

MINUTES  
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 8, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD, DANNY VASQUEZ III,  
BERNADETTE PORTILLO, JOY LEWIS, JOSUE MENDOZA

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

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

VISTORS: ROSA DOMINGUEZ, SHAWN BRADY, JOEY VARELA, CALEB AGUIRRE

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Davis at 7:03 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. After some discussion Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to continue the 2-year term for City Elected Officials and do not order a special election for the purpose of changing the term to 4 years. Motion Carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve minutes for June 10, 2024, Motion Carried 5-0.
2. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Danny Vasquez to approve bills and adjustments as presented 5-0.
3. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to accept resignation of Alderman Bernadette Portillo. Motion Carried 4-0.
4. Bernadette Portillo stated that in the past with other boards usually when you have an election and for whatever reason a member resign you go to appoint the next in line based on election results. As everyone knows there was a tie between the 2 candidates, but she suggests that the council consider appointing the candidate with the most experience and transparency. With that said the candidate would be Rosa Dominguez because she has previous experience as alderman and is also on several committees. Mayor Davis added that this doesn't happen very often but when it did, the council considered going back to election results for appointment. With budget time coming up and Mayor Davis being out in the month of August the council needs to muscle up. Mrs. Dominguez is the one that brings the most

experience and that is something that needed to be considered. Unless Mrs. Dominguez doesn't want to be appointed so we will go to Caleb Aguirre. Joy Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to appoint Rosa Dominguez as alderman to fill vacancy. Motion Carried 3-1. Danny Vasquez against.


1. Oath of Office was administered by Mayor John L. Davis.


## 5. Reports

- A. ESD 1&2 report was presented by Shawn Brady. Mr. Brady addressed the council and stated that if the City of Balmorhea has events or would be interested in CPR classes just reach out to our office. Mayor Davis asked if they would be interested in coming out to Balmorhea to offer the CPR course and to certify anyone interested. Mr. Brady responded yes, we have the supplies and all we would need to do is to schedule the training. Mayor Davis added that fire hydrants are being repaired or replaced, but some will need additional parts that have been ordered. Joy Lewis asked if the RESD was fully operational, Mr. Brady responded that there was 1 ambulance, 1 fire truck and 1 brush truck here in Balmorhea. When the station is completed, we will have 2 fire trucks. Mayor Davis asked Mr. Brady what the City of Balmorhea can do for the RESD. Mr. Brady responded, if the city can get us a letter releasing the capacity of weight that the bridges can handle throughout the city that would help.
- B. The City Clerk reported that there was an attempt to speak to City Attorney Rod Ponton to ask about the status of the properties that have a liens against them and was advised by his office that he was not available due to attending a meeting. The attorney has not returned the call or made any contact. The clerk informed the council that TML quarterly meeting is coming up and it would be in Van Horn on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and if anyone is interested in attending, please let her know.
- C. No representation for the department. No report given. The clerk added that the water operator had asked about the council meeting earlier in the day before clocking out but did not say if he was attending. Mayor Davis added the license holder Greg Perrin was out of town in Colorado and was aware he was not going to attend.
- D. Rosa Dominguez reported she had submitted the monthly information for BEDC. Mrs. Dominguez stated she has not had a quorum and was not able to have a BEDC monthly meeting. She is waiting to have a meeting to approve outstanding final invoices that were submitted by Corny Reimer for the renovation of the McKnight building.
- E. Rosa Dominguez reported that the fourth of July event was cancelled due to weather. Mrs. Dominguez requested that the council be willing to allow vendors of the Labor Day Festival to set up on Friday evening. Mayor Davis responded; it would have to be after 5:00 pm.

6. City Clerk stated she was asked by an interested individual about the McKnight building being up for rent. After giving the individual the lease rate, he then wanted to know if the City of Balmorhea would consider selling the property and asked if I would ask the council. The clerk added that if the council was considering selling the property, the amount of money that has been put into the refurbishing the McKnight building is a little over \$82,000. In addition, it took 2 city employees 6 months to gut out the inside of the building with a salary of \$16 per hour each. Joy Lewis stated that before the council makes any kind of decision the building needs to be appraised. Mrs. Lewis added that anyone interested needs to be more forthcoming on what it will be used for. Josue Mendoza stated it should not concern the council what the building is going to be used for. How can we sell it and still oversee what it will be used for. Mrs. Lewis added that we call the appraisal office and see if they will come out and appraise the building. Mayor Davis stated to let everyone interested in buying the building knows that it is pending on appraisal then the council will decide.
7. Mayor Davis explained that the invoice #2697 for the fire department was repairs to one of the restrooms at the fire hall. This repair was much needed due to so many years of neglect. Invoice #2698 installing walk-in door to city pump house has been requested for many years from TCEQ. Joy Lewis made a motion, seconded by Josue Mendoza to approve unbudgeted capital outlay. Motion Carried 5-0.
8. Joy Lewis made a motion, seconded Rosa Dominguez to consider and approve Lonestar Logo Renewal. Motion Carried 5-0.
9. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to consider engagement letter from Doak Painter for fiscal year audit 2023-2024. Motion Carried 5-0.
10. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 19 DAY OF August, 2024.**

  
JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR

  
SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK