

**CITY OF ELYSIAN
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 9, 2026**

The Elysian Planning and Zoning Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

Present were Chairperson Paul Hunter; Commissioners Kim Denn, Patrick Ely, Dan Engebretson; Zoning Administrator Lorri Kopischke. Absent: Commissioner David Schlueter.

On motion by Ely, seconded by Denn, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the June 9, 2026 meeting as presented.

On motion by Denn, seconded by Ely, all voting in favor, to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented.

An update was provided on the proposed Wake Sports Ordinance. Captain Adam Block, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, State Boating Law Administrator, has provided a document, "Water Surface Use Rules and Statutes." Block did note that Lake Francis is not located entirely within the City of Elysian limits and if this were not a county wide ordinance, it may be necessary for the City to have a joint-powers agreement with Elysian Township for the ordinance. The other option is that LeSueur County would adopt the ordinance.

Hunter reported that he is meeting with Le Sueur County Commissioner Rohlfing to discuss the Wake Sports Ordinance and that he and Rohlfing plan to meet with the Le Sueur County Sheriff to discuss their receptiveness to the proposed ordinance.

Hunter reported on a meeting held on June 4, 2026 to discuss the general responsibilities of the outlet flow of the culvert under County Road 11. The attendees included Le Sueur County Commissioner and Engineer, Elysian City Administrator and Councilmember Hunter, MN DNR Hydrologist, and Lake Francis Association representative. The County is drafting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to outline the major responsibilities as follows.

1. The County Highway Department is the Road Authority and will address major emergent issues or structural issues with the culvert.
2. The City is responsible for work to address minor or incidental issues with the culvert.
3. If there are sand/sediment removal issues beyond the aprons of the culvert, the County will supply the required DNR permit and trucking to transport the removed sand/sediment and the City will supply an area to offload the sand/sediment.
4. The frequency and payee are to be determined.

The MOU will have to be approved by the Le Sueur County Board and the Elysian City Council.

Engebretson expressed concern with the intent of the owners of 402 Lake Avenue NW to complete the landscaping requirements associated with their variance approval. It is unusual to lay the sod ahead of the landscaping. The trees are usually planted before the sod is laid. The requirements are as follows:

- a. That deep rooted native plants/ shrubs be planted the entire length of the property along the shoreline above the existing rip rap (minus a 6-foot walkway to the dock) at a width of 2 feet landward of the lake. Or that a combination of deep-rooted native plants / shrubs be planted along the rip rap and the northeast corner of the property to slow the runoff and provide filtration.

- b. That a minimum of (4) four 4-6 foot (maturing to 8-12 foot) screening trees or shrubs be planted along the west property line to provide a break in the view and preserve the essential character of the neighborhood.
- c. That the plantings of the plants / shrubs lakeside and screening trees or shrubs along the west side of the property be completed no later than June 1, 2027.

On motion by Ely, seconded by Denn, all voting in favor, to send a letter thanking the homeowner for the improvements to the property and reminding them of the requirements.

The Commissioners considered the section of the Code of Ordinance that restricts property owners from including living quarters in a garage. Staff reported that there has been an increasing number of requests for this type of structure and the existing wording is difficult to enforce.

§156.118 Accessory Buildings and Dwelling Units Prohibited. No garage, tent, trailer, recreational vehicle, basement home or accessory building shall at any time be used as a residence.

The Commissioners discussed issues such as fire/life safety when multiple people are using one property which results in multiple cars, boats, etc. in a limited area; real estate tax implications; and land usage (if the lot were split). The definition of the word “residence” was discussed and the possibility of restricting the inclusion of a bathroom.

The Commissioners suggested that the ordinance be amended to replace the wording of “as a residence” with “for human habitation” and to add “no sleeping quarters” and allow ½ bathroom.

On motion by Engebretson, seconded by Ely, all voting in favor, to forward these suggestions to the City Attorney for amendment consideration.

The Commissioners discussed the placement of storage containers in the City of Elysian. This use is currently being regulated by the following section of the Code of Ordinance:

§ 156.121 ACCESSORY STRUCTURE STANDARDS. (G)Building material requirements. All accessory structures shall be constructed with a design and exterior material that is generally compatible with the overall character of the principal structure. It is not required that accessory structures be of the same material or same color as the primary structure; however, the material and color of the accessory structure shall be complementary to the primary structure.

This section is not specific to storage containers and has been difficult to enforce.

An example of an excerpt of another’s City Code regulating storage containers was provided:

Unlawful Parking. Storage Containers. The use of semitrailers, shipping containers, and other similar structures or containers for storage on a lot for more than 180 days in any one year period is prohibited. This prohibition shall not apply to construction storage trailers used site during a construction project provided all required permits are obtained for the project, the project remains in compliance, and the trailer is removed from the lot upon completion of the project.

The Commissioners approved the above verbiage and noted that there should be a fee associated with the permit and also setbacks to protect the adjoining properties.

On motion by Denn, seconded by Ely, all voting in favor, to forward these suggestions to the City Attorney for amendment consideration.

On motion by Ely, seconded by Denn, all voting in favor, to cancel the July 7, 2026 Regular Planning and Zoning Meeting and that the next meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission will be held on August 4, 2026 with an amended start time of 6:30 pm to allow members to attend the National Night Out Event.

There was no further business to come before the Commission.

On motion by Denn, seconded by Engebretson, all voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Attest:

Paul Hunter, Chairperson

Lorri Kopischke, Zoning Administrator