

MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD, ROSA DOMINGUEZ,
BERNADETTE PORTILLO

MEMBERS ABSENT: JOY LEWIS, JOSUE MENDOZA

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, RUSSELL MORRIS, GREG PERRIN-ABSENT

VISTORS: ROBERT SNYDER, STACIE ROBERTS, DANNY VASQUEZ III, CALEB AGUIRRE,
(7:44) LYDIA TRAMMELL, RICKY GRAY, (8:23) OSVALDO RODRIGUEZ

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 7:06 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mayor Davis explained that the disposal rate for the Balmorhea State Park was going to be based on what a 20 unit dwelling would pay for sewage services here in city limits. The only difference would be that the State Park is located outside of city limits so the city would have to charge double on the rate. City Clerk advised that rate for a 20 dwelling sewage service in city limits is \$309.00. With that said the rate would be doubled and the amount would be \$638.00 that the city would request from the State Park. Mayor Davis added that being that there is not all of maintenance required for the system. The city needs to start somewhere in the neighborhood of \$638.00. If it turns out to be more than we would revisit the rate, but the line is new and we don't see that there would be any issues. We have to decide who will purchase the flow meter, whether it will be the State Park or the city or each go half on the purchase. The park did not suggest a flow meter because they will have one on their end but Mayor Davis suggested a flow meter would be great to monitor the usage on the city side. This would also be an opportunity to extend the sewer service out if the City of Balmorhea ever grows. The city will meet with the engineers a couple more times before completing the project to finalize agreement and get an idea of gallons that will be flowing to figure out accurate charge for usage. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to consider a \$638.00 base rate for disposal of sewage from the Balmorhea State Park and will revisit gallons usage when needed. Motion Carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ike Ward a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to approve minutes for March 11, 2024. Motion Carried 3-0.

2. Rosa Dominguez asked if everyone was aware of the change on the hourly rate from \$75.00 per hour to \$85.00 per hour on Corny Reimer's invoice. Rosa asked Mayor Davis if he had approved the change. Mayor Davis stated he had conversations about the rate but Corny has been working with the city since 2013 at the same rate. It doesn't surprise me that he is increasing the rate. Mrs. Dominguez asked if this should have gone through the council first. Mayor Davis responded, if we don't agree, "Who are you going to find? Mayor Davis added you can accept the rate or find someone else. It could have been discussed but he did not make anyone aware. Mayor Davis added he would discuss this matter with Mr. Reimer but yes it should have been addressed. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 3-0.

3. Reports
 - A. ESD 1&2 report was presented by Robert Snyder. Mr. Snyder stated that the progress on the station is slow going but it looks like it will be probably be late June for substantial completion. There will be a contract with RV Park mobile home at 703 N. Main St. to house the firefighters until project is completed. The old ambulances that will be located there will only be to store their bunker gear and firefighting gear. There will be a 3 person staff at all times to cover this area.

 - B. City Clerk reported that the online auction process is still in the works. There will be 10 items that will be on the auction list. Three of the ten items belonging to the Balmorhea Fire Department. Due to software issues it has been a slow process but hopefully will be ready to go in the month of May. No questions addressed.

 - C. Russell Morris reported that there was still a leak at the RV Park at the end of town. There has been 3 previous leaks fixed there before. The pipe line that was put in there was not the pipe rated for water. The pipe continues to break at the joints and 60 feet of the pipe has been replaced. Mayor Davis responded, that instead of replace all the pipe it needs to be trenched. These are the type of situations that we have run into and have been fixing could have been prevented if all ordinances would be correctly put in to place. Some properties in Balmorhea run water & sewer side by side and that is incorrect. Anything similar to that, that is discovered is costing more to correct it. Mr. Morris added that the wastewater pond project has been completed. There were 6 new valves left that were purchased from Grainger website that were priced \$1,700 each. City Clerk added that she had reported the left over valves to grant director of West Texas Services Jerry Carvajal as to what the city is to do with left over equipment. Mr. Morris reported that every month he has electric issues with the turning on the pumps at the sewer lift station. When he manually turns the pumps on, only pump 1 works. It could be an issue with the wiring in the switch and David Matta might need to check it out. Mayor Davis added that the secondary pump that is being refurbished in Odessa needs to get picked up.

D. Rosa Dominguez reported that she and the Mayor had discussed the time frame on the McKnight building that Corny Reimer has been working on and it still looks like the bathroom is still pending. The reason that this project has not been finished is because he works on many other jobs. It will take approximately around 2 more months to complete. Once that building is completed it will be a great business opportunity. Stacie Roberts asked if they would explain what the usage of this building would be. Mrs. Dominguez responded, that a possible hair salon dresser/ barber is considering the building. In addition to the hair salon we consider bring another business due to the fact that it is a good size building. It will be a rent/lease building.

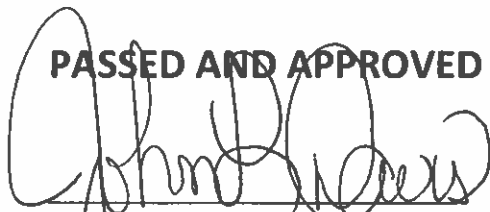
E. Rosa Dominguez stated she would like to request half of the hotel/motel fund that was budgeted for festivals and events. The 2023-2024 budget for events and festivals was set at \$25,000 and at this time, the Balmorhea event committee would like to request half of the budget which is \$12,500. Mayor Davis stated that there is a form that has to be completed and presented city council for approval. Mrs. Domiguez added she will present completed form at next month's city council meeting. Mrs. Dominguez reminded everyone that there will be a health wellness event tomorrow at the Balmorhea Public Library.

4. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to approve Drought Contingency Plan for a Wholesale Public Water Supplier. Motion Carried 3-0.

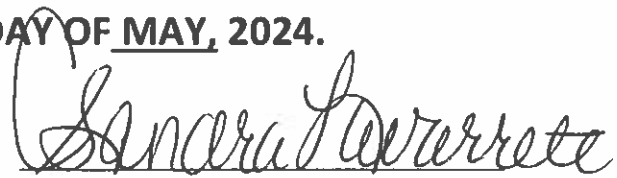
5. After some discussion Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve resolution to adopt the EVS 6.3.0.0 voting system. Motion Carried 3-0.

6. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to adjourn meeting at 8:33 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13 DAY OF MAY, 2024.



JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR



SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK