

**MINUTES  
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 9, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD(6:13PM), JOY LEWIS  
ROSA DOMINGUEZ, JULIE LEWIS**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: DANNY VASQUEZ III**

**STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, RUSSELL MORRIS, LUPE MENDOZA(6:31PM)**

**VISTORS: RONALD LEE, IRUM ZAIDI, HEATHER PUMPHREY, SANDY THURMAN,  
JOSUE MENDOZA, ESEQUIEL DUTCHOVER, NED ALLEN (6:35PM),  
GREG PERRIN (6:39PM)**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 6:12 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to approve minutes for February 9, 2026 with corrections. Motion Carried 4-0.
4. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 4-0.
5. Reports
  - A. Ronald Lee presented ESD 1&2 report. Mr. Lee asked council if there were any questions that needed to be addressed regarding the letter he submitted last month, about the Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Lee also added that the completion of the station on March 20 and not long after that we will have some sort of opening ceremony. Mr. Lee stated that when the council decides to dismantle the Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department, the volunteers are more than welcome to join the ESD. We provide all kinds of training and equipment, everything to be successful. You really want to dismantle the department and the reason for that is we are the authority of jurisdiction of this area. If the city wants to continue to run a volunteer fire department separate from us, that is putting your position at risk and creating a

liability for the city, because we are the authority. If both of us show up to a scene, there is a jurisdiction of conflict and liability. Joy Lewis asked if volunteer fire departments need to be inspected and up to code. Mr. Lee responded for volunteer fire department no, but the ESD does have to be inspected and up to code. Rosa Dominguez asked if the Balmorhea Fire Department and the ESD show up to an emergency call, this is considered a conflict. Mr. Lee stated that if the City of Balmorhea is saying you have your own fire department, and you decide to keep them, it is against the will of the voters. They were the ones that voted for the ESD, and it gave us the authority of the jurisdiction area. It would not be a good idea as far as risk goes, you could have a lot of lawsuits if the city is taking on liability.

B. Fire Chief Josue Mendoza presented a report. Mayor Davis stated that they need to talk to Jerry because he is the one that is calling these guys. Rosa Dominguez asked if he was over the department. Mayor Davis responded to Jerry Bullard is the one over emergency management in Reeves County. Mr. Mendoza added that Mrs. Dominguez can get ahold of the commissioner. Mrs. Dominguez asked if the amount requested on the volunteer fire department report was legal. City Clerk stated that would be a question for Laura Lannon the city financial officer. Mayor Davis added that we will have to see if she allows it.

C. City Clerk had no report. No questions were addressed. City Clerk stated that there was an update on the health program and Irum Zaidi would speak. Ms. Zaidi stated that the program did start yesterday and has had 30 individuals show up to get screened. Ms. Zaidi wanted to thank the City of Balmorhea for allowing them to set up downtown at the McKnight building. They will be here for 2 weeks to do the enrollment and will be returning once a month. Ms. Zaidi stated they had visited a couple of local churches and will be at the food bank on Tuesday. Joy Lewis asked if you discover something wrong with someone, what happens then? Ms. Zaidi responded if they are prediabetic or diabetic, we are providing monitors to see what is happening with their blood sugar and then they can take all that data to their doctor. If they are in their early stages or lose some weight or change what they eat, they can become normal. This program will help monitor over a 3-month period and decide if they need to do something different now and go see a doctor.

D. City Clerk handed out a letter that was received from TCEQ dated February 18 in reference to a notice of closure in enforcement Case No. 66209. Clerk added that Water Superintendent Johnnie Sawyer had mentioned before he left that this case would be closed but decided to wait to report this to the council until

correspondence would be received from TCEQ of the closure. Russell Morris stated that Mr. Sawyer had advised him that he had handled the situation. Joy Lewis asked if this was for the big fine that the city was responsible for. Mr. Morris responded yes, and all the issues we had to get in compliance with. We were responsible for monitoring the system. Mayor Davis asked how many violations do we still have? Mr. Morris responded we should be up to date. There is only one letter pending on the lead/copper. Mayor Davis stated that the signs in the city parks needed to be installed by the end of the week. Mr. Morris stated he had spoken to Taylor Evans last week and wanted the city to flush the TP line. Their water pressure had decreased from 55 PSI to 20 PSI. Mr. Morris and Lupe went out and flushed the lines for several hours and they talked to Mr. Evans, and he had stated he was 35 PSI. It is increasing day to day.

E. 1. Rosa Dominguez stated she would make the motion to appoint Julie Lewis to the Balmorhea Economic Development Board. Josue Mendoza shouted how can she make that motion if she serves on the board that is not right. Mayor Davis responded for certain things you can. Joy Lewis stated she did not understand Mr. Mendoza. City Clerk added if they were not sure about the process, there were still 2 other members of the council that could make that motion if they chose too. Ike Ward makes a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to appoint Julie Lewis to the Balmorhea Economic Development Board. Motion carried 2-0. Rosa Dominguez-Abstained. Mr. Mendoza again states that Ike Ward cannot participate in the motion because he is a member. City Clerk added he was not ever appointed. Mrs. Dominguez asked Mr. Mendoza if he was video recording the city council meeting with his cell phone. Mayor Davis added he cannot record. Mr. Mendoza responded that he was not recording. Mrs. Dominguez stated that he needed to put up his phone when you are attending a city council meeting.

2. Oath of office was administered by Mayor John Davis.

6. After some discussion Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to consider budget amendment and transfer 10% of 2025-2026 Balmorhea Economic Development collections for marketing & promotion in the amount of \$26,663.86 to Balmorhea Development Corporation checking. Motion Carried 2-0. Rosa Dominguez-Abstained, Julie Lewis-Abstained.

7. Julie Lewis stated that Corny Reimer needed to show the quantity or how much labor it took to complete the project on the invoice instead of a flat \$24,200. How

many hours it took him to complete the project. Mayor Davis asked when did Mr. Reimer started the project. Joy Lewis responded, "I don't know I never saw a bid." He just started the project. Julie Lewis asked if there was only 1 bid submitted. Joy Lewis responded that there were no bids submitted. Mayor Davis stated that when Corny's brother-in-law had completed 2 streets, he had requested an estimate for the rest of the remaining streets. This project was discussed at the end of the fiscal year. Julie Lewis asked did we get the estimate in writing on what it was going to cost. Julie Lewis added that it is obvious there was never a contract on the railing in town. Mayor Davis responded no, we did that section the same way we did the other one. The project started when there were issues with people parking up on the grass in the park at Galveston Street in front of Jo's Bar. Joy Lewis added if the parking was the problem we could have addressed that part, but it was not necessary to have done it all through town. Mayor Davis responded that it was requested by a motel owner. If you have a question you need to write it down and we can address it with Mr. Reimer. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to table item 7 to allow Mr. Reimer to give the council a breakdown of the labor instead of just \$24,000 dollar charge. We need to know how long it took him to complete the project. Motion Carried 4-0.

8. Ned Allen shouted if the public would be able to comment on this item. Mayor Davis responded to what. Mr. Allen responded on whether we want to waste our money on a Water Superintendent. Mayor Davis responded that the city could post the job position. Mr. Allen added so the city is ready to do it. Mayor Davis responded that the city could post anything we want or can hire for any position we want, and it does not need to be a public discussion. Mr. Allen added he would like the public to comment because of the contribution of tax dollars. City maintenance employee Lupe Mendoza stated that the hiring of the last Water Superintendent for 2 months cost the city \$10,000. Greg Perrin stated that the experiment from hiring the first one was a complete failure. Mayor Davis responded that this is just part of the game. The decision to hire is not up to the citizens. Josue Mendoza shouts out what is the purpose of hiring or why do you want to hire someone. Joy Lewis stated she cannot hear when everyone in the public is speaking out of order. Mayor Davis stated that the council can post a job opening, but it doesn't mean we are going to hire anyone. Josue Mendoza shouted out "Who wants to hire." Mayor Davis, added the Water Superintendent that was hired did bring experience something we didn't have here. Josue Mendoza asked, "Did he do anything?" Mayor Davis added that it is always a gamble, just like when they hired you. Mayor Davis stated he was not going to sit here and argue with the public. Mr. Allen stated that there was opposition from the taxpayers. We don't see

any purpose in it. Mayor Davis responded, I have not wasted any taxpayer money in fifteen years. The audits speak for themselves. Josue Mendoza stated that Russell Morris has licenses. Mayor Davis added Mr. Morris does have licenses, but this last situation has been a learning experience. Mr. Morris stated that it would be more efficient as far as taxpayer dollars if you gave Lupe and I a slight raise and hire someone at \$16.00 per hour. Mayor Davis asked why would we hire a third person. I will leave it at that, and this was not my agenda item. Mr. Perrin asked the mayor how this city runs. It is the mayor's decision on what goes on the agenda and what doesn't and how to conduct meetings. So, mayor you need to take charge and gives us your vote and throw you out if they don't like it. Mayor Davis stated that in 15 years serving as mayor this year has been the most conflicted one with changes in administration. The council has a right to see what is out there, and it does not mean we must hire. Joy Lewis stated she would like to see what is out there, I have seen this city before working very efficiently. I want to see some efficiently based on the money that is being spent. Mayor Davis stated he would not take the opportunity from the council to look for an individual that fits Balmorhea. Julie Lewis added that the usage of Corny Reimer does not have to come to a screeching halt, but we can do stuff ourselves. Calling Mr. Reimer for any little thing needs to stop. Mr. Morris added that there was nothing wrong with what the council wants to do but feels that it is a bit personal to him because instead of saying maybe Russell has what it takes you guys are jumping to that same mistake. Let's see who is out there. I am right here. We have employees, tools, and equipment to get it done. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to consider advertising for a Water Superintendent position. Motion carried 4-0.


9. Mayor Davis stated that commercial vehicles are supposed to be off the street.

Joy Lewis stated that her problem was that our east and west streets are so narrow that if you meet someone you have to move over. There are several trucks hanging over the street and it's really dangerous. Mayor Davis added that we need to find out where they are at and address it. Joy Lewis stated it is at Jesse Lopez residence located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Mayor Davis added he would contact Mr. Lopez to address this issue.

10. Mayor stated there would be no executive session. Julie Lewis stated that there were accusations made, and it needs to be questioned. Mayor Davis responded there should have been that it happened. Johnnie sawyer did not offer anything. I asked for this information from you last week and you didn't have it. Julie Lewis added he did and signed it and I had it on my phone. This needs to be addressed. Mayor Davis responded not today. Julie Lewis asked why not. You should have put in on the agenda under the executive session. Julie Lewis stated that Mayor Davis needs to do

something about it, and you are not doing it. You told me you were going to take care of it and it's on you, John Davis. You are the mayor and need to take care of business. Mayor Davis responded yes, I do take care of business but I was not going to get myself in a predicament without having the person that thought he had the balls the size of this room there. Julie Lewis added that you will not address things as usual. Mayor Davis responded if you don't like it, Julie run against me. Rosa Dominguez stated we need to shut this meeting down. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 pm. Motion Carried 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11 DAY OF MAY 2026.

  
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JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR

  
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SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK