

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
NOVEMBER 28, 2017**

The Elysian City Council held a workshop meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call: Mayor Clinton Stoen; Councilmembers Robert Houlihan, Tom McBroom and Dennis Schnoor; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Absent: Councilmember Mary Opsahl.

The Council discussed the proposed 2018 Budget – Revenues and Expenditures. Staff stated there have been no substantial changes since the budget workshops. There was Council consensus to make NO changes to the proposed budget prior to considering as the final budget for approval.

The Council discussed the approved preliminary 2017 Levy payable 2018 in the amount of \$561,002. This is an increase of \$17,559 or 3% from the previous year. The greatest increase is in the general levy. The remaining increase of \$3,090 is the result of a proposed increase to the Fire Relief Annual Benefit. There was Council consensus to make NO changes to the preliminary Levy prior to presenting it for final approval.

The Council discussed utility rates. Staff distributed an email from Rick Almich, Senior Advisor, Minnesota Valley Council of Governments. Almich reviewed the City of Elysian water and sewer utility budgets. Almich stated that the water utility fund is in good financial condition. There is a sufficient amount of cash reserves and the fund is operating within budget which would suggest there will be sufficient cash reserves remaining at the end of 2018. With respect to the sewer utility fund, Almich noted the cash reserve account is at a lower level – approximately 50%. Almich stated that even though the sewer utility appears to be operating within budget, a rate increase of 5% would be warranted to increase that cash reserve fund for reasons related to issuing debt at reasonable interest rates and unforeseen major expenses. The Council will address the utility rates at the final meeting of the year. There was Council consensus to consider leaving the water rates as is and increasing the sewer usage charge by 50 cents per 1,000 gallons.

The Council then discussed the environmental utility fee. This is a \$4 monthly fee for residential and for commercial this fee is based on impervious surface. Funds generated with this fee are used to pay storm sewer costs. It was noted that the 2016 Street and Utility Improvement Project is drawing funding from that account. The 2018 Street and Utility Project will begin drawing from that account in 2019 as well. There was Council consensus to consider increasing the residential fee by \$1.00 per month and the commercial fee proportionately. The Council will address this rate at the final meeting of the year.

Staff reported that the property owner of 118 East Main Street would like to donate the property to the City of Elysian. The Building Inspector and the City Administrator toured the building on November 21, 2017 and the Building Inspector provided a site inspection report. Issues noted in the report include the roof, foundation wall and basement area. Staff was directed to obtain quotes to repair the building and also quotes to demolish the building.

On motion by Stoen, seconded by McBroom, all voting in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Approved:

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Clinton Stoen, Mayor

Attested:

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Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator