

Emerado City Council Regular City Council Meeting Thursday Jan 15, 2026. The City Council met on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:13pm, 201 Main St. Mayor Lanes presided and called the meeting to order at 7pm. Roll Call: T. Wynn, J. Linneman. Councilwoman Scott and City Auditor Klava submitted resignations just prior to the start of the meeting. The consent agenda, December financial report, and January/February bills were approved unanimously: Blue Water Consulting 3000.99, A&D Excavating 6680, A&D Excavating 3420, A&D Excavating 1700, J Lanes 277.05, J Linneman 221.64, P Rosenquist 158.85, M Scott 191.64, T Wynn 221.64, Blue 360 Media 90.95, J Klava 2281.61, D Lund 21167.41, Column Software 6.08, Connecting Point 266, PSN 318.70, Verizon 198.17, Microsoft Office 136.49, IT Technology 90.60, Marco 229.40, Matthew Bender 363.96, Midco 310.62, Nodak 1183.76, Swanson & Warcup 918.40, Radar Shop 128, WM 5567.50, Xcel 324.95, J Klava 2415.887, D Lund 2209.95, J Lanes 277.05, J Linneman 221.64, M Scott 80.82, T Wynn 221.64. ACH/Debit: BC/BS 7233, EFTPS 2158.84, ND Pers (life) 154.52, ND Pers (Retire) 1822.91, Liberty Flagpoles 53.14, USPS 122, Rydells 74.67, Cenex (PD) 189.07, Dollar General (PD) 5.51, Apple.com (PD) 9.99, and future bills to be paid in January 2026: Blue Water Consulting 5445.80, Blue Water Consulting 7656.30, A &D Excavating 6080, A &D Excavating 880, A &D Excavating 850, A &D Excavating 1810, Floor Guys 800, Big Al's Construction 4970, Railroad Management Company 855, GF County Real Estate Tax (Drain 58) 8855.40. Police Report: December activity included 18 calls for service, three case reports, and one citation. In 2025, there were 304 calls for service, 48 case reports, and 50 citations. An update on registered offenders and FBI area crime statistics was provided. Unfinished Business: The city attorney reported the mediation matter is moot after one party rejected the recommendation and resigned. Water System Update: Bluewater Consulting reported the recent shutdown was due to a failed PRV that required full system shutdown for replacement. Aging infrastructure caused sediment issues upon restoration. Additional concerns include a failing pump house PRV, deferred maintenance on the 1959 water tower, frozen fill line, outdated components, aging AC water lines, hydrant and valve deficiencies, and security upgrades. Estimated pump house PRV repairs range from \$6,000-\$8,000. Funding options discussed included State Water Commission cost-share, BND loans, SRF loans, Prairie Dog funds, grants, and insurance. Audit progress was noted as critical for funding eligibility. The council emphasized shifting from reactive repairs to proactive maintenance. The meeting recessed at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:25 p.m. New Business & Financial Planning: An update was provided on FEMA tornado reimbursement (pending final signature). The council discussed ongoing financial challenges and 2026 budget planning, including cost reductions, contract reviews, home rule/sales tax options, benefit adjustments, and long-term structural changes. A previously approved \$60 public safety fee increase was noted. City Operations: Council agreed to update the city website to include council contact information and clarified public

comment procedures. The Mayor will work with A&D to finalize a written contract for water and snow removal services, with legal review. Snow removal efforts received generally positive feedback. Compliance & Infrastructure: Council addressed a missed monthly water sample and required public notice. North Dakota Rural Water will assist with compliance. Hydrant and valve maintenance planning was discussed. The Mayor will seek a new contract with East Central Regional Water. The floodplain ordinance must be updated by June 1, 2026, to comply with state law. Discussion also included the water reserve fund and long-term infrastructure planning. Community Discussion: A school representative discussed declining enrollment (84 students) and financial impacts on families. Broader discussions focused on community sustainability, recruitment, and long-term financial planning. Meeting Adjourned at approx 9:30pm.