

**MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD(6:12PM), JOY LEWIS
ROSA DOMINGUEZ, JULIE LEWIS, DANNY VASQUEZ III**

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

**STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, RUSSELL MORRIS, LUPE MENDOZA-ABSENT,
ROD PONTON**

**VISTORS: ROBERT SYNDER, KELLIE NAGY, DAVID NAGY, JOHNNIE SAWYER,
ELIAS SCHOENING, RACHEL SCHOENING, SAMANTHA HOLLOWAY**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 6:07 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business:

1. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to adopt City Park Ordinance 2nd hearing. Motion Carried 5-0.

New Business:

1. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Danny Vasquez III to approve minutes for November 10, 2025. Motion Carried 5-0.
2. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Rosa Dominguez to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 5-0.

3. Reports

A. Mayor Davis thanked the Reeves County Emergency Service District for all that they do. ESD 1&2 Report was read by Robert Snyder. Mr. Snyder stated that construction started again in Balmorhea on December 3rd and is projecting a timeline of 60 to 90-day completion of the station. The completion date is June of 2026.

B. Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department did not submit a report. Elias Schoening stated that Josue Mendoza could not make the meeting, but they had 2 control burns. Joy Lewis asked where were the 2 control burns?

Russell Morris stated that he had forgotten to report to the council one of the control burns were in the old city yard. Rosa Dominguez asked when did this occurred? Mr. Morris responded that this was back on October 27th . Mayor Davis stated that Josue Mendoza has forms to fill out to report this to the council. Mrs. Dominguez added that the council needs monthly reports from the fire department would include all activities the department may have during the month. Mr. Schoening stated that he had told Mr. Mendoza to attend the meeting, but he had stated you talk to them. Mayor Davis added that there needs to be more control in that department or it will put a damper on what you keep or don't keep. Mrs. Dominguez asked Mr. Schoening where was the second control burn. Mr. Schoening responded he did not know, and Mr. Mendoza didn't say. Mayor Davis stated that the City of Balmorhea needs reports on activities including training and a head count, and if not, we will consider doing something different with the Balmorhea Fire Department. The fire department is under the city's umbrella, and we do not know who is there or not there, and that needs to be corrected. Joy Lewis stated she has not been aware of any training in the last 10 years. Mrs. Dominguez asked if the City of Balmorhea is paying to continue to insure the Balmorhea Fire Department. Mayor Davis responded yes, they are under the city umbrella. Julie Lewis added that it would be good to get an updated list active Balmorhea Fire Department Volunteers, meetings and training monthly. Mayor Davis stated he would contact Mr. Mendoza.

- C. City Clerk reported that the Community Christmas Event had been a success, and everyone had nothing but good comments. Clerk added the annual city Christmas Party will be held here in this office starting at 6:00 pm. The males & females are required to buy a \$20 gift to exchange the night of the party. Anyone that hasn't gotten on the list for a covered dish needs to as soon as possible. City Clerk added that the reason was not going to be held at the Community Center was due to lack of help during the clean-up process and being too much of a responsibility for 2 or 3 individuals. It would be easier to clean this office at our pace then clean the community center the night of the party.
- D. Russell Morris reported he had lead & copper samples to submit to Midland on Thursday. Mayor Davis introduced Johnnie Sawyer to the council as a new hire for the City of Balmorhea.
- E. Rosa Dominguez stated BEDC had no update.

F. City attorney had no update.

4. Kellie Nagy explained once again the changes that can occur due to Senate Bill 1494 state that any subdivision, municipalities and cities in general have until December 31, 2025, to move their election to an odd number of years. The Secretary of State states that to do that you have to unstagger your election terms. Mayor Davis added that most cities have already moved to those terms. Danny Vasquez III, if the change is made, will we still serve 2-year terms? Mayor Davis responded the only 2 options we have is to unstagger our terms and and this would mean we would all have to sign up to run for election at the same time. It doesn't really change anything if you are doing your job. We might have to have a special election if we decide to extend the terms. Mrs. Nagy stated to be eligible to take advantage of new law Senate Bill 1494 it is only available to cities that hold elections on odd number years, so to move to a November election and take advantage of the costing you have 2 options either don't do it or unstagger your terms. Mrs. Nagy asked the Secretary of State if it was possible to write a resolution to extend the terms to 4 years and their response was probably not, it would have to go back to the city's Charter and the city would have to contact them directly. Mayor Davis stated that the city does not have a charter. Mr. Vasquez asked how would that effect the appointed councilman. Mrs. Nagy responded that everyone would hold until the November 2027 election, including the appointed. This would give you all the time to discuss whether you would want the voters to extend the councilman's terms. The Councilman up this year would be November 2027 and this would domino moving forward. Mayor Davis explained that what the council had approved to move the May election to the November uniform election last month and now the council needs to decide to unstagger and order a special election or unstagger and leave it alone. Mrs. Nagy added to take advantage to move to November date and odd number years you can unstagger with a resolution. You can do that tonight, and between now and November 2027 I would assume that you need to get with Secretary of State to confirm or check your city charter to make sure and put it before the voters in November 2026 to approve extending to a 4-year term. Mr. Vasquez asked if the council maybe needs to table this decision. Mrs. Nagy responded, you don't have time to table this item. You either unstagger tonight or go back to holding a May election by yourselves. Mayor Davis added that these are the only 2 options because of the time frame that the legislature put on. Joy Lewis stated that this city is incorporated but does not have a charter. Rod Ponton stated that the City of Balmorhea does not have a charter, and therefore it is considered a Type A General Law City, and we must do what the Texas Law Code says. Mr. Vasquez

asked if this change is made would there be an election starting in 2027 and everyone must sign up to run. Mrs. Nagy responded yes, every odd number of years all the council would have to sign up. Unless you figure out a way to have a special election between now and 2027, which would be her recommendation and see what the voters decide. The city would have to again get in touch with the Secretary of State and confirm this is correct. Mrs. Nagy added that by changing to the November election, that might give the city some wiggle room to piggyback on the super full county ballot. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to untagger election terms for council members due to change of election dates.

5. Elias Schoening submitted a proposal to council for fence repair for the C.T. Gray Park. Mr. Schoening stated that Mayor Davis had suggested submitting proposals by phases. Phase 1 is just a new back stop and a 6-foot fence all the way around. There would be a small portion that is 8 feet in front of the dug outs. Mr. Schoening added he would remove the old stuff but did have a question about the double fencing in some places. Mr. Schoening added that if it is going to stay that way, it needs to be replaced but is not included in this bid. Joy Lewis asked what was proposed budget wise this year for the repairs at the C.T. Gray Park. Rosa Dominguez stated that at the time of the budget workshop they had stated somewhere in the figure of \$30,000 - \$60,000. Joy Lewis added that she thought this proposal was a bit high. Danny Vasquez III stated that this proposal was \$30,000 dollars lower than the first proposal 2 years ago. Joy Lewis responded that not everyone had a good job like he did. Mr. Vasquez asked Joy Lewis if getting the fence done, would affect her motel. Joy Lewis asked Mr. Vasquez if he was getting personal about this issue. Mr. Vasquez responded that is what it seems like coming from you. Joy Lewis stated that not everyone has \$60,000 laying around. Mr. Schoening responded that his proposal on phase 1 was \$37,340.00 and does not reflect the second fence or the backstop at the far end. Mayor Davis explained that he had asked Mr. Schoening to break it down, because we had gotten bids for \$60,000. This project has been approved 3 times in the past. Mr. Vasquez asked if Mr. Schoening would supply the fence plastic lining, because in the past we had someone injured in the past with the fence. Mr. Schoening responded no. Mayor Davis added that there is where Josue Mendoza can help because they have never donated anything towards that park. The fire department can do that. They are sitting on a chunk of money. Mr. Vasquez asked if the department could do that. Mrs. Dominguez suggested that the city give the fire department the bill for renovation. Mayor Davis responded, this renovation has been approved in the past by the city, but we can see what the fire department can do out of their budget. Mayor Davis added that Pecos would

work on the bleachers, but we must put in some effort for the first section. City Attorney Rod Ponton clarified that money directed to fire department can only be used for fire department expenditures. Mrs. Dominguez stated that she thought it would be a great idea to table this item because we don't want to use the money that came in for this project. Mr. Ponton added that hotel/motel funds can be used for these types of projects. Mayor Davis added that this money should already be designated in the new budget. The key deal is to get with Laura Lannom and see what amount is available and where it will be pulled from. Mr. Vasquez asked Mayor Davis who would be helping when he referred to Pecos coming to help. Was he talking about City of Pecos or Reeves County. Mayor Davis responded that he had never approached the city. The county had bleachers, and we were going to use them at one time but since we did not start the park project, we just left it alone. Maybe this time if we go ahead with the project, we can reach out to County Commissioner Paul Hinojos and see what he can do. Mayor Davis added that we should get with our bookkeeper and see where the funding is available. The money is not the problem, it's what account it is coming from. Mr. Schoening stated that he is doing contracting and he is a local and would like to be considered in bidding for all the projects that Corny Reimer has been doing. Anything that is a bid, he would like a chance at it. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Danny Vasquez III to table item 5 to the January meeting upon getting more information from accountant. Motion Carried 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (6:45 pm) Danny Vasquez III made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to go into the executive session. Motion Carried 5-0.


OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION:. (7:21pm) Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to return to open session. Motion carried 5-0.

6. After some discussion the council asks that Mayor Davis keeps the council informed of any decisions the city is going to make to continue to better inform the community of what is happening in the city. City Attorney Rod Ponton stated that communication is an important factor. Danny Vasquez III made a motion,

seconded by Ike Ward to make it a priority to communicate better and keep everyone informed of any city business. Motion Carried 5-0.

7. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Motion Carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12 DAY OF JANUARY 2026.



JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR



SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK