

**MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 13, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, JOY LEWIS, IKE WARD,
DANNY VASQUEZ III, JULIE LEWIS**

MEMBERS ABSENT: ROSA DOMINGUEZ

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, BRANDIE REYES

**VISTORS: ROBERT SNYDER, CONSTABLE RAY J. MORA, DEMARCO MADRID,
JOSUE MENDOZA, LUPE MENDOZA, FARRAH REYES, LANDON BROOKS,
ESEQUIEL DUTCHOVER, ISAIAH MENDOZA, DOAK PAINTER, ELIAS SCHOENING,
CHRISHA MOLINAR, ALDO NAVARRETE, TABITHA PEGODA**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 7:04 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Isaiah Mendoza stated that he had been approached by numerous people that stated that this Memorial Day Festival was the best festival Balmorhea has ever had. Mr. Mendoza stated he would submit an official expense report to this office and continue to read reports off his cell phone. The report reflects revenue versus expenses. My nonprofit organization is an honorary organization, so we can share bank statements or whatever you will need. We are happy to share because we do it for the community, not for ourselves. We set out some goals, Rosa Dominguez stated she had spent \$12,000 last year, which was great, we raised about \$36,900. You will see all this on spreadsheet when I email it. City of Balmorhea hot tax was \$15,000, Balmorhea Fire Department \$4,000, Pecos Economic Development \$5,000 plus others. City Clerk asked if he could email that right now to make copies and hand out to the council Mr. Mendoza responded not right now, but I will email it. We have statements and back up for every expense. I don't know if it has ever been done that way, but we do it in a professional way. On the expense side we had a total of \$42,316, that put us at a loss of \$5,416.04. This included trash expenses and miscellaneous expenses. Mr. Mendooza added that he had a check for the city in the amount of \$1875.00. This was \$75.00 city vender fees from 25 vendors that participated. You all are aware that we have a check from

Reeves County in the amount of \$5,000. I know there were some issues with that check, you had a special meeting and the council approved it, but two weeks later I later found out that Julie Lewis had called the Reeves County offices and stated that the city would not accept the check. Mr. Mendoza addressed the council and wanted to know why after a called special meeting one council person made that decision to call and cancel the transaction upon approval. Julie Lewis responded that the reason for her to call was the check was made out to the City of Balmorhea instead of you. Mr. Mendoza asked, did you not approve of passing the check through the city and issue me a check. Danny Vasquez III responded yes, we did approve to pass the check through at the city at the special meeting. Joy Lewis added you never came to pick it up. Mr. Mendoza added that we never picked it up because it was never cashed by the city. Joy Lewis stated you never contacted the city to see if you could pick it up. Mr. Mendoza responded that Josue Mendoza came to pick it up, and there was question about the city not depositing the funds. Josue Mendoza interrupts and starts speaking over everyone. Julie Lewis states he is out of order, Constable Ray J. Mora intervenes. Mayor Davis states that after we had the special meeting, approximately that Friday he had instructed Jeanette, the assistant clerk, to contact Josue Mendoza, to pick up the check. The check was good and it was for the festival, but no one came in to pick it up. Mr. Mendoza added that he talked to Paul Hinojos about it. We are going to get that money one way or another. Mayor Davis added he has not spoken to Mr. Hinojos, but he needs to be contacted and to clear this situation. The city clerk stated that both checks are still here in this office. Mayor Davis added if you contact the county and the check is still good then I don't have a problem with it. Mr. Mendoza asked can we still get the check or do we need to get the check from Mr. Hinojos. Mayor Davis responded that you really need to make that contact because checks get voided after 60 days. Mr. Mendoza added that we take money from the community and then give it right back to the community. This is not for profit. Instead of working against each other, we need to work together. Mr. Mendoza stated that he would be emailing all the documents.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Doak Painter presented the council with a copy of the audit for fiscal year October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025. Mr. Painter stated that the city's net position increased by \$2,650.375 because of this year's operations and as a result the net position of our government activities increased by \$ 1,792.622 and the net position of our business-like activities increased by \$857.754. During the year, the city had expenses that were \$2,728.582 less than the \$3,025,835 of revenues generated by the general operations of the city's governmental type funds and \$88,978 more expenses than generated by water and sewer sales and other revenues for the proprietary-type fund of \$527,290. Depreciation expense for the current year was \$120,508 of which \$27,296 was associated with governmental activities and \$93,212 was business-like activities. Total depreciation expense was \$115,127 for the prior year. The governmental-type general fund ended the year with a total fund balance of

\$2,380,595 which was an increase of \$1,816,297 after transfers from the prior year. The proprietary-type funds ended the year with a total net position amount of \$2,256,435 which represented an increase of \$857,757 after transfers from the prior year. The budget for the city's general fund revealed \$2,796,387 more revenues were received during the year than were originally budgeted while \$67,612 less expenses were incurred than were budgeted for the year. The net effect of the budget variance was a positive budget variance of \$1,928,040. During the year the City of Balmorhea received an unusually large sales tax remittance from the State of Texas, causing the city's sales tax revenue to be \$2,064,655 more than originally budgeted for. Mr. Painter added that the City of Balmorhea is now debt free. (Audit Report Attached).

2. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to approve June 8, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes & June 18, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried 4-0.
3. Danny Vasquez III made a motion, seconded Ike Ward to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 4-0.
4. Reports
 - A. Robert Snyder presented a report. Mr. Snyder stated that he would like to remind the council that the Station 4 grand opening will take place on August 1, 2026 at 10:00 am.
 - B. Mayor Davis asked where we are at with the fire department vehicles. Josue Mendoza responded that they were at the fire hall. Mayor Davis added the titles. City Clerk responded and stated that it had been resolved. Paperwork was turned in, and vehicles were picked up by the volunteer fire department in Pyote. City clerk clarified that this agenda item was in reference to documenting the process that is taking place to terminate the fire department service for the city of Balmorhea by collecting all pending items and to officially remove insurance coverage from the volunteers. Chrisha Molinar asked if the fire department was being dissolved. Ms. Molinar stated that she did not think there was ever a motion. City clerk stated that according to the last meeting where this was discussed the council had stated that they would like to meet with the ESD 1 to discuss and agree what the city can help or do to make this transition that can possibly include the Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department funding. Mayor Davis added that he was not here where this was discussed, but he would stand by with what the City Attorney recommends. Julie Lewis added that, per those minutes Rod Ponton did recommend having those conversations with the ESD 1 and not abolish but constructing a relationship with the ESD 1.
 - C. The City Clerk had no report.

D. Brandie Reyes, Water Superintendent, gave a report on the lift station and stated the gallons did not add up. Some of the information was from the previous employee that ran the system but hopefully next month it will get resolved. Joy Lewis asked that Ms. Reyes address the council at the front of the table due to not being able to hear her. Ms. Reyes reported some readings and stated that at the Huelster well numbers were also a bit off, but she had not had a chance to sit down. Ms. Reyes added that she was not going to report the ground tank, tower, and distribution readings she will later get together because she didn't get around to it. All the tanks don't have plaques that tell you the material, coating, and the amount of the capacity each tank holds. Joy Lewis asked that Ms. Reyes submit her reporting on paper with all the numbers that she is reading. Ms. Reyes, she would put it in writing and provide a copy. Mayor Davis stated the sewer numbers would not be correct because one of the pumps is further down than the other. Ms. Reyes read data from the quarterly reports and stated that had been submitted and everything was ok. Ms. Reyes showed pictures to the public of issues with the system, Huelster well and the fountain electrical pump downtown and gave recommendations on how to go about repairing them and possibly get permission to do so. Joy Lewis asked to see the pictures and request copies to add to her official report when she submits them. Ms. Reyes added that she had been taking the other employee, Cameron Baeza out with her to the well and walked him through the whole chlorine procedure and did not feel this was proper because his life could be in jeopardy. He needs some training and classes. Ms. Reyes asked if there are mechanical problems at the well, is the city responsible or is it the owner of the well. Mayor Davis stated that from this day forward Ms. Reyes prepare reports for all the council to view. Ms. Reyes stated that the city had 3 unresolved violations, 2 of which had to do with the lead and copper and 1 CCR. Which was on the previous employee's time but would get those up to date. Ms. Reyes asked the council if it would be possible to work with Cameron to get a water license because he is not qualified when he is on call if an issue arises. Without a license, he can't take a chlorine residual. Ms. Reyes stated that she was told classes had to be approved but that she had already had that discussion at the time of hiring and continuous education or recertification was included. Mayor Davis stated that he had not had any discussion of that sort with anyone. Everyone that has been employed here and has taken classes was required to submit an invoice or receipt, and the city will reimburse them. Ms. Reyes continued to argue that all this was previously discussed over the phone with Mayor Davis including overtime, holiday pay. Mayor Davis responded to whatever the council discussed at the time of the interview, then that's what we will honor. Mayor Davis stated we are done, and we are moving on. Farah Reyes speaks up and states that Ms. Reyes was only trying to make things valid. Ms. Reyes insists on wanting to speak about holiday pay. Mayor Davis responded that he has not discussed holiday pay with her ever. Why would the city treat any differently than the other employees. Ms. Reyes stated she was not going to argue, but there was a phone conversation, and the mayor knows what was

discussed. Mayor Davis again stated that this conversation was done. Ms. Reyes read a statement that included complaints and requests half of \$1,400 for relocation costs because requires her to live here. Ms. Reyes added that she is yet to receive a response from the mayor to try to take care of the report. Ms. Reyes responded that he is mismanaging the filing system, there is miscommunication, and everything sucks in this city. Your attitude, words, and integrity suck. Mayor Davis again states we are done with this subject.

- E. Landon Brooks with BEDC reported that at the last meeting the BEDC had approved a purchase to digitize services for the BEDC records. Paper copies will still be kept. They are also working on a filing system. A purchase of a safe was also approved that would be big enough to house a filing cabinet and laptop. We decided to go with a fire-resistant gun safe. Anyone that wants access to the laptop will have to sign off. Anything happens to the laptop you will be held accountable. The laptop is to remain wherever the BEDC meets or stores records, filing cabinets and safe. It will not be allowed to take it to anyone's house. At next month's meeting will be discussing possible revisions, bringing terminology up to date on the by-laws. Once approved by the BEDC, we will bring those before the council. The council will be able to look at them and make any suggestions or recommendations to make them more efficient. Chrisha Molinar asked what date does BEDC and is there an agenda posted at city hall. Mr. Brooks responded that BEDC meets every fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. The agenda is always posted at city hall, library, and post office. Everyone is welcome to attend. Ms. Molinar asked how many members are on your board. Mr. Brooks responded that there are 7 members at this time, that is what our by-laws allow us to have. Ms. Molinar asked if all decisions pertaining to BEDC are approved by BEDC. Mr. Brooks responded that everything that BEDC does has to be approved by that board and when needed, BEDC will present to the City of Balmorhea council for their approval.
- 5. The clerk explained that this invoice was for parts that were used on the Scada system after the lightning struck the old city yard. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve invoice #2804 Prestige. Motion Carried 4-0.
- 6. Mayor Davis stated that this was just informational he wanted to make the council aware that the city needed to start a process of getting prices on a new water meter system upgrade and placing it back on a future agenda. Joy Lewis asked "What was the cost of our last water meter upgrade? The clerk responded she did not have the figure in front of her, but it took the city 10 years to pay it off. Mayor Davis added that with a new upgrade it will be easier for a customer to come into the office and see what their meter is doing, instead of an employee having to physically have to go to the meter. No action was taken.

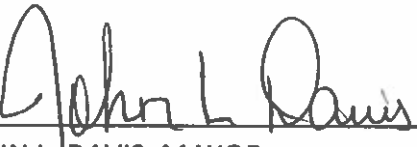
7. The city clerk stated that this item was for the purpose of having rules in the city parks during any festival or event. Joy Lewis asked if Farah Reyes had received a copy. The clerk responded that she will once the council approves it. Mayor Davis stated that one of the rules pertained to the propane cylinder that the food vendors use. You can have more than one, but you cannot have them all in one space for safety reasons. That recommendation came from Reeves County. Joy Lewis stated that she was concerned about the parking, has anyone discussed having the festivals at the old school track and football area. Danny Vasquez III stated that this location takes the scenic view that Balmorhea has to offer. Mayor Davis stated that the school location would bring the cluster to the neighborhood. Another option would be to have fiestas at the Balmorhea Community Center parking lot. Chrisha Molinar added that people and vendors want to be in the downtown area. Joy Lewis responded, but this is where I don't want them to be. They are all over my property. They break stuff, the music is so loud my head was roaring and had to go to the ear doctor. Demarco Madrid asked, is it really an annoyance it's only 4 days out of the year. Another rule that was discussed was the set-up of food vendors on main not being allowed. Food vendors will only be allowed on HWY17 in case of a grease fire, fire department will have full access. Novelty vendors are the only ones that will be allowed to be set-up on Main Street. Mayor Davis stated that once these rules are approved, they will take effect immediately. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward, to approve rules and regulations in city parks. Motion carried 4-0.
8. After some discussion Danny Vasquez III made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to approve funding to Farah Reyes from the hotel/motel tax account in the amount of \$9,000 for Labor Day event September 5-6, 2026. Motion Carried 3-0. Joy Lewis Abstain.
9. City clerk stated that Laura Lannom, the city finance director, wanted to remind the council to submit the fiscal year 2027 budget requests by July 24, 2026. No action was taken.

START EXECUTIVE SESSION:(8:50)

END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:(9:18)

10. 1. No comment or action taken.
2. Mayor Davis stated that after last month's new hires, seasonal employees pay increase was approved. The city needed to do the right thing and also increase pay for the city clerk. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to approve pay increment of \$25.00 hourly rate to the city clerk. Motion Carried 4-0.
11. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward, to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10 DAY OF AUGUST 2026.



JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR



SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK