

**MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8, 2026**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR PRO-TEM ROSA DOMINGUEZ, IKE WARD,
JULIE LEWIS, DANNY VASQUEZ III, JOY LEWIS**

MEMBERS ABSENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, JOHNNIE SAWYER, ROD PONTON

**VISTORS: JEFF VASQUEZ, LUPE VASQUEZ, RONALD LEE, STEPHEN HENSON,
ROGELIO MIRANDA, MEGAN KOLUCH, IRUM ZAIDI, CONSTABLE RAY J. MORA,
DEMARCO MADRID, JOSUE MENDOZA, SAMANTHA HOLLOWAY,
RUSSELL MORRIS, LUPE MENDOZA, FARRAH REYES, ELIDA MENDOZA,
LISA MENDOZA, CAMERON BAEZA, CHRISHA MOLINAR, BRANDIE BAKER.**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Rosa Dominguez at 7:00 pm.
2. Mayor Pro-Tem Rosa Dominguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Danny Vasquez III to approve May 11, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes and May 18, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried 4-0.
4. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve bills and adjustments. Motion Carried 4-0.

5. Reports

A. Ronald Lee presented a report. Mr. Lee added that they are fully moved into the new Station. Joy Lewis asked when we have our festivals the congestion of traffic on Austin Street and HWY17 are bad, would this be a hazard? Mr. Lee responded that it could be, but that falls under law enforcement as far as traffic control. Joy Lewis asked if you must respond, law enforcement would have to go in and clear the clutter first. Mr. Lee responded yes. When you have these events, you want to make sure you have a good presence of law enforcement available to maintain a flow for emergency responders.

B. Josue Mendoza had no report. Rosa Dominguez asked Josue Mendoza if he had paperwork for the sale of the fire department equipment to Pyote Volunteer Fire

Department. Mr. Mendoza stated they would email it tomorrow and then he would email that paperwork to the city clerk.

C. City Clerk stated that the TML quarterly meeting would be hosted in Pecos on June 12th. If anyone is interested, please call and confirm so that we can meet the RVSP deadline. Irum Zaidi with the Texas Tech Health Program reported that the program is going very well. We are trying to find out what the true pattern is with the people that have enrolled. As of yesterday, we screened 220 people and 180 have qualified and enrolled. From an overall community perspective, the data was the same, we are not seeing huge increases with diabetes. It still is staying under 40 percent, which is better than 60 percent we saw in Crane, Texas. It will take a little while, but we will start looking at the outcome data. Ms. Zaidi added that they had attended the Reeves County Commissioner Court and had asked for a specific Pecos site. This will be great to serve Pecos because some are driving down here to Balmorhea from Pecos to enroll. We will continue to have our monthly presence here in Balmorhea, Crane, Pecos and Hobbs in the fall. Ms. Zaidi added that if anyone is interested in joining the team, just let them know.

D. Johnnie Sawyer reported that he continues to work manually controlling the water system due to the control not working and cutting grass. Mr. Sawyer asked about the estimate that was submitted to upgrade the water system controls and Mayor Pro-Tem stated that the council was going to let the mayor be present to make that decision.

E. No Balmorhea Economic Development representation was present.

6. City Attorney Rod Ponton stated that Reeves County voters voted to establish an ESD in Pecos and including Balmorhea. Balmorhea had a volunteer fire department but if they wanted to join these other entities, they might have to create an interlocal agreement. ESD will be happy to have them. They will have proper training and will have to follow the rules. ESD is supported by Reeves County tax dollars, and they have a brand-new fire station. Times have changed but that does not mean there is no space for them in the future. The agreement must be between the volunteer fire department and the ESD. The City of Balmorhea will have to stop paying for the insurance. The department cannot participate in checking on fires, this is not your business anymore. Chrisha Molinar asked if the current fire department does not accept them what would happen to the funding. Would it go back to the city? The current funds were donations made to the fire department. Mr. Ponton responded that it would be a discussion between the volunteer fire department and the ESD. The Reeves ESD would like to have extra support. Ronald Lee with the ESD stated they would be more than happy to bring on the Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department to our program. As Mr. Ponton stated there are rules and regulations, you will need a certain amount of training. We will work diligently to get them uniforms, bunker and radios. Ms. Molinar asked Mr. Lee if the city abolishes the fire

department, will all equipment, trucks and building go to you. Mr. Lee responded that it would be a decision that the City of Balmorhea and part of the agreement. Most likely we would not take any of the equipment because of the certain age. The equipment would probably be more beneficial to the City of Balmorhea. Mr. Ponton added that the trucks belong to the city. Mr. Lee added that there is nothing that states that the Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department can't continue to be an organization. Ms. Molinar added that the department can have their own 401c and get with the city, because those current funds were donated for the purpose of the department. Josue Mendoza stated that the reason the department is keeping the 2 trucks is because if something happens in town and it takes you a long time to get here, we can respond faster. Ms. Molinar stated that she feels that the volunteer fire department needs to possibly set up a meeting to have those discussions with ESD and make the agreement and come back and present it to the city. Mr. Lee responded that would be entirely up to the City of Balmorhea. Mr. Ponton added that the city needed to make a motion, not to abolish but to construct relationships with Reeves County ESD. Ms. Molinar stated that she feels this item needs to be tabled. Mr. Ponton added we can make that motion tonight. The motion will be that the City of Balmorhea delegates turning over responsibilities to Reeves County ESD 1 and to collaborate on the future of the Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department responders. Demarco Madrid asked if the funds in motion are stagnant the program itself can only be used in mechanism of training for those that want to participate. Mr. Ponton responded yes after they talk to the ESD about it. Ms. Molinar added that the way you want them to make the motion is totally take off the way that it is currently written. What is happening to the funds. Mr. Madrid asked where is the money going. Mr. Ponton responded, leave the funds in whatever account the city has and see what the volunteer fire department works out with the ESD. Mr. Lee added there is also a process application for volunteers, it is fairly easy process. Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to converge the Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department to Reeves County ESD 1 and for the City of Balmorhea to stop being responsible for fire protection and request that Balmorhea Volunteer Fire Department collaborates with Reeves County ESD 1 regarding use of volunteers and training. Motion Carried 3-1. Danny Vasquez III- Against.

7. Danny Vasquez III requested that they table this item Isaiah Mendoza could not be present. Chrisha Molinar stated that she did not have financials but wanted to thank all the volunteers and sponsors. It was a great turnout in people attending the festival. Reeves County Judge, PEDC Director and Commissioner came out. We had a lot of positive feedback. Arnulfo Vasquez stated that he wanted to commend all the people that put all their effort into the festival. Mr. Vasquez added that he thought Balmorhea was put up on the map again with all the attendance of the Memorial Day Event. Danny Vasquez III asked the public if anyone else had anything to say before they would table this item. Farah Reyes stated she was a vendor at this event and that the organizer had very good open communication, and the fees were very reasonable to participate. The event brought back nostalgia and Balmorhea is such a beautiful place. This feels like it is just the beginning. We need people with open minds and good leaders.

Josue Mendoza stated that everyone must work together to make it happen. Danny Vasquez made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to table item 7 to the next regular meeting. Motion Carried 4-0.

8. Mayor Pro-Tem Rosa Dominguez informed that the Labor Day Festival is open to anyone interested in organizing the upcoming event and recommend that they present their proposal at the next city council meeting. Joy Lewis stated that any group of sponsors can participate in planning the event. Josue Mendoza asked if he would be able to get donations. Is the city going to allow Reeves County and Pecos Economic Development to give us donations or are you going to cut it off again. Julie Lewis responded, "We did not cut it off." First, there was never an agenda item before Commissioner Paul Hinojos came into the meeting. It needs to be properly placed on the agenda when a transaction is going to take place. Julie Lewis added that Mr. Hinojos had stated that he would like to start sponsoring that event in the future. Whoever is producing the event needs to have those conversations between them. Chrisha Molinar added that the city gives us a budget of \$15,000 and we went out and got donations. A lot of the times I have put on events they go through the city. That they are put out from the city to the organization. For example, if the PEDC donated to the city, then the city would issue payment to IDM Construction. There seems to be a disconnect because we expect the donations and we started working with numbers but then we came to city and you say wait a minute you can't have it. If we decide to do this in the future, we need some clarification on the donations and if you're not going to submit them, I feel that it is completely wrong. You're not allowing that to go through the city. Julie Lewis explained that her understanding is that as a producer or IDM Construction we feel that Reeves County is willing to donate \$5,000 that check needs to be paid directly to IDM Construction not to go through the city because we are not involved in organizing the event. Joy Lewis added that whoever organizes the festivals is a contractor. You ask for permission to do the festival, but we don't fund it, hotel/motel tax funds it. Ms. Molinar suggests that the city needs to have a line designated for the festival funds, so there won't be a question about where it went through. City Clerk added that it would still must go through the proper channels of adding it to the agenda for approval. Danny Vasquez III added that he would like to add to the next agenda. City Clerk responded that you first must make sure that Reeves County is willing to donate to the Labor Day festival and make sure you have volunteers willing to organize a festival for Labor Day. Ms. Molinar stated that regardless of who is putting it on there should already be a line put into the budget for festivals. Rosa Dominguez asked city clerk if IDM Construction had received the \$5,000 check. City Clerk responded, no one picked it up from the time it got approved by the council on May 18, 2026, it is still sitting in my money box. Josue Mendoza stated that someone had called them and said they should not cash the check, because there was a request made to the Reeves County Treasurer to cancel the check. City Clerk responded she was out of town when the council approved it and had no information that all this had taken place. Ms. Molinar asked so do we cash the check. Mr. Vasquez responded, you should be able to cash the check, the

council did approve it at the special meeting. Ms. Molinar stated that she would make a call once they have check in their possession. After some continuous discussion and confusion about what checks were given and which check needed to be picked up, the council took no action on this item. The intentions of this item were for informational purposes only. Ms. Molinar added that she would like to see if the council would consider appointing a city employee to help with the trash pickup during these types of events. Joy Lewis responded that there were a lot of ATVS running around during the last event, but nobody was donating their time. The person you hired had a small wagon. Ms. Molinar responded that if the vehicle belongs to the City of Balmorhea the volunteer may not drive the vehicle, it must be an employee. So usually what is done for these types of events the city pays a person to drive for the entirety of the event. Joy Lewis responded that the trash pickup and porta johns have always been in the regime of the festival promotor. Ms. Molinar responded that the porta johns are not the issue, it's the trash pickup. I will bring that up at the next festival request. Demarco Madrid asked what is the reason the city is not supportive of funds or traffic and tourism. Joy Lewis responded that the city is supportive but there is also a percentage of the hotel/motel taxes that are allowed for each event. Mr. Madrid responded, if the city is willing to take up more, you're not hurting yourself but benefiting. Joy Lewis responded I did not benefit from this festival. I had 50% of people in and out of bathrooms, because the porta johns were parked way down the road and were not well maintained. So, anyone that knew anyone that had a room key were in and out. My motel was a public bathroom for 2 days. Mr. Vasquez stated that this sounded to be more of a personal issue. Ms. Molinar stated that she recalls the porta johns being serviced twice throughout the weekend. Mayor Pro-Tem stated that the council needed to continue with the meeting.

9. Danny Vasquez III asked what the item in reference was to. City Clerk responded that an City employee Johnnie Sawyer had requested that the city consider addressing RV Park fees. Mr. Vasquez stated that he thought the council needed to do further research and wait for the mayor's input on what the city can or cannot do. If Mr. Sawyer is contract labor, then we might have to consider a break for all contract labors. Lupe Mendoza interrupted the council and shouted that Mr. Sawyer works for the city and he should have to pay like everyone else. Danny Vasquez III made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to table item 9 for the next regular meeting. Motion Carried 4-0.

10. After some discussion, Julie Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to start looking for other options on medical insurance for city employees. Motion Carried 4-0.

START EXECUTIVE SESSION:(7:50)

END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:(8.27)

11. No comment or action taken.

12. Danny Vasquez III made a motion, seconded by Joy Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm.
Motion Carried 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13 DAY OF JULY 2026.



JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR



SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK