

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8, 2026**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 8, 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 Bobby Houlihan and Derek Westby; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald. Absent: Councilmembers Steve Hoppe and Paul Hunter; City Attorney Jason Moran.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the June 8, 2026 Regular Meeting with the following additions:

4b. County Commissioner Steve Rohlfig.

9d. Mayor Update.

Le Sueur County Commissioner Steve Rohlfig reported on a meeting held last Thursday to discuss the culvert on County Road 11. In attendance were Elysian City Administrator Kopischke, Elysian Councilmember Hunter, DNR Hydrologist Todd Piepho, Le Sueur County Highway Engineer Dave Tiegs, Le Sueur County Commissioner Rohlfig, and Lake Francis President King. The group discussed whose responsibility it is to clean the culvert when it is plugged. The County Administrator is drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) based on that meeting that will be available for consideration by all involved parties.

The Commissioners are in the process of reviewing ordinances. One ordinance being reviewed is the no wake ordinance. There is currently no enforcement mechanism for the ordinance. Changes may include permanent stakes marking the high-water mark and penalty for violation.

Final consideration of the land use plan will be June 23, 2026. Roadway work including shouldering and crack sealing is underway.

Westby asked for an update on the Glen's Beach curve. Rohlfig reported that the County Engineer is including that corner in the 10-year safety plan and continues to look for safety improvements.

Public Comment:

Tina King, 5 Cedar Point Drive, agreed that a good discussion was had on the County Road 11 culvert. The Lake Association is interested in keeping that culvert maintained so that we are prepared should the lake level increase. In the past, the Fire Department has kept that blown out but I realize they can't do that anymore as there is too much sand on the downside. The estimated cost to clean out the culvert is \$2,575. Per discussions last week, the County has agreed to provide the permit and the trucking and the City has agreed to provide an area for the sand that is removed. That would reduce the cost down to the excavator only at approximately \$900. King suggested that the City and the Lake Francis Association split that cost, clean the culvert, and continue to monitor from there.

King stated that over 3,500 acres drain into Lake Francis and the 18 x 24 inch culvert is the only outlet of the lake and the watershed. It is important to maintain it.

Mark Sybilrud, 514 Lake Avenue NW, expressed his frustration with the culvert not being cleaned out yet. It hasn't been cleaned out since 2022. If we get four inches of rain it is going to flood

everyone out and we are going to have a no wake again over the 4th of July. And nobody likes that. He said that it is not a matter of the money, it is who is responsible for it. The lakeshore owners are paying a lot of money in taxes to the City and the County. How many people have had to add rocks to their shoreline and that is not free.

The Council explained that the purpose of the meetings with Le Sueur County and the other involved parties is to determine, agree and document the responsibilities of the parties and to document that in an MOU.

Wayne Murra, 14 Cedar Point Lane, stated that he supports what has been said and he would like to see the City be a little more engaged and not try to turn this back to the Association and say that everyone should chip in some money. If Lake Francis is not the greatest asset for the City of Elysian, it is at least one of them. And this town would not be this town without Lake Francis.

The Council explained that discussions are ongoing, an MOU is being created which will then be considered by all involved parties. Decisions need to be made at meetings, and it may be August before the MOU is approved and can be acted upon. They will continue to work on this issue.

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

- a. Minutes approval: May 11, 2026 Regular Meeting.
- b. Approval of bills, payroll, and transfers - \$135,437.66.
- c. Approval of Soft Drink License Pit Stop 60.
- d. Approval of Resolution No. 1002/26 – Acknowledging and Accepting a Donation from the American Legion Post #311 to the Elysian Area Chamber – 4th of July Celebration.
- e. Approval of Resolution No. 1003/26 – Acknowledging and Accepting a Donation from Doug and Sue Ims to the Fire Department in Appreciation of their Service.
- f. Approval of Resolution No. 1004/26 – Acknowledging and Accepting a Donation from the Elysian Volunteer Fire Department Charitable Gambling Account (Tax Relief) toward the Purchase of Picnic Tables and New Firefighter Gear.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 1002/26
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING A DONATION FROM
ELYSIAN AMERICAN LEGION POST #311

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has received a donation in the amount of \$3,600.00 from the Elysian American Legion Post #311, for tax relief to the Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of funding toward the Parade, Fireworks, and Kid's Bingo during the July 4th Celebration.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA THAT: the City Council of the City of Elysian acknowledges and accepts the donation from the Elysian American Legion Post #311 in the amount of \$3,600.00 for the purpose of funding toward the Parade, Fireworks, and the Kid's Bingo during the July 4th Celebration.

Upon vote being taken:

Council Members voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, Schnoor, Westby.

Council Members voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 8th day of June, 2026.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 1003/26
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND ACCEPTING
A DONATION FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has received a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Doug and Sue Ims in appreciation of the Fire Department service.

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 Doug and Sue Ims in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Upon vote being taken:

Council Members voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, Schnoor, Westby.

Council Members voting in the negative: None.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 8th day of June, 2026.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 1004/26
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 \$25,000.00 from the Elysian Volunteer Fire Department Charitable Gambling Account (Tax Relief) toward the purchase of picnic tables and new firefighter gear.

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 \$25,000.00 toward the purchase of picnic tables and new firefighter gear.

Upon vote being taken:

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

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Chief Jason James, Firefighters Rick Galewski, Gage Eastwood, and Patrick Ely were present to provide an update of the Fire Department.

Galewski reported the following:

- Responded to 93 calls in 2025.
- As of June 1, 2026, responded to 45 calls this year.
- Current staffing is at 25 firefighters.
- 5 new firefighters joined in 2025 and they have all completed Fire Fighter 2 training – Gage Eastwood, Maddie Ayers, Brandon Coon, Patrick Ely, and Jon Klevens.
- There are 7 certified EMTs on the Department.
- The Fireman's Dance is on July 3rd. Hope to see you there.

Galewski asked the City Council to review the retirement funding again when reviewing all the other departments for pay increases, especially since they have lost ground compared to other Fire Departments. He asked them to consider a \$200 increase to the annual benefit amount.

The Council thanked the Fire Department for all they do. There has been a lot of interest in serving on the Department in this City and the Council wants to stay competitive and keep the firefighters here.

Le Sueur County Patrol Sergeant Dan Tousley reported that all has been quiet in the City of Elysian. The Council noted that Sergeant Tousley is retiring and wished him the best.

Richard Parr, PE, SEH Engineering, presented a Supplemental Letter Agreement dated June 8, 2026 for Consultant's work on the Project described as: Water Treatment Plant Bidding and Construction Administration Services in the amount of \$379,682. The tasks will include the following:

Task 1 – Project Management

Task 2 – Funding Agency Submittals and Coordination

Task 3 – Review and Update of Construction Plans and Specifications

Task 4 – Bidding

Task 5 – Construction Administration – Office Services

Task 6 – Construction Administration – Field Services

Funding for this project consists of Federal Funding, State Bonding Appropriations, and PFA Grants and Loans. Bidding is anticipated to occur within three months of notice to proceed but is dependent on Task 2 funding agency coordination. The estimated total construction duration is 24 months, with an estimated 18 months of on-site construction activities. Resident Project Representative (RPR) site observation is periodic, part time and dependent on work being performed on-site.

The cost breakdown is as follows:

Task 1 – 64 hours -	\$ 18,104
Task 2 – 106 hours -	\$ 25,679
Task 3 – 166 hours -	\$ 39,106
Task 4 – 50 hours -	\$ 11,178
Task 5 – 310 hours -	\$ 65,287
Task 6 – 771 hours -	<u>\$220,327</u>

Estimated Project Total \$379,682

Houlihan asked if the Agreement includes training of the Water Operator. Parr stated that the Agreement includes manufacturing, start up, and training.

Westby asked how solid the estimates are and what happens if the costs increase once construction has started. Parr stated that the Federal and State Funding is set. The PFA Funding is a little more flexible.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve Supplemental Letter Agreement dated June 8, 2026 for Consultant's work on the Project described as: Water Treatment Plant Bidding and Construction Administration Services in the amount of \$379,682.

The Council asked Commissioner Rohlfing about the proposed repair to the road, curb, and sidewalk at 309 First Street North as this is a County road. Rohlfing will take photos and discuss with the County Engineer.

Greenwald presented a quote from Midwest Pump Works in the amount of \$33,828.85 for a control panel for Lift Station A. This will be a portion of the cost of installation of a generator for this Lift Station. The size is based on power and gallons usage. This will be a slow start VFP and will reduce the number of sewer main breaks. The manufacture has advised that the panel must be ordered early summer to be completed by this fall.

Greenwald did not have a quote for the generator or the installation by an electrician.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to table the quote from Midwest Pumps Works in the amount of \$33,828.85 for a Control Panel for Lift Station A to the July Council meeting to be considered along with the quote for the generator and the installation by an electrician.

Greenwald reported that during little league games Frank Avenue NW between 5th and 6th Streets is almost unpassable due to cars parked on both sides of the street. It would not be possible for a fire truck to get through. It would be helpful to limit the parking to one side of Frank Avenue NW. Greenwald suggested no parking signs be installed on the north side of Frank Avenue NW between 5th and 6th street.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, to post no parking signs on the north side of Frank Avenue NW between 5th and 6th Street to reduce the congestion.

Schnoor asked where you would put all the cars. Greenwald stated that some of the cars are parked on the grass depending on the weather. This problem may be alleviated when the parking lot at Sunset Park is completed and cars can park there.

Voting on the motion: Aye – Houlihan, Schnoor, Westby. Nay – None. Motion carried.

Greenwald reported that the owner of 309 First Street North is installing a new driveway. The sidewalk, curb and gutter and street at the bottom of the driveway have a major depression and water sits in that area. This is a County road and the sidewalk is located in the County road right of way. Earlier in the meeting, the County Commissioner was asked if the County would participate in this repair and he is discussing this with the County Engineer.

Greenwald noted that the proposed sidewalk is large, 16 x 100 feet, and the impervious coverage should be checked on that. He is in favor of replacing the sidewalk, curb and gutter, and street because it is a liability and it is highly necessary. There is a major depression in that sidewalk and road, possibly resulting from a water main replacement in 2001 and the road was not compressed properly.

Westby stated that the applicant should submit a map with dimensions so that the impervious surface can be calculated.

L&M Masonry has submitted a quote in the amount of \$4,800 to remove and replace 30 feet of curb and 30 feet of sidewalk. This includes all labor and materials.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve the quote from L&M Masonry in the amount of \$4,800 to remove and replace 30 feet of curb and sidewalk at 309 First Street North subject to staff review of the driveway permit.

It was noted that a work session was held at 5:00 pm tonight with representatives from West Central Sanitation to discuss renewal of their garbage service pickup. West Central Sanitation will be submitting a five-year contract for consideration at the July Council meeting.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 1005/26

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING DATES FOR FILING AFFIDAVITS OF CANDIDACY

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

1. The period for filing affidavits of candidacy of the office of Mayor and Council shall begin on July 14, 2026 and shall close on July 28, 2026. An affidavit of candidacy must be filed in the Office of the City Administrator and the \$2.00 filing fee paid prior to 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026.
2. The City Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said filing dates to be published in the official newspaper of the city, at least two (2) weeks prior to the first day to file Affidavits of Candidacy.
3. The Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said filing dates to be posted at the administrative office of the City of Elysian at least ten (10) days prior to the first day to file Affidavits of Candidacy.
4. The notice of said filing dates shall be in substantially the following form:

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF FILINGS AFFIDAVITS OF CANDIDACY FOR THE CITY OF ELYSIAN, LE SUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES, STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City Election will be held in the City of Elysian, Counties of Le Sueur and Waseca, State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, to fill the following Offices:

Mayor – Two (2) year term
Councilmember – Four (4) year term
Councilmember – Four (4) year term

Affidavits of candidacy for the above offices may be filed at the Office of the Administrator at City Hall, located at 110 West Main Street between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday starting on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 and ending Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 5:00 pm. Filing fee is \$2.00.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 8th day of June, 2026.

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

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Approved:

Attested:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Lorri Kopischke, City Clerk/Administrator

A quote for (2) two memorial plaques for the pickleball / basketball court at Lake Francis Park was presented. The court was donated to the remembrance of Mike Supalla. Arlin and Beth Miller, donors, have requested that the City purchase and install the plaques as presented, made by laserengravedmemories.com, in the amount of \$558.26. At the May 2026 Council meeting, staff was directed to inquire as to why two plaques were requested. The Millers have responded that they would like to install one plaque on the inside of the fence and one plaque on the outside of the fence.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to purchase and install the requested two memorial plaques in the amount of \$558.26 in remembrance of Mike Supalla at the pickleball / basketball court at Lake Francis Park.

The Council considered a proposal from Midwest IT Systems in the amount of \$3,506.01 for a Fortinet FortiGate FG-60F Network Security/Firewall Appliance, installation, and extended service plan.

Westby stated that this is very expensive and much more than is needed for the system that is currently being used here at the City Hall. He suggested that the City solicit requests for proposals for IT Services.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to solicit Requests for Proposals for IT Services.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to accept the resignation of Martin Erdman as Public Maintenance Worker, submitted May 14, 2026 and effective May 27, 2026.

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. Four applications were received, two applicants were asked to interview and responded and scheduled an interview.

On Friday, June 5, 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: Casey Oorlog.

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

- Class A CDL - No Restrictions
- Municipal Experience - City of Faribault Parks Department
- Effective Communication Skills
- Large Equipment School and Ramsey Test
- Eager to Learn Water and Sewer

The interview panel recommends Casey Oorlog for the Public Works Maintenance Worker position with the starting wage of \$24.00/ hour with two weeks (80 hours) vacation to be available for use (as accrued) at date of hire, contingent upon the applicant passing the background check, reference checks, and clearing house.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to offer the position of Public Works Maintenance Worker to Casey Oorlog at a rate of \$24.00 per hour with two weeks (80 hours) vacation to be available for use (as accrued) at date of hire, contingent on a background check, clearinghouse query, and reference check.

Central Tank Coating has been contracted to clean and paint the water tower this summer. During that project, the antennas on the tower will have to be removed and placed on a temporary tower. There also will be equipment that will need to be parked at the site. Due to the limited size of the lot that the water tower is located on, some equipment will need to be located on the adjoining property owner's lot of 206 Frank Avenue NE (PID# 16.440.0140). The City Attorney has drafted an "Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding" to facilitate this arrangement.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to approve the Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Leonard Kline and the City of Elysian, to allow the City to place various telecommunications and other equipment associated with a Water Tower Improvement Project on his property.

Staff will meet with Kline to obtain his signature on the document.

David Olsen, Area 4C Supervisor, Parks and Trails, MNDNR was contacted regarding the unsafe condition of the retaining wall on the north side of the Wayside Rest. Olsen had inspected the

retaining and agreed that repairs are needed. He stated he had funds available and that a contractor was scheduled to look at it on May 22, 2026. No update has been received, and Olsen is away from office. Staff will continue to follow up with this issue.

Hunter was not present at the meeting but provided a written update of the meeting held June 8, 2026, with Le Sueur County Commissioner and Highway Engineer, DNR Area Hydrologist, Lake Francis Association Representative, and City Staff to discuss the Lake Francis Outlet.

Responsibilities of the parties involved was discussed. The results of that meeting will be drafted into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for consideration of the City Council and Le Sueur County Commissioners at their July meetings or soon thereafter.

At the February 25, 2026 meeting, the Council directed staff to request that Minnesota Valley Council of Governments (MVCOG) perform an updated salary survey/comparison. They would also like to review the vacation schedule and update it to a competitive level. And then with the support and comparison of the salary survey, they would like assistance to develop a step program for wages for Elysian employees rather than just a 1% salary increase every 5 years and a possible COLA every year. That is now complete and MVCOG would like to present the information to the Council.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to set a workshop meeting for Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 6:00 pm to receive information from MVCOG on a proposed vacation schedule, updated salary survey/comparison, and a step program for salary increases for full-time employees.

Elysian Area America's 250th Birthday Bash at Lake Francis Beach will be held Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 4:00 to 9:00 pm. Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary Post #311.

The Wayside Rest will serve as a rest stop for the Bike Build Home 500 Bike Ride on July 15, 2026 from 7:45 am to 12:30 pm.

Thank you to Lake Area Women for donating the flowers and planting around the City. Thank you to Greenwald's Greenhouse for planting the pots on Main Street. Thank you to Farmers Friend 4H Club for planting the flowers at the Tourism Center.

Public Comment: 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.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm.

Approved:

Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator