

NOTES FROM CITY HALL – JULY 2026

Thank you to the Elysian Area Chamber, the Elysian Area Fire Department, Lake Area Women, City staff, businesses, sponsors, and countless volunteers for the safe and enjoyable 4th of July celebration.

The Elysian National Night Out will be held this year on Tuesday, August 4th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Lake Francis City Park. (Inclement weather, event will be held at the Elysian Fire Hall.) The entire community is invited and welcome to attend and to enjoy a free meal consisting of hot dogs, chips, and a drink (prepared and served on site by Fischer's Corner Bar). Scoops will be on site serving a cold treat for all. There will be door prizes (kids and adults) during the event and a bouncy house, face painting and a balloon artist for the children, along with music being provided. The Elysian Area Fire Department, Le Sueur County Sheriff's Posse, North Ambulance, and the Elysian Rescue Squad vehicles will be available to view and talk with the attendants. The Elysian Area Community Foundation along with the American Legion Auxiliary will be present with materials of interest regarding their organizations. (For those who are having trouble with walking to the activities, a courtesy golf cart will be available for transport to the event from your car.) Bring along your neighbors and your lawn chair if you wish. It is sure to be a fun night!

The water tower will be cleaned and painted inside and out this summer. The Verizon antennas are located on the water tower and will have to be removed during the water tower maintenance project. Verizon is scheduled to install a temporary pole to hold the antennas and relocate the antennas to that pole in early August. Work will begin on the water tower mid-August and be completed the end of October. Once the project is completed, the antennas will be reinstalled on the top of the water tower.

Included in this month's utility bill is the annual MN Board of Community Water Supply Service Connection Fee in the amount of \$15.22 (increased from \$9.72). This is a mandatory annual fee that is charged to each property owner with a water connection. This entire fee goes to the MN State Board of Health.

Hydrants will be flushed every third Thursday: August 20, September 17, October 15, and November 19.

The City brush pile (located at the sanitary sewer pond off County Road 14) is open. The hours are Wednesdays from 4:00 to 7:00 pm and Saturdays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Open only to citizens of the City of Elysian. Leaves, brush, and tree wood allowed – no building materials.

Mosquito Control of Iowa has been approved for the 2026 mosquito treatment. They spray based on weather conditions and larvae testing. They will let us know the day before they plan to service the City. Please contact City Hall (507-267-4708 or lorri@elysianmn.com) to be added to the notification list.

The Kilkenny ATV Ride will be in Elysian on August 8, 2026 at 1:00 pm.

Worship by the Sea. Sunday, August 9th at 10:00 am – Lake Francis Pavilion. Food Truck from 9:00 am to noon.

The Kid's Friendly Food Program will be offered for the last time this summer on the third Saturday, August 15th. Any child up to the age of 18 years is eligible to participate. The food will be given out curbside. Just pull up in your car, give the number of children and you will be given a bag for each child. The food distributed will be items that a child can make alone, that would not require using a stove. Food will be distributed between 9:00 am and 11:00 am or until all is gone.

Please note: The Elysian Tourism Center basement – 100 Third St SW, is a designated storm shelter. The shelter will be open during a severe thunderstorm warning.

Per State Statute 88.171 there is no open burning of garbage allowed in the City of Elysian. Please be respectful to your neighbors and the environment.

UPCOMING ELYSIAN AREA LIBRARY & HERITAGE CENTER EVENTS: *American Mahjong* – July 29th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. You can register for the events at: wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered/ or call 507-267-4411. 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 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 JULY 13, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Dennis Schnoor; Councilmembers Steve Hoppe (left the meeting at 7:00 pm), Bobby Houlihan, Paul Hunter, and Derek Westby; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; City Attorney Jason Moran. Absent: None.

Le Sueur County Chief Deputy Nick Greenig reported that it was a successful 4th of July celebration. The festival night activities went on without a hitch.

Hunter expressed appreciation for the presence of the water patrol on Lake Francis on the 4th of July and the weekends in general. He asked if many citations are issued and the success rate of the new boater safety certificate requirement. Greenig

explained that citations are given when warranted but that the primary goal is education. The boater safety certificate program is new and not a lot of boat operators have the certificate, but the DNR has reported that the number of people taking the course is increasing. Hunter expressed concern of boats pulling tubers so close to the shoreline that they almost hit the docks. Greenig encouraged residents to report this to the Sheriff's office when it is occurring and/or to jot down the boat registration number and report to the Sheriff's office for follow up.

Le Sueur County Commissioner Steve Rohlfing reported that the City and County Legal Counsel, County Administrator and Highway Engineer, and himself met to discuss the culvert on County Road #11. An update is listed on the agenda for later in this meeting. Rohlfing reported that the AIS funding has been cut in half. The current programs will continue status quo next year which costs approximately \$73,000 per year. The Sheriff's Department and the Water Guard do help. The County will start tracking the size of the boats using the area lakes and where they are coming from. The Highway Department is currently shouldering, tree cutting, tiling, and sealcoating.

Westby asked for an update on the Glen's Beach curve. Rohlfing reported that the County Engineer continues to look for safety improvements. Rohlfing noted that the County Engineer is also working on improvements to County Road #11 and Lake Avenue NE as requested at the June Council meeting.

Public Comment Summary (for complete public comments please see approved Council minutes): Mark Sybilrud, 514 Lake Avenue NW, thanked the City employees for their dedication before, during, and after the July 4th celebration. There was a tremendous turnout, and it was a huge success. He also thanked the City for repairing the pothole by the school.

Leo Brown, 117 Willow Point Drive, commended the City crews for a fantastic July 4th celebration. He commended the City and County for trying to find a solution for the culvert on County Road #11. This is an ongoing problem and not a short-term issue. The 2018 and 2019 flooding resulted in half the summer having a no wake zone. It was dry on the 4th this year but the 10 days before had 3.5 inches of rain. If we would have received a couple of inches more, we would have been in trouble.

Casey Oorlog, Public Maintenance Worker, was introduced to the Council.

Approved the Consent Agenda to include minutes of June 8, 2026 Workshop and Regular Meeting and June 16, 2026 Workshop Meeting; Bills, Payroll, and Transfers in the amount of \$539,133.29; Resolution #1006/26 – Accepting a Donation from the American Legion Post #311 for trees at the Sunset Park Memorial and Miscellaneous Park Fund; Resolution #1007/26 – Approving a Proposed Vacation Policy Update; Resolution #1008/26 – Approving the Deputy Clerk Job Description and Reclassification and Promotion of Current Utility Clerk to Deputy City Clerk; Approval of Resolution #1009/26 – Adopting Compensation Plan and Policy, Placement of Employees into Assigned Grades and Steps, Recognizing the 2026 Budget Impact, and Authorizing the City Administrator to Administer the Compensation Plan.

Received report of new DNR recommendations for reducing water usage in drought conditions. MPCA survey was conducted on July 8th with good results.

Approved the closure of Sunset Park for trail construction from July 20, 2026 to July 1, 2027 with ballfields remaining accessible. Authorized Public Works Director to rent equipment as needed to complete the Sunset Park Trail Project.

Denied the request of Joe and Nancy Meixl, 1234/1238 Scenic Hideaway Lane NE for reimbursement of force mainline costs at this time with the possibility of readdressing the request closer to the December 31, 2027 expiration date.

Approved a quote from Metro Sales Inc. for a Ricoh IM 370F black and white printer for the front office on MN State Bid for a rental term of 60 months at \$70.92 per month.

Approved the Contract with West Central Sanitation for the Collection, Transportation, and Disposal of Garbage Refuse, and Recyclable Materials for the City of Elysian, Le Sueur County for the period of October 1, 2026 through September 20, 2031.

Directed staff to respond to the request of MN Geological Survey and suggest an alternate site for exploratory digging for their research.

Directed staff to continue to look at alternative areas for equipment staging during the water tower maintenance project.

Received report that the DNR has repaired the west end of the retaining wall located to the north of the Wayside Rest.

Received report that the County and City Attorney continue to draft the Memorandum of Understanding re: the County Road #11 culvert.

Scheduled a budget workshop meeting for July 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Approved a request from Joint Forces Ride to close East Main Street between First Street N and Second Street NE from mid-morning to 12:45 pm on August 22, 2026.

Public Comments: Mark Sybilrud, 514 Lake Avenue NW, stated that the Lake Francis Association is coordinating volunteers and support for the Bike Build Home 500 Bike Ride Rest Stop on July 15, 2026 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Volunteers are welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.