

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 9, 2026, 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, Paul Hunter, Derek Westby; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; City Attorney Jason Moran. Absent: None.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the February 9, 2026 Regular Meeting with the following additions:

11b. Tree Removal Procedure.  
14.5 Mayor Comments.

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 and DNR representative have discussed a wing dam by the beach to catch the sand but the DNR does 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 lakes. 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.

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

- Minutes approval – January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting
- Approval of bills, payroll, and transfers - \$1,297,590.84
- Approval of Soft Drink License – Elysian Archery, 109 Main Street East
- Consideration of Resolution No. 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.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN  
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION NO. 992/26

RESOLUTION 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

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Elysian, Minnesota, as follows:

Section 1. Definitions. For purposes of this resolution, capitalized terms have the meanings assigned below:

“Authorized Officers” means the Mayor and the City Administrator or the authorized deputy or deputies of either of them.

“Bond Counsel” means the law firm of Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.

“Borrower” means Kingsway Ministries, LLC.

“City” means the City of Elysian, Minnesota.

“City Attorney” means the law firm of Christian, Moran & Whipps.

“City Council” means the governing body of the City.

“Issuer” means the City of Green Isle, Minnesota.

“Note” means the Issuer’s 501(c)(3) Housing & Health Care Facilities Revenue Refunding Note (Kingsway Ministries, LLC), Series 2026A.

“Prior Note” means the City’s Senior Housing Revenue Refunding Note (Kingsway Ministries, LLC Project), Series 2015A, dated November 30, 2015, issued to finance or refinance, as applicable, the Project.

“Project” means the construction and equipping of an 81-unit multifamily housing and health care development for seniors, located at 815 West Main Street, in the City of Belle Plaine, Minnesota, and comprised of 45 independent living units, 22 assisted living units, and 14 memory care units.

Section 2. General Recitals.

A. On November 30, 2015, the City issued the Prior Note to finance or refinance, as applicable, the Project.

B. We have been informed that the Borrower has requested that the Issuer issue the Note to refund the Prior Note.

C. Bond Counsel and the City Attorney have informed the City that Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.155, subdivision 12, requires that the City, as the original issuer of such revenue obligation, consent to the refunding of the Prior Note by the Issuer.

Section 3. Consent to Refunding by Issuer. The City hereby consents to the issuance by the Issuer of the Note to refund the Prior Note, subject to final approval by the governing body of the Issuer, following the preparation of bond documents and a determination by the Issuer to issue the Note.

Section 4. Authorization to Execute Documents.

A. The Authorized Officers are authorized: (i) to execute and deliver all resolutions, documents, and certificates which may be required with respect to the redemption of the Prior Note and to take such other action as may be required or deemed appropriate for the performance of the duties imposed thereby to carry out the purposes thereof; and (ii) to furnish certified copies of this resolution and all proceedings and records of the City relating to the Prior Note, and such other affidavits and certificates as may be required to show the facts relating to the actions of the City respecting the Prior Note, as such facts appear from the books and records in the Authorized Officers’ custody and control or as otherwise known to them; and all such certified copies, certificates and affidavits, including any heretofore furnished, shall constitute representations of the City as to the truth of all statements contained therein.

B. Bond Counsel is authorized to prepare and file any termination statements with respect to the Prior Note if and as required under the Uniform Commercial Code as in effect in the State of Minnesota.

C. If for any reason an Authorized Officer shall for any reason: (i) cease to be an officer, employee or agent of the City after the execution by such person of any certificate, instrument or other written document, such fact shall not affect the validity or enforceability of such certificate, instrument or other written document; and (ii) be unavailable to execute certificates, instruments or other written documents for any reason, such certificates, instruments or other written documents may be executed by a deputy or assistant to such officer, or by such other officer of the City as in the opinion of Bond Counsel, upon the advice of the City Attorney, is authorized to sign such documents and do all things and execute all instruments and documents required to be done or executed by such officers, with full force and effect, which execution or acts shall be valid and binding on the City.

Section 5. Payment of Costs. The Borrower has agreed, and it is hereby determined, that any and all costs incurred by the City in connection with the refunding of the Prior Note will be paid by the Borrower.

Adopted: February 9, 2026.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Administrator

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Elysian, Minnesota, was duly called and held at City Hall located at 110 Main Street West, on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Schnoor, Councilmembers Hoppe, Houlihan, Hunter, Westby

and the following members were absent: None.

MOTION: Member Houlihan moved to adopt Resolution No. 992/26, entitled "RESOLUTION 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"

SECOND: Member Westby.

RESULT: On a roll call vote the motion was carried.

Ayes: Hoppe, Houlihan, Hunter, Schnoor, Westby.

Nays: None.

Not Voting: None.

Absent: None.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to approve the Fire Department Chief Appointments as follows:

- a. Chief: Jason James
- b. First Assistant Chief: Justin Scheurer
- c. Second Assistant Chief: Greg Lamont

Public Works Director Greenwald reported that he is obtaining bids for sealcoating of the streets constructed in the 2023 SUIP and road patches for the repair of the broken watermains.

The Council discussed removal of the diseased and dangerous trees located in the City right of ways. Greenwald was instructed to document the condition of the trees with photographs, records of times/dates when branches must be cleaned up, discussions with adjacent homeowners. If the right of way is questionable, have the trees located and marked by a surveyor.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to open the Public Hearing at 6:13 pm.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive citizen input on Resolution No. 991/26 – Revising the City of Elysian Fee Schedule. The proposed Fee Schedule was presented with the changes highlighted in yellow. The proposed 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

There was no Public Comment. No Written Comment was received.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to close the Public Hearing and open the Regular Meeting at 6:15 pm.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN  
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
RESOLUTION NO. 991/26  
A RESOLUTION REVISING THE CITY'S FEE SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian currently has a fee schedule which sets permit fees, water/sewer rates, license fees, zoning permit fees, and various other necessary City related fees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian revisits the fee schedule from time to time, often on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian, following a duly noticed public hearing, does hereby and herein RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Fee Schedule, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby deemed adopted and approved by the City Council. These fees shall be collected by the City Administrator pursuant to law. This fee schedule shall continue on in full force and effect unless modified by the City Council.
2. The effective date of this Resolution is February 10, 2026.

Upon vote being taken:

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

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

Approved:

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Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Lee Istvanovich, SEH Engineering, presented a Proposal for Water Tank Maintenance Services prepared by Jason Sprague, PE, SEHDesign|Build, Inc. The proposal explains what was done and what was found in the inspection, provides a fee schedule, and what is covered in the warranty. If the Council decides to move forward with the proposal, a formal contract will be drafted. When asked, it was noted that the prices quoted in this proposal are valid through June 30, 2026.

Greenwald noted that he had attempted to solicit bids for painting and cleaning of the water tower previously. All but one of the contractors requested that an inspection of the water tower be completed by a Professional Engineer. An inspection has now been completed and is available for solicitation of bids.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to direct Public Works to solicit bids for Water Tank Maintenance Services and to consider at a work session once received.

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

The position of Public Work Maintenance Worker was advertised in the City's official newspaper, INDEED, City Facebook page and website, and posted on the City bulletin board. 15 applications were received, 6 applicants were asked to interview, 4 responded and scheduled an interview, and 1 withdrew his application prior to interview.

On Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the city of Elysian held interviews for the Public Works Maintenance Worker position. The interview panel was comprised of: City Administrator- Lorri Kopischke, Public Works Director- Ron Greenwald, and MVCOG Program Administrator- Victoria Potts.

Collectively the interview panel agreed the strongest candidate for the position is: Martin Erdman.

That conclusion was based on several points, including the following:

- Municipal Experience – City of Janesville
- Able to hold a Class D Water License – City of Janesville
- Experience with Locates – City of Janesville
- Class A CDL – no restrictions
- Snowplowing Experience – Waseca County
- Mowing Experience (Cemeteries)

- Ability to Respond to Emergency Calls in a Timely Manner
- Mature Demeanor
- Effective Communication Skills
- Expressed interest in Succession.

The interview panel recommends Martin Erdman for the Public Works Maintenance Worker position with the starting wage of \$26.00/ hour contingent upon the applicant passing the background check, reference checks, and clearing house.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to offer the position of Public Works Maintenance Worker to Martin Erdman at a rate of \$26.00 per hour contingent on a background check, clearinghouse query, and reference check.

The Fire Department has requested to have fuel cards issued from Crystal Valley. There would be one fuel card associated with each fire vehicle as follows: Pumper 1, Pumper 2, Rescue, Heavy Rescue, Grass 1, Grass 2, and Tanker, for a total of (7) seven cards. Currently the Fire Department has one Casey's fuel card. Casey has a poor-quality winter blend diesel fuel. Crystal Valley has a blended diesel fuel and offers a \$.10 per gallon discount.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve (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.

The Council reviewed a quote from the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust for Limited Clean Up and Property Damage Protection for Sewer Back-ups and Water Main Breaks for Water and Sewer Customers. There are numerous exclusions and the policy provides a limited amount of reimbursement after the homeowner has filed and received payment from their homeowner or other property insurance.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to NOT request Limited Clean Up and Property Damage Protection for Sewer Back-ups and Water Main Breaks for Water and Sewer Customers.

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 to begin to draw down on those funds to reimburse some of the costs that have been incurred.

The City has been earmarked for \$3.5 million from the State of Minnesota and \$1 million from the Federal Government for the Water Treatment Plant Project. The current projected cost of the water treatment plant is \$8.4 million.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to request 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.

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.

The Fourth Annual Future of Southern Minnesota Lakes Conference will be held March 6-7, 2026 – 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.

Mayor Schnoor read a letter received from James and Julie Hatleli, 300 Fourth Street NW, describing the issues that they are experiencing with their reception on T-Mobile cellular service. The Hatlelis asked that the City Council reconsider the request from T-Mobile to install antennas on the City water tower.

It was noted that in July of 2025, a representative company had made a request for T-Mobile to mount antennas on the City water tower. The company had studied the tower and would not be able to locate the antennas on the top of the tower because there is no room. They submitted a proposal to mount the antennas on the north, southeast and southwest of the tank just above the crown.

The Council did not approve the proposal to mount the antennas on the north, southeast, and southwest of the water tower as proposed. The Council communicated to the requestor that the City would consider mounting the antennas on the top of the water tower or would work with T-Mobile to determine a location in the City for the construction of their own tower to mount the antennas.

Staff has contacted the requestor again since that original consideration and no further options have been requested.

Public Comment: None.

On motion Houlihan, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to close the regular meeting and go to closed session at 7:28 pm.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to close the closed session at 8:29 pm.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to reopen the regular meeting at 8:29 pm.

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.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Approved:

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Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator