

MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD, JOY LEWIS (7:10 PM), BERNADETTE PORTILLO, ROSA DOMINGUEZ, JOSUE MENDOZA

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, RUSSELL MORRIS, GREG PERRIN, LAURA LANNOM

VISTORS: CURTIS WILSON, SUSANNA DOMINGUEZ, ELLEN WEINACHT, BERTHA LOPEZ

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 7:05 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. A. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Josue Mendoza to adopt proposed tax rate for new fiscal year 2023-2024. Motion Carried 4-0.

B. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to adopt proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. Motion Carried 5-0.
4. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Josue Mendoza to approve minutes for August 14, 2023. Motion Carried 5-0
5. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 5-0.
6. Reports
 - A. ESD 1&2 August 2023 report was received and presented.
 - B. City Clerk reported that she had included reading material from the Reeves County Appraisal District. Clerk added that the Balmorhea ISD board was going to be voting to approve or disapprove the Reeves County Appraisal budget by resolution on Wednesday. This right is given to the biggest taxing unit in Balmorhea. No questions were addressed.
 - C. Greg Perrin reported that the project at the wastewater ponds is still coming along. The employees have cleaned out the 2 ponds. The material has been stacked off to the sides and will need to be hauled off. There is a chance maybe Reeves County can help with that process. The construction is still not making much contact with James Busby our Engineer or the City of Balmorhea. Mr. Perrin stated that the SCADA was working wonderful until we

started to address the bad leak at Huelster tank. The SCADA had to be taken off line until issue was resolved, when the Huelster tank was being bypassed. When the Huelster tank is full, it services a 4' line to the Evans tank and into town with the domino effect. When we bypass the tank we are only sending the capacity of the pump which is only 95 gallons per minute. This adds air to the system which at times becomes a problem and we are having to bleed the line just to continue to bring in water to town. Copper and lead samples were taken last week from 5 residents. Will report on results when received. Mr. Perrin added there was an attempt to drill a well at the new school but was only producing 40 gallons a minute or less. An attempt was made on 2 more but neither one produced water. Next year on the hot months we will have problems if the City of Balmorhea is providing for their irrigation system. Mayor Davis added that once our system is back to running properly the school will be cut back. They are allowed to do some watering but not every day and we will sit down to an agreement between the school district and the City of Balmorhea. Mr. Perrin asked the Mayor who actually installed the meters at the school property and did they install be flow preventers. Mayor Davis responded, Corny Reimer our contractor put the meters in. Mr. Perrin adding is Mr. Reimer licensed? Mayor Davis added there is no one else around that will do it. The school put in all of their plumbing the City of Balmorhea put in the meters. Mr. Perrin stated that he recommends that the City check for a chance of any cross connections at the school site. Mayor Davis asked, if he knew of how many extra ¾ meters and 2' meters are in our inventory. City Clerk responded, that water operator was in the process of taking inventory. If a meter that we installed is working properly at that time and when we go back to remove it because of customer request, we need to at those closely as to what is happening to the meters while in service. No customer should be turning on or off the water meters unless it is a City employee. If the City can determine that the customer tampered with the meter we will start charging the customer for a replacement meter.

- D. 1. Financial reports were presented to the council. Laura Lannom stated that the City of Balmorhea did very good on the revenue side. At the end of August 100 percent of the budgeted revenue was already collected. On the expense side you are over budget on a lot of categories. Revenue from all sources was \$676,328.37. Total expenses that were not from restricted sources was \$629,343.95. The City is actually in the red for the operating taxes. Budget transfers are needs to be made. Less was spent on payroll but more was spent more on capital expenses and repairs. There are a lot of categories that are over budget but also a few that are under budget. No questions were addressed.
 2. Bernadette Portillo made the motion, seconded by Josue Mendoza to approve transfers for budget adjustments. Motion Carried 5-0.
- E. Rosa Dominguez reported that the Balmorhea Economic Development Corporation will be having their first meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023. Once the Corporation gets started we will presenting information to the City council members and there will probably be paperwork that will need to signed by the Mayor to comply with reorganization of the Corporation. Mayor Davis stated that in the past we had issues with the corporation in

regards to the paperwork being turned in a timely matter. As this corporation takes off again the city would like to get copies of the paperwork on a monthly basis. This would pertain to agendas, minutes and bank statements.

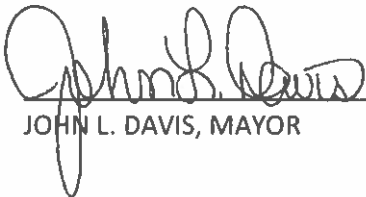
7. Ellen Weinacht came before the city council and stated that the Brogado Cemetery has been tended in her life time and is not the responsibility of the Reeves County. It really is no one's responsibility but I have just addressed it with Curtis Wilson with Reeves County. Mrs. Weinacht stated that Susanna Dominguez had reached out to her to tell her that there was an older couple that wanted to come out to visit the cemetery and place a head stone. After going out to the cemetery they noticed that it really needed to be cleaned up seriously. Mrs. Weinacht added that cleaning up this cemetery on El Dia De Los Muertos celebration would be a great idea which is on October 29th. Mrs. Weinacht stated that all she was asking for was for the publicity if this event from the City. Mrs. Weinacht added that Mr. Wilson would go out and look at the cemetery tomorrow to see the Reeves County can help. It would be great if the City of Balmorhea can help advertise this event. This would be the opportunity the people to get to know the history on the Brogado cemetery. There are still members in Balmorhea that have family buried there. Bernadette Portillo stated that this sounded like it was just a matter of marketing and getting it together to promote that particular date. Ms. Portillo added that she would get this information to the person that makes the festival posters and get a poster made out to promote the event.

8. Mayor Davis stated that the City of Balmorhea was going to acknowledge Reeves County for coming out to help the City with the road issues and are willing to help in any way. The City of Balmorhea has had obstacles to get around due to issues with our water system. Curtis Wilson with Reeves County stated that they are going to commit to coming out and start working on San Angelo Street. It will be difficult to perform the work being that people are moving around in and out of the school. Bernadette Portillo added everyone will have to tolerate it because they want the road fixed. Before any of the work starts on San Angelo Street. The County will rebuild 4th Street. At that point when we can turn traffic to 4th street then we will begin work on San Angelo Street. The structure that the school district put in are 12' pipes in the draining system at Sandia draw. With that said the County cannot build a road that is 15 feet wide and use the pipes. Those pipes are going to be coming out. An order has been placed to replace that pipe. Mr. Wilson stated he had recently talked to the City Clerk Sandra Navarrete, Balmorhea ISD Superintendent John Massey, Reeves County Staff and Commissioners about relocating the light pole and detailed work that would be required to make this street project work. Material has been secured from Kiewit. This project is going to require about 250 to 300 loads of material. Total cost of material is roughing around \$75,000. Total cost involved around \$200,000. After San Angelo Street has been completed Reeves County will come back and fix 3rd & 5th Street. An issue with completing San Angelo Street all the way past 6th Street is, that in order to connect it to Railroad Avenue the County would have relocate water district's bridge and rebuilt the level Railroad Street. The City of Balmorhea is better off closing down that section of the street. Ms. Portillo asked Mr. Wilson if he would be on the Balmorhea ISD agenda to discuss the road work or an update. Mr. Wilson responded, no I have not been invited. Ms.

Portillo added that the reason she asked is because at the last 2 Balmorhea ISD board meeting the subject about the roads has come up and she is always confronted at the district about the roads. The school has had the response from Mr. Wilson to the solution, but almost seems if they don't want the public to know. Mayor Davis added that everyone at the school knows the system, if they want to know something they need to come address it here. Mr. Wilson added, the same day that I met with the City Clerk I met with John Massey Balmorhea ISD Superintendent on this issue and update. Mayor Davis added the communication between the Balmorhea ISD Board President and Precinct 3 Commissioner should have not happened, because it was a bunch of bull shit and the ball ended up dropping on Mr. Wilson. All entities should have been in contact about the project. Mr. Wilson responded, all this should have been something the school engineer or contractors should have had it on their scope of work.

9. Bernadette Portillo presented Labor Day 2023 Financial Report. Ms. Portillo reported that throughout the festival there was only 1 EMS call. Balmorhea Groceries came over and addressed an issue with a motorcycle. United Supermarket was able to provide vaccines and flu shots. The festival brought in a total of 14 booths. The deposits really made a big impact in the clean up process. The goat roping was only charged \$100 because it was considered entertainment. The tattoo booth was at \$225. The western truck was charge an additional \$150 because they brought jumping balloons and mechanical bull. Joy Lewis why was that one done that way if it would be considered entertainment too. Mrs. Lewis requested that she get presented with an itemized list of expenditures. Mayor Davis asked, has the City received an invoice for the porta johns, trash trailer and light towers. Ms. Portillo responded, the company donated the light towers and possibly the porta johns. Two of the 12 porta johns were delivered to CT Gray Park for that event. Rosa Dominguez asked, why did the commercial dumpster at the library end up over filled with trash if you had a trash trailer. Ms. Portillo responded, this possibly happens at night when everyone leaves and maybe needs to be addressed on the rules for the next festival.
10. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Josue Mendoza to adjourn meeting at 8:30 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 16 DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.


JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR


SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK