

MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD(6:13PM), JOY LEWIS
ROSA DOMINGUEZ, JULIE LEWIS,
DANNY VASQUEZ III (6:16-PHONE) (7:08-PM)

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, RUSSELL MORRIS, LUPE MENDOZA,
JOHNNIE SAWYER

VISTORS: ROBERT SYNDER, ELIAS SCHOENING, RACHEL SCHOENING, SAMANTHA
HOLLOWAY, IRUM ZAIDI, DEBBI BIRX, HEATHER PUMPHREY, SANDY THURMAN,
CHRISHA MOLINAR, JOSUE MENDOZA, JAMES TARIN, BRADLY MUZECHENKO,
TABITHA PEGODA, MATT PEGODA

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 6:09 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business:

1. Mayor Davis stated that this item has been on the agenda before, and the council needs to decide whether to approve the bid for the fencing or not to approve. Danny Vasquez III asked if the bid was still standing for the amount previously presented. Mayor Davis responded yes. Danny Vasquez made a motion to approve bid for fencing at the C.T. Gray Park. No second motion. Motion dies. Mr. Vasquez asked the council what has changed now, we all agreed the last time. Mr. Vasquez asked where the funding for this project would come from? Mayor Davis responded that it would come from hotel/motel funds. Mr. Vasquez asked, "Are we tabling this item again until the next meeting?" Mayor Davis responded that we are just going to see what to do to get it done. Mayor Davis stated he would give it one more try at the March meeting. Mr. Vasquez stated that he would like to know what the problem is with this item from the council. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to table item Old Business-1. Motion Carried 5-0.
2. Crisha Molinar stated she had put some numbers together because she was teaming up with Isaiah Mendoza as the event coordinator to organize the Memorial Day

Festival. Proposal was presented to the council. One of the expenses they are looking at is the stage expense. Being that one of the concerns is always the weather this stage has a cover, and dimensions of the stage are 24x20. This stage includes lights, screen, and sound engineer and the cost would be \$8,000. Ms. Molinar added that they are looking to get kid-friendly events to add to the festival. Other events will be goat roping, jumper and food vendors including the softball tournaments. Ms. Molinar added she had reached out to the local radio station and asked what had been done in the past. She feels that advertising 30 days prior to the event is the way to go. Ms. Molinar stated that Mr. Mendoza had mentioned that the city took care of the advertising but didn't know if that was part of the budget request or additional. Ms. Molinar stated that they had 4 bands that were interested in coming to play for the event that amounted to \$24,500. All the artists would share the stage. Joy Lewis asked if the committee was going to use all the artists that were proposed. Ms. Molinar responded, yes. Contacts have not been signed this is a proposal that was made for the council to see the cost of the event. They will continue with more sponsorships. Joy Lewis added that the problem is that we are such a small city, we have approximately 44 rooms in the hotel industry here in Balmorhea ready to be occupied. When the motel funds are used we must have a return that is fairly close and your numbers are way too high. There is no way that the motel industry will make that money back. We have the money saved because we have not used it. Ms. Molinar stated that the motel money is designated for arts, music, entertainment, and advertisement. Ms. Molinar stated that the budget for last year was \$15,000. Joy Lewis responded that was incorrect. Rosa Dominguez added that the budget for last year was \$12,500. Josue Mendoza shouted out that Mrs. Dominguez was budgeted \$15,000 last year but only used \$12,500. Mayor Davis stated that last the council had budgeted \$24,000 for the 2 festivals but did decide that if we needed to do something a little bit better that we would consider looking at the that. We thought of maybe \$15,000. Danny Vasquez III added that this would give the local RV Parks an opportunity to also make money. Mayor Davis added that the city's RV Park here would not be used during these events because of bad experiences in the past. Mr. Vasquez added, what about the other RV Park the city has. Mayor Davis responded that RV Park is not ours, it just depends how many spots are there. Ms. Molinar added that she did this proposal so that the city can see what the cost would be and see what they can put in for it. If adjustments need to be made to the numbers presented, they will make them. Ms. Molinar stated that the Pecos Economic Development Corporation had donated \$5,000. She added that she would contact Balmorhea Economic Development and see if they would be interested in donating for the event. The committee will continue to look for other sponsorships to help with the expenses. Ms. Molinar asked if the city was responsible for picking up the trash or furnished a roll off. Mayor Davis responded the event coordinator must provide a trash trailer. Ms. Molinar asked the council if the advertising was going to be paid directly or will

be included in the \$15,000. Mayor Davis responded that we usually pay directly. Joy Lewis added it would come out of your funds. The City Clerk stated that the radio station usually bills the city. In the prior years the city has done it both ways. Rosa Dominguez stated that last year when she requested \$12,500, it included the advertisement. Since she has been organizing events, she has been responsible for advertising. Ms. Molinar will be advertising on the radio in the Pecos, Ft. Stockton and Alpine area. Mayor Davis suggested that the council cap off at \$15,000. Mr. Vasquez added that last year Mrs. Dominguez had requested \$14,000 but did not spend it. Mr. Vasquez added he would reach out to his workplace and see if they would be interested in donating. Danny Vasquez made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve \$15,000.00 for Memorial Day festival expenses and \$1,686.00 for advertising which brings the total to \$16,686.00. Motion carried 2-0. Rosa Dominguez-Abstained, Joy Lewis-Abstained, Julie Lewis-Abstained.

New Business:

1. Irum Zaidi with Texas Tech University Health Center handed out packets of information to the city council and attending public. The information was regarding Obesity, CV disease, DM and life expectancy. The loss of human resources for health in rural America has resulted in reduced life expectancy in rural America compared to urban American. Obesity is a risk factor for chronic complications, including cardiovascular disease, and premature death. There has been an increase in obesity among high school students in Texas. Texas has one of the highest diabetes and dialysis rates in Texas. The possible reason is that people have had silent diabetes for decades. The mortality rate of diabetes is also the highest in Texas. People that cannot go to the facilities to get treatment is a problem. The rate of hypertension in high school students has also increased. The undiagnosed diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity are leading to organ damage, heart attacks, strokes and loss of kidney function and dramatically lower life expectancy. The key to this approach is reversing current silent health conditions and/or improving the quality of Healthcare. HCP program solutions will provide over the counter devices in the community for free so they can see their own data in real-time and respond accordingly, over the next 2 years: Continuous glucose monitor, Blood pressure cuff, Digital scale and HbA1C test. Mayor Davis asked what the timeline to get this program here in Balmorhea. Ms. Zaidi responded that they probably could start by the end of the month. This would be us going to go door to door, approach the churches so they can know who we are and why we are coming to their door. We must build trust first. Setting up at the community center might also be an option. Mayor Davis added that the city would be willing to let them use the

McKnight building downtown. Ms. Zaidi added she will make a flyer and send to the city to post around town, face book and city website of date and location. Mayor Davis added we could send a flyer with the water bill at the end of February.

2. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to approve minutes for January 12, 2026. Motion Carried 5-0.
3. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 5-0.
4. Reports
 - A. Robert Snyder presented a report. No questions were addressed.
 - B. Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department submitted a report. Josue Mendoza stated that the department had purchased a battery and the city would be receiving an invoice from Napa Auto parts. Julie Lewis asked if there were any financials submitted. Mayor Davis responded, they have not spent any money. City Clerk informed Julie Lewis that the fire department's bank account information was in her packet. Julie Lewis added it needs to be reflected on his report.
 - C. City Clerk reported that Hilda Mendoza, with meals on wheels, was looking for volunteers for Friday, if anyone is interested, contact this office. Clerk added if anyone on the council was interested in attending TML quarterly meeting in Kermit on February 20th needed to let her know to get them registered.
 - D. Johnnie Sawyer reported that 5 leaks had been repaired. Street patching had been done. Ceiling at the old city hall building had been completed by Russell and Lupe. Russell completed repairs on the 2015 truck. Dead water meters were replaced. Mr. Sawyer added that the council consider contracting a company named American Leak Detection that specializes in leak detection to help the city locate water leaks. Mayor Davis added that the employees need to stay on top of the leaks when they can. Mayor Davis stated that the city needs to place a satellite at Evan's tank Russell Morris reported that he had signed up for wastewater collection course in March 17-19. On May 12-13 there is also a 40-hour backflow certification and inspections course. Mayor Davis stated that there is an active water leak at the TP line.

E. 1. Rosa Dominguez stated that the Balmorhea Economic Development had a new member interested in being on board. The person they want to approve is Tabitha Pegoda. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to appoint Tabitha Pegoda to the Balmorhea Economic Development Board. Motion Carried 5-0.

2. Oath of office was administered by Mayor Davis.

5. After some discussion Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to approve Clickscan Document Management System Proposal & Council Meeting Scanning Proposal-Terralogic Systems. Motion Carried 5-0.

6. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Danny Vasquez III to table item 6. Motion Carried 5-0.

Break (7:53pm)

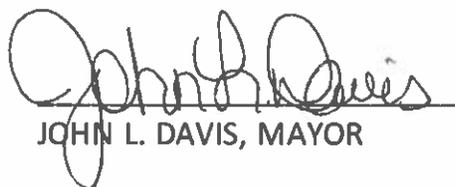
START EXECUTIVE SESSION: (7:58 pm)

END EXECUTIVE SESSION: (8:37Pm)

7. No comments or actions were taken.

8. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9 DAY OF MARCH 2026.


JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR


SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK