City of Eden Valley
City Council Minutes – Emergency Meeting
February 25, 2026
7:25 p.m.

With due call and notice thereof, the February 25, 2026 Regular Council Meeting of the City of Eden Valley was held in the Civic Center meeting room.

Council Present: Mayor Bengtson, Councilors: Kleven, Fischhaber, Schueller, Huschle
Also present: Cindy Anderson, City Clerk; Brandon Stenger, Public Works Director; Kent Louwagie, City Engineer, Boten & Menk; Evan Borschied, Police Chief; Sara Garland, Deputy Clerk; Ryan Haag 25099 Mary St.; Tom Inselman, 528 Meadowlark; Kent Kelly 508 Meadowlark; Mike Arenz 538 Meadowlark; Joe Nistler 18510 Raymund Ave; Emma Cotton 518 Meadowlark; Ivy Andreasen 518 Meadowlark; Kathy Inselman 528 Meadowlark; Mary Lou Arens 538 Meadowlark

The Emergency meeting was called to order by Mayor Bengtson at 7:30 p.m.

1. Water Sewer issue in sunny Meadows
   Public Works Director Stenger gave a report outlining in chronological order the events that have occurred.

   Summary beginning **February 14th** Council member Huschle received notification that 2 neighbors 533 Coleman and 630 Meadowlark had backups. He reached out to Public Work. Upon inspection Public Works found manholes 74, 72 and 71 were backed up and 70 empty. They jetted, but noticed lots of sand coming in.

   February 16th they checked and found 74 had water backing up into it, and 72 and 71 had lots of sand again. Stenger called in Johnson jet-line to jet and vac all the lines. While there they also cleaned out the lift station in the area which had about 1.5' feet of sand in the bottom. To Date Public Works has checked the manholes daily and has had them vacuumed out, as necessary.

   February 17th, Stenger learned that 528 Meadowlark was having water issues. He spoke with owner and discover water coming out of the ground by the hydrant and along his driveway. Public Works shut the main down and the water stopped so we cracked it back open to bring water again and shut off Tom's curb stand and the water quit coming, determining that we had a water line break on his side of the curb stand. When we took the cover off his driveway, lot of water was boiling out. Stenger called Johnson Jet-line into jet and vac the sand. They ran a camera and determined that yes, they had water pouring in at the 211' sewer lateral between manhole 74 and 72 – the service to 528 Meadowlark. Stenger continued to have the manholes jetted and vac'd. Inselman (528 Meadowlark) contacted a person to look at the issue with his water and sewer pipes. (Ryan Haag)

   February 18th Same issue with sand in the sewer main, Johnson Jet line to jet and vac it out. Ryan Haag came in to look at tackling the job to repair sewer and water break at 528 Meadowlark.

   February 19th Emergency Locates for 528 Meadowlark. At 528 Meadowlark they took curb stand top off driveway and found giant void under the driveway which explains the sand in the sewer main. Haag waited on locates to start digging. Power, gas, and fiber all run in that exact area, also lots of frost pushing on utilities due to the void. Not enough room for excavator to dig so Haag contacted Nelson Sanitation to bring vac truck with wand to cut through frost and suck dirt around utilities. They will come tomorrow. Johnson JetLine jet and vac sewer main again.
   February 20th Johnson Jet Line Jet and vac sewer main. Nelson Sanitation is here today to cut frost and suck down to sewer. Found that the sewer had separated at the drop in the driveway about 4'. I tried to get the Jetter down service to the main to clean it out, but it was unsuccessful. Found that the 45-degree bend had twisted. Tried to get down to the separation but the line kept dropping too deep and the hole was getting to be unsafe. Will need to dig back further and get a box to make the repair safer. Haag buried the hole with rock and sand and will reevaluate on Monday.

February 21st Brandon checked manholes in the morning rounds. 74 was holding some water but not as bad. It was flowing through 72 and 71 but sand was on the benches and trough was full. Checked again at noon and 74 was holding more water. Contacted Schu's Pumping to suck down manhole 74 and clean troughs on 72 and 71. He came at 4 pm and cleaned them up.

February 22nd Brandon did rounds and manhole 74 was holding water. Contact Schu's Pumping to come in the afternoon again to do the same thing. Josh came at 2:30 pm and sucked down 74 and cleaned troughs on 72 and 71.

February 23rd Emergency Locates for going out into the cull-de sac. Ryan got right of way permit and started digging out into the road. Pulled frost with frost tooth and started digging down. Got down about 12 feet, had box installed and could feel sewer lateral with probe. Water and muck started filling the trench. Nelson is going to have to come back to try and get to service to try and lift and cap so that the sand quits running into the main. Josh with Schu's Pumping came at 3:15pm to suck out manhole 74 and clean troughs on 72 and 71.

February 24th Nelson arrived to start sucking sludge to try and recover sewer lateral. Again, Haag cannot get ahold of the pipe in order to cut it and put a riser on. The ground is just too wet and unable to work with. Going to have to dewater. Haag contacted Blake for the dewatering. They will come tomorrow. The Mayor called an emergency meeting for Wednesday February 25th, 2026, at 7:30 Pm to get complete update to the scope of the issue.

February 25th, Rounds today showed normal flow coming through manhole 74. Manholes 72 and 71 did not show much signs of sand today, but still higher flows of water coming through 71. We will keep watching closely. Blake Dewatering set up today to dewater the project area around 528 Meadowlark LN.

The Council, the affected homeowners in the cul-de-sac, and those attending discussed the issue, and the work being done. A question was asked "What's Next?" Haag stated that the dewatering started today, and he believes that Thursday or Friday they should be able to get to the sewer line and cap it – preventing further sand build up in the city main and backups for other properties. Then they can proceed with the work being done at 528 Meadowlark.

It was agreed that this problem is not something that any of the experts attending had dealt with in their past. This is a unique problem, and that unknowns still remain and will take to the spring/summer to really see the scope of the problem.

A large concern for everyone is the growing costs of this problem and who will be responsible for paying for everything. Council agreed that no one homeowner will be able to afford the costs. The Council discussed acting as a temporary fiscal agent - they will pay the bills upfront and will bill the homeowners for their portions of the expense at a later date. The priorities are to get the sewer line capped and to get the Inselman's their water and sewer.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Brent Bengtson, Mayor

Attest:

Cindy Anderson, Clerk/Treasurer