

EMMONS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: January 13, 2025

Time: 7:02 pm

Newly elected council members were sworn in taking the Oath of Office at 7:00 p.m. New Officials: Mayor, Dave Bosma, Council Members: Neal Honsey, Paul Lair and Jerome Wuerflein

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by the Mayor, Dave Bosma at 7:02 pm

Attendance:

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

City Clerk, Lorry Zasada; County Supervisor, Nicole Ekstrom; City Engineer, Lenny Larson (ISG)

Residents: Gwen Wuerflein

Approval of Jan 13th Agenda - Motion made by Wuerflein, seconded by Lair to approve the agenda; motion carried 4/0

Approve Minutes of the two December 9th Meetings – motion made by Lair to approve minutes from the December Public Hearing and the Regular council meetings of 12/9, seconded by Wuerflein, motion carried 4/0

Financial Reports were reviewed. Total Savings \$716,974.83; Total Receipts \$165,238.55: Donations \$210 from Civic Improvement Club for the Playground, Freeborn Co. Tax Levy and Assessments \$85,328.55, State of MN LGA \$61,390.32, Norway Twnshp-Fire Services \$2,400, LMCIT \$1,363, Extinguisher Reimb \$90, Utility Receipts \$14,456.68; Total Disbursements \$37,092; Total Checking: \$615,024.19. Motion made by Lair, seconded by Bauman to approve the Financial Reports. Motion carried 4/0.

Claims for Payment - Council reviewed claims to be paid of \$29,115, motion made by Wuerflein, seconded by Lair to pay the bills. Motion carried 4/0.

Old Business:

Engineering Update – Lenny Larson updated the council with the updated timeline agreed to with the MPCA. Next steps include submitting the Environmental report to USDA-RD Apply. City has been notified that the Search Grant Application is in process and waiting for approval of \$40,000. This will pay for most of the Preliminary Engineering Report. Next meeting ISG and the city will discuss GAP Funding options to pay for expenses upfront while waiting for USDA funding. Once all application pieces have been submitted, will take a minimum of 3-6 months (could be much longer) to receive additional USDA grant funds.

Update Utility Billing Policy – Council discussed at length the current billing policy and how it pertains to the Annual Pre-Paid accounts. Billing at a minimum 4000 gal/mo vs changing to an annual overage charge for pre-paid accounts after 48,000 gal used. Research showed that the overages billed on a monthly basis vs annually does not justify paying to have the billing system re-programmed at significant cost to the city. Motion made by Wuerflein, seconded by Bauman to leave the system as is, so all residents pay based on a minimum the 4000 gallons per month and overages to be charged to accounts monthly as they occur. Motion carried 4/0

Discount Billing Program Review – Council determined that the city is losing money allowing resident a 5% discount if they pay the bill for the year in advance. Analysis indicated that the city averages bank interest of approximately \$20/account, but takes a loss of approximately \$56/account, amounting to a loss of approximately \$2000/year. Motion was made by Wuerflein, seconded by Bauman to discontinue the 5% discount program, but still allow any resident who wishes to pay their account annually to do so, however

change the billing process to generate invoices monthly to all residents so each household can see their monthly usage and identify problems should they occur.

New Business:

News from the County – updates from Nicole Ekstrom

- New grants that have become available that the city could possibly use.
- FEMA is still accepting applications for people impacted by the floods this past spring.
- The County is considering an Ordinance to restrict disposal of Vaping materials that are considered to be Hazardous Waste.

Change of City Account Signatures. Motion made by Lair, seconded by Wuerflein to remove Paul Henschel from the city accounts and add David Bosma. Motion carried 4/0

Accept Official City Depositories and Newspaper

Motion made by Honsey, seconded by Lair to accept the official banking institute as SECURITY BANK OF MN, the official Depository as SECURITY BANK OF MN, the official Newspaper as ALBERT LEA TRIBUNE. Motion carried 4/0.

New Minnesota Pesticide Statue

The State of MN mandates anyone using, transporting or storing pesticide is required to be licensed. Dave Bosma, Neal Honsey and Danny Christenson will all need to do the online training and pay for a license for 2025.

MCFOA Conference

Conference to be held in Brooklyn Park March 12 – 14. Motion was made by Wuerflein, seconded by Lair to have our Clerk attend and pay the expenses. Motion carried 4/0

LMC offers course for elected officials

Training is available to all elected officials. Dave Bosma is registered to attend.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Lair to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wuerflein. Motion Carried 4/0. Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m. Next meeting to be held Monday, February 10th, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Lorry Zasada, Clerk/Treasurer