

Emerado City Council Meeting, Monday March 2, 2026: The City Council met on March 2nd at 7pm, 201 Main St. Mayor Lanes presided and called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Council Members Wynn and Linneman were present. Motion to approve consent agenda carried unanimously. Previous meeting minutes reviewed and a motion to approve carried unanimously. Financial report and March bills presented, with a motion to approve and pay bills carried unanimously: Check# 10897 Daniel Lund \$2419.20, Check#10898 A&D 6080.00, Check# 10899 A&D 880.00, Check 10900 A&D 867.09, Check# 10901 A&D 1846.38, Check #10902 A&D 1755.00, Check # 10903 A&D \$15,823.00, Check # 10904 A&D 3065.00 Check #10905 A&D \$11,680.00, Check #10906 A&D \$900.00, Check 10907 A&D \$774.00, Check # 10909 Midco \$193.04, Check # 10910 Midco \$156.65, Check 10911 \$160.18, Check 10912 \$ Waste Mgmt \$6,831.06, Check # 10913 \$ Waste Mgmt 3862.24, Check #10914 Nodak Elec. 1369.10, Check #10915 Xcel Energy \$411.85, Check #10916 Blue Water #13, 102.10, Check #10917 Northwestern Power Equip \$6,323.00, Check # J. Lanes \$547.43, J. Linneman \$443.28, T Wynn \$443.28. Business: Jim Olson – Blue Water provided a water & sewer system update: PRV valve ordered; expected delivery in ~3 weeks. Audit materials for 2023 financials still needed. Recommendation to apply for funding (State Water Commission & Red River Regional Council) before April 30 deadline despite incomplete audit, Water tower insurance claim denied due to lack of preventative maintenance, Sewer system concerns discussed; risk of spring infiltration and backups noted, DEQ reporting changes reviewed; training to be scheduled, Discussion on pump house improvements and blow-off system (estimated \$2,000–\$10,000 depending on scope), Emphasis on long-term infrastructure planning and funding. A motion approved for Jim to meet with State Water Commission and Red River Regional Council regarding funding opportunities. City Auditor Position discussed with multiple staffing options to include hiring a full-time auditor, Part-time auditor, Hybrid model (remote + in-office), and Clerk support position. Difficulty recruiting experienced auditors was noted by the mayor. Motion approved to advertise for auditor position (flexible full-time/part-time). Mayor will post the announcement. Floodplain Ordinance Update Ordinance required for compliance with state and federal regulations. First reading was completed and Motion approved for first reading. Special meeting set for second reading for March 16th, 2026. Upcoming elections discussed; Open positions: Mayor and two council seats. Filing deadline: April 6, 2026, with the election being in June. Law Enforcement Discussion: Officer resignation announced again, and Options discussed: Hire new officer, Contract with Sheriff's Office (estimated up to \$140,000/year), No local police department. Mayor expressed concerns about ordinance enforcement without a local officer. Noted was a strong interest in public input. The Council was open to obtaining proposals from Sheriff's Office and plans to hold public meeting/town hall and possibly conduct community surveys. 2026 Mowing Contract discussed, and the need to revisit contract terms and compliance issues. Contractor to be

invited to next meeting for discussion. Should options change, public bid will be required. Water Rate Increase discussed as East Central rate increase of \$0.24 per 1,000 gallons effective April 1. Resolution approved to adjust city rates accordingly. Discussion was made on coordinating tax equalization and regular council meeting dates. Tax Equalization meeting is set for April 2nd at 6:30PM, with the regular council meeting to follow. Regular meeting date changes due to holiday. Public Questions raised regarding Budget allocations and use of funds, Snow removal issues around the fire hall, Infrastructure concerns and Payroll and tax payment processes. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.