

**Commission Meeting**

**11:00 a.m.**

**March 4, 2026**

The Governing Body of the City of Emporia, Kansas, met in Regular Session, Wednesday, March 4, 2026, with Mayor Smith presiding and Commissioners Duncan, Harter, Ogle and Steinkuhler present. Also present were City Manager Cocking, Deputy City Manager Detter, Assistant City Manager Wash, City Clerk Sull and City Prosecutor Watson.

Ashley Mitchell, President of the Emporia Pickleball Club, was in attendance to accept a proclamation declaring April 18, 2026, as "Spring Into Pickleball Day" in Emporia. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States. Sports and recreation activities in Emporia promote the health and well-being of our citizens. Sports and recreation activities help build a sense of vitality and contribute to a sense of camaraderie and belonging to our community. The not-for-profit Emporia Pickleball Club is living out its mission to grow the game of Pickleball and host a free clinic to introduce the game of pickleball to new players. She urged all residents of Emporia to join the Emporia Pickleball Club with their mission to grow the game here in Emporia.

Mayor Smith then presented the proclamation.

**CITY COMMISSION  
(Public Comment)**

This is the time for the public to make comments.

***The public is invited to make comments at this time. Please limit comments to two (2) minutes each. Please state your name and address prior to making comments.*** No comments were made at this time.

**BONDS  
(General Obligation Bonds Series 2026)  
(Resolution Number 3789)**

Deputy City Manager Detter was recognized and addressed the Governing Body. He stated the Series 2026 General Obligation Bonds is for the purpose of rehabilitation of Fire Station No. 2, an aerial engine ladder truck, street sweeper, Flint Hills Crossing

subdivision, and pay for water, sewer, and storm sewer on the Overlander Road project. This proposed resolution authorizes the sale of general obligation bonds and the approval of the preliminary official statement outlining the financial and economic capacity of the City of Emporia. The bond issue will be for 20 years and is currently forecasted at a 3.9% true interest rate. Fire Station No. 1 had PBC Bonds issued in 2025, Fire Station No. 2 and the aerial truck portion of Series 2026 GO Bonds debt service will be approximately \$1.6 million per year until 2035 when the aerial truck will be paid off. The payment drops to \$1.4 million per year until 2045 when Fire Station No. 1 payments are completed and then the payment will drop to \$770,000 in 2046 when the Series 2026 Bonds are fully mature. Flint Hills Crossing improvements are scheduled to be paid off in 2046, however, if sales tax receipts exceed projections, improvements may be paid off prior to 2046 final payment date. Payments for Flint Hills Crossing are approximately \$210,000 per year. The remaining principal and interest payments for Flint Hills Crossing and Overlander Road project will be paid from the Bond and Interest Fund. Staff recommend approval of Resolution Number 3789 authorizing the offering for sale of General Obligation Bonds Series 2026.

Commissioner Steinkuhler made a motion to approve Resolution Number 3787 authorizing the offering for sale of General Obligation Bonds Series 2026. Commissioner Harter seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Ogle, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS  
(Kansas Department of Health and Environment)  
(KWPCRF Project No. C20 2002 01)  
(Amendment No. 4 to the Loan Agreement)**

Jim Ubert, City Engineer, was recognized and addressed the Governing Body. He stated the City entered into a Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Loan Agreement with KDHE in 2016 for an amount not to exceed \$28,000,000 at 1.94% for Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements. In June 2017, Amendment No. 1 added a loan repayment schedule. In December 2017, Amendment No. 2 increased the loan to

\$28,735,000 for the City's share of Department of Commerce CDBG 2018 Downtown Sanitary Sewer project. Amendment No. 3 approved February 2019 increasing the loan amount to \$32,285,000 which included improvements to Lift Station No. 1 and Lift Station No. 2. Amendment No. 4 and final amendment, will reduce the KDHE KWPCRF loan amount by \$118,081.43, reducing the total amount of the loan from \$32,285,000 to \$32,166,918.57 at a KDHE KWPCRF loan interest rate of 1.94% for a term of 20 years. Payment began in March 2019 and will end September 2038. Staff recommend approval of the KDHE KWPCRF Project No. C20 2002 01 Amendment No. 4 to lower the loan to \$32,166,918.57 and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement.

Commissioner Harter made a motion to approve the KDHE KWPCRF Project No. C20 2002 01 Amendment No. 4 (final) for \$32,166,918.57 and authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Commissioner Ogle seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Ogle, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

**SIDEWALK  
(2026 Hazardous Sidewalk Program Project No. HZ2601)  
(Bids)**

Jim Ubert, City Engineer, was recognized and addressed the Governing Body. He stated two (2) bids were received for the 2026 Hazardous Sidewalk Program. The bids received are used for setting unit prices for each individual project line item. Bid totals were achieved by multiplying unit prices with our initial estimated quantities from the list of site work projected for the 2026 Hazardous Sidewalk program. The bids follow:

**BID TABULATION FOR 2026 HAZARDOUS SIDEWALK PROGRAM**

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Base Bid</b>
<b>S.R. Coffman Construction</b>	<b>\$96,792.50</b>
Burlington Construction	\$98,225.00
Engineer's Estimate	\$97,600.00

The 2026 Hazardous Sidewalk program is budgeted at \$150,000.00 paid from the Multi-Year Fund. Locations and quantities will be added throughout the year as property owners sign up for participation in the program. The program also allows the homeowner the option to hire their own bonded contractor to replace their sidewalk at these set unit

prices. The 2026 program participation is 25% residential property owner/75% City and 50% commercial property owner/50% City. Staff recommend awarding the contract to S.R. Coffman Construction.

Following further discussion, Commissioner Steinkuhler made a motion to award the 2026 Hazardous Sidewalk Program Project No. HZ2601 to S. R. Coffman Construction. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Ogle, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

### **Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Commissioner Duncan, seconded by Commissioner Steinkuhler that the Consent Agenda listed below be ratified as a whole:

- a. Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting Held on February 18, 2026.

The vote follows: Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Ogle, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

### **CITY COMMISSION (City Manager's Report)**

This is an opportunity for the City Manager to present information to the public that may not be reported in other news accounts or City activities or to highlight accomplishments of the organization.

At the time this Agenda was prepared, the following items were in the works:

#### **TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR MARCH 18, 2026, MEETING.**

- Proclamation recognizing Arts in Medicine Week March 22 through 28.
- Public Hearing for Cedarbrook Meadows RHID.
- Award GFOA to the Finance Department.

#### **STUDY SESSION**

**CITY COMMISSION  
(Governing Body Comment)**

This is the time for the Mayor and City Commissioners to make comments and reports to the public.

Commissioner Harter made a motion to recess the meeting until 11:19 a.m. at the Evora Wheeler Conference Room. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Ogle, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

Commissioner Duncan made a motion to recess the meeting until 11:34 a.m. at the Evora Wheeler Conference Room. Commissioner Steinkuhler seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Ogle, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.

**The following items were discussed at the Study Session:**

1. 2025 Year End Financials.
2. Discuss Downtown Emporia Signal TEAP Study (2025-26).
3. Strategic Direction – Session One

Commissioner Harter then made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Steinkuhler seconded the motion. The vote follows: Commissioner Harter, aye; Commissioner Steinkuhler, aye; Commissioner Duncan, aye; Commissioner Ogle, aye; and Mayor Smith, aye.



  
Becky Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Kerry Sull, City Clerk