

NOTES FROM CITY HALL – FEBRUARY 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.

There is a Sharps Waste Disposal located in front of the Fire Department building. If the container is full, please do not leave your items on top of the unit. Please take them back home and try another time. Please contact City Hall or a Firefighter to let them know that the container is full. If you are disposing of empty Ozempic, Wegovy, or Mounjaro, please deposit the syringe/needle only. Do not deposit the syringe/needle in any type of container. Thank you.

The City of Elysian Emergency Management team is looking to add some additional team members. If you are interested in joining the Elysian Emergency Management team, please contact Elysian City Hall for more information. 507-267-4708.

The Fourth Annual Future of Southern Minnesota Lakes Conference will be held March 6-7, 2026 at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center.

Skywarn Training will be held March 30, 2026 at 6:30 pm, Le Sueur County Justice Center, Registration is required.

The Le Sueur County 2026 Board of Review & Equalization will be held April 14, 2026 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at Le Sueur County Government Center – Open Book.

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 15th and April 15th.

UPCOMING ELYSIAN AREA LIBRARY & HERITAGE CENTER EVENTS: *Beginning Crochet Class* – February 21st at 10:00 am, *Pokemon Terrariums* – February 23rd at 6:00 pm (kids), *Book Talk* – February 25th at 10:00 am. For questions about events or to register, call 507-267-4411 or email libtle@tds.lib.mn.us. *Book Blizzard Challenge*, 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 FEBRUARY 9, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Dennis Schnoor; Councilmembers Steve Hoppe, Bobby Houlihan, Paul Hunter, Derek Westby; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; City Attorney Jason Moran. Absent: None.

Le Sueur County Deputy Joe Kern reported that all is good in the City and that he had nothing to report.

Public Comment: Mark Sybilrud, 514 Lake Avenue NW, commented on the culvert between Lake Francis and Tustin Lake that is located under County Road 11. The culvert continues to become plugged with sand. The County only cleaned it once last year and he and Brad King have attempted to keep it clean by shoveling the sand out. Sybilrud discussed a wing dam by the beach to catch the sand with representatives of the MN DNR but they do not think that this will solve the issue. The Lake Francis Lake Association would like to see the County clean that culvert three times per year. The lake level continues to rise and the bigger boats with the larger wakes are causing issues for the residents living on the lake. There continues to be more rip rap installed to try to maintain the shoreline. Sybilrud asked that the City approach the County and request better maintenance of the culvert.

Approved the Consent Agenda to include Minutes of January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting; Bills, Payroll, and Transfers in the amount of \$1,297,590.84; Soft Drink License – Elysian Archery; Resolution 992/26 – Consenting to the Issuance of a Revenue Refunding Note by the City of Green Isle, Minnesota, which Refunds the City of Elysian's Senior Housing Revenue Refunding Note (Kingsway Ministries, LLC Project) Series 2015A.

Approved the Fire Department Chief Appointments: Chief, Jason James; First Assistant Chief, Justin Scheurer; Second Assistant Chief, Greg Lamont.

Held a Public Hearing and approved Resolution #991/26 – Revising the City of Elysian Fee Schedule. The changes include: Soft Drink License: \$5 / year; Water Fees: Monthly base charge - \$21.00 / Usage - \$11.00 / 1,000 gallons; Janesville Township Water Fees: Monthly base charge - \$42.00 / Usage \$11.00 / 1,000 gallons; Sanitary Sewer Fees: Monthly base charge - \$21.00 / Usage - \$7.50 / 1,000 gallons; Water Meter: New Single Family Residence and Second Meter - \$380.00; Water Meter: Commercial - \$380.00; Water Meter: Cellular Top Only - \$290.00.

Directed Public Works to solicit bids for Water Tank Maintenance Services. Once received, the Council will call a work session to review the bids.

Approved to offer the position of Public Works Maintenance Worker to Martin Erdman with a starting wage of \$26.00 per hour contingent upon the applicant passing the background check, clearinghouse query, and reference checks.

Approved (7) seven Crystal Valley issued fuel cards for the Fire Department vehicles to include Pumper 1, Pumper 2, Rescue, Heavy Rescue, Grass 1, Grass 2, and Tanker.

Considered and did NOT approve LMCIT Limited Clean Up and Property Damage Protection for Sewer Back-ups and Water Main Breaks for Water and Sewer Customers. The coverage has numerous exclusions, and the policy only provides a limited amount of reimbursement after the homeowner has filed and received payment from their homeowner or other property insurance.

The City of Elysian has been awarded \$1 million as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget for the City of Elysian Water Treatment Plant. Senator Klobuchar and Senator Smith requested these funds. This legislation has passed the House and Senate is awaiting the President to sign it into law.

It was also noted that the City of Elysian has spent \$536 thousand on study and design of the Water Treatment Plant and this amount is currently being covered by monies in other funds. Once the Federal funds are approved, the City can begin the process of applying for those funds to be able to use those funds to reimburse some of the costs that have been incurred.

To date, the City has been earmarked for \$3.5 million from the State of Minnesota and \$1 million from the Federal Government toward the Water Treatment Plant costs. The current projected cost of the Water Treatment Plant is \$8.4 million.

Approved requesting SEH Engineering to review funding options and to provide cost analysis data for the Council to consider with options for moving forward with construction of the Water Treatment Plant with the current funding.

The City of Elysian was recently the victim of check fraud / alteration. A vendor payment check was intercepted, altered, and cashed. The funds have been recovered and an investigation is ongoing.

Mayor Schnoor read a letter received from James and Julie Hatteli, 300 Fourth Street NW, describing the issues that they are experiencing with their reception with T-Mobile cellular service. The Hattelis asked that the City Council reconsider the request from T-Mobile to install antennas on the City water tower. The City Council had denied the request because the company performed a study on the tower and determined there was no room to locate the antennas on the top of the tower. They submitted a proposal to mount the antennas on the north, southeast and southwest of the tank just above the crown. The City continues to be open to alternatives for the location of the antennas.

The Council closed the regular meeting to go to closed session. Upon reopening the regular meeting, the mayor summarized the closed meeting as follows: The Council met in closed session. The general consensus of the Council is for the City Attorney and City Administrator to formulate offers and to present them to the Council when available.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.