spring.

There was a watermain break at 100 Frank Avenue NE on November 21, 2025. The main is six-inch cast iron. The repair consisted of two couplings with a small piece of plastic in between. The inside of the main looked clear with no debris.

Greenwald reported that Lift Station B was not operating and needed to be repaired. Two floats were bad and had to be ordered from Minnesota Pump Works. The City does not have those pumps on hand. The repair has been made and it is now working properly again.

Verizon has finished the update to the water tower and SEH Engineering will be conducting a final inspection. There is some work that Verizon has not completed that they stated they would do such as remove antennas that are no longer in use.

The new City Hall generator did not start during regular Monday testing. A representative from Generator System Services has determined that a warranty part has failed. It is on order and will be replaced.

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

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public input on the 2026 Final Budget and Tax Levy for 2025 payable 2026.

COMPARISON TAX LEVY PAYABLE 2025 VS TAX LEVY PAYABLE 2026

	2025	2026	Difference
General Fund	\$597,141	\$656,613	\$ 59,472
Fire Relief	\$ 15,042	\$ 7,537	\$ - 7,505
Maintenance Replacement Eq.	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 0
Storm Sewer	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Kaplan	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,000	\$ - 2,000
2016 Local Improvement Levy	\$105,000	\$102,000	\$ - 3,000
2018 Local Improvement Levy	\$107,715	\$108,555	\$ 840
2016 Fire Truck Debt	\$ 18,496	\$ 0	\$-18,496
2023 Local Improvement Levy	\$ 20,656	\$ 34,834	\$ 14,178
Equipment Street Lights	<u>\$ 15,698</u>	<u>\$ 15,173</u>	<u>\$ - 525</u>
Total Final Levy	\$924,748	\$967,712	\$ 42,964 4.6% increase

The largest increase to the levy is in the General Fund. This increase is driven by the following:

- Reduction in 2026 LGA Funding from State of MN – down \$7,450 from 2025 amount
- 3% COLA for 4 full-time employees
- Increase to employee health benefit costs
- Increased IT and Infrastructure Security Costs
- Costs to Administer 2026 Elections
- Tree Removal Emerald Ash Borer Disease
- Increase to Fire Department Budget

The City of Elysian's Tax Rate over the last six years is shown in the chart below.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Le Sueur County Net Tax Capacity	1,103,804	1,217,946	1,509,959	1,595,961	1,652,377	1,762,921

City of Elysian Property Tax Levy	719,037	761,450	802,483	873,039	924,748	967,712
City of Elysian Local Tax Rate	65.14	62.52	53.15	54.70	55.96	54.89

Enterprise Funds Include Water, Sewer, and Storm Sewer. Major projects for these funds include: Clean / Paint Inside and Outside of Water Tower; Wet Well Safety Cages and Manhole Rehabilitation, Generator Lift Station A.

Possible Capital Outlay Purchases: Jet Vac and Replace Ford F350 Pick Up Truck.

Total 2025 Budget \$2,099,765 Total 2026 Budget \$2,156,145

Increase in Budget to include all City accounts (general, debt, enterprise) = 2.7%

There were no public comments. No written comments were received.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting at 6:13 pm.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the Agreement for Law Enforcement Services January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029 – County of Le Sueur and City of Elysian.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 976/25

RESOLUTION TO RATIFY INCREASE AND AMEND THE ELYSIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT
RELIEF ASSOCIATION BENEFIT LEVEL AND BYLAWS

WHEREAS, the Elysian Fire Department Relief Association includes Relief Association Benefit Levels in the *Restated Bylaws of Elysian Fire Department Relief Association (Appendix C)*; and

WHEREAS, Article XII of the Bylaws permits amendments to be made to the document, including the Appendixes; and

WHEREAS, at the October 6, 2025 Relief Association Meeting, the Association approved and is now requesting an increase in the Benefit Level from \$1,700 to \$1,800 to be effective January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, amendments to the Bylaws of the Relief Association shall be reviewed and approved by the municipality per Minn. Stat. §424A.092, subd. 6; and

WHEREAS, the current financial status, including the accrued liability and annual accruing liability of the relief association attributable to the amendment of the Association has been reviewed and found to be financially sound.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council for the City of Elysian hereby ratifies the increase in Benefit Level to \$1,800 effective January 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Elysian approves the amendment to Appendix C of the *Restated Bylaws of Elysian Fire Department Relief Association* reflecting the increase in Benefit level.

Voting in the Affirmative: Hoppe, Houlihan, Hunter, Schnoor.

Voting in the negative: None.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and without further publication.

Dated this 8th day of December, 2025

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

APPENDIX C
ELYSIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIEF ASSOCIATION
Benefit Levels

Benefit Level Effective Date	Benefit Level per Year of Active Service	Interest Rate for Deferred Pension Benefit	Date Benefit Approved by Municipality
March 11, 2002	\$900	NA	
March 1, 2018	\$1,300		February 13, 2018
February 10, 2020	\$1,400		February 10, 2020
January 1, 2022	\$1,700		February 14, 2022
January 1, 2026	\$1,800		December 8, 2025

NA means not applicable.

NR means not required.

TBD means to be determined.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 977/25

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING DELINQUENT UTILITY CHARGES BE PLACED
ON THE PROPERTY TAXES PAYABLE IN 2026

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 8, 2025 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 2026, against the specified properties as set forth in "Exhibit A".

Upon vote being taken:

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

Council Members voting in the negative: None

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

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Exhibit A

DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2025

SUBJECT: DELINQUENT UTILITY BILLS YEAR 2025 FOR
CERTIFICATION TO TAXES PAYABLE YEAR 2026

Address	PID #	Amount to Certify
106 2nd Street NE	R-16.440.0690	\$ 344.84
206 Main Street E	R-16.440.0700	\$ 284.03
112 Park Avenue NE	R-16.440.0480	\$ 441.27
304 Park Avenue NW	R-16.410.0510	\$ 648.63
1278 Lewis Lane	R-16.435.0050	\$ 309.89
	Total	\$ 2,028.66

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

**CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 978/25
A RESOLUTION DIRECTING UNPAID MOWING CHARGES
BE PLACED ON THE PROPERTY TAXES PAYABLE IN 2026**

WHEREAS, Elysian City Code of Ordinance Chapter 96: Native Plants; Maintenance Standards: Turf Grasses § 96. Except for the period from May 1 to June 15 each year for residential properties, turf grasses shall be regularly cut such that no individual plant shall exceed, at any time, six inches in height or length, as measured from its base at the ground to the tip of each stalk, stem or blade consistent with § 91.11; 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.

WHEREAS, if the property owner ignores the notice and does not cut or remove the grass, the costs and expenses incurred by the city in connection with entering a property and cutting, removing, destroying and eradicating vegetation declared to be a nuisance, shall be paid by the owner or occupant of the property entered pursuant to a notice containing the information and served as prescribed by M.S. § 18.271, subd. 4.

WHEREAS, if the city is not paid the amount stated in the notice within 30 days or before the following October 1, whichever is later, such amount shall become a lien in favor of the city and a penalty of 8% shall be added to the amount due as of that date and the total cost, expenses and penalties shall be certified to the auditor of the county for entry as a tax upon such property for collection as other real estate taxes are collected, all pursuant to the provisions of M.S. § 18.271, subd. 4.

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 2026, against the specified properties as set forth in "Exhibit A".

Upon vote being taken:

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

Council Members voting in the negative: None

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

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Resolution No. 978/25
"EXHIBIT A"

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY BENEFITTED AND PROPERTY TO BE ASSESSED

ADDRESS	PID#	AMOUNT TO CERTIFY
112 Park Avenue NE	16.440.0480	\$500.00
Total for Certification		\$500.00

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION 979/25

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING DELINQUENT SECOND WATER METER ADAPTATION PARTS
CHARGES
BE PLACED ON THE PROPERTY TAXES PAYABLE IN 2026

WHEREAS, Elysian City Code provides that all second meters used for lawn watering, car washing and other uses not considered primary usage, must be plumbed separately from the regular meter and be serviced by an auto read (remote) water meter; and

WHEREAS, the subject property owners have been noticed of this requirement and said listed itemized parts were provided by Elysian Public Works to adapt the second meter connection to meet the requirements; and

WHEREAS, the property as set forth in "Exhibit A" 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 second water meter adaptation parts on the property taxes payable in 2026, against the specified property as set forth in "Exhibit A".

Upon vote being taken:

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

Council Members voting in the negative: None

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

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Resolution No. 979/25

"EXHIBIT A"

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY BENEFITTED AND PROPERTY TO BE ASSESSED

ADDRESS	PID#	AMOUNT TO CERTIFY
205 Third Street NW	16.410.0470	\$104.18
Total for Certification		\$104.18

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 980/25
RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 FINAL BUDGET
FOR THE CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has considered and discussed the budget for the year 2026; and

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

Upon vote being taken:

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Hoppe, Houlihan, Hunter, Schnoor

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Dated this 8th day of December, 2025.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

RESOLUTION NO. 981/25
RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINAL 2025 TAX LEVY, PAYABLE 2026
CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES

BE IT RESOLVED; by the 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 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	<u>\$ 15,173</u>
 Total Final Levy	 \$967,712

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Hoppe, 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 December 8th 2025.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve a 3% wage increase for the City of Elysian full-time employees effective the first payroll in January 2026.

On motion by Hoppe, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to set the end of the year meeting for Monday, December 29, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Kopischke reported attendance at the Le Sueur County Elected Officials Meeting and discussion with House Representative Stier and Senator Draheim. Both Stier and Draheim are supportive of capital bond funding of the water treatment plant and encouraged Elysian to schedule another Zoom meeting with members of that committee.

Thank you to all those in the community who worked so hard to make the 2025 Holiday Winter Lights Parade and Winter Fun Event in Elysian a success. Thank you to Lake Area Women for the trees in the pots on Main Street. Thank you to Public Works for putting the Christmas lights up. The City looks beautiful.

On motion by Hoppe, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Elysian and Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. in the amount of \$7,000 for the Project described as: Verizon MN10 Elysian Repeater. Verizon has provided an escrow check to pay for this amount (\$7,000) in September 2025.

Public Comment: Mayor Dennis Schnoor reported that the Elysian Fire Department Budget is funded by the City of Elysian, Elysian Township, Iosco Township, and Janesville Township. The Fire Fighters currently receive \$12 per hour for training and fire calls. The \$10,000 increase to the Fire Department budget was to fund an increase in the hourly rate to \$14 per hour for training and fire calls.

There were no further public comments.

Five sealed bids were received for the 1991 4-wheel drive Ford F350 Custom Rescue Truck. At 6:30 pm, Mayor Schnoor began opening the sealed bids.

Bid #1: Mike Cassidy - \$4,500

Bid #2: Emergency Remarketing - \$1,278.18

Bid #3: Mark & Eric Muellerleile - \$7,250

Bid #4: James Bros. Construction - \$7,850

Bid #5: Ozzie Zrucky - \$4,111

On motion by Hoppe, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to award the bid for the 1991 4-wheel drive Ford F350 Custom Rescue Truck to the highest bidder James Construction in the amount of \$7,850.

Le Sueur County Deputy Alyson Powers reported that all is well in the City of Elysian. There is nothing to note.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator