

MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 10,2024

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, RUSSELL MORRIS-ABSENT.

VISTORS: ROSA DOMINGUEZ, ESEQUIEL DUTCHOVER

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Davis at 7:02 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. The Oath of Office was administered by City Clerk to Mayor John L. Davis.
4. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to continue to have Joy Lewis as Mayor Pro Tem and second signature on all city bank accounts. Motion Carried 5-0.
5. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve minutes for May 13, 2024, Motion Carried 5-0.
6. Joy Lewis asked if Corny Reimer would ever finish the project at the old Mcknight building. Mayor Davis responded that Mr. Reimer gets taken from the project when he is needed to fix leaks and other issues. Josue Mendoza added if you want it to be done right, let them take their time. Mrs. Lewis added that when the city takes a project on for \$66,000 that we did not take bids on does not look good for the city. There were no bids from anywhere. Mayor Davis stated that this project was already started, and it is a city building and there are no stipulations on it. Mayor Davis stated we probably should have done it differently. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve bills and adjustments as presented 5-0.
7. Reports
 - A. ESD 1&2 report was not submitted. No representation was present. Joy Lewis asked if the Balmorhea Fire Department was still working with the ESD. Josue Mendoza responded, yes when they need help.

- B. City Clerk reported that out of the 11 items that were advertised on the online Rene Bates auction only 2 items had sold. Those items that were sold were the John Deer ATV for \$600 and farm equipment accessories for \$210 that belonged to the old blue tractor. City Clerk was advised by the auctioneer to add the remaining items back onto the online auction and consider reducing bids down by 10 percent. The clerk advised that if the council decides to wait off for a month or so, think about changing the amount of the bids and notify when you would like to post it back on the Rene Bates online auction.
- C. Mayor Davis stated that the existing work truck that is used to run to the well and running it through the creek needs to be higher. We need to stress the person that is driving it to do maintenance on the vehicles. The F450 truck needs to be taken in to get the air conditioner repaired. The air filters on the weed eaters, zero turn and blue tractor once it is back up, need to be blown out every other day when they are being used. Greg Perrin reported that last week before we got rain the TP line was getting low. It produces 40 gallons a minute. During the day it is completely dry. Mayor Davis added that if the City of Toyah is selling water the spring will never be able to keep up.
- D. Rosa Dominguez reported that the economic development was up to date on the project at the old McKnight building, the BEDC needs to do the final walk upon completion. Mayor added if the building doesn't get leased soon, we probably need to advertise it. Joy Lewis asked if the city was considering leasing or selling the building. Mayor Davis responded, if the money is right, we will probably sell it. Mrs. Lewis suggested that selling the building would work better, because if you lease it and the business fails then we are out of revenue. If we lease it, it will add repairs for the city. Mrs. Dominguez added that if the city decides to sell the building it would be a great idea because the BEDC would get the money back that was invested in repairing the building.
- E. Rosa Dominguez presented vendor fee check and expenditure sheet information for Memorial Day Festival to Council. For the music expense of the festival the total was \$2,950. The advertisement was \$1000. The total funds that were used from the hotel/motel funds to put on the festival was \$3950.00. The balance left from the initial \$12,500 from the hotel/motel

funds is \$8,550. The check that was presented was for vendor fees and extra electrical outlets that totaled \$1,075. Danny Vasquez III asked if the music fee included Wayne West Band. Mrs. Dominguez responded yes, it is under Nunez production. The Nunez production includes 2 days of DJ and Wayne West live band. City Clerk asked Mrs. Dominguez what line-item Russell Morris/ Barricades entitled because in the 17-year history with the City of Balmorhea and festivals it is a city employee's duty to pick up barricades from city yard the Friday before the event and deliver the barricades to the event coordinator at no personal cost. Mayor Davis stated that she did not have anyone to do it and city employee was off. Greg Perrin was on call that weekend. Either the committee was going to pay him, or the city would have to pay him. Mrs. Dominguez added that she went ahead and paid him because they were not delivered on that Friday, and it needed to be done. Mayor Davis asked how many hours it took him to do this. Mrs. Dominguez added it wasn't for long, it took him 30 minutes to deliver barricades. City Clerk stated that this has never happened where a city employee has gotten paid extra to deliver barricades. It is part of city responsibility to supply barricades during working hours on Friday prior to festivals. Mayor Davis responded times change and now BEDC has a lot of money now. The city Clerk added that it would be great if all city employees would have this opportunity to make extra cash. Mrs. Dominguez stated that the reason Russell Morris got paid was because if she didn't pay him, he was going to charge the city for the delivery of the barricades, because he was not on call that weekend. Mrs. Dominguez added that Mr. Morris charged her 8hrs and the total paid to him was \$176.00. There was no justification as to why he charged 8 hrs. Mrs. Dominguez stated that he delivered the barricades to the library on Saturday and put them up and that's what he charged. This will be the only time this will happen, there will not be another opportunity. Mayor Davis added that if the city employees want to make some extra money, then the committee will have to pay them. The City Clerk added that if he had done what he was expected to do on Friday it would have cost the City of Balmorhea \$21 an hour and would not have taken him 8 hours to complete. The City Clerk added that Mr. Morris was aware he needed to get it done but decided to do it after he returned from his doctor's appointment that Friday afternoon. Mayor Davis explained that from this point on if city employees are not working on city time the committee will have to pay them. But it needs to be legit on hours. Joy Lewis stated that it was the city's equipment, and we are responsible for having those barricades delivered and not bill or

charge anyone. Bernadette Portillo added that this needs to be addressed or watched so that it does not happen next time. If it's city equipment, we need to be responsible and make sure it is delivered prior to the event and stick to the Friday schedule. Danny Vasquez asked Mrs. Dominguez if the city has any say on the event committee. Mrs. Dominguez responded, no sir this is my own. Mayor Davis added that the City of Balmorhea is getting away from all that because every year it changes. Mr. Vasquez asked if this included all the events. Mayor Davis responded, yes. Mr. Vasquez stated that he felt like the city needed to be involved. Mrs. Dominguez responded, why is that. Mr. Vasquez responded, so that the Council can have some input on the events. Mayor Davis stated that the only time the city will have input is when the committee brings the request for funds from the hotel/motel account. Too many hands into organizing an event won't work. Mrs. Lewis added that the Rosa had done an excellent job of putting on the event and documenting the accountability of funds and expenditures for the Memorial Day Festival. Mrs. Dominguez stated that the event committee is working on putting a 1-day event for July 4th. Mrs. Dominguez added that she is still waiting for a response to see how many vendors will participate. Mayor Davis added that when porta johns are used, we need to make sure that the committee holds a key to open the wastewater lift station to allow them to dispose at the time of service by the company to avoid being billed for a disposal fee.

8. Mayor Davis stated that 3 years this item was presented to the council when Reeves County chose to change terms, which the city did not decide to change at that time. There is a city election every year and this would not cost the city anymore to change. If the city decides to go this route, we will go from plurality law which is 2-year term to majority law which is a 4-year term. Joy Lewis stated that the city's 2-year terms are adequate. There is no reason to go into a 4-year term. Mayor Davis stated that if the council makes that decision to change, we must meet the deadline and order a special election for November. Bernadette Portillo added that the reason for the election would be to give the voters of this community the option of deciding what they want. Mayor Davis stated that if the community decides to change this it would eliminate all the questioning that was brought up at this last election. Mrs. Lewis asked if this only applied to the Mayoral election. Mayor Davis responded, no this would apply to all city officers. Josue Mendoza stated he thought this would be the way to avoid all the controversy. Because the most recent election was controversial the city was put under questioning of election results and why there was

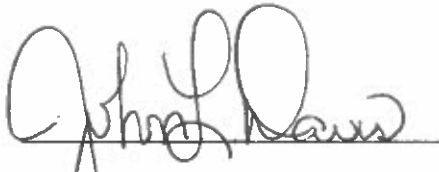
not going to be a runoff. Mr. Mendoza asked Mrs. Lewis why you would not want a 4-year term. You had this office looking for all kinds of paperwork demanding runoff. Mrs. Lewis added if a person is really interested in serving, they will continue to run until they get elected. Mayor Davis explained that this item was placed on the agenda to decide if the council wanted to move forward with ordering a special election and give the voters to make that decision. Mayor Davis requested that this item be placed on July agenda for a vote being that this was only a discussion. No action taken.

9. Mayor Davis stated that the block of Galveston St & Houston St had been started upon the completion of El Paso St & Galveston St and that would end the pipe fence project for this fiscal year. Continuation of the remaining blocks would have to be budgeted in fiscal year budget 2024-2025. The bridge cross project was needed due to the old wooden bridge being a safety issue. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Danny Vasquez to approve unbudgeted capital outlay invoice #2672 and invoice#2689. Motion Carried 5-0.
10. Bernadette Portillo explained that the out-of-town belle committee has allowed some of the Balmorhea High School girls to participate. After contacting possible prospects and going to the Pecos Chamber of Commerce. Matt Elliott has stated that the deadline has passed. Ms. Portillo stated she was not informed about the deadline. Last year committee ladies had just approached a girl from Balmorhea and asked her if she was interested. This year Ms. Portillo had already mentioned to the chamber that the city of Balmorhea would like to nominate a young lady. Ms. Portillo added she had made calls and left messages and had no response but was now told that the deadline has passed.
11. Mayor Davis stated that the City of Balmorhea could consider having pet waste stations, but it would require an ordinance and signage. Joy Lewis stated that she didn't think that the city needed an ordinance to ask people to clean up after their pets. The City Clerk stated that the city has park rules and regulations. Under pet restrictions it states that failure to properly dispose of animal waste is a violation of city ordinance. Ms. Portillo would like to propose that the city start off by installing 1 pet waste station across from Uncles' convenience store due to high traffic of travelers stopping and letting their dog out. Mayor Davis added that we just can't do one section because there is tourist stops all along town. Ms. Portillo stated that the city can designate 1 pet area, not necessary all over the town park. Mrs. Lewis added that the city needs a plan and maybe we need to budget this cost into the next fiscal year. Ms. Portillo stated that we get pricing for 2 pet stations and signage for starters and add it to

new budget. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to gather pricing on 2 pet stations plus signage and add cost to the fiscal year budget 2024-2025. Motion Carried 5-0.

12. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8 DAY OF JULY, 2024.



JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR



SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK