

NOTES FROM CITY HALL – SEPTEMBER 2026

A seasonal garbage shut off form was sent last month and is posted on the City website page. Please complete and return the form if you will be away this winter. Please complete a form EVEN if you submitted one for last year. Thanks!

The water tower is currently being cleaned and painted inside and out. Throughout the entirety of this project, you may experience water pressure fluctuations. **PLEASE MINIMIZE THE AMOUNT OF WATER USED DURING THE WATER TOWER PROJECT. PLEASE DO NOT USE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.** Hydrants will not be flushed during the project. Hydrant flushing will resume when the water tower maintenance project is completed.

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. PLEASE NOTE: Effective October 1st through October 31st the hours will be changed on Wednesdays to 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Open only to citizens of the City of Elysian. Leaves, brush, and tree wood allowed – no building materials.

The contract for garbage and recycle services with West Central Sanitation, Inc. was approved for renewal. The Contract does include an increase in pricing for monthly service. West Central will no longer be providing a second recycling cart free of charge. The second recycling cart will be charged at the same rate as the first recycling cart. The rate for each recycling cart (effective October 1, 2026) will be \$5.27 per month regardless of the size of the cart. Please contact City Hall at 507-267-4708 or nicole@elysianmn.com if you wish to have your second recycle cart removed prior to that date.

The American Legion Auxiliary are again sponsoring the City of Elysian Candidate Forum. Mayoral and Councilperson Candidates are invited to attend and participate. The Forum will be held on Tuesday, September 29th, at the American Legion Post #311 starting at 6:30 pm. Anyone from the public who would like to ask a question, are being asked to submit their questions in writing. Cookies and beverage will be provided.

The Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the “Spook Trail” on Saturday, October 31st from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Sakatah Singing Hills Trail will be decorated from the intersection of the Elysian Bank to the intersection of Main Street and Third Avenue SW. Businesses are encouraged to decorate as well. Candy will be given out along Main Street and on the trail. The Elysian Area Fire Department will be providing complimentary hot dog, chips, and drinks - 5:00 pm until gone at the Elysian Fire Hall. The Chamber needs volunteers to help set up the trail on the morning of the 31st, during the event that evening handing out candy, and help cleaning up later in the evening. To volunteer, please call 507-995-3146 or leave your name/phone number at City Hall. Monetary donations may be mailed to Elysian Area Chamber, P.O. Box 95, Elysian, or candy/monetary donations can be dropped off at City Hall. All is appreciated.

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: *Crow Party* – September 21st at 6:00 pm (geared for 7-12 years old); *Book Talk, Read the Book join the conversation* – September 23rd at 10:00 am; *Eric Carle Creations* – September 29th at 10:00 am (geared for 3-7 year olds). You can register for the events at: wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered/ or call 507-267-4411. Brown Bag Book Sale: October 5th – 9th (sale during regular library hours). October 10th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Grab a brown bag, pay only \$20. Stuff it as full as you can. Any items that do not fit into the bag can be purchased as a free will donation. Please donate your recyclable aluminum cans to help support the Library & Heritage Ctr. – The collection trailer has been moved to the concrete pad behind the library. Available 24 hours / 7 days a week.

The American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting the following events: *Omelette Bar Breakfast* – the second Sunday of every month from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; *Super Bingo* - September 26th, *Giving Bingo/Pulled Pork Supper* – October 10th, *Bar Bingo and Band* – October 31st.

Mark Your Calendar: Small Business Saturday will be November 28th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

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 SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Dennis Schnoor; Councilmembers Steve Hoppe, 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 Captain Matt Shouler stated that all is well in the City of Elysian.

Public Comment Summary (for complete public comments please see approved Council minutes):

Adam Stadler, 206-1/2 Avenue NE, reported that with the draining of the water tower it was discovered that his water service is connected directly to the water tower. He has had limited water and the water that he has had is very orange. Stadler complained of black soot flying around during the sandblasting of the inside of the tower.

Approved to install a temporary water service line at 206-1/2 Frank Avenue NE within 48 hours and that a plan be determined to hook the water service line into the water main per City standards at the completion of the project.

Clark Fell, 300 Third Street NE, reported that since the start of the water tower project his water is a milky color and eventually settles. Public Works confirmed that the water has been tested and is safe to drink.

Adam Knewton, Chair, Elysian Area Community Foundation (EACF), reported that EACF has been approached and asked for raise funds to offset the cost of the proposed water treatment plant. He asked the timeline for bidding and offered options for the City to receive the funds once raised.

Scott Thompson, 121 Willow Point Drive, asked that materials for future public hearings be added to the City website. He asked that the City re-engage with Le Sueur County and re-address the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the County Road 11 culvert. The City has responsibility for the culvert and the MOU is not the solution.

Approved the Consent Agenda to include minutes of August 10, 2026 Regular Meeting and August 27, 2026 Budget Workshop Meeting; Bills, Payroll, and Transfers in the amount of \$116,295.05; Resolution #1012/26 – Approving Municipal Maintenance Agreement Le Sueur County and City of Elysian Calendar Year 2026.

Held a public hearing and approved Ordinance #132/26 – Amending Elysian City Code §156.118 – Pertaining to Accessory Buildings and Dwelling Units Prohibited.

Held a public hearing and approved Ordinance #133/26 – Amending Elysian City Code §156.121 – Pertaining to Accessory Structure Standards.

Approved an On-Sale Intoxicating and Sunday Liquor License to Lolli-Pops, LLC effective October 1, 2026.

Received an update on the Water Tower Maintenance Project, the Sunset Park Trail Project, and the Water Treatment Plant Project.

Approved Resolution #1013/26 – Adopting the 2027 Proposed Budget for the City of Elysian, Le Sueur/Waseca County.

Approved Resolution #1014/26 – Adopting Preliminary 2026 Tax Levy, Payable 2027, City of Elysian, Le Sueur/Waseca County. The proposed levy is \$1,049,286 which is an increase of \$81,574 or 8.4%. The main reasons for the increase in the levy are an increase to the Fire Department Budget of \$10,000, a 3% COLA for full-time employees, storm service debt of recent street projects, and increased energy and fuel costs. The Council will continue to look for ways to lower the amount certified in the final levy on December 14, 2026. Set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 14th at 6:10 pm.

Approved Resolution #1015/26 – Approving the proposal from Midwest IT Systems, Inc. for managed IT and Firewall Services.

Set a public hearing for consideration of update to the 2026 City Fee Schedule for October 12th at 6:10 pm.

Discussed exterior storage and personal property accumulated at 109 Frank Avenue NE. The site has been cleaned up significantly since notice was sent in June. Council consensus was to take no action at this time and continue to monitor.

Discussed violation of the recently approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the County Road #11 culvert. The mayor directed the Elysian Area Fire Department to blow out the culvert (without approval of the Councilmembers or Staff). The Fire Department did proceed to attempt to blow out the culvert. Le Sueur County was informed, and a cease-and-desist order was issued to the City. The MN DNR was informed that the City was working without a Public Waters Permit. Councilmembers expressed their disappointment and frustration that this direction was given without consultation of the full Council, that the action goes against the MOU and creates potential costs and liability, that there is a potential fine from the MN DNR, and that Le Sueur County may bill the City for having to come and finish the cleaning of the culvert.

Discussed three options regarding the coyote issue in the City. Due to the liability and costs associated with the options and since there have been no recent sightings of coyotes, Council consensus was to not take any action at this time.

It was noted that at the last meeting Jacob Lee had requested a utility rate decrease for the car wash. Surrounding communities were polled and the data demonstrates that they do not give preferential treatment to a large consumer. Based on that data, there was Council consensus to not make any change to the rates at this time.

Approved the City Attorney and Administrator to investigate a proposed employee goose control for next year.

Public Comments: None. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.