

MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 13, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, JOSUE MENDOZA, IKE WARD, JOY LEWIS,
BERNADETTE PORTILLO-ZOOM

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, ESEQUIEL DUTCHOVER, MARLENE JURADO,
GREG PERRIN-ABSENT

VISTORS: RONALD LEE

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 6:09 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.


OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bernadette Portillo stated that on the the Friday of Memorial Day/Labor Day Weekend it's considered to be the country band night and it has had a successful crowd. Saturday has been distinguished as the Norteno band night and Sunday has been a mix. As an overall revenue it has been a positive one. The motels have had no vacancies due to the guests that come to the festival and stay the night. The stores and vendors have had successful sales. Joy Lewis stated that in the past the festivals have been charitable events. The event was supposed to have a purpose. The only purpose we have now is to sell lots of beer and food and listen to music. Even if you rented every motel room in this town for 3 nights you only bring in \$9,000 in return. Ms. Portillo added that there was a purpose last Memorial Day because we honored our Veterans. Mayor Davis asked, why has vendor fee been so low? Vendor fee in the past years has been \$300. It's understandable that during the covid19 year the fee was less but that needs to change, it needs to be at least \$300 being that they do generate trash for 3 days and the wear and tear to our park and electricity. Ms. Portillo agreed and stated that would not be a problem to change. Mrs. Lewis proposed that Ms. Portillo get only \$7,500 being that she had no sponsors or donations last year. She can stretch that as far as she wants. If she needs more money she can find sponsors for her bands. Ms. Portillo added she did not have a problem with amending her request of \$15,000 to \$10,000 and will find sponsorship. We have to remember that these festivals show case our community and they will come back and visit. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to continue to continue to have 3 day festivals on Memorial day and Labor Day Motion Carried 3-1. Joy Lewis against.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve minutes for February 13, 2023 Minutes. Motion Carried 4-0.
2. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 4-0.
3. Reports
 - A. Ronald Lee presented operational report for the month of February 2023. No questions were addressed.
 - B. City Clerk reported that the office had 33 pending work orders that include (11-patching), (6-clean up), (6-Misc), (10-water related).
 - C. Mayor Davis asked both water operators if they have been reporting well on a daily basis to Greg Perrin. Both employees responded, no. Mayor Davis stated that from this point on, they will be required to call him daily with readings. Mayor Davis added that employees need to make washing pumps at the lift station a priority. Mayor Davis stated that the \$350,000 grant that was awarded to the City will run short on the sewer pond project and the City will have to come up with an additional \$6000 to complete.
4. City Clerk presented the Council with nominations for 2023 Board of Directors (Vacant Member) position letter. No action taken.
5. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve funding with amendment of a decrease of \$5,000 from the original \$15,000 that was requested for Memorial Day Festival expenditure's and vendor fees increasing to \$300. Motion Carried 3-1. Joy Lewis against.
6. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to adjourn meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion Carried 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10 DAY OF APRIL, 2023.


JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR


SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK