

MINUTES  
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 11, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: MAYOR JOHN L. DAVIS, IKE WARD, JOY LEWIS,  
ROSA DOMINGUEZ, JULIE LEWIS

MEMBERS ABSENT: DANNY VASQUEZ III

STAFF PRESENT: SANDRA NAVARRETE, RUSSELL MORRIS, LUPE MENDOZA(7:13PM)

VISTORS: ROBERT SYNDER, SAMANTHA HOLLOWAY, GREG PERRIN (7:20PM)  
NED ALLEN (7:33PM) PAUL HINOJOS, AUDRA HINOJOS, LANDON BROOKS,  
JOSUE MENDOZA, CESAR RAMIREZ, SONYA RAMIREZ, SCOTT VOEGTTINE, REEVES COUNTY  
CONSTABLE RAY J. MORA, ESEQUIEL DUTCHOVER

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 7:04 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried 4-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to approve minutes for for April 13, 2026. Motion Carried 4-0.
2. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve bills and adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 4-0.
3. Reports
  - A. Robert Snyder presented ESD 1& 2 report. Mr. Snyder reminded the council of the grand opening of Station #3 on May 30, 2026. No questions addressed.
  - B. No report. No meeting. Mayor Davis asked Josue Mendoza on status of paperwork for the sale of the fire trucks to Pyote Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Mendoza responded that he was waiting for Pyote to get paperwork ready. No action taken on item 1. Julie Lewis asked Mr. Mendoza if there was any way possible that he would attach a financial statement to his minutes every month. Mr. Mendoza responded that the clerk has the bank statements. City clerk added that the council gets a copy of the bank statements in packets every month.

- C. City clerk had no report, but wanted to remind everyone of the Odessa College luncheon tomorrow in Pecos starting at 11:00am – 1:00pm at the Reeves County Civic Center. Clerk asked if the city vehicle would be available to use for this event. Russell Morris stated he had class tomorrow and would this means he use his own vehicle and he get reimbursed. Mayor Davis responded, yes.
- D. Russell Morris stated that other than going to class for 2 days this week, he had submitted a request to purchase chemicals for the waste water ponds. The ponds PH is close to 9. The algae are in the water not the sides of the ponds. The build up is consuming the oxygen. The chemicals will make are PH go down closer to 7. Joy Lewis asked if all the chemicals would be used one time to treat the problem. Mr. Morris responded it would take maybe 1 to 2 process to treat and add the booster in slowly. You would need to crash the system slowly and when you have reached where you want it then you would maintain it. Mr. Morris added that there was a lot of systems that use these kinds of chemicals. Joy Lewis asked when was the last time that the city has used these chemical to treat the wastewater ponds. City Clerk responded that in her 19 years she has never seen any invoices for these types of chemicals to use at wastewater ponds. Mayor Davis added that the ponds have been drained and have had some work done to them as far as lying in liners about 3 to 5 years ago. Mayor Davis stated that Mr. Morris get more information and get back to the him to make a decision whether to purchase chemicals. Rosa Dominguez asked Mr. Morris if when he is out of town or away on the weekend who is the person in charge or on call. Mr. Morris responded that nobody was. Greg Perrin is no longer with the city anymore. Mr. Morris added that when Johnnie Sawyer was here, he had told Lupe Mendoza that if he didn't have a water license, he would not be on call and told Mr. Perin that the city would not use him anymore. Mayor Davis added that Mr. Mendoza can look at the tanks and see if they are full or low but not mess with the chlorine bottles or check the chlorine without a water license. Julie Lewis asked if Mr. Morris is gone and the city has a low tank level and alarm goes off who is here. Mr. Morris responded

no one but Lupe can go look at it. Julie Lewis stated that if Mr. Morris is gone and Mr. Mendoza is gone we need someone here. We have to have at least one person here at all times. Joy Lewis asked Mr. Morris if when he attends classes out of town does he make arrangements to check our systems. Before Mr. Sawyer, I used to have Mr. Mendoza, check and Mr. Perrin would be available. Joy Lewis responded Mr. Sawyer was here for 2 months he could have not destroyed the system. Mayor Davis added that the only thing Mr. Mendoza is authorized to check is numbers or tank levels. He is not supposed to do anything that involves chlorine without a license.

Mrs. Dominguez asked the city employees if they have finished installing all the stop signs around town. Mr. Morris responded no. Mr. Morris stated that he had completed all the capping and replaced some poles around the C.T. Gray Park. Julie Lewis added that everything that was flagged was supposed to be replaced. Mr. Morris asked are you all not believing me? Mayor Davis responded that Julie Lewis had stated that there was some posts that hadn't been replaced. Mr. Morris responded we did the inner fence not the outer fence. Mrs. Dominguez continued to ask about pending work orders and asked about a leak on the corner of San Antonio Street & 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

Mr. Morris stated he was waiting on an 811 call. Mayor Davis asked why had a bad meter not been replaced at the TP lake line. Mr. Morris responded that when he had taken a replacement out, he ended up using on a different account and have forgotten to take another meter out for the Faulkner account. Mayor Davis responded get it done as soon as possible.

- E. Lyndell Brooks introduced himself to the council and stated he is now the President for the Balmorhea Economic Development Corporation and shared experiences that would help him in this role. Joy Lewis stated that she appreciated Mr. Brooks speech but like it written down because she would not remember 6 words of his long speech. No questions were addressed.

4. Item was postponed for a future meeting. Commissioner Paul Hinojos stated he would go to Reeves County to ask the court to help renovate the bleachers and anything else at the C.T. Gray Park. Mr. Hinojos stated that the County was fixing to give the City of Pecos a lot of money to built a park on the east side. Joy Lewis asked if Mr. Hinojos was to do that, when would you start. Mr. Hinojos responded it would have to go through the system first. With the recreational center coming along we would like to utilize that field also. Mr. Hinojos added that the county was awarded a grant and is putting it in to the southern part of Reeves County to get internet. The county will have to match but is now in the process. Mayor Davis stated that the key item here would be to make everything an agenda item on what we would like help

with for the C.T. Gray field and present it at commissioner's court. Mr. Hinojos added that the only other public comment he has is that he tried to get the city money for the Memorial Day Festival that is coming up and our auditor was told that we couldn't get a W9 from the City of Balmorhea, so we can't cut those funds.

Mr. Hinojos added that he thought it was a good deal to have the festival. The group that is putting it on is a nonprofit organization all money is going for benefit of the festival or kid's scholarships. All financials will be provided on where all the money goes. Mr. Hinojos added he did not know why there was a resistance with W9 for the City of Balmorhea. Mayor Davis responded that he left that decision to what the City of Balmorhea Auditor recommended. The City of Balmorhea has nothing to do with the Memorial Day Event. If this is the plan for the future we need to do it right.

Mr. Hinojos added that he understood that the City of Balmorhea did give money to the nonprofit for the festival. Mayor Davis responded yes hotel/motel tax was given. Mr. Hinojos added that the W9 will come from the city and what the city decides to do with the funds whether it goes to the fire department or BEDC and then it is given to them it is fine. Joy Lewis asked why don't you give it direct to the festival people instead of the City of Balmorhea we are not organizing the festival. Mr. Hinojos responded the festival is part of the city. Joy Lewis responded, no it occupies city but we don't have anything to do with it. Bed tax money has already been given to them. Mayor Davis added that we need to educate the proper way to do this, because our financial director and auditor don't feel comfortable with this procedure. Sara Ramirez shouted that she was curious and asked if the City of Balmorhea had a Park & Recreational Department Committee that would be able to help with this. Mr. Hinojos responded you most definitely can because when you have a festival in the community you bring money in and that is part of economic development. So, if the county gives the city the money and they give it to the BEDC they can give it to the festival people. That is legal, you will have people filling the motels, buying gas and creating a lot of economic development. We do it all the time in Pecos. Mrs. Ramirez added that the biggest concern when you are dealing with money is you have to do it right, because if one person tells you it is okay to do it this way doesn't mean that it is and you don't know until it is too late. There should be someone designated to do the research first instead of asking this council to do it. Mayor Davis added that if the auditor would have said to do it, I would have done it even if the council would have not agreed. The auditor is the only one that holds me back. Lupe Mendoza interrupts and shouts that the money is going to be used for scholarships. Josue Mendoza shouts out and asked did you ask the auditor how you can do it. Mayor Davis responded yes, we have been talking to him and there is possibility a loop hole around it. Mr. Hinojos added there might not so much be a loop hole but it is the way you posture the question or the way it is presented. Doak Painter is the Pecos Economic Development

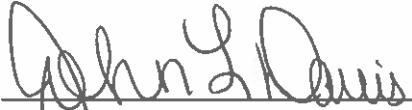
Auditor and I can ask him and get you some money. Rosa Dominguez asked if it happens to come through what is the money is designated for, is it for the use of the City of Balmorhea? Mr. Hinojos responded we are giving it to the City of Balmorhea for the purpose of the festival. The festival has always been part of the city of Balmorhea and now there is another entity. Mr. Mendoza shouted you asked us to ask for donations and we did. City Clerk stated that the problem here with the acceptance of the money was the approach that was taken. Nobody on the council knew that this donation existed. When Reeves County called this office, we had no clue. The questions the county had for this office was are you putting the festival on? It is my duty to keep this office transparent and I advised them no, it is an outside individual organizing the festival. When the other question was who used the City of Balmorhea name to ask for this donation no one here knew anything about. Our finance director and auditor pretty much said there was nothing here to support these actions. No agenda, no minutes, no transparency. Doak Painter stated that it could have been done the right way if the council would have been approached correctly. It would have made a great of amount of sense if maybe the council would had been asked for permission to use the City of Balmorhea name to ask for donations or properly had addressed in a formal meeting. I wasn't going to lie and hand over any forms without my finance director or anyone on the council having any knowledge about it. City of Balmorhea was totally left out. It wasn't a matter of refusing to accept the money but keeping the whole process transparent. Mr. Hinojos added that he understood why Mr. Painter was saying it was a donation because it has to go through the city council. Every donation that the county receives we have to accept through commissioner's court. Mr. Hinojos added that his mistake was that he thought all festivals were run by the City of Balmorhea. Joy Lewis asked Mr. Hinojos why are you so desperate to give us that money now, we have had festivals so many years before and Pecos has not stepped up with a dime. Mr. Mendoza shouted you have never asked. Joy Lewis responded, we don't have to ask they way he is talking, he is just being very generous. We don't want a donation, they want a donation. Give them the donation they are a separate organization or maybe to the fire department. Mr. Hinojos responded it has to be given to another tax entity, if we give it to the fire department it still goes to the City of Balmorhea.

START EXECUTIVE SESSION: (8:13pm)

END EXECUTIVE SESSION: (8:45 pm)

5. No comments or action was taken.
6. Rosa Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Julie Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. Motion Carried 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8 DAY OF JUNE 2026.

  
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JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR

  
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SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK