

MINUTES  
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 3, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD(6:12PM), DANNY VASQUEZ III,  
ROSA DOMINGUEZ, JOY LEWIS, JOSUE MENDOZA

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, GREG PERRIN, RUSSELL MORRIS,  
GUADALUPE MENDOZA-ABSENT

VISTORS: JULIE LEWIS, DAVID NAGY, KELLIE NAGY, ARNULFO VASQUEZ, DAN SLOVAK

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Davis at 6:02 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mayor Davis explained Mayor Davis stated that at the last council meeting there was discussion about increasing the sewer rate by \$5.00 and not \$10.00. Russell Morris water operator explained that the increase presented last month was for water service. The one that is going to be presented today is for the wastewater rate. The rate increase proposed is 25 % across the board instead of a flat dollar amount. A flat dollar amount does not justify some of our accounts. Joy Lewis added that it does really increase our revenue a whole lot, but we need to start to control our expenses and quit spending. Mr. Morris stated that the other change that needs to happen is to charge the Balmorhea ISD for sewer service on 4 meters because all 4 meters run to our sewer line, and we are only billing them one sewer service. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to increase sewer rate at this time by 25 % starting on the March billing cycle and leave water rate alone at this time. Motion Carried 4-0. Joy Lewis-Against.
2. Danny Vasquez, III asked what the use of the McKnight building would be. Mayor Davis explained that it can be used for office space, business meetings or training events. Mayor Davis stated that since he has been Mayor of the City of Balmorhea he has never charged anyone who was nonprofit to use the parks. At some point we might have to make an adjustment if the utilities start to increase. Or leave it open for donations. Mayor Davis wants the council to consider the residents of the community in making these decisions. Mr. Vasquez added that we do something like what the Balmorhea Community Center is doing. After some discussion, the council agreed to charges discussed and agreed that a contract be created with rules and regulations. The City Clerk was directed that once contract is in place, it needs to be submitted to other entities and promoting individuals in the area.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to approve minutes for January 13, 2025. Motion Carried 5-0.
2. Dan Slovak with Texas Disposal presented the new rates that basically follow the standard escalation of what it has been for the last years. Joy Lewis stated that she has requested numerous times in the past that a smaller dumpster be designated to businesses that don't have a large amount for trash disposal. She asked Mr. Slovak if there would be any possibility of that happening. Mr. Slovak responded that commercial dumpsters have always been the 3 or 4 yarder dumpsters. That is what has been written in the contract. Mr. Slovak stated that there could be a possibility to go back and review the contract on that, but 3 or 4 yarders dumpsters have always been set for all commercial accounts in all the cities that Texas Disposal services. Mrs. Lewis asked if Texas Disposal would be willing to allow 2 businesses to share a dumpster being that they don't have a large amount of trash. Mr. Slovak responded, he would take it back to the company. Mayor Davis added that there are a few commercial accounts that do not generate a whole lot of trash in the city. If it were possible to make these changes then why not tie down more residential accounts to a larger container. Mayor Davis added that Mr. Slovak take these ideas back to the company and see if it would be possible to make some changes. Mr. Slovak responded he would take all those ideas back to the company. Mayor Davis added that the council wait for a response from Mr. Slovak before making any decisions. Mr. Slovak stated that this was not so much a renewal but a continuation of the existing contract.
3. Kellie Nagy with the Reeves County Election Department presented the council with an Agreement that stated what it would cost the City of Balmorhea to have Reeves County work in the upcoming elections. Mrs. Nagy stated that the County always overestimates, and it ends up being less. Mrs. Nagy added that if the City of Balmorhea uses city employees for early voting, this is where the city would save money. If the City of Balmorhea agrees to contract Reeves County and sharing the cost with the other entities would cost the city \$3,200. Mrs. Nagy stated that Balmorhea ISD uses their staff for early voting and Reeves County provides all the equipment and technical support. Reeves County will collect all the ballots for early voting, set up for election day and do all tabulation at the end on election day. Mrs. Nagy stated that once the votes have been counted, she then will contact the secretary with the results. Each entity would be responsible for delivering the ballots to Mrs. Nagy at the courthouse in Pecos, Texas after the election. If there happens to be a contestant election Reeves County takes care of that as well. Joy Lewis asked if Reeves County furnishes the election employees meals. Mrs. Nagy responded, no. Reeves County budgets \$15.00 for election day with a \$45 extra stipend for meals. Mrs. Lewis asked where the elections would be held. Mrs. Nagy responded that the Balmorhea ISD would have their election in the board room and the city would still have the election in city hall. Mrs. Nagy added that going forward she would like

to have a joint election in one location. This would allow every entity to split staff and be more economical. The City Clerk asked if it would still be possible to make that joint election this time around. Mrs. Nagy responded, she can talk to the school being that Dora Valerio is retiring and there might be some wiggle room there. If the city comes on board and she talks to school district, and they agree it would be a matter of the contacting the community center and seeing if it is not being used on election day. The way the ballot would work would be that there would only be one ballot with all entity elections on it. There would be one location and one ballot. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to next month following Mrs. Nagy talking to Dora about changing the election location to the community so that all entities are housed together. Motion Carried 5-0.

#### 4. Reports

A. ESD1 & 2 report was not submitted.

B. The City Clerk had no report. No questions were addressed.

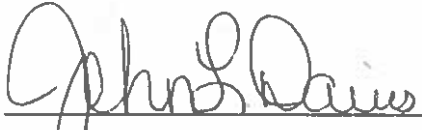
C. Russell Morris water operator reported that he had spoken to TCEQ and had received forms from the violations. The forms had not been filled in in the correct way. Mr. Morris added that he and Greg Perrin need to contact someone that has more knowledge about this kind of situation involved. Mayor Davis stated that there must be a different approach to the situation. We need to personally go to Austin and make it happen. Mayor Davis added that Mr. Perrin has talked to TCEQ numerous times and has done what they have asked. We thought the route Mr. Perrin took was going to be the way out, but it turned out to cost us. The City Clerk stated that there had been two documents coming in today stating that the city was still in violation of notification. Mr. Morris stated that he had talked to them, and they had later received the notification that was mailed to the residents. But we are still pending the submitting of the corrosion control for the water system. Joy Lewis stated she would like copies of all the reports and correspondence that is happening because the council has no clue about what is happening. The City of Balmorhea has been fined, and we don't know what it is. If we are aware of it, we might know what to do. Mr. Perrin stated that all samples that were taken to labs and paperwork was sent to the state. Then the state asks us to show what was in the samples, when they have all that there. Mrs. Lewis added she has never seen copies of corrosion reports. Mr. Morris responded that the water system does not have a problem. There was a bad sample from a vacant house. Mrs. Lewis asked why Mr. Mendoza had no daily logs. Mr. Morris stated he could not speak for Mr. Mendoza and had told him but would not hold a 70-year-old his hand. Mrs. Lewis asked if Mr. Morris had tried to get a leak detector, because we continue to have water losses. Mr. Morris responded, he has not because he has been trying to clear up all matters with TCEQ. Mr. Morris stated that most of the water loss is on route 2. There are millions of gallons pouring out to Jerry Moore's ranch and we can't stop it. We don't have the money to fix the tanks. On route 1 we have had high months because of leaks but in the month of January 2025, it was the lowest it has ever been in years.

D. Rosa Dominguez had no BEDC update.

E. Rosa Dominguez had no Balmorhea Event Committee update.

5. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Josue Mendoza to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm.  
Motion Carried 5-0.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10 DAY OF March, 2025.**

  
JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR

  
SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK