

Emerado City Council Meeting, Thursday, April 2, 2026: The City Council met on April 2nd at 7pm, 201 Main St. Mayor Lanes presided and called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Council Members Wynn and Linneman were present. Motion to approve consent agenda carried unanimously. Previous meeting minutes reviewed and a motion to approve carried unanimously. Financial report and bills presented, with a motion to approve and pay bills carried unanimously after an inquiry about North Dakota Pump/Lift Station. Question clarified as being for Lift Station doors being replaced. Question also raised about Blue Cross Blue Shield being final payment for former employee insurance costs: Check# 10897 Daniel Lund \$2419.20, Check#10898 A&D 6080.00, Check# 10899 A&D 880.00, Check 10900 A&D 867.09, Check# 10901 A&D 1846.38, Check #10902 A&D 1755.00, Check # 10903 A&D \$15,823.00, Check # 10904 A&D 3065.00 Check #10905 A&D \$11,680.00, Check #10906 A&D \$900.00, Check 10907 A&D \$774.00, Check # 10909 Midco \$193.04, Check # 10910 Midco \$156.65, Check 10911 \$160.18, Check 10912 \$ Waste Mgmt \$6,831.06, Check # 10913 \$ Waste Mgmt 3862.24, Check #10914 Nodak Elec. 1369.10, Check #10915 Xcel Energy \$411.85, Check #10916 Blue Water #13,102.10, Check #10917 Northwestern Power Equip \$6,323.00, Check # J. Lanes \$547.43, J. Linneman \$443.28, T Wynn \$443.28. New Business: Jim Olson – Blue Water Consulting assisted with insurance policies based on denial of claims; the city's current insurance policy has not been reviewed or updated in many years, resulting in a very low annual premium of around \$1200. Coverage for buildings, pump houses, vehicles, and contents was discussed with Marsh Insurance. A recent claim for the water tower freezing was denied because preventative measures, like a mixing system or recirculating pump, were not in place. The current coverage for the pump house is only about \$27,500, which primarily covers the building shell and not the internal components. It was suggested that to prevent future claim denials for freezing, the city should consider installing a mixing system and a recirculating pump. The insurance group is preparing new numbers for updated coverage, but these were not ready for the meeting. Further discussion and decisions will occur after new premium numbers are received. Asset and Content Inventory was discussed. The insurance group strongly recommended photographing all contents of city buildings, such as City Hall, and creating an inventory to simplify any future claims, for example, in the event of a fire. This recommendation also applies to expensive equipment in other departments, like the police department, which may not be covered under standard vehicle or building policies. The PRV Valve to be installed was being built in Kansas City and was scheduled to ship on Monday, April 20th. Installation and calibration will be scheduled upon its arrival. Sewer System: A sewer backup was experienced. North Dakota Rural Water has agreed to run a camera through one block of the sewer line (from Main to Franklin) to assess its condition. The council approved moving forward with the camera inspection, with charges not to exceed \$250. The inspection is scheduled for Wednesday,

April 8th at 1 p.m. Lagoons: Samples were taken from the lagoons and sent for analysis. Draining of cell number three has begun as weather permits. State Audit: The city, along with Blue Water is working with the State Auditor's office. Additional bank records, transaction reports, and monthly statements are still needed to complete the audit. The bank is processing the request. A 5-year infrastructure master plan is required to pursue funding. Potential funding available (approx. 60/40 grant-loan split). Water system upgrades estimated at \$2.5-\$2.7 million. Mowing Contract Discussion: Contract will continue for its final year unchanged. Spraying (not mowing) is recommended for rocky lagoon areas; contractor will provide a separate estimate. Council will explore herbicide options and licensing. Vacant Auditor Position discussed: 5 applicants so far; applications close next week. Salary is negotiable; interviews to follow. City Fees discussed, including a question raised regarding water reserve fees. Council plans to repurpose an existing fee to fund infrastructure (pending legal resolution). Xcel Energy Agreement was discussed; City reviewing franchise agreement. Attorney researching legality of adding a franchise fee; new draft coming. Election Poling Site was discussed, and Community Center was designated the City Poling site. Discussion was had on the City being behind on sending water bills to residents and it was discussed that bills should resume as normal in May. Council disclosed payments to East Central Water and to H&H Coatings are behind but should be getting covered soon. Discussion has been had with both vendors, and they are aware. Law Enforcement town hall meeting has been tabled until further discussion can be had with the Sheriff's Office. Mayor disclosed that he will not be seeking re-election. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.