

Village of Elsie
Council Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2026

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: Village Manager/Police Chief Destinee Bryce, DPW Supervisor Chris Ormes, and Clerk/Treasurer Kelsey Kelly.

AGENDA: T. Carroll moved to approve the agenda as presented. M. Helt seconded. **Motion carried.**

MINUTES: Review and approval of the June 9, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes were postponed until the August Council Meeting.

INVOICES: T. Carroll moved to approve payment of the bills in the amount of **\$57,191.44**. K. Witt seconded. **Motion carried.**

REPORTS:

- Nicole Fickes provided a Clinton County update by email.
- **Hero's Park:** Dorothy Ornelas reported all flags have been replaced except the American flag, which was donated by Ed White. Ninety-four bricks have been purchased and are expected before the next meeting. Donations are still needed for the remaining statues.
- **Elsie Park:** Ed White reported donated sports balls, and a storage bin have been placed at the courts, and new pickleball and tennis nets have been installed.
- **President:** The Village attorney reviewed the proposed Fire Board/Fire Authority Agreement and recommended no action until the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws are provided for review. T. Carroll moved to approve the report. M. Helt seconded. **Motion carried.**
- **Clerk/Treasurer:** Village tax bills were mailed July 1 and are due September 14, 2026. A BS&A tax payment link is available on the Elsie.org website. Utility bills are due 21 days after the billing date. All 2025 delinquent utility balances have been added to Village tax bills. There are nine pavilion reservations for 2026. D. Ornelas moved to approve the report. K. Witt seconded. **Motion carried.**
- **Police/Code Enforcement:** In June, there were 61 calls for service, the Elsie Police Department conducted 11 traffic stops, and worked 189 hours. Activity included traffic enforcement, ordinance enforcement, suspicious activity checks, one animal bite complaint, and community policing. Night patrol has increased. Patrol Car 82 received minor electrical repairs. A LEIN audit is scheduled for late August or early September. 4 certified code enforcement letters were sent. J. Ondrusek moved to approve the report. M. Helt seconded. **Motion carried.**
- **Village Manager:** Fire hydrants were received July 13, 2026, and installation is scheduled for the third week of August. The June 26 large item pickup collected approximately 128 cubic yards of material. Destinee Bryce attended water system assessment training. MEDC and LEAP continue to await funding approval for the Elsie School Project. Grant opportunities continue to be pursued, including for the Elsie Park. McKearney Asphalt is expected to begin the park pathway project soon. Larry Melvin continues maintaining Hero's Park. Jim Hyland expressed interest in finishing the set of statues at Hero's Park but is concerned with transporting them from Wisconsin in addition to the statues cost. The 2026 Dairy Festival was successful, and appreciation was extended to the Dairy Festival Committee. T. Carroll moved to approve the report. K. Witt seconded. **Motion carried.**

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- **DPW:** McKearney Asphalt is expected to begin road repairs soon. The DPW continues working through the EGGLE compliance items. All lift stations and wells are operating properly. Approximately 98 water meter upgrades remain. One June burial brought the 2026 total to nine. Work continues on the Elsie Park water lines. A trailer was purchased through the BNM grant for the new mini excavator, which is expected to arrive soon. K. Witt moved to approve the report. S. Frink seconded. **Motion carried.**

ACTION ITEM: D. Ornelas moved to schedule an Ordinance Committee meeting for **Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 6:30 PM.** K. Witt seconded. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A Duplain Township resident announced the July 21, 2026, 4:00 PM deadline for ballot applications and requested the temporary closure of N. Church Street on August 4 for National Night Out. It was also noted that the United Methodist Church will repaint the playground at N. Church and W. Pine Streets.
- An Elsie resident asked what will be done with the existing fire hydrants after they are replaced.

ADJOURNMENT: M. Helt moved to adjourn the meeting at **7:55 PM.** K. Witt seconded. **Motion carried.**

Kelsey Kelly
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Jason Freeman
Village President