

## NOTES FROM CITY HALL – JANUARY 2026

The City of Elysian is accepting applications for a full-time Public Works Maintenance Worker. You can stop by City Hall and pick up a job description and application or print the documents from the City website: [www.elysianmn.com](http://www.elysianmn.com) Initial screening of applications will be February 2, 2026.

The water and sewer utility rates will increase in 2026. Effective January 1, 2026, the water utility base charge will increase from \$20.00 to \$21.00 and the user charge will increase from \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons to \$11.00 per 1,000 gallons. The Janesville Township water utility base charge will increase from \$40.00 to \$42.00 and the user charge will increase from \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons to \$11.00 per 1,000 gallons. Effective January 1, 2026, the sewer utility base charge will increase from \$20.00 to \$21.00 and the user charge will increase from \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons to \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons. The environmental utility fund (EUF) rate will not change.

Please note: Per City Ordinance #2 amended on June 11, 2018, it is the responsibility of the consumer or owner to maintain, and be solely responsible for, the individual service pipe from main to meter and including the curb stop and box. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the consumer or owner to maintain, and be solely responsible for, the individual lateral sewer service pipe. The City is only responsible for repairs and maintenance to the water and sewer main line.

Public Works will be picking up and disposing of live Christmas trees through the end of January. Please remove all decorations from the tree and place the tree at the curb for pick up.

The winners of the Elysian Area Chamber 2025 Residential Lighting Contest are: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Steve and Marnie Schnoor – 205 Third Street NW, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Mark and Peggy Hecht – 106 Third Street NE, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Dan and Nancy Engebretson – 30 Osprey Way. Honorable Mention: Dennis and Kristin Krause – 503 Lake Avenue NW.

Please Note: Per City Ordinance §70.01 – (B1) At 3 inches of snow accumulation or more, no parking or leaving cars on any street or avenue will be allowed between the hours of 5:00 am and 10:00 am. (B2) Notwithstanding the above, parking in the Central Business District shall be prohibited between the hours of 2:00 am and 7:00 am between the dates of November 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**UPCOMING ELYSIAN AREA LIBRARY & HERITAGE CENTER EVENTS:** *Book Talk* – January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am; *Signs & Symbols* – February 2 at 6:00 pm; *Puzzle Derby* – February 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am; *Beginning Crochet Workshop* – February 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am; *Romp & Rhyme Storytime* – February 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am; *Book Talk* – February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. For questions about events or to register, call 507-267-4411 or email [libtble@tds.lib.mn.us](mailto:libtble@tds.lib.mn.us). *Book Blizzard*, the adult winter reading program, runs from January 1 – February 28, 2026. *How to participate?* Read or listen to books and track how many on your entry form (digital books count). Turn in your form at the end of the program, and the number of books read/listened to = the number of entries in the prize drawing. Prizes are also awarded throughout the program. Stop in the library to register. Grand prizes include: Sour Dough Baking Basket, Puzzler Basket, and Elysian Bucs. Prizes sponsored by the Elysian Area Friends of the Library. Please donate your recyclable aluminum cans to help support the Library & Heritage Ctr. – The collection trailer is located on north side of Elysian Shop Building. Available 24 hours / 7 days a week.

The American Legion Post #311 Auxiliary will hold their Omelet Breakfast on the Second Sunday of the month.

The Elysian Area Foundation is sponsoring Bingo on Friday evenings at the Elysian American Legion Club at 6:30 pm. Please contact Pat Nusbaum if you would like to volunteer – 507-317-0532.

## ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY JANUARY 12, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

The meeting opened with a moment of silence in remembrance of Brady Kessler who passed away on January 11, 2026.

Present: Mayor Dennis Schnoor; Councilmembers Steve Hoppe, Bobby Houlihan, Paul Hunter; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; City Attorney Jason Moran. Absent: Councilmember Derek Westby.

Le Sueur County Chief Deputy Nick Greenig noted that the contract for Law Enforcement Services through year 2029 has been approved by the County Commissioners. All has been quiet in Elysian. There have been some issues with ice quality in the County, but Lake Francis is in good shape.

Le Sueur County Commissioner Steven Rohlfing reported that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the comp use plan on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The Commissioners will hold a public hearing and consider final approval on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The CIP Plan will be reviewed on January 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a workshop to discuss creation of a shotgun ordinance. Currently all counties south of 94 are shotgun hunt zones only. Due to a change in State Legislation, each county now must pass an ordinance to see if they will allow all types of firearms or if they will remain a shotgun only zone. The County must act on this prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>. County Engineering Staff will be meeting with the landowner of the property at the curve at Glen's Beach on County Road #11 and discussing removal of trees so that chevrons can be installed in the right of way of that curve. The Council asked if some lit signage could be installed.

Approved the Consent Agenda to include Minutes of December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting and December 29, 2025 Year End Meeting; Bills, Payroll, and Transfers in the amount of \$266,859.40; Resolution 990/26 – Accepting a Donation from the Elysian Volunteer Fire Department Charitable Gambling Account.

Approved the Regular Council meeting date and time: Second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm unless otherwise designated.

Approved the Appointments / Assignments as follows:

- i. Mayor Pro Tem – Bobby Houlihan
- 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
- vi. Planning and Zoning: Member from Council – Paul Hunter (1 year term), Member from Public – David Schlueter (3 year term)
- vii. EDA: Members from Council – Bobby Houlihan and Derek Westby (1 year term), Member from Public – Jason Dillon (6 year term), Administrator – Lorri Kopischke (1 year term)
- viii. Park Board: Members from Council – Bobby Houlihan and Steve Hoppe (1 year term), Members from Staff – Ron Greenwald and Nicole Lamont (1 year term), Members from Public – Jane Lebert, Roger Quiram, Kristy Sybilrud (1 year term)
- ix. Representative to the MCOG General Assembly – Dennis Schnoor - 1 year term
- x. Fire Relief Association: Member from Council – Dennis Schnoor (1 year term), Member Appointed – City Administrator Lorri Kopischke (1 year term)
- xi. Joint Fire Board Representative – Dennis Schnoor
- xii. Emergency Management: Director – Dennis Schnoor

Approved the Meeting / Monthly Payments amounts as follows: Fire Chief - \$316.67 per month; Planning and Zoning Commissioners - \$50 per meeting / training; EDA Commissioners/Administrator - \$40 per month plus \$40 per special meeting / training; Park Board Members - \$25 per meeting; Fire Relief Representative - \$25 per meeting; Joint Fire Board Representative - \$25 per meeting.

It was noted that the City did not receive the MNDNR Community Tree Planting Grant. The Council approved the Public Works Director, in coordination with the City Administrator, to obtain three bids for the removal of hazard trees in the best interest of the City within the budgeted amount of \$20,000 and to have those trees removed as soon as feasible.

Approved a quote from MN Pump Works to repair ABS Pump for Lift Station #2 (Pit Stop) in the amount of \$6,352.

Set a Public Hearing for February 9, 2026 at 6:10 pm for consideration of the 2026 City of Elysian Fee Schedule.

Approved a Policy Pertaining to Compliance with MSA §118A.03 – Municipal Deposit of Public Funds.

Approved changes to the City of Elysian Personnel Policy as recommended by MN Valley Council of Governments.

Approved the quote from American Legal Publishing to provide an update to the Elysian MN Code in the amount of \$1,200 to \$2,000 (+S/H) and \$195 for online/folio updates.

Approved a Supplemental Letter Agreement to the Master Agreement with Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. effective January 1, 2026 in the amount of \$10,000 for general engineering services.

Accepted the resignation of Public Works Worker Donald Doebling dated January 12, 2026. Approved a revised job description, salary range, advertisement of the position of Public Works Maintenance Worker with first screening of applicants on February 2, 2026.

City Attorney Moran reported that the MNDNR has determined that the entire parcel of state trail property that was proposed for conveyance to the City is encumbered under the Land and Water Conservation Fund program. The DNR must initiate a process to lift this encumbrance before any conveyance can occur.

Public Comment: Mayor Dennis Schnoor reported that he has signed a letter that was drafted by Jackson Purfeerst, Mayor of Crosslake, MN and sent to MN State Representatives, Senators, and Governor Walz outlining the challenges cities are facing and reaffirming the responsibility to protect the taxpayers. The letter expresses a deep concern and growing frustration with the direction that the State is headed in. Schnoor stated that as the Mayor of Elysian, he watches where the money goes every month, and that the Governor needs to be accountable to the people of Minnesota as well.

There was no further public comment. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.