

Village of Elsie
Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

PRESENT: President Jason Freeman; Council Members Dorothy Ornelas, Mark Helt, Sam Frink, Joe Ondrusek, Todd Carroll. **ABSENT:** Council Member 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:

- June 9, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes: S. Frink moved to approve June 9, 2026, council meeting minutes, seconded by T. Carroll. **Motion carried.**

- July 14, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes: M. Helt moved to approve July 14, 2026, council meeting minutes, seconded by D. Ornelas. **Motion carried.**

INVOICES: Council discussed purchasing a refurbished iPad/notebook from Best Buy as an alternative to the previously budgeted laptop. M. Helt moved to approve payment of the bills in the amount of **\$130,039.59**, seconded by J. Ondrusek. **Motion carried.**

REPORTS:

• **CLINTON COUNTY UPDATE:** County Commissioner Nicole Fickes, provided an update. Local libraries are being considered as locations for assistance and training for residents who need help accessing online services. LEAP is offering online retail strategy training for small businesses and individuals. LEAP is accepting applications for an entrepreneur competition through the end of August. The competition is scheduled for October 8, 2026, at the Hannah Center. The county is currently reviewing and updating its purchasing policies and filling the Deputy Administrator position.

• **CACS UPDATE:** An update was provided regarding the Clinton Area Ambulance Service provided by Dawn Levey. The articles of incorporation and related documents are still being reviewed, with additional updates expected. Maple Rapids is expected to withdraw from the service after the current year.

• **HERO PARK UPDATE:** Council discussed continued development of Hero Park and fundraising for additional statues. Mr. Jim Highland presented a \$15,000 donation towards the necessary statues. The Council expressed its appreciation for his generous support. The Village will proceed with purchasing the statues, with arrangements for pickup, transportation, and installation. Additional discussion included foundations and placement, along with a proposed Gulf War monument, and identification plaques. Donations will continue to be accepted for remaining project costs.

• **ELSIE PARK UPDATE:** Ed White reported that most of the soccer field lines have been marked, and additional paint is needed to complete the project. New aluminum goal posts have been obtained and are expected to be installed soon, along with the basketball court painting taking place before September.

• **PRESIDENT:** It was recommended that the Village Council, Fire Board, and Duplain Township meet for a workshop to work toward an agreement. Council agreed to make scheduling a workshop a September action item.

• **CLERK/TREASURER:** Training is continuing with Financial Controller Steve Adair regarding bank reconciliations. Utility bills were mailed and are due Monday, August 31, 2026. Meter upgrade appointment notices were included with the utility bills. Some completed appointments still require antenna installation. Residents unable to attend the available appointment times may contact the Village Office to discuss availability options. Donations continue to be received for the Hero Park statues and American flag replacement. Appreciation was expressed to all donors supporting the project. There are currently 10 pavilion reservations for 2026 and two reservations for 2027. J. Ondrusek moved to approve the report. S. Frink seconded. **Motion carried.**

• **POLICE:** The Village of Maple Rapids has sworn in the Elsie Police Department for code enforcement and zoning enforcement within Maple Rapids. This arrangement will allow citations under Maple Rapids ordinances and help offset the cost of the Village's contract. Police Chief, Destinee Bryce, reported that the department continues to handle zoning permits and property improvement matters. The LEIN audit is scheduled for September 5, 2026. T. Carroll moved to approve the report. M. Helt seconded. **Motion carried.**

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• **MANAGER/CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Destinee Bryce reported that the Treasury Department identified funds within its budget that may assist the Village with the approximately \$26,000 water project plan. The Village has also paid for the intent to apply for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The total amount paid for these items was approximately \$30,400. The Village will continue pursuing funding opportunities for necessary water system improvements. Updates were provided regarding economic development efforts, including possible redevelopment of the former Leer plant, potential sale of vacant commercial properties, interest in the local car wash, and interest from an individual looking to establish a family medical office in Elsie. The Manager also discussed efforts to bring back the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and explore grant or incentive opportunities for property improvements. A fire equipment grant application was also discussed. Additional information from the Fire Department is needed to complete the application. The Village's part-time DPW position received additional applications. Interviews are being held with the DPW Supervisor and members of Council participating. S. Frink moved to approve the report. M. Helt seconded. **Motion carried.**

• **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:** McKearney Asphalt is scheduled to begin and complete the Village's asphalt work this week. The DPW will also explore masonry repairs needed at the salt shed. Work continues with addressing the items identified in the EGLE lagoon letter. Approximately 87-meter upgrades remain. All equipment is currently operating as expected. J. Ondrusek moved to approve the DPW report. D. Ornelas seconded. **Motion carried.**

• **ACTION STEPS:** The Ordinance Committee meeting was unable to be held during the previous month due to scheduling conflicts. The committee scheduled meetings for August 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM, along with September 3, 2026, at 6:00 PM. The committee will work toward reviewing and completing outstanding ordinance matters prior to the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Prior to public comments, the Council stated that it would not discuss an ongoing matter that remains under investigation.

-A resident asked about the Village's cost for leaving park lights on overnight. Council explained that the lights are kept on for safety and to help deter vandalism. The lights have been upgraded to LED and were estimated to cost approximately \$40 per month when originally calculated. During the winter, only two lights remain on.

-Pastor Gerrad of the Elsie United Methodist Church was introduced to the Council. He expressed his appreciation for being part of the community and his desire to contribute to the community.

-A resident showed gratitude towards the DPW for filling potholes on E. Oak Street.

ADJOURNMENT: M. Helt moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM, S. Frink seconded. **Motion carried.**

Kelsey Kelly
Clerk/Treasurer

Jason Freeman
Village President