

**ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE
MAY 11, 2020**

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2020 via teleconference at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call: Mayor Tom McBroom; Councilmembers Bobby Houlihan, Mary Opsahl, Dennis Schnoor, Bryan Suemnick; City Administrator Lorri Kopischke; Public Works Director Ron Greenwald; Utility Clerk Nicole Lamont; City Attorney Jason Moran. Absent: None.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Suemnick, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Schnoor noted that on page 7 item b. it states that "It is preferred that only 1 street cut be allowed in Third Street due to the recent pavement overlay. The patch should extend full width." Schnoor stated he would prefer there be no cut allowed into Third Street and that water and sewer be connected in Maple Avenue. Suemnick agreed.

City Attorney Moran stated the location of utility services would be a condition of the building permit.

City Engineer Cavett stated he understood the concern. He noted an overlay is just a patch. The only way the northern property could connect to sewer services on Maple Avenue would be to cross another property with an easement. This would not be in the best interest of the City. It is unfortunate but a connection via a street cut in Third Street is probably the best scenario for the northern property.

As the verbiage on page 7 item b. refers to the City Engineer's recommendation, which was accepted in written form, there was no change recommended to the minutes. The Councilmember's concern will be taken into account at the time the building permit and service connections are considered.

Voting on the motion: Ayes: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick. Nay: None. Motion carried.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by Suemnick, to approve the agenda of the May 11, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. Voting on the motion: Ayes: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

City Attorney Moran presented Resolution No. 706/20 to extend the City of Elysian Disaster Declaration Resolution until September 1, 2020 or unless terminated earlier. The current City Disaster Declaration Resolution is set to expire June 1, 2020. The Disaster Declaration allows the Mayor and City Administrator to make decisions regarding staffing issues, employment issues, and to authorize fast payment of expenses without calling a special meeting. It also opens the possibility for federal and state aid.

McBroom stated he did not see a reason to not extend the declaration as long as it can be terminated at any time. Opsahl agreed with that.

Mayor McBroom introduced Resolution No. 706/20 and was seconded by Councilmember Opsahl.

CITY OF ELYSIAN
LE SUEUR COUNTY, MINNESOTAA
RESOLUTION NO. 706/20

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council for the City of Elysian, Minnesota (“Mayor”) finds and Resolves that the following local emergency (“Emergency”) exists in the City of Elysian, Minnesota (“City”):

1. The Governor of Minnesota issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01 declaring Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota’s Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19 on March 13, 2020. This Executive Order has been extended multiple times and is current in effect now; and
2. The City currently has its own Disaster Declaration Resolution in place which is set to expire on June 1, 2020; and
3. It is now necessary to extend the City’s Disaster Declaration Resolution until September 1, 2020 or unless terminated earlier. All of the terms and conditions of that Original Resolution shall continue on in full force and effect.

Upon vote being taken:

Councilmembers voting in the affirmative: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl

Councilmembers voting in the negative: Schnoor, Suemnick

Motion carried.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 11th day of May, 2020.

Approved:

Thomas McBroom Sr.
Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke
City Administrator

Councilmembers asked if a motion could be passed to oppose Governor Walz’s Stay at Home Order and allow the businesses in Elysian to open their doors. The shutdown is devastating to the businesses here in the City.

Moran advised that other Cities are passing resolutions in opposition to Governor Walz’s Stay at Home Order and various Executive Orders that restrict citizen’s and business activities. While these resolutions do not give local government the authorization to open businesses, they do send a strong message of disapproval to the Governor’s Office.

Schnoor commented that maybe some change will occur if enough Cities pass these resolutions and send a message to the Governor.

Mayor McBroom requested that City Attorney Moran draft a Resolution in Opposition to Governor Walz's Stay at Home and other restrictive Executive Orders and that it be considered at the June 8, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Staff provided an update on operations in regard to the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic. It was noted that the State of Minnesota Stay at Home Order has been extended to May 18, 2020.

City Hall, the City Shop and Tourism Center remain closed to the public. The City Hall doors are locked and residents who need personal assistance are asked to call for an appointment. The City Administrator is in the office 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. The Utility Clerk is in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings and as needed. The rest of her work is being completed via remote connect with the City laptop. Public Works employees are working full-time and adhering to safe social distancing, disinfecting and hand washing practices. The part-time Public Works employee has also returned to work.

There was Council discussion on the format of the Council Meetings going forward. There was consensus to meet in person at City Hall going forward but to allow and accommodate Councilmembers or members of the public who are not comfortable coming to City Hall by providing a way for to attend via telephone.

Staff updated that due to the Governor's Executive Order's cities have been advised to suspend all utility shut offs at this time. City Attorney Moran agreed that there should be no water shut offs for non-payment at this time.

The brush pile was opened unmanned on April 18, 2020. A trail cam and signs to direct those using the service has been installed. It has operated fairly well with only a few unallowed items left and some pranks. As soon as the Stay at Home Order is lifted, the site will have staffed hours again.

The City parks were discussed. The signs stating "COVID-19 Safety Warning – Playground Equipment is not Sanitized. Use Playground at Your Own Risk" have been installed. There was consensus to keep the restrooms closed at this time. Public Works was directed to install the swimming beach buoys.

The Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the decision to cancel the 2020 Fourth of July Celebration.

Chris Cavett, SEH Engineering, discussed an old, non-compliant lift station that has served the properties of 411 6th Street NW and 702 Lakeside Drive NW for decades. A new home is being built at 411 6th Street NW and the owner is proposing to install a grinder station that he will own and maintain. 702 Lakeside Drive NW will now be the only property served by the old lift station. It would seem this would be the time to correct this non-compliance. The new grinder station cost will be approximately \$10,000. There is some public interest to correct this non-compliance. It may be reasonable for the City to provide an incentive to the property owner to correct.

Greenwald noted that with installation of a compliant system owned by the property owner, the City would no longer have the electrical costs to run the lift station or the maintenance costs. It may be reasonable to provide some incentive. And the timing is good with the property owner at 411 6th Street NW tearing up their lot.

After considerable discussion, there was Council consensus, to direct the City Engineer and staff to determine the costs and what needs to be done, have a discussion with the property owner to determine options, and present the information to the Council at the June 8 meeting.

Greenwald presented a quote from Pearson Bros., Inc. in the amount of \$20,376.24 to sealcoat the streets included in the 2018 Street and Utility Project – Frank Avenue NW, Park Avenue NW, 4th Street NW, 3rd Street NW, 2nd Street NW, and 2nd Street SE.

Schnoor asked if the streets were out of warranty yet. Cavett stated the streets are in warranty until the end of 2020. He stated the industry practice is to sealcoat within the first year. If not, then definitely within the first three years. This increases elasticity in the pavement and reduces cracking.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Suemnick, to approve the quote from Pearson Bros., Inc. in the amount of \$20,376.24 to sealcoat the streets included in the 2018 Street and Utility Project – Frank Avenue NW, Park Avenue NW, 4th Street NW, 3rd Street NW, 2nd Street NW, and 2nd Street SE. Voting on the motion: Ayes: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Greenwald stated the bathrooms at the new concession stand at Lake Francis Park are on the tight side. They could use some ventilation. He presented two quotes for air exchangers to provide ventilation to the utility room and the bathrooms: Volkman Electric/Schmahl Construction \$1,460 and Prange's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. \$2,730 or Option 1: \$3,475.

On motion by Houlihan, seconded by Schnoor, to approve the estimate from Volkman Electric/Schmahl Construction in the amount of \$1,460 to install air exchangers to provide ventilation to the utility room and bathrooms in the new concession stand at Lake Francis Park. Voting on the motion: Ayes: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Staff reported that the candidate for the temporary mowing position has declined the position. The position will be advertised, and a candidate will be recommended for hire at the June 8, 2020 Council Meeting.

It was noted that the Council had referred consideration of an amendment to the City Zoning Ordinance to allow larger sized detached accessory buildings within City limits on larger lots. The Planning and Zoning Commission has studied this issue and submitted a recommended amendment to the City Code of Ordinance Section 156.121 Accessory Structure Standards and Section 156.065 R-1, General Residential Zone.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Suemnick, to schedule a public hearing for June 8 at 6:00 pm to consider the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the City Code of Ordinance Section 156.121 Accessory Structure Standards and Section 156.065 R-1, General Residential Zone. Voting on the motion: Ayes: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Council reviewed a Compliance and Risk Report generated with data collected with the All Traffic Solutions Speed sign. An invoice for renewal of the TraffiCloud Subscription was provided. The options are one-year renewal of \$1,500, two-year renewal of \$2,700 (10% savings), or three-year renewal of \$3,825 (15% savings). The renewal includes the App, Traffic Suite Software, Equipment Management, Reporting, Image Management, Alerts, Mapping, and Premier Care Plan Warranty.

On motion by Schnoor, seconded by McBroom, to renew the TraffiCloud Subscription for three years in the amount of \$3,825 (15% savings). Voting on the motion: Ayes: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Craig Beckman, Minnesota DNR reports that the bids have been awarded for the Sakatah Trail update. He will provide a start date as soon as that information is available.

Kopischke reported that Pantheon Computers has changed their business plan to be a full-service technology provider. They will no longer offer the monthly security services or on-call repair availability. They have provided a quote for the full-service which includes full managed services and lifetime hardware replacement. Kopischke will be obtaining some additional quotes for this type of service and will present at the June 8 Council meeting.

The West Central contract is set to expire September 1, 2020. Discussions continue on how to address the private drives in the City such as Kaplan/Cedar Point, Willow Point Drive, Roots Beach Road, Lake Side Dr NW, North Shore Drive, Lake View Court, Lake Avenue NW, Maple Avenue, G Avenue, and Silver's Resort. An update will be provided at the June 8 Council meeting.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, bills, payroll, and transfers were approved in the amount of \$106,749.68. Voting on the motion: Ayes: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

On motion by McBroom, seconded by Houlihan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm. Voting on the motion: Ayes: Houlihan, McBroom, Opsahl, Schnoor, Suemnick. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Tom McBroom, Mayor

Attested:

Lorri Kopischke, City Administrator