

ELYSIAN CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 14, 2009
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:00 P.M.

The Elysian City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 14, 2009, at City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Members present were: Mayor David Rager; Councilmembers Tiffani Atherton, Roger Hanson, Mary Opsahl, Clinton Stoen; Clerk Administrator Patricia Nusbaum; City Attorney Jason Moran, Administrative Assistant Lorri Kopischke. and Public Works Director John Roessler.

Meeting was opened with the Pledge to the US Flag.

On motion by Stoen, seconded by Hanson, minutes of the November 9, 2009 regular meeting and special meeting on November 11, 2009 were approved as presented.

On motion by Atherton, seconded by Stoen, all voting in favor, the agenda was approved as presented.

John Considine, Region Nine Development Commission, was present to explain the Le Sueur County SCDP grant application. On motion by Hanson, seconded by Stoen, all voting in favor, to authorize the Mayor and Clerk Administrator to sign the agreement for City of Elysian participation in grant application.

Roger Hill, representing the Joint Fire Board, was present to discuss the proposed fire department budget for 2010. He indicated that new equipment and catastrophic problems would be covered under separate funds. He encouraged the Council to make an effort to hold the budget.

John Roessler report:

1. Generator for the South lift station was discussed. On motion by Hanson, seconded by Stoen, all voting in favor, to place on the agenda for the budget meeting to be held 12/15/09.
2. John asked the council to consider a state retirement program opportunity to go half time with the city allowing him to get his full retirement. On motion by Hanson, seconded by Atherton, to approve entering into an agreement to allow Roessler to proceed with required paperwork needed to implement program.

Clerk Administrator updates:

1. Thank you to Roger Hanson and Mack Evans for placing of flags on main street flag poles for Veterans Day.
2. Thank you to Tim Bengtson and crew for placement of Main Street Christmas decorations.
3. Thank you to Greenwald Greenhouse and Lake Area Women for the beautiful trees which grace our Main Street.
4. To the many volunteers who participated in and organized the Christmas Garage Sale, Wine Tasting, Christmas in Elysian, Shopping with Mrs. Claus, Holidazzle Parade, Fire Fighters Bingo and the Community Open House and to their sponsors, Elysian American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Post #311, Elysian Chamber of Commerce, Lake Area Women, and Horizons.

5. Safety Committee update – working with League of MN Cities Insurance Trust on getting a safety committee set up and to possibly joining with area communities to share costs of training required.
6. Proposed Flood Ordinance update/FIRM – working on getting the City under a Flood Insurance Rate system to allow for homes around the lake to be able to determine if they need to purchase insurance.
7. Reported on the recent meeting with the Fire Relief Association, regarding the amending the by-laws to meet state standards. An outside consultant has been hired to work with the Relief Association to develop the new standards. A change in the placement of EIN numbers has been approved. The City EIN number which has been used prior will be discontinued and it will be replaced with the EIN number formerly designated to the Elysian Fire Department, which now has been redesignated to be used by the Relief Association for all Relief Association business purposes.

Steve Moline, Pettipiece & Associates, was present to give his analysis of the water and sewer rates consideration for 2010. On motion by Atherton, seconded by Stoen, all voting in favor, to approve the recommendation of Pettipiece & Associates to keep water and sanitary sewer rates the same as 2009 as follows:

Water base charge	\$17.50 per month
User charge	\$ 6.80 per 1,000 gallons
Sewer base charge	\$20.50 per month
User charge	\$ 6.35 per 1,000 gallons

Administrative Assistant Lorri Kopischke presented the delinquents utilities for the last quarter of 2009. On motion by Hanson, seconded by Atherton, all voting in favor, to approve the certification to the county for placement on taxes delinquent utilities in the amount of \$7,710.45.

On motion by Stoen, seconded by Opsahl, to approve 2010 licenses pending all necessary paper work has been finalized.

On motion by Opsahl, seconded by Atherton, all voting in favor, to approve Le Sueur County Highway Department state aid agreement in the amount of \$7,661.70.

On motion by Atherton, seconded by Hanson, to follow up on nuisances issues in April, 2010.

On motion by Atherton, seconded by Opsahl, to approve the following resolution:

**CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION 342-09
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING A DONATION FROM**

Mayor David Rager

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has received a donation in the amount of \$1,140.42 from Mayor David Rager, and have designated this donation be given to the City of Elysian to be placed in the general fund. (At this point, Rager indicated that it be dedicated to reduction of the 2010 levy.)

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA THAT: the City Council of the City of Elysian acknowledges and accepts the donation from David Rager;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Elysian City Council expresses its thanks and appreciation for the donation.

Councilmember Atherton introduced the resolution and was seconded by Councilmember Opsahl.

Council Members voting in the affirmative: Atherton, Opsahl, Stoen, Rager.

Council Members voting in the negative: Hanson

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 14th. day of December, 2009.

ATTEST:

David Rager, Mayor

Patricia Nusbaum, Clerk Administrator

On motion by Atherton, seconded by Hanson to amend the following resolution:

**CITY OF ELYSIAN
ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA
RESOLUTION 342-09
RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING A DONATION FROM
Mayor David Rager**

WHEREAS, the City of Elysian has received a donation in the amount of \$1,140.42 from Mayor David Rager, and have designated this donation be given to the City of Elysian for the suggested purpose of reducing the 2010 levy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ELYSIAN, MINNESOTA THAT: the City Council of the City of Elysian acknowledges and accepts the donation from David Rager;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Elysian City Council expresses its thanks and appreciation for the donation.

Councilmember Atherton introduced the resolution and was seconded by Councilmember Opsahl.

Council Members voting in the affirmative: Atherton, Hanson. Opsahl, Stoen, Rager.

Council Members voting in the negative: None

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Elysian this 14th. day of December, 2009.

ATTEST:

David Rager, Mayor

Patricia Nusbaum, Clerk Administrator

Councilmember Stoen updated the Council on the skating rink which will be placed on WEM School property, now known as the Elysian Area Learning Center. Rink will be open by Christmas.

Councilmember Hanson handed out a paper with his thoughts concerns that had been brought up at the recent regular meeting and budget meetings. He addressed several items that he felt were worthy of noting to include positive corrections to some of the statements made by the public.

On motion by Atherton, seconded by Opsahl, all voting in favor, to approve the bills, payroll, and transfers in the amount of \$117,012.37.

Attorney Moran Comments:

1. The annexation of a portion of Lake Tustin and a portion of Lake Francis has been approved and will now be a part of the city with all ordinances and policies adhering to that area.
2. He is working with Verizon Wireless negotiating for a larger rental fee for use of the city water tower for their antenna.

Visitors Comments:

1. John Roessler – 310 Lake Avenue NE - addressed the council regarding concerns as to how the Joint Fire Board is to operate. He explained that he was chief for 24 years and that the Joint Fire Board has no power. They are advisory to the Fire Department needs. The Fire Department is run by the City. Contributions from the Townships are made based on the budget set by the City. Township representatives go to their boards for funds for their half of the money needed to run the department. He does not know where everything got out of hand with the present operation of the Joint Fire Board.

On motion by Hanson, seconded by Atherton, all voting in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Attest:

David Rager, Mayor

Patricia Nusbaum, Clerk Administrator

(Mayor's comments follow on next page. Added 2/3/10.)

Mayor Comments:

As most of you know I did give back to the City what has been given to me so far this year less the taxes that have been taken out. It is not a portion of what I have netted to date but every penny. My only request is that the levy be reduced by that amount so that our real estate taxes will decline.

I feel quite comfortable with what we have accomplished so far this year. The Chestnut's subdivision finally went forward after years of turmoil. The annexation of Tustin and Francis problem has finally being resolved. These long standing problems were inherited by this Council. We dealt with them, and many lessons were learned, including how difficult it is to satisfy everyone.

I will continue to encourage sharing of public information as I have since my term began. I believe in total transparency and always strive toward that end. We should all feel free to speak with department heads on an individual basis. Our City will run smoother while maintaining the internal controls to which our auditors keep referring.

The joint fire board of which I am a member has done a fine job this year. We are continually trying to meet the challenges of the rising costs of running and maintaining a functional fire department.

The EDA has progressed all year and is addressing some of the challenges we have been faced with. The website is seeing some much needed streamlining and is something our community can be quite proud of.

The State of Minnesota and the Federal Government are involved in huge shortfalls and I am sure that will affect us in the future. As we now address the New Year let us all work together to meet the challenges of the economy that we are now involved in. We can do it.

Let also take this time to thank our Employees for the good that they have done this year.

Happy Holidays,

David