

MINUTES  
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 9, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD, JOY LEWIS, BERNADETTE PORTILLO

MEMBERS ABSENT: JOSUE MENDOZA

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, MARLENE JURADO, GREG PERRIN

VISTORS: ROSA DOMINGUEZ, ESEQUIEL DUTCHOVER

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 7:03 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to pass an ordinance for canvassing the returns for City Election held on May 6, 2023. Motion Carried 3-0.
4. Oath of Office was administrated by Mayor John L. Davis to elected officials that were present.
5. Joy Lewis made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve minutes for April 10, 2023. Motion Carried 4-0.
6. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve bills & adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 4-0.

7. Reports

- A. Report was submitted by ESD 1&2. Representative was not able to attend due to meeting.
- B. City Clerk reported that there had been no change to the work order count from the previous month. Out of the 32 work orders pending, 10 water related work orders were given to Corny Reimer to address this week. Water Operator Marlene Jurado asked if it was work orders involving relocate water meters. City Clerk responded, no it is different work orders that include meter boxes and leaking meters.
- C. Greg Perrin reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of Government funding has been received in the total amount of \$74,000. Therefore the City of Balmorhea is in the process of setting up a Scada software for our water system. This system will reflect the filling up of the tanks and levels at Huelster well. The office and the employees will have access to keep up with the

system on computers or phones. The cost of this set up is \$31,000 and may take 2 to 3 weeks to install. Joy Lewis asked if the software gets installed will this end the daily trips to the Huelster well. Mr. Perrin responded it can to an extent, but we must continue to check the chlorine levels. Mayor Davis added we can probably cut down our days. Mr. Perrin added that if the well ever runs out of power due to bad weather and we don't get a generator we can fill the overhead storage straight from the Evans tank. We can bypass the ground tank in the City yard. Evans tank has a higher elevation. Mrs. Lewis added she is glad to see the software finally getting installed because it has been on the City wish list for many years. Mayor Davis added that the generator that is going to be purchased is also coming out of the same Government funding. Mr. Perrin stated on the wastewater project we are still waiting on finalizing paperwork. City Clerk added that the wait is still on Contractor and Engineer paperwork but the City has complied with all the liner testing that was requested. Mr. Perrin added that the sludge in the ponds is required to be hauled off. We are trying to go through TCEQ to see if we can do something else with it instead of hauling it off. Engineers are going to estimate how much sludge it is going to be. Mayor Davis added that the Engineers really messed up on this one if the City has to pay for the disposal plus the farmers can't take, it might have to just sit there until it dries out. Mrs. Lewis asked Mr. Perrin if it is still important to go out to the well daily to check the chlorine level. Mr. Perrin responded, yes. City Clerk stated she needed clarification on who was on call the weekend due to some confusion or lack of communication on office schedule and a memo that the Mayor sent out to employees to follow for when on call. Sometimes the alarm system will call her personal phone during the weekend because employees don't answer and Clerk needs to know who is actually on call and will address issues. Mr. Perrin responded, that it wasn't a miscommunication. Reason was that he realized the well had not been checked that morning and if there would have been any problems it would be kind of late in the day to address it. Mr. Perrin clarified that he was free on Sunday and notice it had not been checked and it was late in the day and employee had not checked the well so he decided to go do the daily check. Mayor Davis added that the well has to be checked first thing in the morning. City Clerk added that it made more sense with that clarification why the GPS system had not picked up any movement on City vehicles on that Sunday. Mr. Perrin added he used his personal vehicle to go check the well that morning. Mr. Perrin reported that the tank at Huelster well has been leaking on the south side for some time now but the leak has increased and needs to be addressed. Mayor Davis stated that regardless of what is going on tanks and well need to be checked daily and must be done in the morning. Ike Ward asked Water Operator Marlene Jurado why she had not been answering her work phone and was always going to her voice mail. Ms. Jurado responded that she had no control of phone calls going straight to voicemail and suggested that maybe Mr. Wards phone was not working correctly.

8. Customer was not present to address bill issues. No action taken.
9. Jimmy Barragan stated that it was brought to his attention that the City of Balmorhea was willing in sponsoring a brochure for the Balmorhea Lake. After speaking to the Reeves County Water District board they would greatly appreciate if the City of Balmorhea would do so. After

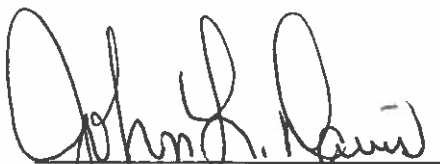
looking at the idea of making a 2 face insert for the current brochure that the City of Balmorhea has would work well. Mayor Davis stated that it was kind of hard to fund a project like this because it is a different entity. If we do this for one entity we will have to do it for all. When Ellen Weinacht approached the City of Balmorhea with this idea, she has not asked the Reeves County Water District for their approval. The City of Balmorhea was concerned, because we did not want to step on anyone's toes. Joy Lewis added that Mrs. Weinacht had presented the idea of distribution of the Balmorhea Lake Brochure. Mrs. Lewis stated that the only problem she has is that when tourists are looking for information and they try to reach the Balmorhea Lake Store there is no one there to answer the phone. There has been times when she or the City of Balmorhea will receive calls requesting information on the Lake. Mr. Barragan stated that just today they have hired a new manager and 2 more employees to work at the lake. Mrs. Lewis added that once the tourist comes out to the Lake they must pay a entry fee to enter Balmorhea Lake. Why not use some of that money to help cover some of the brochure insert. Mrs. Lewis stated she doesn't think that the City of Balmorhea needs to fund the entire brochure. Mayor Davis agrees that Reeves County Water District go half with the City of Balmorhea on the purchase of the brochure insert to show an effort. The problem here was also the fact that Mrs. Weinacht presented the idea to the City of Balmorhea without getting consent from the Reeves County Water District on the lake brochure. Mr. Barragan added he would be willing to ask the Reeves County Water District to share the cost of the brochure insert. Bernadette Portillo agreed that the presentation was not done properly due to the Reeves County Water District not being aware of this brochure project and that is why it had to be put on the agenda once more. Mr. Barragan added that the District had no clue this project was in the works. It was the Balmorhea Lake committee that had this idea, but never once went to the District. But Mr. Barragan stated that the District is willing to work something out to help out with the project. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve sharing the cost of the Balmorhea Lake insert with Reeves County Water District. Motion Carried 4-0.

10. Mayor Davis stated that this agreement is for Balmorhea State Park wastewater project. Joy Lewis asked are we just voting on the agreement of this project. Mayor Davis responded, yes we approved an inter local with the Balmorhea State Park to work on future projects at the City Council Meeting and now they are proposing an agreement with the wastewater line that will be delivering sewage to our wastewater ponds. City Clerk stated that this agreement draft had been submitted for the Council to review and decide if they wanted to make any changes to the agreement. Mayor Davis added that this agreement was not related to any of the fees that the City still needs to access for the disposal of their waste. The City needs to start doing research on what other surrounding Cities charge for waste disposal and come to an agreement on what fees are going to be charged to the Balmorhea State Park. Greg Perrin stated he was confused on this agreement with the volume of the waste. Mayor Davis added that the Engineers ran the numbers of the amount of waste they are going to dispose of and we had a meeting to discuss the amount and capacity of our lift station and ponds. Mr. Perrin added that the numbers did not even come near of what we are averaging of 30,000 gallons. But now this agreement reads that the 10-inch wastewater pipeline that will convey the flows to the City of Balmorhea wastewater collection system, eliminating the existing wastewater collection on-

site infrastructure in the Balmorhea State Park (BSP). That means they will be getting rid of Balmorhea State Park septic system completely and that is not what we talked about. Mayor Davis stated that the State Park is getting away from all the septic system and that has been the whole game since about 4 years ago. The City of Balmorhea just needs to make sure that the volume of the waste that was stated is the correct amount. Mr. Perrin added he would like to meet and discuss the numbers again and allow the City Engineer James Busby to look at the information. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to table item 10 until the City of Balmorhea gets further clarification. Motion Carried 4-0.

11. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to approve engagement letter from Doak Painter for fiscal year audit 2022-2023. Motion Carried 4-0.
12. Mayor Davis stated that the generator expenditure was already discussed in the Water Operator/License Holder section and was pretty much a done deal and the price was cheap. No action was taken.
13. Mayor Davis stated that the City of Balmorhea needs to go out for some bids on the fencing at the C.T. Gray Park and then make a decision. The park has become an eye sore. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to consider getting bids for fencing at the C.T. Gray Park. Motion Carried 4-0.
14. Texas disposal has stated that the following items on the contract have been up and need to be amended. The contract states that we have a 40 yard roll off in instead of a 30 yard container. Texas Disposal is leaving it in Balmorhea full time and swapping instead of treating it like 12 separate events. The history shows that the City of Balmorhea is using 9 hauls on that 40 yard container a year. Which is the same as 30 yard x 12 hauls. The contract also implies that it is something that is not left onsite full time. Mayor Davis stated he would like to see everything remain the same and that we would like to continue to receive 12 containers a year instead of 9. We don't know if ever we will have a disaster and need the extra container. The cost of garbage pick-up is highly expensive and the City of Balmorhea needs to try and get all that they can get to help the community. No action was taken.
15. Joy Lewis made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to adjourn meeting at 8:36 pm. Motion Carried 4-0.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12 DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

  
JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR

  
SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK