

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on September 17, 2024, at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Adam Estenson, Council members John Dorman Sr., Rachel Hughes and Dusty Lewis. Also, present were Clerk/Treasurer Tracey Van Heule, Public Works Director Basil Sorensen, Police Chief Pat Cornwell, Town Attorney Marshall Keller and Town Engineer Anthony Barnett. Council member Bill Malloy was absent.

AGENDA: Following the pledge of allegiance, Lewis made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve the agenda with the change of moving the Town Engineer executive session before Public Works.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Hughes made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the financial statement for August 2024.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: JAMES SECKMAN: 2024 AUDIT RESULTS: Seckman presented the audit of the Town's June 30, 2024, financial statements. The audit includes reviewing accounting principles, assessing deficiencies (lack of segregation of duties), evaluating compliance and reviewing reserves. Mr. Seckman encouraged oversight from the Town Administrator and/or Mayor and Council. The sanitation fund does not cover depreciation, and a rate increase was recommended. The auditor's opinion noted the town's financial statements fairly present the town's financial position.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Debra Davenport expressed concern about the junk and vehicles that have returned to 117 Fremont. Estenson noted he would set up a meeting with Davenport, Jeunehomme and himself. Tonya Petty expressed her displeasure with Town leadership and the police department. Jennifer Paris expressed concern about the possibility of a garbage transfer station being built below her garage and future home site on Owl Creek Hill Road.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: At 7:26 pm Dorman made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried, to enter executive session, as allowed under state statute 16-4-405 (a)(ix) and 16-4-405(a)(vii). At 8:07 pm the executive sessions ended, and Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to resume regular session.

TOWN ENGINEER: Lewis made a motion, and Hughes seconded to allow the mayor to sign a purchase agreement for the S 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 35N., Range 95W 6th PM, Block 4, Tract 4 of the Commercial Park West Subdivision, containing 3.63 acres for \$300,000.00. In discussion, Estenson noted there were access concerns with the proposed site north of town, the current site is in a commercial zone and plans are for a metal building. Landscaping is also being considered. Operations would be enclosed with trash collected on a working floor then to a drop floor trailer. Trash would be moved asap. Other discussion ensued on DEQ requirements and the Town being one of a few municipalities with a landfill. All voted aye, motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HOT SPRINGS COUNTY: Estenson noted the County is looking at a block grant for the north side of the 500 block of Arapahoe and remodeling the Common Ground building for higher education. Dorman Sr. made a motion, and

Hughes seconded to allow the mayor to sign the letter of support. Lewis asked if it would be more effective for the Town to apply for the grant, Estenson noted the County owned the building at 518 Arapahoe. All voted aye, motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: Estenson noted the Fire Department helped get the flags unstuck, after the landspout. The flagpole, which was damaged in the windstorm (landspout) will be evaluated. Estenson stated there is a possibility of replacing the pole with a 15-20' lower pole, due to cost, availability and maintenance. The mayor also thanked the Fire Department and other agencies for the work on the Warm Springs Fire. Council woman Hughes wanted to acknowledge the following four individuals who were recently deployed for the next 11 months, Dylan Todd, Clint Strawser, Talen Steinmetz and Brad Becerra. At 8:28pm Hughes made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dorman Sr. and carried. The next Council meeting is October 1, 2024, at 7pm.

ATTEST:

Tracey Van Heule, Clerk/Treasurer

Adam R. Estenson, Mayor