

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2026**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2026, at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Brady Kessler who passed away on January 11, 2026.

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

On motion by Hoppe, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting with the following additions:

- 4a. Le Sueur County Commissioner Steve Rohlfig.
- 11g. Resignation of Public Works Worker Donald Doehling

Le Sueur County Chief Deputy Nick Greenig noted that the contract for Law Enforcement Services through year 2029 has been approved and signed 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 Rohlfig reported that the County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on January 15th at 7:00 pm to consider the comp use plan. The Commissioners will consider final approval following a public hearing to be held on February 18, 2026. The Commissioners will also review the CIP Plan on January 20, 2026.

The Commissioners are considering creation of a shotgun ordinance. Currently all counties south of Highway 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 1st.

The County Engineering Staff will be meeting with the landowner of the property at the curve at Glen's Beach on County Road #11 and asking him to remove 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.

Public Comment: None.

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

- Minutes approval – December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting and December 29, 2025 Year End Meeting
- Approval of bills, payroll, and transfers - \$266,859.40
- Consideration of Resolution No. 990/26 – Accepting a Donation from the Elysian Volunteer Fire Department Charitable Gambling Account (Tax Relief) of \$20,000.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN

LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 990/26
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 \$20,000.00 from the Elysian Volunteer Fire Department Charitable Gambling Account (Tax Relief) toward the 2025 Fire Department General Budget.

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 \$20,000.00 toward the 2025 Fire Department General Budget.

Upon vote being taken:

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

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 12th day of January, 2026.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the 2026 Designations as follows:

- 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 – 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
 - Member from Council – Bobby Houlihan – 1 year term
 - Member from Council – Derek Westby – 1 year term
 - Member from Public – Jason Dillon – 6 year term
 - Administrator – Lorri Kopischke – 1 year term

viii. Park Board

Member from Council – Bobby Houlihan - 1 year term

Member from Council – Steve Hoppe – 1 year

Member from Staff – Ron Greenwald - 1 year term

Member from Staff – Nicole Lamont – 1 year term

Member from Public – Jane Lebert – 1 year term

Member from Public – Roger Quiram – 1 year term

Member from Public – Kristy Sybilrud – 1 year term

ix. Representative to the MVCOG 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

It was noted that the Fire Department has not yet made the Fire Department Chief Appointments. They will be provided to the City Council for approval at a future Council meeting.

Motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the Meeting/Monthly Payments amounts as follows:

- 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.

Public Works Director Greenwald reported that the minute meters in Lift Station B failed and had to be replaced. That repair has been completed.

Greenwald reported that the City did not receive the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Community Tree Planting Grant. There is \$20,000 allocated in the budget for removal of trees and he would like to start the process while the ground is frozen to minimize restoration costs. He asked the Council if they would need to approve which trees were removed, the cost to remove each tree, and if trees that are partially in the right of way could be removed.

On motion by Hoppe, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, for the Public Works Director, in coordination with the City Administrator, to obtain three bids for the removal of the hazard trees that are in the best interest of the City within the budgeted amount of \$20,000 and to have those trees removed as soon as feasible. Only the trees located three quarters or more in the right of way should be considered for removal.

The Council considered a quote from Minnesota Pump Works to rebuild ABS pump for Lift Station #2 (Pit Stop) to have on hand for a spare. This quote was originally presented in September 2025. Council had deferred the expense to be considered within the 2026 budget.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to approve Quote #QTE009802 from Minnesota Pump Works to repair ABS Pump for Lift Station #2 (Pit Stop) in the amount of \$6,352.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to set a public hearing to consider the 2026 City of Elysian Fee Schedule for February 9, 2026 at 6:10 pm.

The Council considered a policy pertaining to compliance with MSA §118A.03 – Municipal Depository of Public Funds. Findings of the 2024 audit showed that the Elysian Bank did not have the City’s funds fully collateralized at 110%. The auditor has suggested that the Council develop a policy to monitor the amount of collateralization. The City Attorney drafted the policy. The City Auditor and the Elysian Bank have approved the policy.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve A Policy Pertaining to Compliance with MSA §118A.03 – Municipal Depository of Public Funds.

On motion by Hoppe, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to approve the Minnesota Valley Council of Government’s suggested updates to the City of Elysian Personnel Policy as follows:

- Table of Contents (to update page numbers)
- Page 2 – Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination
- Page 3 – Core Hours
- Page 4 – Pay Period, PERA, Probationary Period
- Page 9 – Probationary Period
- Page 11 – Core Hours
- Page 20 – 24 – Minnesota Paid Leave
- Page 24 – 28 – Sick and Safe Time
- Page 32 – 39 – Family Medical Leave Act
- Page 50 – Reimbursement Amounts

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the quote from American Legal Publishing to provide an update to the Elysian, MN Code in the amount of \$1,200 - \$2,000 (+S/H) and \$195 for online/folio updates.

The Council considered a Supplement Letter to the Master Agreement with Short, Elliott Hendrickson Inc. in the amount of \$10,000 for general engineering services.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to approve the Supplemental Letter Agreement effective January 1, 2026 in the amount of \$10,000 for 2026 General Engineering Services.

A new benefit to being a member of the League of MN Cities Regional Safety Groups is free attendance for any employee at the League of MN Cities Safety and Loss Control Workshops. The Spring Workshop in Mankato will be held on April 9th.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, for all interested employees to attend.

The Council was presented the resignation of Public Works Worker Donald Doehling as follows:

“1/12/26

I Don Doehling submit my 30 day notice to the City of Elysian.

Don Doehling”

On motion by Schnoor, second by Hoppe, all voting in favor to accept the resignation of Public Works Worker Don Donald Doehling dated January 12, 2026.

The Council reviewed a revised job description for the position of Public Works Worker. The Council discussed the required licenses and the possibility of needing to provide training to obtain a CDL License. The Council discussed the wage or salary range based on data of cities of similar size in the surrounding area. The Council discussed the timing of the advertisement and whether they would form an interview committee.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to approve the job description to include the changes stated tonight, to set a salary range of \$24.00 to \$29.00 per hour, to advertise the position as soon as possible, to set the initial screening of applicants for February 2, 2026, to appoint Public Works Director, City Administrator, and a representative of Minnesota Valley Council of Governments to conduct the interviews between February 4 and February 6, and to then present the top three candidates to the City Council for consideration.

The City Council also directed City Attorney Moran to develop a contract document that in the case that training was necessary for the candidate to qualify for an unrestricted Class A CDL License, the City would pay for that training and the employee would be required to be employed by the City of Elysian for a period of two years. If the employee separates from employment in less than two years' time, the employee would be required to reimburse the City for that training.

City Attorney Moran reported on a correspondence received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the conveyance of the state trail property located within the City of Elysian. Upon review, the DNR has determined that the entire parcel proposed for conveyance is encumbered under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. The DNR must initiate a process to lift this encumbrance before any transfer of ownership can occur. Therefore, the proposal to convey the property to the City will not take place in this years' Legislative session's lands bill.

Public Comment: Mayor Dennis Schnoor reported that he has joined over 100 Minnesota mayors and signed a letter that was drafted by Jackson Purfeerst, Mayor of Crosslake, MN and sent to Minnesota 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 were no further public comments.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 pm.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator