

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on April 15, 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 Lewis and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Dorman made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve the financial statement for March 2025.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: DOUBLE D LLC – CATERING PERMIT: Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve a catering permit for Double D LLC (Shorty's) for the Figure Eight Race on May 10, 2025, at the Fairgrounds, from 10 am to 11pm. Fair Board approval was received.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: JORDAN BROOKS – STATE PARK UPDATE: Brooks noted the Star Plunge is closed and there is pending litigation against the state, brought by the owner of the Star Plunge, essentially a contract dispute. He noted the state is working on mitigating the closure with the following: the Best Western Plaza is upgrading their facility, the Tepee is expanding their hours, and the Bath House has extended its hours. Information from the office of Tourism notes Hot Springs County tourism is down 4% with the State down 5%. Brooks noted the scheduled road repair in Hot Springs State Park will not begin until after the Broadway Bridge project is completed and a statewide marketing campaign for Thermopolis will be launching.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: MADISON MOAK – PLAYGROUND CONCERNS: Moak noted the ground is uneven and there are holes where you step off the elevated platform for the playground equipment at Family Park and Glade Edwards Park. Estenson noted Sorensen and Larson would respond to the complaint.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: DEBRA DAVENPORT – NUISANCE COMPLAINT ON 117 FREMONT: Davenport asked about the cause of the recent fire at 117 Fremont, noted there is no electricity and the renter is living in a motor home with a generator in use at night. She noted she continues to file nuisance complaints.

PUBLIC HEARING: MADISON MOAK-CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT: Jeunehomme noted a conditional use permit is being sought for 408 N. 7th for a barber shop. A home occupation permit does not qualify. At 7:20 pm, Mayor Estenson opened the public hearing. Madison Moak noted she lives in the larger of the apartments at 404 N. 7th, the three cabins to the north are vacant and she would like to have a barber shop in the middle cabin. The barber shop would have one chair and be open 8 to 10 days a month, by appointment. There were three calls for public comment and no comments were made. The hearing was closed at 7:22pm. Hughes made a

motion and Dorman seconded to allow the conditional use permit. In discussion, Keller noted the request is not for a variance and Estenson noted the Town can set the conditions for a home occupation permit and he believes it conforms as there is already an apartment building in the neighborhood. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: OEB LLC – RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER: At 7:22 pm, Mayor Estenson opened the public hearing. After calling for public comments, three times and none being made, the public hearing was closed. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve the retail liquor license transfer from 528 Broadway to 535 Broadway. Per a letter from Jennifer Fisher, the bar and grill license will be returned to the town.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Cornwell noted the training exercise at the baseball fields went well. He also noted this week is Dispatch Communications Week. Barnett noted the last landfill cell is being staked. Hughes asked about the composting class and Barnett noted the DEQ is planning on a green and food waste class in September, no other information is available at this time.

TOWN ATTORNEY: AN ORDINANCE REVISING CARPORT DEFINITION, LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION: Keller noted the square footage was amended. Hughes expressed concern about prohibiting junk being stored in carports. Jeunehomme noted there will be a visual inspection with the permit. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve the third and final reading of the ordinance.

ORDINANCE 880

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SEC. 15-106 (ttt) AND (uuu) DEFINITION OF CARPORT, 15-502 LOCATION OF CARPORT AND 15-1503 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR CARPORTS/

PASSED ON FIRST READING March 18, 2025.

PASSED ON SECOND READING April 1, 2025.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIRD AND FINAL READING April 15, 2025.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: Hughes had questions on the website and Jeunehomme reminded the group of the plans to visit the Saratoga transfer station on April 24th. At 7:40pm Hughes made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to adjourn. The next Council meeting is May 6, 2025, at 7pm.

ATTEST:

Tracey Van Heule, Clerk/Treasurer

Adam R. Estenson, Mayor