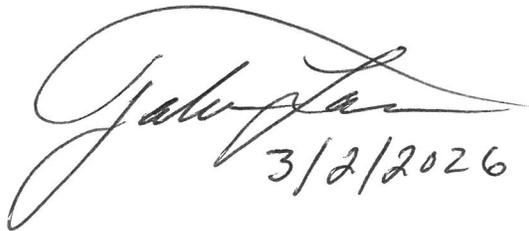


Emerado City Council Meeting, Wednesday Feb 11 2026. The City Council met on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, 201 Main St. Mayor Lanes presided and called the meeting to order at 7pm. Council Members Wynn and Linneman were present. The consent agenda was approved, motion by Wynn, second Linneman. Motion carried. Wynn presented the financial and auditor report; No insurance payment has yet been received regarding the water tower claim. Regular February bills were reviewed. Motion made to approve financial report; Linneman/Wynn. Motion Carried. Police report provided by Chief Lund; 14 calls for service in January, 2 case reports, 1 citation issued, 6 registered offenders (1 high risk, 3 moderate, 2 low risk). Additional discussion included: Storm siren activated unintentionally; cause unknown. Counterfeit \$10 bills circulating at Dollar General stores regionally. Ongoing vacancy and junk violations at a residence on Browell St discussed. Chief Lund announced his resignation as Chief of Police effective February 28, 2026, after 25 years in law enforcement. He stated his decision is unrelated to recent city matters and that he is transitioning to private sector employment. After his departure, calls for service will be directed to the Sheriff's Office. The council expressed appreciation for Chief Lund's service. Unfinished Business: Water System – PRV Replacement. Jim Olson provided an update regarding the Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV): Estimated cost: ~\$8,000 for PRV, Additional strainer recommended, bringing total to approximately \$12,000. Installation costs to be handled separately by contractor. Funding comes from Prairie Dog Fund. Motion made by Linneman and seconded by Wynn to approve purchase of PRV with strainer, pending dimensional confirmation, funded by Prairie Dog funds. Motion carried. Jim also advised against shutting down the entire water system during localized leaks, Provided documentation from the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality supporting that practice, Updated council on ongoing water tower insurance claim, Discussed future water tower improvements and grant applications. Water Sampling: Wynn reported All required water testing is current and compliant. January and February testing completed. Chlorine reader ordered (currently on backorder). Monthly chlorine testing may be completed in-house once equipment arrives. East Central Water Contract: Council continues to work toward renewing the contract. No service interruption concerns at this time. Mayor will attempt to set up meeting with ECW. FEMA Follow-Up: Most FEMA documentation is complete. Final signatures are pending to finalize submission. Wynn will sign on behalf of the City. New Business: 2025 Fire Department Report. 93 total calls in 2025 (down from 119 in 2024), 52,082.5 gallons of water used (increase due to major structure fire), 58% EMS/rescue calls, 37% fire-related calls, Average turnout time: 4–5 minutes. Lagoon Discharge Paperwork: Required paperwork due by April. No changes to current water service provider for discharge operations. Water Billing Issues: Discussion held regarding delays in billing system access and software integration; Bills have now been sent, No late fees will be charged due to delays, Rate increase ordinance pending

review by city attorney before implementation. Council thanked staff for patience and effort during transition. City Hall Staffing / Auditor Position: Discussion held regarding Potential hiring of a CPA on a part-time basis, Possibility of a part-time clerk to handle public-facing duties, Outreach to retired county auditor, Contact with State Auditor's Office for guidance, Further information will be gathered before decisions are made. Election and Open Council Seats: Discussion had and information provided about Two council seats currently open, Election to be held in June 2026, Petition to obtain ballot nomination deadline: April 6, 2026, Interested residents encouraged to apply. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes from: December 8, 2025, December 22, 2025, January 14, 2026 and January 15, 2026. Motion made and seconded to approve all listed minutes. Motion carried. 9. Public Comments: Questions were raised regarding Water rate increases (pending attorney review), Water bill delivery timing, Police service coverage following Chief Lund's resignation. Mayor reminded public that the increases were pending attorney review, bills were sent out and the Sheriff's Office will cover emergency calls. Motion made to adjourn.



3/2/2026