

**MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR PRO TEM ROSA DOMINGUEZ, JOY LEWIS, IKE WARD,
DANNY VASQUEZ III, JULIE LEWIS**

MEMBERS ABSENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS

**STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, ESEQUIEL DUTCHOVER, JEANETTE BALLESTEROS,
ROD PONTON**

**VISTORS: ROBERT SNYDER, CONSTABLE RAY J. MORA, DEPUTY MURPHY R-12,
JOSUE MENDOZA, LUPE MENDOZA, FARRAH REYES, LANDON BROOKS,
GIDGET TREADAWAY, ELIAS SCHOENING, SARAH STOGNER, HAWK DUNLAP,
LYNDELL BROOKS, TABITHA PEGODA, JACOB SANCHEZ, SAMANTHA HOLLOWAY,
RUSSELL MORRIS, ALDO NAVARRETE, GREG PERRIN**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez at 7:00 pm.
2. Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve July 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried 4-0.
4. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded Danny Vasquez III to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 4-0.
5. Reports
 - A. Robert Snyder presented a report. No questions were addressed.
 - B. City Clerk stated that she had put a copy of 2026-2027 budget draft in their packets to review per Finance Director Laura Lannom request. If there needs to be changes, it is important to let Ms. Lannom know as soon as possible. Public Hearing for budget 2026-2027 will be at the next city council meeting on September 14, 2026.
 - C. Greg Perrin stated he had worked on the Consumer Confidence Report for year 2025 and had submitted a copy to TCEQ. Mr. Perrin added that the City of Balmorhea was behind

on submitting the lead & copper samples. That will be resolved this coming Friday when he submits 10 samples to the lab for testing. Mr. Perrin stated that the City of Balmorhea had to submit a list of documents that TCEQ had requested and now the city must wait on directions from TCEQ. Mr. Perrin added that license holder Craig Huelster will be out for a week, and he would be available for backup if anything was needed. Gidget Treadaway asked if the lead and copper report will be posted and available to the public. Mr. Perrin responded that the city usually sends notices to customers on information about your drinking water when needed. Ms. Treadaway stated she has been in contact with TCEQ and they were very nice. She suggests that everyone call them if you are worried about it. Ms. Treadaway stated that 3 of her cats had gotten ill for 3 days because of the city's water and had a veterinary bill in the amount of \$317.00 dollars.

D. Landon Brooks stated they did have a quorum and were able to approve April & June minutes but discovered some typos so we will have to get them reapproved. Mr. Brooks added that the BEDC had relocated to the McKnight building. One of our discussions was what do we need to do to operate as an official economic development corporation. We approved of purchasing office furniture, printer, storage and any other equipment needed. The board also discussed adding new members. We discussed signatures on the bank accounts. Moving forward, BEDC will focus on supporting community projects and working with the city.

6. Jacob Sanchez with Reeves County Water District stated he had a couple of concerns. We have been having issues with the big trucks crossing over the bridges over the canals. The bridges are old and would like to see if there is a way to have a truck route created to eliminate them from crossing the bridges. Joy Lewis asked where would the route begin. Mr. Sanchez responded they would have to be rerouted to San Angelo Street entrance and then travel throughout the town to their destination. Mr. Sanchez stated that he is just concerned about the old bridges throughout the town. These bridges are needed to pass the water through town, and all the heavy trucks continuously travel over them or in some cases tear them up. Two or three years ago, the Reeves County Water District fixed all the bridges that were damaged, and the city never helped us. Mr. Sanchez added that as we speak there is one damaged bridge on Houston Street, and I don't know if you would like to contribute to fixing it. Joy Lewis stated that there should be a future meeting with both entities to discuss solutions to this issue. Mr. Sanchez added that signage was a good idea, but where the present signage is located is hard to be seen by the large trucks. Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez stated that we will notify the Reeves County Water District when the city is ready to have a meeting to discuss possible solutions.

7. Mayor Pro Tem stated that on items 7 & 8 she would abstain on the voting due to her position. Danny Vasquez III made a motion to accept the funding from Reeves County

Commissioner Paul Hinojos to pass through the city to pay Farah Reyes for the purpose of the Labor Day Festival. No second motion. Motion died. Joy Lewis stated that she does not understand why Reeves County does not just issue the check to the person in charge of organizing the fiestas. Mr. Vasquez responded, I don't think they can route it that way because they are considered to be under the city umbrella. Julie Lewis asked Farah Reyes if she already had her tax identification number. Mr. Reyes responded that she is working on it. Julie Lewis added that as she has mentioned from the previous festival the city grants permission for the festivities to take place in our parks, so therefore Commissioner Paul Hinojos should grant you the check and anyone that is donating for the event, instead of going through the city. Mr. Vasquez asked what makes it a problem to pass this money through the city. Joy Lewis responded, it is the bookkeeping. Mr. Vasquez asked if this is something we need to talk to our finance director about. Julie Lewis added it would make better sense and be way easier for Reeves County to write to Ms. Reyes for them to write us a check and then we must deposit the check and then issue one to Ms. Reyes. Our city auditor also has advised that as well. Lyndell Brooks shouted why is that you can't accept the check. Joy Lewis stated that she could not hear or understand the question due to public interruptions. Mayor Pro Tem stated that if the public wanted to address any questions, they needed to raise their hand and wait to be called on. Russell Morris stated that if the funds go to where they are supposed to go why does it matter, there is no responsibility if you are told what to do with money and you don't then that would a Problem. Joy Lewis explained that when the city receives any money it is described as received income. Every penny of city money is accounted for. Mr. Morris added, "I'm sure there is a way to allocate that money and prove and show where it is supposed to go." That is why you pay an auditor. Greg Perin added if Reeves County wants to give you money, I suggested you take it as a pass through. They are taking this as a slap in the face, because they are trying to give you money and you don't want it, they have lots of money right now. Farah Reyes stated she did not want to be a problem and I'm volunteering my time, just had a grandbaby and are going through a lot of things personally and I don't want this to be another problem. I want this project to be positive. Joy Lewis asked if Ms. Reyes had asked Mr. Hinojos for funds. Ms. Reyes responded yes, but I would have to go through the City of Balmorhea to get the money approved. Mr. Vasquez stated he had spoken to Paul Hinojos, and he did say he thought it would be best to vote every time to approve the transaction. Joy Lewis asked what about the last check Isaiah Mendoza was supposed to pick up. Mr. Vasquez stated it was never picked up. City Clerk stated that the Reeves County check that was given to Mr. Mendoza was just hand delivered back to the Reeves County Auditor per their request. Josue Mendoza shouted that the check was canceled due to a council person making phone calls. City Clerk added that the call to cancel was not done through this office. Ms. Reyes stated that after talking to Paul Hinojos, he had stated that he keeps trying to help in many ways but always get rejected. Ms. Reyes stated she doesn't understand why there have been so many negative reactions. There is no support to want to do the

festivities. I want people to come to our community and have a good time. Joy Lewis stated that the City of Balmorhea has not financially sponsored a festival. The hotel/motel tax is used to help with music and advertisement, but it must be just a certain amount. Why do you need 6 bands. Josue Mendoza shouts out why should it matter, the number of bands. You have the motels full, and people are buying from the local stores. Ms. Reyes stated she had people calling me and asking why they couldn't get reservations at your motel. Joy Lewis responded everyone in this town knows I don't like these festivals. Several people in public started talking all at once and interrupting. Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez asked the public to raise their hands when they want to participate in comments. Mr. Morris stated that not accepting the funds from Reeves County and giving it to the people trying to put on the festivals makes everyone look crooked. Julie Lewis responded to what looks crooked is when the money is going through the city, and we are having to cash the check and pass to someone else. Joy Lewis again states she does not understand why these people can't get it straight from Reeves County. Again, everyone is talking out of place, and Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez asked if there can be more control and respect when a council member is talking. Mr. Vasquez asked why is it such an issue, the hotel/motel tax is already paid out, and she has gone out for other sponsorships. Sarah Stogner stated that if the city is officially sponsoring this event, it would be proper, but if the city is not officially sponsoring the event, I don't blame them for refusing. City Attorney Rod Ponton states that the surrounding cities do it only if it is open and transparent. Small communities can do things like that only if they are formally done. Joy Lewis stated that she wanted to clarify why she never votes for giving out hotel/motel tax money because she is a motel owner and feels there is conflict, but I can discuss it according to law. Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez asked Ms. Reyes if she has considered to get EIN number or your own organization going so you don't have to go through the City of Balmorhea. Ms. Reyes responded yes, but because of the time frame it was not going to happen for this festival. Joy Lewis asked why Commissioner Paul Hinojos didn't come out and present this to the council. Mr. Vasquez responded that Mr. Hinojos was on a business trip. Gidget Treadaway shouts where is Mayor John Davis why is he not here. City Clerk stated he had a medical issue and was in an intensive care unit. Josue Mendoza stated when Paul Hinojos did come down, you all turned him down anyway, what difference does it make. Mr. Vasquez added that the \$5000 funds were on the agenda to be approved at Reeves County Commissioner's court. Josue Mendoza asked what check, because our check was approved and a councilwomen called Reeves County to hold the check after that item was approved at the special meeting. Mr. Vasquez stated that the next item on the agenda needed to be canceled, because it would not be needed. Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez asked Ms. Reyes why are you canceling the next item. Ms. Reyes responded because she had gotten someone else to help her. Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez added that all funding given to her from the City of Balmorhea will require a report and receipts. Julie Lewis asked that in the future if a person or persons wants to do an event, my suggestion is they acquire a 501c and they go to commissioner's court to present it to them versus the check coming to the City of Balmorhea. Danny Vasquez III made

a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to approve accepting funds from Reeves County Commissioner Paul Hinojos to pass through the city to pay Farah Reyes for the purposes of the Labor Day Festival. Motion Carried 3-0. Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez, Joy Lewis abstained.

8. Item was requested to be canceled by Farah Reyes.

9. Joy Lewis stated that the traffic at the last festival was very dangerous and would like to see better control and improvement in and around the fiesta. Danny Vasquez III stated that it has been the same every year. Joy Lewis responded, not this one, it was way out of control. I'm not going to argue about it, I sat there and watched the whole thing. People ran all over the place and car congestion. Mayor Pro Tem suggested that the council invite Reeves County Sheriff Arturo Granado, to one of our meetings to discuss this issue. City Clerk added that it would need to be soon because the festivities are less than a month away. Sarah Stogner added that law enforcement would be happy to have a meeting to help with traffic control. If the city needs extra DPS Troopers, if you let us know, we can request extra assistance. No action was taken.

10. Joy Lewis asked if the city could have a more efficient way of picking up the trash in the downtown park for events. Danny Vasquez III responded that it was cleaned after the last festival. Joy Lewis responded no, there was trash everywhere. Lupe Mendoza had approached her and was admiring how clean it was, but it was not. Trash was everywhere. The trash trailer needs to be closer. The trash needs to be more efficiently gathered after the festivals. The first time around you made mistakes and there were a few mistakes. Porta johns need to be close where people can walk to. Last festival they were almost to the next block and were not kept clean. Josue Mendoza interrupts Joy and asked if she had used the porta johns. Joy Lewis responded no. Mr. Mendoza asked then how do you know. Joy Lewis responded because there were too many people coming to use the motel bathrooms because they said the porta johns were nasty and were out of toilet paper. They must be serviced at least twice a day during festivals. You should have checked them yourself. Mr. Mendoza responded the only thing that looked dirty over here was your yard full of weeds, trash it just carries over. Joy Lewis asked Mr. Mendoza, "What are you talking about?" Can you repeat yourself, Mr. Mendoza responded no you heard me. Julie Lewis stated that is uncalled for. Mr. Mendoza asked why? Julie Lewis responded because that is personal.

START EXECUTIVE SESSION:(7:45)

END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:(8:38)

11. Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez stated that with 90-day evaluation coming up soon employees will be brought in at the next council meeting to address any questions or concerns the council might have. No action was taken.

12. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm.
Motion Carried 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14 DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.



JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR



SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK