**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL**
**REGULAR MEETING**
**SEPTEMBER 14, 2026**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 14, 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, and 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 September 14, 2026 Regular Meeting with the following additions:

14e. Goose Control.

Le Sueur County Captain Matt Shouler stated that all is well in the City of Elysian. He had nothing to report. He asked the status of e-bike and golf cart use by children in the City. The Council noted that their concern is safety. Currently, with the children back in school and the days getting shorter, the use has died down.

Public Comment:

Adam Stadler, 206-1/2 Frank Avenue NE, stated that he lives directly behind the water tower. When the water tower was drained, it was discovered that his service line was hooked directly to the water tower and he had no water. This was on Thursday and he has since been hooked up and had water but today his water has no pressure and the water that he is getting is completely orange. He would like a solution figured out for this. The water should have been run down to the street and hooked on when the house was built. Karl Kline built the house, and this was not disclosed when the house was sold. Also, with them sandblasting the tower, there is black soot flying around and it is on his car and the neighbor's cars. He does not want to be breathing that in.

The Council thanked Stadler for his patience through this process. Stadler was advised to keep track of his expenses and to take pictures and document any issues that he had.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to hook a temporary water service line to 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 completion of the project.

Clark Fell, 300 Third Street NE, reported that since the start of the water tower project his water, when put into a clear glass, turns a milky color and then eventually settles. He asked if it was safe to drink and use in cooking, etc. Public Works Greenwald stated that the water is safe to use. It has been tested. There possibly is some air in the lines and the pressure may need to be adjusted.

Adam Knewtson, Chair, Elysian Area Community Foundation (EACF), stated that the EACF has been informed that the City of Elysian is in need of $3.8 million to fully fund the proposed water treatment plant (WTP). If the City is forced to issue bonding for the WTP, the average monthly water utility bill will increase from $49 to $108. The EACF has been approached and asked to raise this deficit. Knewtson stated that the EACF board would like to speak with people and solicit donations before they leave the state for the winter months.

Knewtson asked when the City planned to go out for bids on this project. He suggested three options for donations: 1. Ask people to donate to the project as a gift; 2. People donate to EACF and the City receives that gift as a loan to be repaid with no interest to the EACF and the EACF endowment would grow; or 3. People donate to EACF and the City receives the gift as an interest only loan and the interest is paid to the EACF and the endowment would grow.

The Council thanked Knewtson for the efforts of the EACF to assist with this fundraising.

Scott Thompson, 121 Willow Point Drive, noted that the materials for tonight's public hearing were available to pick up at City Hall and to call and request an email copy. He suggested that the materials be posted on the website for easier access.

Thompson addressed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was recently approved with regards to the culvert under County Road #11 that drains Lake Francis into Lake Tustin as a means of lake level control. When that culvert is plugged it creates two problems for the City. The residents lose property due to erosion and there is a loss of tourism revenue. Few people want to use the lake when a wake is prohibited. This results in less tourism revenue and is a problem for the businesses.

Thompson stated that according to the MOU the City of Elysian has no responsibility for the culvert. Some say that this is a county road and a county culvert. From a 10,000 view this may make sense. Le Sueur County has a long set of problems, and this culvert is not high on their list. The City has a responsibility for this culvert. He asked that the City re-engage with the County and seek a solution to the problem. This MOU is not the solution.

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

a. Minutes approval – August 10, 2026 Regular Meeting and August 27, 2026 Budget Workshop Meeting.
b. Approval of bills, payroll, and transfers - $116,295.05.
c. Approval of Resolution No. 1012/26 – Approving Municipal Maintenance Agreement Between Le Sueur County and the City of Elysian for Calendar Year 2026.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 1012/26
RESOLUTION APPROVING MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN LE SUEUR COUNTY
AND THE CITY OF ELYSIAN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, Le Sueur County has presented an agreement relating to the maintenance of County State Aid Highways within the corporate limits of the City of Elysian for the calendar year of 2026 for total mileage of 1.35 miles at a rate of $11,141.91 per mile per year for a total payment of $15,041.58 per year, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian will perform maintenance and snow removal on the County State Aid Highways. The maintenance and snow removal will be according to Minnesota State Statutes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA THAT: the Municipal Maintenance Agreement between Le Sueur County and the City of Elysian for calendar year of 2026 is approved.

Upon vote being taken:

Council Members 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 14th day of September, 2026.

Approved:

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Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to open the Public Hearing at 6:22 pm.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow public input from citizens on proposed Ordinance No. 132/26 – An Ordinance amending Elysian City Code §156.118 – Pertaining to Accessory Buildings and Dwelling Units Prohibited.

City Code §156.118 reads “No garage, tent, recreational vehicle, basement home or accessory building shall at any time be used as a residence for human habitation.” The purpose of the amendment is to provide clarity to the intent of the ordinance and leave it less open to various interpretations, making it easier to enforce.

This amendment Section (a) Garages or Accessory Buildings prohibits full bathrooms, full kitchens, sleeping quarters and requires a meter for water and sewer service separately metered from the primary building. It requires that accessory buildings, once placed on a parcel of real estate shall not be split from a parcel and all accessory buildings shall remain subordinate in use to the primary building.

This amendment Section (b) Tents and Recreational Vehicles (RV) prohibits tents and RVs from being placed on a parcel of real estate unless the real estate has a pre-existing primary residential structure placed on it. It prohibits them from being connected to or serviced by any city related utilities. And requires full compliance with all other provisions of the City’s Code of Ordinance and Zoning Code.

Public Comment: Scott Thompson, 121 Willow Point Drive, stated that he assumes the intent of the ordinance is to prevent unsafe and unpermitted second residences. While he supports this, he strongly opposes the overly broad attempt to regulate the building elements rather than address the issue.

The Council must acknowledge that this is lake country and it is not uncommon for extended family to visit and for family and friends to stay in the garage or workshop. The community has countless circumstances like this, and this ordinance amendment does not address those that are existing. There is no grandfather provision. The ordinance amendment only allows half bathrooms and requires a separate meter.

Thompson asked the Council to reject the current proposed amendment and direct City staff and City attorney to draft a two-track ordinance:

1. Allow incidental, noncommercial, short-term habitation by owners, friends, and family in a subordinate accessory structure, subject to ordinary safety, sanitation, and nuisance rules.
2. Require a paid permit process for long-term habitation, rental use, or an independent accessory dwelling unit, with objective standards and full code compliance.

City Attorney Moran questioned the necessity of a separate meter. Staff explained that a separate meter is generally required when the accessory building is connected directly into the main water and sewer line. If connected into the primary structure service line, a separate meter is not required.

Hunter advised that the intent of the Planning and Zoning Commission is to limit the use of the accessory building and not allow these structures to become permanent dwelling units.

Written Comment was received from Scott Thompson, 121 Willow Point Drive.

**Elysian Ordinance 132/26 – Public Hearing Comments – Scott Thompson 121 Willow Point Drive, Elysian *(to be included in the public-hearing record for Ordinance 132/26)***

**Opening**

• I support the goal of preventing unsafe or unpermitted second residences.

• I oppose Ordinance 132/26 as drafted because it is broader than necessary and regulates ordinary building amenities instead of regulating the actual problem: sustained, independent residential occupancy.

• The proposed amendment would prohibit showers, cooking stoves, kitchens, bedrooms, and sleeping quarters in all accessory buildings, while requiring separately metered city water and sewer for even a toilet and sink.

• Those restrictions would affect normal garages, workshops, recreational buildings, and family properties even when there is no long-term occupancy.

**Concerns with the draft**

• The ordinance treats a shower, kitchen, loft, or bed as proof that a building is an illegal dwelling. Those features alone do not establish that a structure is being used as a permanent residence.

• A workshop or detached garage may reasonably need a shower after physical work or lake use.

• Occasional sleeping space for the property owner, relatives, or guests is reasonable

• The phrase “at any time” is unnecessarily absolute. It could prohibit an acquaintance from sleeping in a finished garage for a weekend, during a holiday, while helping with a project, etc.

• Key terms such as “full kitchen”, “stove”, “bedroom”, etc. are undefined. ○ Vague terms invite uneven enforcement and neighbor disputes.

• The separate-meter requirement for a simple half-bath imposes substantial cost while providing little practical benefit if the building is served from the primary residence and is not an independent dwelling.

• The ordinance does not provide a clear grandfathering provision, administrative-review process, conditional-use option, or appeal path for existing buildings and legitimate site-specific situations.

• The heading of the amendment contains a typographical error (“Dweling”)

**Requested revisions**

• Revise the ordinance to distinguish temporary guest use from an independent secondary residence.

• Allow an accessory structure to contain normal code-compliant amenities, including plumbing, bathing facilities, and temporary sleeping space, when the structure remains subordinate to the primary home and is not used as an independent dwelling.
• Permit short-term habitation by the property owner, immediate family, friends, and nonpaying guests without a secondary-residence permit.
• Define short-term habitation objectively, such as no more than 30 consecutive days and no more than 90 total days in a calendar year. The Council may choose different limits, but the rule should be measurable and understandable.
• Prohibit compensation, rent, lease arrangements, online rental advertising, a separate mailing address, separate utility account, or separate ownership for an unpermitted accessory structure.
• Preserve the City's authority to act when there is a proven safety issue, nuisance, overcrowding, unlawful rental, or long-term independent occupancy.

**Long-term permit process requested**

• Create a compensated permit process for an accessory structure that will be used for long-term habitation, rented to others, or function as a separate dwelling.
• Require an application fee that covers the City's actual review and administrative cost.
• Use a basic administrative permit for straightforward proposals and a conditional-use permit only for projects needing site-specific review, such as limited sewer capacity, shoreland conditions, insufficient parking, unusual lot conditions, or neighborhood-impact concerns.
• Require long-term units to meet applicable standards for plumbing, electrical work, fire safety, sanitation, emergency egress, smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms where required, parking, and municipal water/sewer or compliant septic service.
• Allow the City to require conditions appropriate to the property, such as owner occupancy, occupancy limits, no separate sale or subdivision, no short-term rental, site-plan review, or utility-capacity verification.

**Closing requests**

• I ask the Council not to adopt the blanket amenity prohibitions as written.
• Instead, direct staff and city counsel to draft a two-track ordinance: ○ Track one: Allow incidental, noncommercial, short-term habitation by owners, friends, and family in a subordinate accessory structure, subject to ordinary safety, sanitation, and nuisance rules.
○ Track two: Require a paid permit process for long-term habitation, rental use, or an independent accessory dwelling unit, with objective standards and full code compliance.
• This approach would protect public health, safety, and neighborhood character without unnecessarily prohibiting reasonable use of private property.

No further written comments were received.

Scott Thompson suggested that there be a conditional use permit process and/or a short-term permit process for immediate family and friends. He asked who monitors this.

Moran explained that investigations are complaint-based driven. The intent of the ordinance is to prohibit the use of a detached garage as a residence. A conditional use permitting process would exacerbate the problem.

Houlihan explained that the ordinance provides the authority for the City to do something if there is a problem. Thompson suggested that this could be regulated through the nuisance property ordinance. This ordinance is restricting property rights.

Hunter explained that the City has received a number of variance requests which include dwelling units in accessory buildings. The concerns with this include life/safety concerns; real estate tax implications; and land usage (if the lot were split). The road traffic congestion that results when 10-12 people are staying at one property restricts the passage of large emergency vehicles such as fire trucks.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to close the Public Hearing and open the Regular Meeting at 6:44 pm.

On motion by Hoppe, seconded by Westby, all voting in favor, to open the Public Hearing at 6:45 pm.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow public input from citizens on proposed Ordinance No. 133/26 – An Ordinance amending Elysian City Code §156.121 – Pertaining to Accessory Structure Standards.

The proposed amendment will add a prohibited location for accessory structures of "within three feet of a neighboring property line"; it lays out a permitting process for accessory structures; and it adds the following under Building Material Requirements: Under no circumstances shall an accessory structure consist of a semitrailer, railroad storage car, shipping container, or other such mobile storage container. This prohibition shall not apply to construction storage trailers used during construction on the subject parcel provided all required permits are obtained for the project, the project remains in full compliance with the City's Code of Ordinances during construction, and the trailer is removed from the subject parcel upon completion of the project.

No Public comments were received. No written comments were received.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hunter, all voting in favor, to close the Public Hearing and open the Regular Meeting at 6:47 pm.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 132/26 – An Ordinance Amending Elysian City Code §156.118 – Pertaining to Accessory Buildings and Dwelling Units Prohibited with the language change that if the water and sewer line are connected to the main line a separate meter is required and if the water and sewer line are connected to the dwelling service line a separate meter is not required.

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 132/26
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ELYSIAN CITY CODE §156.118 – PERTAINING TO ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND DWELLING UNITS PROHIBITED

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian currently prohibits dwelling units in accessory buildings as more fully set forth in Elysian City Zoning Code §156.118; and

WHEREBY, there is some ambiguity in §156.118; and

WHEREBY, the City Council for the City of Elysian wishes to Amend Elysian City Zoning Code §156.118.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council for the City of Elysian hereby and herein ORDAINS as follows:

1. That §156.118 shall be AMENDED to read as follows:

§156.118 ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND DWELLING UNITS PROHIBITED.

(a) *Garages or Accessory Buildings*. Any garage or accessory buildings shall be subordinate to a pre-existing primary structure on a parcel of real estate. Full bathrooms are prohibited; however, one half-bathroom is allowed. A Half-Bathroom shall be defined as one toilet and one sink with a bathtub or shower being specifically prohibited. Any accessory building containing a plumbing connection, separate and distinct from the primary structure, for a half-bathroom, shall have municipal water and sewer service separately metered from the primary building. A separate meter is not required for those accessory structures that are services for municipal water and sewer from the primary structure. Accessory buildings shall not contain a full kitchen or stoves for cooking. Accessory buildings shall not contain bedrooms for sleeping quarters. Accessory buildings, once placed on a parcel of real estate shall not be split from a parcel and all accessory buildings shall remain subordinate in use to the primary building.

(b) T*ents and Recreational Vehicles.* Tents and recreational vehicles shall not be placed on a parcel of real estate unless the real estate has a pre-existing primary residential structure contained on it. Tents and recreational vehicles shall not be connected to or serviced by any city related utilities. Tents and recreational vehicles shall fully comply with all other provisions of the City's General Code of Ordinances and Zoning Code.

Approved this 14th day of September, 2026 by the Elysian City Council.

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Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 133/26 – An Ordinance Amending Elysian City Code §156.121 – Pertaining to Accessory Structure Standards as presented.

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ORDINANCE NO. 133/26
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ELYSIAN CITY CODE §156.121 – PERTAINING TO ACCESSORY STRUCTURE STANDARDS

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian currently regulates accessory structures under City Code §156.121; and

WHEREBY, the City's Planning and Zoning Commission has reviewed §156.121 and has recommended several revisions to that portion of the City Code.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council for the City of Elysian hereby and herein ORDAINS as follows:

1. That §156.121 shall be AMENDED to read as follows:

§156.121 ACCESSORY STRUCTURE STANDARDS

(A) Attached structures. An attached structure shall be considered an integral part of the principal building and shall comply with all requirements applying to the principal building.
(B) Permitted locations. Detached accessory structures are permitted in side yards and rear yards; provided that, the structures shall not be located closer than six feet to the principal structure.
(C) Prohibited locations. No accessory structure shall be located in any of the following:
    (1) Front yard;
    (2) Within a drainage or utility easement;
    (3) Within three feet of a neighboring property line;
    (4) Below the ordinary high-water mark of a public water or wetland; and
    (5) Within the setback requirements from the ordinary high water mark of any public water body.
(D) Dimensional limits. Detached accessory structures are subject to the dimensional limits established below:
    (1) Maximum height: maximum height of an accessory structure cannot exceed 21 feet. The building height is measured halfway up the pitch of the roof (gable);
    (2) Total number of detached accessory buildings per lot: two; and
    (3) Accessory structure(s) total building area allowed per lot: not to exceed 30% of lot coverage.
(E) Permit Requirement. A building permit must be secured from the Zoning Administrator prior to constructing or locating an accessory structure anywhere on the lot. Permits may be applied for through the City Administrator on a form developed by the City Administrator. All permits shall require a site plan or sketch showing the placement of the accessory structure in dimensional relation to any other buildings on the subject parcel, boundary lines, streets, and any delineated lake or wetland areas. A survey is not required, however, the site plan shall reference any and all setbacks. A fee for the accessory structure permit shall be set by the City Council and made a part of the City's Fee Schedule as it is Amended from time to time. An accessory structure less than 200 square feet does not require a building permit.
(F) Construction timing. No accessory structure shall be constructed on any lot prior to the time of construction of the principal building to which it is accessory.
(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. Under no circumstances shall

an accessory structure consist of a semitrailer, railroad storage car, shipping container, or other such mobile storage container. This prohibition shall not apply to construction storage trailers used during construction on the subject parcel provided all required permits are obtained for the project, the project remains in full compliance with the City's Code of Ordinances during construction, and the trailer is removed from the subject parcel upon completion of the project.

Approved this 14th day of September 2026, by the Elysian City Council.

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Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Leslie Sheehy Lee, owner (with Jacob Lee) of Lolli-Pops, LLC, 410 State Highway 60 West, has requested approval of an On-Sale Intoxicating and Sunday Liquor License.

MN Statute §340A.413 Restrictions on number of Intoxicating Liquor Licenses that may be issued states: Subdivision 1. On-sale licenses. No on-sale intoxicating liquor license may be issued in any city except as provided in this section in excess of the following limits: (7) In statutory cities of 500 to 2,500 population, not more than four licenses.

The City of Elysian currently has issued the maximum number of licenses as follows: Tuckers Tavern, Fischers Bar, Ahavah Cottage, and The Thirsty Beaver.

The State of MN does offer an exclusion to the limit as follows: Subdivision 4. Exclusions from license limits. On-sale intoxicating liquor licenses may be issued to the following entities by a city, in addition to the number authorized by this section: (2) Restaurants.

The Council could authorize and approve an On-Sale Intoxicating and Sunday Liquor License for sales at Lolli-Pops under this exclusion.

Lee is looking for ways to expand what the bakery offers to the community. The idea is to add a liquor license and potentially expand the hours on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings to offer dinner, drinks, and occasional events. The business is for sale, but Lee is continuing to look at ways to strengthen the business in the meantime. She believes that expanding what the venue offers could help the bakery, the community, and potentially a future owner.

The City Attorney has reviewed the request and has no objection.

Lee stated that they would like to use the location to host groom's dinners without having to utilize the catering permit. They also are considering family-type dinner events on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights from 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

On motion by Westby, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to approve an On-Sale Intoxicating and Sunday Liquor License to Lolli-Pops, LLC effective October 1, 2026.

Schnoor asked that there be no loud music outside after 9:00 pm. There are lots of families in the neighborhood and the City will get complaints.

Public Works Director Greenwald reported that the water tower project is moving forward. The well is operating on a pressure tank system. The interior of the water tower has been cleaned and sandblasted.

Greenwald stated that he does not understand the water line at 206-1/2 Frank Avenue NE. The water tower has been drained several times and the previous owner never complained. He agrees with the temporary line and does not know why the pressure is fluctuating.

The tower previously had the logo painted on three times. The new logo is taller and longer so only two logos will fit. There was Council consensus to place the logo on the east side and on the Lake Francis side of the tower.

Greenwald reported that the trail work at Sunset Park is in full swing. 50% of the sod is removed, it is staked, the erosion control is installed, and the sidewalk has been removed.

Staff reported that Richard Parr, Professional Engineer, SEH Engineering, will no longer be supporting the City with the Water Treatment Project. Andrew Knapp will be replacing Parr. Lee Istvanovich and Brent Kavitz will also be on the team. They are currently working on the State Bonding and the Federal Funding. An update will be presented at the October Council Meeting.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 1013/26
ADOPTING THE 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ELYSIAN
LESUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has considered and discussed the budget for the year 2027; and

WHEREAS, the 2027 proposed budget is attached to this Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA:

1. That the attached proposed budget for 2027 marked as “Exhibit A” is hereby adopted.

Upon vote being taken:

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

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2026.

Approved:

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Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Councilmember Westby introduced the resolution and was seconded by Mayor Schnoor.

RESOLUTION NO. 1014/26
RESOLUTION ADOPTING PRELIMINARY 2026 TAX LEVY, PAYABLE 2027
CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR AND WASECA COUNTIES

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has adopted the proposed budget for the year 2027; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has determined the tax levy for taxes payable in the year 2027 to be in the amount of $1,049,286.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA; that the following sums of money are levied for the current year, collectible in 2027, upon taxable property in the City of Elysian, for the following purposes:

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|---|---|
| General Fund | $ 746,317 |
| Fire Relief | $ 15,500 |
| Maintenance Replacement Eq. | $ 25,000 |
| Storm Sewer | $ 5,000 |
| 2016 Local Improvement Levy | $ 104,000 |
| 2018 Local Improvement Levy | $ 109,237 |
| 2023 Local Improvement Levy | $ 29,584 |
| Equipment Street Lights | $ 14,648 |
| Total Preliminary Levy | $1,049,286 |

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

Councilmembers voting in the negative: None.

The City Administrator is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the County Auditor for Le Sueur County and Waseca County, Minnesota.

Adopted by the Elysian City Council on September 14, 2026.

Approved:

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Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to set the Truth in Taxation Hearing for December 14, 2026 at 6:10 pm. Comments will be taken on the 2027 Proposed Budget and the 2026 Tax Levy Payable in 2027.

Westby noted that he had been authorized to negotiate with Midwest IT Services, Inc. for Managed IT and Firewall Services. A Teams Meeting was attended by Allan Aukes, President, Midwest IT Systems, Inc., Councilmember Westby, and City Administrator Kopischke. It was determined that the current equipment is outdated and no longer supported and needs to be replaced. Aukes agreed that a firewall is not needed at the Fire Hall as there is no sensitive information or payment information being transferred on the internet. There is a Fire Department laptop that roams and that security is covered with this agreement. Westby recommended that the Council approve the contract with Midwest IT Services, Inc. for Managed IT and Firewall Services.

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

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION NO. 1015/26
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSAL FROM MIDWEST IT SYSTEMS, INC.
FOR MANAGED IT AND FIREWALL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Elysian City Council was presented with a proposal from Midwest IT Services, Inc. for a firewall appliance in the amount of $3,491.01, and;

WHEREAS, following discussion, the Council unanimously passed a motion to solicit requests for proposals (RFP) for Managed IT Services, and:

WHEREAS, RFPs were solicited with a due date of 12:00 pm on Thursday, August 6, 2026, and;

WHEREAS, twelve (12) proposals for Managed IT Services were received by the due date and were evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the RFP, and;

WHEREAS, Midwest IT Systems proposal for Managed IT Services, ranked highest on the Executive RFP Evaluation Report: Management IT Services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA THAT: the proposal from Midwest IT Services, Inc. for Managed IT and Firewall Services in the amount of $643.00 per month, plus a one-time hardware, licensing, and installation fee of $3,325.04 be approved, and authorize the City Administrator to execute the final service agreement.

Upon vote being taken:

Council Members 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 14th day of September, 2026.

Approved:

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Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator

Garbage and Recycle Rates will increase per the West Central Sanitation contract effective October 1, 2026. Due to the change in rates, the City of Elysian 2026 Fee Schedule will need to be updated.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, to set a public hearing for consideration of an update to the City of Elysian 2026 Fee Schedule for October 12, 2026 at 6:10 pm.

Minnesota Valley Council of Governments will hold a General Assembly at The Pond on September 16, 2026 with a featured presentation by the League of MN Cities on the Open Meeting Law and Data Practices.

The Le Sueur County Officials Association meeting will be held September 30, 2026 at the New Prague Ambulance, Police and Fire Departments 6:30 pm Social Hour and 7:00 pm Meeting.

City Attorney Moran reported that the City had received a number of complaints about exterior storage and personal property accumulated at 109 Frank Avenue NE. There is also the issue of the homeowner conducting a business (scrapping) in a residential zone. The homeowner was sent a letter on June 24, 2026 asking him to resolve the matter. The property was reinspected on September 8, 2026 and it has been somewhat cleaned up.

The Council was asked for direction on how to proceed with this property. There was discussion and Council consensus is to monitor progress on the clean up and reevaluate in March. If there are further complaints, the property will be evaluated sooner in response to those complaints,

Moran noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with regard to the culvert under County Road #11 had been approved and signed by the City of Elysian and Le Sueur County in August. This is a County road, a County culvert, County right of way, and the County has the public water permit to do work in this culvert. On September 9, 2026, the City received a cease and desist order from Le Sueur County as the Elysian Area Fire Department had tried to jet the culvert open and the culvert is now plugged. By doing this the City has taken on the liability. The City has no authority over this culvert and does not have a DNR water permit to work in this culvert. The DNR has reached out to the City and it does not appear that they will fine the City. The County may bill the City for opening up that culvert.

Schnoor stated that prior to the MOU being started he was asked by quite a few people to clean out the culvert. During the National Night Out Event he asked the Fire Chief to go out there and he said that he would do it that week. The Fire Chief called the night of September 8, 2026 and said that he could go out there. I said okay. I wanted him to cut an outlet from the culvert to Lake Francis and to cut an outlet from the culvert to Lake Tustin. He did not have enough hose because they were testing hoses at the Fire Hall, so they were going to go back the next night and finish the job. But that is when we got the cease and desist order.

Schnoor stated that he has talked to the DNR and they are not going to fine the City. He has also talked to the County. It's all straightened out. It was a misunderstanding.

Hunter stated that it was really disappointing to hear this news since we have been working on this since April. There have been discussions amongst the Council that we weren't going to spend any

money on this and that we didn't want to take on any of the liability associated with this. This action did exactly that. It exposed the City to potential costs if the County decides to bill us and liability. So, the very purpose and things that we were looking to address through the discussions, this one action, put all those things into play. Also, the action was ineffective. The water today is 4-5 feet from the entrance and the discharge of that culvert and cutting a trench into that sand would not do anything. That was all part of the conversation over the last few months with the Senior Hydrologist from the DNR and the County Engineer. Hunter asked what had changed from the position that was discussed in April, May, June. There is a lot of opinion about what would help but work has been done between the County and the DNR Senior Hydrologist based on science. I would like to know what has changed based on your perspective, Dennis.

Hoppe stated that he agreed. This should have been a Council decision and that decision was made when the Council entered into the MOU.

Schnoor stated this his decision was made long before the MOU was signed in case it never got out there.

Westby asked if Schnoor was present for the event. Schnoor stated that he was present for the cutting of the trench.

Westby stated the mayor was acting on his own accord. The City is a weak mayor system and the mayor cannot make decisions without the consensus of this Council. I feel that in this action there was decision, in this situation and a few others, that have been acted upon in personal interest rather than in the interests of the Council and the City.

Schnoor stated that he has been here his whole life and there was a time when this community would come together. If there was something that needed to be done, we didn't need a piece of paper, the community went out and got it done. Somewhere along the line this community lost this. You can blame me. Yes, I screwed up. But we need to get that community pride back in this town where we work together. Yes, it's a County culvert, yes, it's a county road but it's the lake. On one hand we shouldn't have done it but on the other hand yes, we should have. If we would have gone back out there the next night and taken care of it, everyone would be happy. The community would be back together. That's the way I feel and will keep feeling.

Hunter stated that he disagreed with Schnoor on several fronts. There was a lot of work done here. This has nothing to do with eroding the community spirit, community intent. In fact, this was very disrespectful to this entire Council based on your decision and based on your feeling, and let's not lose sight of the fact that it did not work. It was not effective, which is exactly what the experts have been telling us. And it is clear with the MOU who owns what and who has the legal authority to do what. This was a reckless action for the City. I understand your intention and I feel that with consultation with the Council we could be at a different place than we are here right now.

Houlihan stated that he echoed a lot of the concerns. The culvert has been brought up a lot this year since we have been nowhere near the high-water mark since 2018. That culvert is designed to sit empty and full of sand, then we get a big rain and that rain rushes through that culvert and clears things out. People around the lake are putting a lot of pressure on for something that just is not true. This was an issue when my dad was on the Lake Association and nothing has changed in the 10 years since he has been off. When we get 6 inches of rain it doesn't just fall on Lake Francis, it falls on every lake connected to us. Francis has another issue in that it is fed by an aquifer, and the aquifer actually pushes additional water into Lake Francis. That is why the water continues to be pushed from Lake

Francis into the other lakes even though they have come up to the same level. The City does not have anything to do with this County culvert. I feel that the responsibility for moving sand is on the Lake Association. They have many many members that can pool their money and dig a hole in front of it. That hole will fill in within 2 weeks. The wind blows the sand in there. The culvert shouldn't be looked at, shouldn't be touched. Forget the thing exists.

Westby stated that he agreed with all the sentiments shared. He reiterated that the Council is a team and it should be a decision of all five not a decision of one. We need to be sure that any activities inside of this chamber or outside of this chamber are under the direction and guidance of this Council as we were elected. Also, if there are charges related to this, I feel that the burden should not be on the taxpayers.

Hoppe agreed. We are to be good stewards to the community, and this wasn't good stewardship at all.

Moran noted that at the August meeting, the Council asked him to prepare a memo with some options regarding the coyote issues in the City. He presented the following options:

1. Hire a trapper for any City owned property (allow residents to do the same on their property) and allow that trapper to trap in issue areas. This is the least risky option for the City but perhaps the most costly.
2. Hire a marksman and engage in controlled hunts. This option poses risk for the City and would entail costs to the City. The marksman could dispatch on public and private land.
3. Allow residents to trap/dispatch animals. This is the least costly but does carry the most risk in terms of property damage/potential injuries/potential City liability.

There was Council consensus to not take any action at this time as there have not been any recent reports of sightings. If this becomes an issue in the future, the Council will revisit.

Moran noted that at the last Council meeting, Jacob Lee approached the City and posed several questions concerning water rates in Elysian. Moran presented data from surrounding communities that demonstrates the surrounding communities do not seem to give preferential treatment to a large consumer. Rather, it seems that cities do in fact actually charge more for water as more is used. With this in mind, Moran recommended no change in the rate structure at this time.

There was Council consensus, based on the data provided and City Attorney recommendation, to not make any change to the rate structure at this time.

Moran reported that the question has been asked if City employees could be allowed to hunt goose on City property during working hours for the purpose of goose control. Moran stated that if the Council was so inclined, the League of MN Cities should be contacted to determine if City employees engaged in this activity would be covered under the City insurance.

On motion by Hunter, seconded by Hoppe, all voting in favor, for the City Attorney and City Administrator to investigate the proposed employee goose control for next year.

Public Comment: None.

On motion by Hoppe, seconded by Houlihan, all voting in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm.

Approved:

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Dennis Schnoor, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator