

MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, ROSA DOMINGUEZ, IKE WARD
JULIE LEWIS, JOY LEWIS

MEMBERS ABSENT: DANNY VASQUEZ III

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, RUSSELL MORRIS, GUADALUPE MENDOZA,
GREG PERRIN, ROD PONTON

VISTORS: JOSUE MENDOZA, CRISHA MOLINAR, NED ALLEN, ELIAS SCHOENING,
RACHAEL SCHOENING, ESEQUIEL DUTCHOVER

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Davis at 7:00 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business:

1. After some discussion. Mayor Davis explained that there would be some changes to the ordinance presented. There was no problem with the ordinance, but changes needed to be made to attachment Exhibit "A". Joy Lewis requested that a copy of Robert's Rules be available during the meetings for all the city council. Joy Lewis made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to approve 1st hearing of the Ordinance of Rules & Procedure with corrections. Motion Carried 4-0.
2. Mayor Davis explained that the revision of the employee handbook would be to add new policies. The new policies would consist of a smoke free workplace, general safety, company cell phone, company vehicle usage and inventory management. Mayor Davis submitted copies of policies with changes to be made before adding to the employee's handbook. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to add new policies to the employee handbook. Motion Carried 4-0.
3. Mayor Davis stated that over the years there have been some revisions to the original park ordinance. The last amendment was ordinance 1018-2010. This time the city needs to look at the park rules of the city parks. The park hours need to be changed from dusk to dawn to 6:00 am to 11:00 pm. The city needs to be specific to where fireworks are allowed. The C.T. Gray Park is the designated area. Joy Lewis asked if they were going to address fires in the parks. Mayor Davis responded that it is allowed in the designated areas only. Grilling in the

parks will not be allowed during festivals to avoid taking business from the vendors. On the section of animal & pet restriction, this has been an ongoing issue. The only thing the city can do is to use the health and safety code. We need to address each different incident as it occurs. Mayor Davis stated that once this ordinance is revised, we need to order new signage for both city parks to display the rules. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to consider revision to city park ordinance. Motion carried 4-0.

New Business:

1. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to approve September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes & September 23, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried 4-0.

2. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to approve bills & adjustments as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Reports

A. ESD 1&2 report was submitted. No representation.

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

C. Russell Morris our water operator, reported that the city had the TCEQ inspection and the only finding or violation was that we did not complete our 2024 tank inspections. It was not done due to the city not having revenue to order the inspection. There are some exclusions on the tank inspection like Huelster well because we just did it, so there would be no sense in scuba diving services. Mr. Morris stated he was in his last 20 hours of elective class this week. This is mandatory to test for the "C" water license. After completion, there will be approval to take the exam. Mr. Morris addressed the issue with having to get a timecard initialed by a council person every time you work through the lunch hour. Mr. Morris added he thought this was a silly request; he does not get an 80-hour payroll period. This happens because all employees leave at noon on Fridays, which totals 72 hours. Mr. Morris added that it should be his right if he wants to work throughout lunch to make up for that. I do not have to justify myself. Mr. Morris added he was not asking for overtime. Mayor Davis explained that when the city had 1 employee on call for the weekend there was a chance to make the 40 hours a week but when the rotation of employees changed the hours. This was decided because it's common to not have much on a Friday afternoon to do, and it would turn out to be a waste of time. That was the reason we considered to eliminate Friday afternoons. Mayor Davis stated that if the council made changes to this it would be up to them, because I believe it will still not work out this way. You cannot work all day every day without a lunch break it's too much of a liability. We might be breaking an OSHA regulation when you are showing a 9-hour day with any breaks. Joy Lewis added that if the city does away with free Friday afternoons he needs to use that time to do maintenance on city

Equipment and inventory. Mayor Davis stated that it would be great if it got done. If you are on call that weekend, it is mandatory to take off at noon on Friday. The only time you would work all day on Friday would be the weeks you are not on call. Mr. Morris added that he did know if the other employee would agree to that. Mayor Davis added that our other employee is in a stage where if he doesn't stay, he is not crying for money, he is retired. Mayor Davis stated if you use the time wisely on Friday, I do not have a problem with it. If there happens to be no productivity there, we will change it. Mayor Davis added if you work through lunch for whatever reason, you must have someone initial your timecard, but there really should not be a reason unless there is a water emergency.

D. Rosa Dominguez reported no update.

E. Rosa Dominguez reported no update.

F. City Attorney Rod Ponton presented the council with a judgement on property at 316 S. Houston St., the city can decide what they want to do either keep it or sell it. Mr. Ponton stated that the city had received a letter from the Reeves County Appraisal District informing them of a proposal on the purchase of a building for the purpose of accommodating the Reeves County Appraisal office. This possible needed a resolution from the city and would be willing to put something together for the city to present at next month's meeting. Mr. Ponton added he would assist with the city park ordinance if needed. He would do some research and submit it to the city clerk. Mr. Ponton stated that the Balmorhea city council would have to hire an outside Attorney to represent the City of Balmorhea against the lawsuit that is still pending between Del Mar Ambulance Company and City of Toyah for ambulance services that were rendered to the City of Toyah. Mr. Ponton added he would be allowed to represent the City of Balmorhea because he had represented City of Toyah and the City of Balmorhea at the time of services had been rendered. Mr. Ponton stated he had reached out to TML and they recommended Attorneys out of Odessa. Mayor Davis stated he did not make any sense in having the City of Balmorhea having to pay attorney fees for something the City of Balmorhea does owe to this company. City of Toyah are the ones that dropped out of the agreement and did not pay for the services. Mayor Davis asked that we reach out and see what it would cost to hire an outside attorney to clear this matter.

1. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to hire a recommended attorney to represent the City of Balmorhea v. Del Mar Ambulance Company. Motion Carried 4-0.

4. Mayor Davis stated that the title of the position that the City of Balmorhea is going to advertise needs to be Field Superintendent. This title will cover it all, and we can set the guidelines. We need to advertise all over for around 3 to 4 months. We will negotiate on the hourly pay or salary Joy Lewis made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to open ad advertise position of Field Superintendent. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Mayor Davis stated that if the Balmorhea Fire Department is active, there is nothing the Council can do about it. Joy Lewis stated she wanted to make a motion to disband the

department. Mayor Davis responded, "I think we really need to look at that, because if they are active, you can't." Rosa Dominguez asked, "Is there any activity going on?" I don't ever see any activity. Joy Lewis added what do you think the city is supposed to do with the trucks that are just sitting there. Mayor Davis responded that the city was supposed to auction the older vehicles but we did not do it completely. Josue Mendoza shouts from the audience and states that the department is still active. Joy Lewis asked what is that you are still doing.

Mr. Mendoza responds that have been doing controlled burns in and out of city limits.

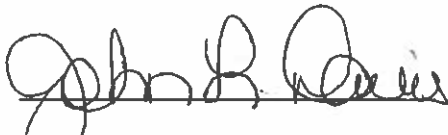
Joy Lewis asked, "Do you just want to keep one truck?" Mr. Mendoza responded that we are going to keep all vehicles the City of Balmorhea did not pay for any of them and the money in the account is all from donations. Mayor Davis added that to keep that department it must stay active. Mr. Mendoza responded that the department doesn't go out as often but will take calls for control burns. Mayor Davis added that someone from the department needs to represent the department monthly of what is going on with the department, and the vehicles need to be up and ready to go in case of a situation. Joy Lewis asked if the department was having regular meetings. Mr. Mendoza responded yes, but we can have meetings all the time. Mr. Mendoza asked Mrs. Dominguez if she had meetings on her boards all the time. Mrs. Dominguez responded, not all the time. Mr. Mendoza added If she can't have a meeting, she is still active. Julie Lewis stated that if the department is doing control burns, we need representation from your department at these city council meetings to report it. Julie Lewis asked how many vehicles are in running conditions. Mayor Davis responded only two. Mr. Mendoza added that some of the vehicles would not be able to be auctioned off because they would have to be returned to whoever donated it to the department. Joy Lewis stated she did not want to eliminate anything from the city, but we have not received or heard anything from your department. Mrs. Dominguez asked if all trucks worked, and Mr. Mendoza responded that all vehicles work except for the truck that was auctioned awhile back. Mrs. Dominguez asked if the fire hall would have room to house the new backhoe. Mayor Davis responded no, it won't fit in there. Julie Lewis stated that since she has been serving as councilman, she has not seen any kind of a report from the fire department. We need someone like Mr. Mendoza to come and report monthly to the council. Mayor Davis agreed that it would be a start to justify that there is activity going on in the department and if not, then there is a chance they will get cut. No action was taken with the exception that someone from the department to represent and report at every monthly council meeting.

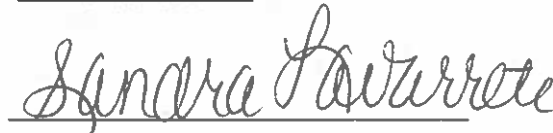
6. Joy Lewis made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to purchase extended warranty with a coverage period of 84/3500 (Premier) in the amount of \$6,365.00 with the purchase of the backhoe. Motion Carried 4-0.
7. Mayor Davis stated that the hours of operation for roll-off are 8:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and 8:00 to 12:00 on Saturday and Sunday. There will be no questions about it. City Clerk added she would make flyers and remind the residents of hours of operation.
8. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to change city council meetings during end of daylight- saving time to 6:00 pm. Motion Carried 4-0.

9. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve proclamation for Halloween Trick or Treat. Motion Carried 4-0.

10. Julie Lewis made a motion seconded by Joy Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Motion Carried 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025.


JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR


SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK