

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on January 21, 2025, at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Adam Estenson, Council members Tony Larson, John Dorman Sr., Rachel Hughes, and Dusty Lewis. Also, present were Mayor/Codes Administrative Assistant Jim Jeunehomme, Clerk/Treasurer Tracey Van Heule, Police Chief Pat Cornwell, Town Engineer Anthony Barnett, and Town Attorney Marshall Keller.

AGENDA: Following the pledge of allegiance, Dorman made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the agenda as written.

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: OEB SALOON – CATERING PERMIT: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve a catering permit for OEB Saloon for Hot Springs Health party on January 25, 2025, at the Fairgrounds, from 3pm to 12am. Permission was given by the Fair Board.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: 7 LAZY S CAFÉ & BAR – CATERING PERMIT: Larson made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve a catering permit for 7 Lazy S for a Galantines Event at 444 Broadway on February 6, 2025, from 4pm to 8pm.

PUBLIC HEARING: VARIANCE REQUEST – 107 BROADWAY: Jeunehomme noted the variance request is to allow the use of the existing foundation/basement at 107 Broadway. The current modular home is to be removed and will be replaced by another home. The basement extends into a five-foot setback required by town code. Removing the foundation/basement would be expensive, hence the variance request. Additional discussion ensued on changes to deed descriptions over time and the lack of a plat. The public hearing was opened at 7:15 pm. Discussion ensued on legal descriptions, the 8' and 10' walls in the basement and the lack of a plat. Estenson noted the hardship burden for the variance has been met. Keller noted the lack of a plat and the variance are two separate issues. The hearing was closed at 7:22 pm. Hughes made a motion and Lewis seconded to approve the variance request. Estenson and Jeunehomme noted they do not believe the variance would set precedence. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Nothing at this time.

TOWN ATTORNEY: AMENDING 24HR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE APPLICATIONS & SALES: Keller read the proposed ordinance which would improve the efficiency of the permitting process and allow for administration to approve permits. Lewis made a motion and Dorman seconded to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Keller suggested changing the “new events” wording. Following discussion, the wording will be changed to “annual” for the second reading. Motion carried.

CODES ADMINISTRATION: PLAT ISSUE: Jeunehomme noted the property lines may not be correct. Discussion ensued on surveying the area. Keller noted the town could survey the area,

but the negotiation between property owners is not the Town's responsibility. Keller will research the plat issue.

ADMINISTRATION: EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: At 7:39 pm Hughes made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried, to enter executive session, as allowed under state statute 16-4-405 (a)(ix). At 7:52 pm the executive session ended.

ADMINISTRATION: HOT SPRINGS RURAL JOINT POWERS BOARD: Larson made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried, to appoint Jim Jeunehomme to the Hot Springs Rural Joint Powers Board for a three-year term.

ADMINISTRATION: BIG HORN BASIN NATURE & DISCOVERY CENTER: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson to appoint Joe Moon to the joint County/Town board seat on the Nature & Discovery Center Board. The County appointed Moon earlier in the day. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: OWL CREEK WATER DISTRICT – LETTER OF SUPPORT: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the mayor's signature on a letter of support for the district, who is applying for a grant for automated flushers on their water line. Additional discussion ensued about a water line break earlier in the day and how residents were notified. Jeunehomme noted text-my-gov was used. At 8:02pm Hughes made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to adjourn. The next Council meeting is February 4, 2025, at 7pm.

ATTEST:

Tracey Van Heule, Clerk/Treasurer

Adam R. Estenson, Mayor