

EMMONS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: January 12, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order by the Mayor, Dave Bosma at 7:00 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members: Paul Lair, Jerome Wuerflein, Eleanor Bauman, Neal Honsey

City Clerk: Lorry Zasada, ISG: Bryan Petzel

Approval of the meeting Agenda: Motion made by Wuerflein to accept the agenda, seconded by Lair, motion carried 5/0

Approval of Minutes from previous meetings – Dec 8th & Dec 17th

Motion made by Wuerflein to accept the minutes from November 11th, seconded by Honsey, motion carried 5/0

Financial Reports were reviewed.

Reconciled Checking Balance: \$187,862.93; Savings & CDs Balance: \$ 1,415,502.06

Receipts: \$164,976.81 (UB \$17,159 Int \$2,747; Licenses \$310; LGA \$68,648; Freeborn Co \$80,527.88)

Disbursements: General \$18,525; Water \$7,309; Sewer \$68,647; Garbage \$2,466; EFD \$5,903; Park \$13

Motion made by Lair to accept the financial reports as stated, seconded by Wuerflein, motion carried 5/0.

Bills Due:

Total Claims: \$68,357.39, Motion made by Wuerflein to pay the bills, seconded by Lair, motion carried 5/0.

OLD BUSINESS:

ISG – Update

- Bryan Petzel discussed next steps needed for funding. The Public Facilities Authority (PFA) will not fund the Wastewater Lagoons, Lift Station nor the Force Mains. They have deferred funding to the USDA. USDA only funds 6-8 project per year, Emmons is #15 on the list. Depending on when Emmons gets funded, the current timeline will change. A Public Meeting and Resolution for a Facilities Plan is required by the USDA in order to access additional grant dollars.
- USDA will meet mid-January and decide which of 45 projects on their list will get funded in 2026. If the USDA decides to include Emmons in the 2026 for the Lagoon project, funding would be allocated in August 2026. If Emmons is not chosen the full Wastewater project of Lagoons, Collection system and Force Mains would be kept together on one project which elevate the grant eligibility of the collection system and mains.
- The MPCA considers Emmons to be a priority project, but understands that Emmons can only move forward with a guarantee of funding. They are being flexible with the Stipulation Agreement. A new agreement will be prepared once we know when Emmons will receive funding.
- The city intends to self-fund the majority of Engineering design fees from their investment accounts. A loan maybe necessary sometime late summer, early fall.
- Next steps: USDA wants the Collection System and Force Mains on the PPL so a required a Public Meeting is scheduled for January 20th to adopt a resolution for the Facilities Plan for this phase of the project.

NEW BUSINESS:**RES 2026-01 JPA and Court Services Agreement**

Motion made by Wuerflein to continue the Court Service Agreement and adopt the resolution, seconded by Lair, motion carried 5/0

Designate Official Bank Depositories

Motion made by Wuerflein for Security Bank & Public Management & Advisory Financial Solutions (4M Fund) as the city's depositories, seconded by Lair, motion carried 5/0

Designate Official Newspaper

Motion made by Lair to use Albert Lea Tribune as the city's newspaper, seconded by Wuerflein, motion carried 5/0

Choose Mayor ProTem for 2026

Motion made by Honsey to assign Jerome Wuerflein as Mayor Pro-Tem, seconded by Lair, motion carried 5/0

Council Appointments for 2026

Jerome Wuerflein – Water & Sewer; Paul Lair – Parks, Neal Honsey – Streets & Lights; Eleanor Bauman – Library/Museum. Motion made by Wuerflein to accept these appointments, seconded by Lair, motion carried 5/0

Discuss 2026 Audit Requirement

Cities under 2500 population are required to have an audit once every 5 years. Lorry will reach out to Kyle Boelter with the USDA to see if an audit will be required for funding. A motion was made by Wuerflein to proceed with the audit only if the USDA requires one for 2025, seconded by Lair, Motion carried 5/0

Fire Hall Lighting

A price of \$840 was obtained to replace the fluorescent lighting in the Fire Hall with LEDs. Motion made by Lair, seconded by Honsey to proceed with the bulb replacements, carried 5/0

Office updates

The council voted to purchase a 75" TV for the conference room, a laptop with 2 monitors for the clerk and to purchase paint for the office walls. Motion was made by Wuerflein to authorize these expenditures, seconded by Lair, motion carried 5/0

ADJOURNMENT – motion made by Lair to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wuerflein, motion carried 5/0. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next regular council meeting, Monday, February 9th, 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. A Public Meeting will be held January 20th at 6:00 p.m. at the Emmons Lutheran Church Social Hall.

Submitted by:

Lorry Zasada
Clerk/Treasurer