

MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD (6:11) JOY LEWIS, BERNADETTE PORTILLO, ROSA DOMINGUEZ, JOSUE MENDOZA

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, GREG PERRIN, RUSSELL MORRIS,
ADAM GALLEGOS-ABSENT

VISTORS: GILBERT HERRERA, ALVA HERRERA, JULIE LEWIS, ROBERT SNYDER

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 6:03 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve minutes for November 13, 2023. Motion Carried 5-0.
4. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Josue Mendoza to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 5-0.


5. Reports

- A. ESD 1&2 November 2023 report was read by Robert Snyder. Mr. Snyder reported that the construction on the new station is pretty much in the same situation. Workers have come and gone and now the holidays. We are now looking into possibly March 2024 for the grand opening. There is a mobile home at the location that houses staff and an ambulance at this time. Our present contract with MR Ambulance Service will expire on December 2023 and the district will take over as of January 1, 2024. City Clerk asked Mr. Snyder, if the City of Balmorhea has an event that they would like for the ESD to participate in what would be a good time frame to ask you to participate.. Mr. Snyder responded, as much time as possible because we have to prepare staff to have coverage for the area. We can send a crew down here and still have coverage at the station. The more time the better. City Clerk explained that Bernadette Portillo had contacted the district to participate in the Christmas parade here in Balmorhea, but the district had responded they would not be able to attend. Mr. Snyder responded, maybe this was due to a short notice. Mr. Snyder asked the Council about any upcoming events that would involve fireworks. Mayor Davis responded, those events are usually on July 4 celebration and January for New Year's, but with non sponsored events the residents usually use the C.T. Gray park as a location to pop fireworks. Mr. Snyder added that the district is trying to get a brush truck into Balmorhea for the evening of

January 1st. Mayor Davis stated that the City of Balmorhea will try to put a list together of upcoming events and will submit it to the ESD.

- B. City Clerk reminded the City Council of the Annual Christmas party on December 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Joy Lewis stated that she had a question on the bank balances, we have a negative number for the water. City Clerk responded, that the only account that is low but not in the negative is the grant account. That account was the one that had the one fraudulent check that is still under investigating. Mayor Davis explained that the check that was cashed was out of Government money. Somewhere from the time of delivery through the postal system was when this occurred. He added that he had asked that the checks not be sent but they chose to send them anyway. Good thing this was not out of water account. This will have to be covered out of their end and not the City of Balmorhea. Mrs. Lewis stated that she was not actually talking about this incident but was concerned that a negative balance of \$300 was on the water account and we have not had that happen in quite a while.
- C. Mayor Davis stated that the skid steer needed to be used before it would be returned on December 21st. Water Operator Russell Morris asked, "Where does it need to be used?" Mayor Davis responded, it needs to be dropped down into the ditch. It can be used in the alleys because it has a brusher on the front that would cut. It also needs to be used out at the sewer ponds. Mr. Morris stated that in some of the alleys it will be hard to go through because residents have belt fences taking alleys into their possession. Mayor Davis responded, knock down what you can without destroying private property. Greg Perrin stated that he has visited with the Nature Conservancy in regards to the Sandia Draw that runs through their property and that the City of Balmorhea would like to clean the area but they have not decided how far they will allow us to clean on that property.
- D. Rosa Dominguez stated that BEDC had run into to a situation that Mayor Davis was aware of. Mrs. Dominguez reported that last BEDC meeting went very well and they accomplished quite a lot. There will be a few positions that need to be taken care of. Mayor Davis asked about the flu clinic that the library had hosted and added that we need to continue to bring services and programs in to this community. Mrs. Dominguez responded that the number of citizens that came out to the flu shot clinic had been 23. Mrs. Dominguez suggested that maybe the City of Balmorhea can have a health fair like they do in Pecos.
6. City Clerk read notice of deadline to file an application for place on ballot for May 4, 2024 General Election. Positions that are up for election are (1) Mayor (2) Alderman. Mayor Davis stated that whichever way God wants this to go it will be. Elections are always good and there should never be personal agendas. Mayor Davis added, he has been in office for 12 years and believes what is good for one is good for all. If it is meant to be then that is what it is. There should never be hard feelings. The City of Balmorhea will never work if anyone has personal agendas. It's about keeping everything positive.
7. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Josue Mendoza to adjourn meeting at 6:30 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8 DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.



JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR



SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK