

**Village of Elsie
Council Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026**

President Jason Freeman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: President Jason Freeman; Council Members: Dorothy Ornelas, Mark Helt, Kory Witt, Sam Frink, Joe Ondrusek and Todd Carroll.

Ex-Officios: Present: Village Manager/Police Chief Destinee Bryce, DPW Supervisor Chris Ormes.

AGENDA CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS, OR DELETIONS: K. Witt motioned to approve the agenda as written, M. Helt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES:

December 9, 2025 – T. Carroll moved, S. Frink seconded. MOTION CARRIED

INVOICES:

T. Carroll moved, J. Ondrusek seconded to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$61,875.02 MOTION CARRIED.

SPECIAL REPORTS:

- Hero Park and Scripture Brick Committee – 26 bricks waiting for better weather for installation.
- Elsie Park Update – Ed White requested approval for further park updates pertaining to walking trails. Plans are underway.

PRESIDENT:

President Jason Freeman appointed council committees. President Pro Tem: Todd Carroll; Street Administrator: Joe Ondrusek; Cemetery: Mark Helt, Dorothy Ornelas, Kory Witt; Park: Sam Frink, Mark Helt, Kory Witt; Hero Park: Dorothy Ornelas; Clinton Area Ambulance Representative, Kory Witt; Personnel: Mark Helt, Kory Witt, Joe Ondrusek; Budget: Dorothy Ornelas, Joe Ondrusek, Mark Helt.

CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:

Village Manager, Destinee Bryce, recommended to the council to have Kelsey Kelly be appointed to Clerk/Treasurer with continued training with Financial Controller, Steve Adair, and potential funding through the Treasury for financial controller services for FY 27. K. Witt motioned to appoint Kelsey Kelly as Clerk/Treasurer, Helt seconded. Roll call, all ayes. MOTION CARRIED. J. Ondrusek motioned to approve the Clerk/Treasurer Report, S. Frink seconded. MOTION APPROVED

POLICE/CODE ENFORCEMENT:

In December 2025, there were 27 calls for service. The Elsie Police Department conducted 7 traffic stops. A total of 160 hours were worked at the Elsie Police Department. Calls consisted of traffic enforcement, motor carrier enforcement, one domestic, two civil disputes, and several community policing activities. Axon Body 4 cameras covered under contract were received but are not in service yet. Elsie Police Department is currently working on MCOLES annual registration that is due February 6, 2026. Two zoning applications are currently being processed. The ordinance committee has started working on revamping outdated ordinances. K. Witt motioned to approve the police report, D. Ornelas seconded. MOTION CARRIED

**Village of Elsie
Council Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026**

VILLAGE MANAGER:

Extension of the MOU for the Woodhill Group, and an additional MOU for a part-time grant writer position, and financial support regarding the \$28,000.00 funding for the DWSRF were discussed on January 7, 2026, with Treasury. The Treasury has agreed to review detailed reports of the requests. An inquiry has been received on renting the building at 140 Maple St for \$1800.00 per month. The ITA for the DWSRF is currently moving along. FDCVT grant application submissions are in the works. M. Helt made a motion to pay engineering company \$28,000.00, K. Witt seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Witt motioned to approve the Village Manager Report, S. Frink seconded. MOTION CARRIED

DPW REPORT:

DPW Supervisor Chris Ormes gave an update. The backhoe is currently inoperable. The wheel loader was received and helped with ice removal from previous accumulation of snow. The new salt spreader has been working as it should. One pump takes twice as long to pump the sewer as the other at the lagoon Lift Station. A new float has been installed and we are planning to replace the other float soon at E. Island Lift Station. S. Ovid Lift Station motors have been ordered. Still utilizing trash pump until new motors are installed. 4 burials were completed in December, with a 2025 total of 26. Heritage Monument has been assisting with digging graves since the backhoe broke down. S. Frink motioned to approve the DPW report, M. Helt seconded. MOTION CARRIED

ACTION STEPS:

- Ordinance Committee Meeting set for February 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Elsie Village Office.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Village Resident offered assistance to the DPW with upcoming pothole repairs.
- Clinton County Undersheriff, Mike Gute, reported concerns and complaints about Destinee Bryce
- Lori Gute raised concerns about Facebook usage, and lack of council board members contact information availability.
- Clinton County Sherrif, Sean Dush, reported concerns about misinformation presented to the Board of Commissioners from Destinee Bryce and Jason Freeman.
- Summer Youth Program Representative requested the Village council's assistance regarding upgrading the baseball fields at the park.

ADJOURNMENT:

K. Witt motioned to adjourn the January 13, 2026 council meeting at 7:36 PM, M. Helt seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Destinee Bryce
Village Manager
Chief of Police

Jason Freeman
Village President