

EMMONS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: April 14, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

City Clerk, Lorry Zasada; ISG Engineer, Lenny Larson

Residents: Melissa Oyer, Gary Westcott, Dave Dahl

Approval of the meeting Agenda: Honsey requested an addition to the agenda regarding the broken light post at Gateway Park. Motion made by Wuerflein to accept the agenda with the addition, seconded by Lair, carried 4/0

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting - Mar 10th

Motion made by Lair to accept the minutes from March 10th, seconded by Wuerflein, carried 4/0

Financial Reports were reviewed. Checking Balance: \$617,486; Savings Balance: \$669,350

Receipts: \$97,347.96 (UB \$16,432, Donations \$1,640, Fire Contracts \$19,725, LGA \$11,335, Transfer from Savings \$48,000; Disbursements: \$95,113; Claims: \$25,051.75.

Motion made by Lair to accept the financial reports as stated, seconded by Bauman, carried 4/0

OLD BUSINESS:

ISG – Update

MPCA has been made aware of the new timeline for the Wastewater Project due to delay of funding.

PER/ER reports will be completed by the end of the month and submitted to USDA/RD Apply.

City has received the obligation of funds from USDA for the grant to pay for the PER/ER reports prepared by ISG. Lenny Larson provided the PER modifications for council review that will include Water distribution, Water Tower and Wells. Public Hearing will be held at a later date, once USDA has reviewed the PER and determines affordability for loan vs grant funding.

Clerk will have assistance disposing of files dating back to 1985 (some older). Files being destroyed have to be documented for reporting to the State of Minnesota. Council approved Julie Schewe to assist Lorry with this task.

Hwy 69 Crossing – Dave Bosma has discussed with the State what can be done to make the crossing at Main and Hwy 69. The State has refused to paint crossing lines as people may feel that means they have the right-of-way at the intersection. The mayor has received approval to install a digital flashing sign to slow traffic down, similar to Albert Lea. Discussions between the State and the Mayor are continuing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Backyard Chickens

At the request of Melissa Oyer and Gary Westcott, the council discussed allowing chickens in town. Council reviewed an ordinance used by another city. The clerk will draft a similar Ordinance for review with the Council. Motion was made by Wuerflein to move forward to adopt a city ordinance allowing a maximum of 10 hens with various restrictions and an annual permit and fee of \$25. Seconded by Bauman, carried 4/0. A Public Hearing will be held May 12th at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers to review the new Ordinance with the public.

Sheds located on State Street E

The Freeborn County Auditor's office has advised of 4-5 sheds/shops on State Street E that have no building numbers or have completely incorrect street addresses on the County records. Council will be updating the County and Emergency services through Resolution, any properties that require address modification, to be consistent with the cities numbering system. Residents affected will be notified of changes once the Resolutions have been passed by the council.

Billing Penalties were discussed by the council. Council agreed that a 10% penalty applied to past due accounts is reasonable. Policy will remain as is.

City Credit Card - Huntington Bank (for government entities)

Card offers no interest if paid in full monthly with \$10/mo online access and reporting fee. Card is based on the City's EIN# not a personal social security number. Can obtain a "one-time use" virtual card allowing for safe purchasing-vendor can only use the card number once. Motion was made by Wuerflein, seconded by Bauman to adopt **RES 2025-002 Commercial Card Resolution**. Carried 4/0

Fire Dept CD reaching maturity, as voted during the Fire Department meeting on 4/4, the CD will be closed after interest is realized and a new 10-month CD will be opened with additional funds transferred from the Fire Relief Fund.

Broken Light Post at Gateway Park

Jerome Wuerflein advised that he may be able to obtain a replacement pole but city would need to purchase a new lamp. Paul Lair also advised that there are spots that need mulch added, he will get quotes from a couple landscapers to deliver mulch. Neal Honsey advised that there are stumps that also need removal, he will get a quote for the job.

Council Responsibilities - Motion was made by Wuerflein to accept the following appointments, seconded by Lair to appoint Paul Lair as Mayor Pro-Temp, Jerome Wuerflein-Water and Sewer, Neal Honsey-Streets and City Lights, Paul Lair-Park and Recreation and Eleanor Bauman-Library. Carried 4/0

Adjournment – motion made by Lair, seconded by Honsey to adjourn, carried 4/0. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next meeting May 12th, 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers

Respectfully submitted by:

Lorry Zasada, Clerk-Treasurer