

**MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: IKE WARD (6:15PM), JOY LEWIS, ROSA DOMINGUEZ,
DANNY VASQUEZ III, JULIE LEWIS-PHONE**

MEMBERS ABSENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS

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

**VISTORS: ELIAS SCHOENING, SAMANTHA HOLLOWAY, ISAIAH MENDOZA,
JOSUE MENDOZA, RONALD LEE**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez at 6:15 pm.
2. Mayor Pro Tem Rosa Dominguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rosa Dominguez stated that Mayor Davis had requested to table this item until he could be present. Danny Vasquez III made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to table this item for next month's meeting. Motion Carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. After City Clerk advised the council that she had submitted a revised copy of the December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. Corrections were made to the time the council had started executive session and the time the council ended executive session. There also needed to be a name of Samantha Holloway added to the list of visitors. Due to a lot of disruptions like shuffling of chairs and conversations being held in public during the meetings City Clerk added that she would like to request to sit at the table with the council to better hear the meeting. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to approve minutes for December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes & December 22, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried 5-0.
2. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 5-0.
3. Reports
 - A. Ronald Lee presented ESD 1 & 2 Monthly Report to the council for the month of December 2025. Julie Lewis stated that she would like to commend the EMS service team at the response time. The attentiveness for Wednesday when they

had to pick her mother up and transport her for stroke. Mr. Lee stated he would pass that along to the crew because they strive to do their best every single time. Mr. Lee added that on the station construction they have subcontractors working on plumbing. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of February.

B. Rosa Dominguez asked Josue Mendoza for monthly reports. Mr. Mendoza responded that they had not had call outs but had a meeting in reference to what they were going to do with the department's fire trucks. Joy Lewis asked how many active members the department has. Mr. Mendoza responded that there were 5 members in the department. Joy Lewis asked who the fire chief was. Mr. Mendoza responded that he was. Julie Lewis asked if Mr. Mendoza had a monthly report, financials, and member report. Mrs. Dominguez responded no, he does not have any of those reports. Mr. Mendoza responded that the council have their numbers and nothing has been used. Joy Lewis added that the council needed a paper trail from the Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Mendoza responded, we don't spend any money.

C. City Clerk had no report. No questions were addressed.

D. Water Superintendent Johnnie Sawyer reported that all things were running well. Mr. Sawyer added that the guys are working well. Joy Lewis asked if there were any outstanding leaks. Russell Morris Water Operator responded yes. Mr. Morris stated they had fixed 3 leaks last week on the transmission line on Railroad. We have 2 more known leaks, 1 on Railroad and the other on HWY17 and suspect of additional leak near the entrance of Balmorhea State Park. Due to a shortage of clamps, we had to borrow one from Madera Valley Water. Just received 4 that got dropped off today. We plan to get on those leaks tomorrow. Mr. Morris added he and Lupe had worked on patching potholes on Main Street. Mr. Sawyer stated that they had also been working cleaning out the old city hall building and shop. They will be installing shelves and start storing parts there. Rosa Dominguez asked if there would be a possible chance of starting an inventory list. Mr. Sawyer responded that it was his plan.

E. Rosa Dominguez reported that they are getting started on appointing new members. It will be brought up at next month's meeting to be appointed by the council and take their oath. Danny Vasquez III asked who the individuals were. Mrs. Dominguez responded it would be 2 females.

4. Rosa Dominguez asked Julie Lewis if she had time to review an invoice from the city attorney in the amount of \$8,735.00 for services rendered in 2024-2025. Julie Lewis added that this bill was past due, and it has to be paid. Why did it take so long to be paid. City Clerk responded that after numerous requests made to Big Bend Law throughout both years to submit a bill, the city really didn't have control over that, but that Laura Lannom had requested that the city council approve this invoice before

issuing any payment. This invoice had charges for services that pertained to ordinances, foreclosure, litigations items, and election issues. Julie Lewis added that maybe the city needed to prolong payment and make increments of payment since they wanted to take so long. They can get paid half now and half later with no interest or no penalties. Or we can go ahead and pay it and be done with it but let them know that it needs to be billed on a timely matter, or they can be penalized. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Danny Vasquez III to approve payment for invoice #00120-Big Bend Law Services. Motion Carried 5-0.

5. Isaiah Mendoza introduced himself to the council and stated that he has been organizing the Memorial Day Softball Tournaments here in Balmorhea through his construction company and network of small businesses. Over the last 2 years they have given out over \$10,000 in scholarships to Balmorhea students generated from the softball tournament. Mr. Mendoza stated that there has been Balmorhea residents reaching out to him to see if he would be interested in organizing events that are held downtown. Mr. Mendoza added he has never been in the position to organize events, and so that is why he is here to ask questions. Mr. Mendoza asked the council what kind of budget does one have to organize an event. Joy Lewis responded that on those types of events hotel/motel funds are recognized as expendable on music and advertisement. Danny Vasquez III asked about the garbage expenditures. Joy Lewis responded that it specifically states that the funds are not for garbage-related costs. Mr. Mendoza stated that what he is proposing is that he be given what the base amount is that is budgeted for these kinds of events. Before our actual expenses, we have to know what we can spend. Joy Lewis responded that he would have to present a proposal to the council. Mr. Mendoza stated he will provide his own garbage services but are there any costs he is responsible for? Joy Lewis stated that he contacts Rosa Dominguez for more information. Mrs. Dominguez responded she would be willing to share that information later because she was wearing the Mayor Pro Tem hat tonight. Mr. Mendoza added that the softball tournament is a large driver to bring people to this community. Other ideas have been mentioned to maybe incorporate a corn hole tournament or BBQ cook off. The more people participate, the more money they bring into this town. If they come this year, we want them back every year. If planned correctly, we can maximize that weekend for small businesses and benefit the school. Mr. Mendoza added that he proposes that any excess funds generated would go towards scholarship. Joy Lewis added that he needs to have a projected budget and then present it to the council, and the council will say yay or nay. Mr. Mendoza wanted to inquire about what the past budgets were. He would like to know what the council is willing to spend. Josue Mendoza stated that there had been budgets given out of \$15,000 in the past. City Clerk stated that Mr. Mendoza would be responsible for collecting city vendor fee of \$75.00 per vendor and additional electrical outlet fees. Mr. Mendoza stated that he had heard of vendors complaining in the past about the fees and regulations, it is getting harder for these vendors to come out. Mr. Mendoza added he would like to propose cutting the fees

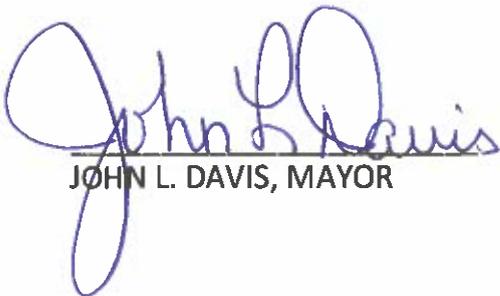
maybe in half. There would be more participation if we cut the fees. Mr. Mendoza asked what restriction the city has as far as closing the streets, because if he brings in the cook off and cornhole tournament he proposes that Main Street be closed as far as we can for space. Also maybe using a portion of the Balmorhea Community Center parking lot for parking. Mr. Mendoza stated he would put a plan together and present it at the next council meeting. Again Mr. Mendoza stated that if he had any funds left from the event, he would like to give toward a scholarship. Joy Lewis responded that he would be his own entity, and he would be the one to decide how to spend it, but you do have to turn in a report after the event. City Clerk clarified to Mr. Mendoza that the only fee the city will charge his organization is the city vendor fee and any extra electrical outlets. What he wants to charge for each vendor is totally up to his organization. Mr. Mendoza added he would like to make it as efficient as we can. City Clerk added that it was great to see the younger generation step up to the plate and want to get involved because sooner than later the ones that have been here and done events are soon to walk off into the sunset. Danny Vasquez III responded or turned to dust. City Clerk responded that nothing in this life is guaranteed, but some of us have volunteered ourselves out and have been trying to push involvement in all events, not just festivals. There has been no interest from anyone willing to volunteer and would hate all this to end. Danny Vasquez III made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to table item 5 for February Meeting. Motion Caried 5-0.

6. Rosa Dominguez stated that the booklet in the packet was for informational purpose only. It is always good to refresh your skills on the responsibilities and duties the council members have to carry out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

7. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to table executive session until Mayor Davis is present. Motion Carried 5-0.
8. Joy Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9 DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.


JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR


SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK