

MINUTES
BALMORHEA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2023

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

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

VISTORS: ROD SNYDER

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Davis at 6:08 pm.
2. Mayor John L. Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Joy Lewis stated she wanted a proposal on paper for this request. Mrs. Lewis added she did not want to decide until this was presented. Josue Mendoza added that the council has been addressing this topic some time ago and the City of Balmorhea needs this service. Mrs. Lewis added she would like to see on paper how this would work, "Is the City going to have to grandfather all residents in Balmorhea" Mayor Davis explained that the reason this is needed is to enforce ordinances that no one is enforcing. The City of Balmorhea will not get rich of this this court. It over all benefits the quality of life for the residents of Balmorhea. The ordinances that the City of Balmorhea has in place are just being shifting from the Justice of the Peace #3 to Reeves County Sheriff's Department and no one takes action. Joy Lewis responded, I know the City of Balmorhea needs this but I want to know plans, projections actual codes and cost. Mayor Davis responded the only cost in this procedure is the cost of the training for the Judge and the Clerk. Bernadette Portillo added that she felt it was an additional layer of enforcement for the City of Balmorhea. Mayor Davis added that he would provide Mrs. Lewis with all documentation to make her comfortable with the decision. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve designation of Municipal Court Judge & Clerk. Motion Carried 4-0. Joy Lewis-Against.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve minutes for October 16, 2023. Motion Carried 5-0.
2. Ike Ward made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve bills and

adjustments as presented. Motion Carried 5-0.

3. Reports

A. ESD 1&2 October 2023 report was read by Rod Synder. The big push is trying to finish the Balmorhea Station. Move in will be sometime in middle of January 2024. No questions were addressed.

B. City Clerk reported that the City of Balmorhea had made some Veteran's Day Baskets to honor our local Veteran's. Some were delivered to Balmorhea ISD during the Veteran's Day program and the others were home deliveries. Total gift baskets that were given out were 22.

C. Greg Perrin reported that the wastewater construction was still going on at the ponds. Mr. Perrin stated that he had turned it over to James Busby to contact the construction company and have them finish the project off. This should have been a 3 month project and it has been over 6 months. The deadline for the contracts is December 19, 2023 and there still in need of installing piping and valves. City Clerk reported that the second request for payment for this project had been received and is being processed. Mr. Perrin stated that he is still dealing with the lead/copper issue. TCEQ is requiring that the City of Balmorhea send a letter to all water bill residents advising that one of the samples was positive for lead/copper. The bad sample was taken from a resident's home and has nothing to do with our water system. Mr. Perrin doesn't understand how TCEQ can penalize the whole town if this issue pertains to a resident. Lead/copper was not detected in City of Balmorhea water system. The bad sample came from a resident that had been out of town for some time. Mr. Perrin added that the Balmorhea ISD needs to figure some kind of a process to get water for their irrigation. Mayor Davis stated that Superintendent John Massey knew that information from day one so that's why he decided to allow them to start drilling. They were already getting water from the water district. It is not the City's problem as far as providing water for irrigation. The city's responsibility is to get water to the school building. Mayor Davis added that the City of Balmorhea cannot continue to tell them this. We are not a babysitting service and we don't do shit twice. Water Operator Russell Morris reported some water loss. Mr. Morris added that he has tried to pin point a leak that might be visible but he can find anything. It is not so significant that we have to dig up all the lines.

D. Rosa Dominguez reported that the BEDC has changed their meeting date to the first Monday of the month. This will help to present documentation to the City Council if needed on the second Monday of the month when they meet. Mrs. Dominguez presented a vendor form to council and stated that the council could make any changes if they needed to. Mayor Davis stated that on the options for vendor fee on the form he suggested that Mrs. Dominguez only set one particular date instead of 3 options to send the vendor fee. Mayor Davis feels that the committee might get played where the vendor will pay a portion and forget to pay the rest but show up to set up on the day of the event. Mrs. Dominguez added that she has had discussions with vendors before and they have stated that sometimes it's hard to pay the entire amount and these options would help them. Mrs. Dominguez stated


she does not want to deal with any money the day of the event. Mrs. Dominguez asked that she be given the chance to try this new method of vendor fee collection on the Memorial Day Festival and if there are issues we will go back to the traditional way. Balmorhea Event Committee will take care of all the organizing of the fiestas and there will be paper trail of checks and receipts that will be turned in to the city council.

1. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Bernadette Portillo to approve signature card signatures for Demarco Madrid, Sylvia Iniguez and Rosa Dominguez for the Balmorhea Economic Development Account. Motion Carried 5-0.

2. Bernadette Portillo made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to approve opening a Balmorhea Event Committee account and transfer \$1000 from the Balmorhea Economic Development Corporation to Balmorhea Event Committee. With approval of Rosa Dominguez, Farrah Reyes and Louann Hernandez will be on the signature card for this account. Motion Carried 5-0.

4. Josue Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Ike Ward to adjourn meeting at 6:55 pm.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11 DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023.



JOHN L. DAVIS, MAYOR



SANDRA NAVARRETE, CITY CLERK