

EMMONS COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Date: March 24, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order by the Mayor, Dave Bosma at 9:30 am

ATTENDANCE:

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

City Clerk: Lorry Zasada, Water Supervisor: Danny Christenson, Residents: Jerel & Julie Schewe, Paul Yost, Curt Honsey, Larry & Donna Bidne

MEETING PURPOSE: To discuss the pending Clean Water projects and determine if the city should proceed with these projects (tower, wells & water treatment plant) and determine the final location for the Tower, Wells and Plant

Concerns were expressed at the March 9th meeting by residents with the proposed location of the new Water Tower

- Council explained to residents that there would be additional expense to change the proposed site at this point in the project. Engineering fees alone would be at least an additional \$20,000. In addition, a new site would have to go through another purchase of land, paying for the abstract modification, additional permitting and surveying (more expense).
- Holding off on the Clean Water project at this point would be more costly in the long run. Since the March 9th meeting the council was informed that the current well casing is cracked and will require replacement within the next 5 years. A low interest loan and grant is available now, unknown if any funding for these types of projects would become available in the future.
- If the city decides against moving forward with the current plans, and the well becomes contaminated the city would need to truck in water from an outside source to fill the tower tank daily until new wells are dug. Costs to residents would increase through either property taxes and/or rate increases.
- The city has already invested \$200,000 towards the clean water projects to date. These funds would be a loss if none of the clean water projects were to move forward.

Utility Rate Impacts with the Clean Water projects.

- Council reviewed projected project costs based on numbers currently known, understanding that until bids are provided and the project loan is closed, these figures will most likely change.
- Various rate change scenarios were looked at, including lowering the base monthly usage, and raising the cost per gallon used.

A motion was made by Lair and seconded by Honsey to move forward with the current plan for the new wastewater lagoon system, a new water tower, 2 new wells and instead of rehabilitation of the old water plant, build a new water plant.

VOTES: Neal Honsey, yea; Jerome Wuerflein, yea; Paul Lair, yea; Eleanor Bauman, yea; Dave Bosma, yea

Total VOTES: 5 yeas/ 0 nays, motion carried.

A motion was made by Wuerflein, seconded by Lair to build the new Clean Water system in the originally proposed site to save additional expense.

VOTES: Neal Honsey, yea; Jerome Wuerflein, yea; Paul Lair, yea; Eleanor Bauman, yea; Dave Bosma, yea

Total VOTES: 5 yeas/ 0 nays, motion carried.

Council was in agreement that utility rates should remain as is for now, but will be reviewed again once each projects begins.

ADJOURNMENT – motion made by Lair to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bauman. Motion carried 5/0.
Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Submitted by:

Lorry Zasada
Clerk/Treasurer