

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on November 18, 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, Public Works Director Basil Sorensen, Police Chief Pat Cornwell, Town Attorney Marshall Keller and Town Engineer Anthony Barnett.

AGENDA: Following the pledge of allegiance, Larson made a motion, seconded by Dorman 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 October 2025.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: SANDY ROBERTSON – ANNUAL PERMIT FEE: Robertson asked that the annual transient merchant fee be lowered from \$300/yr to \$50 or \$60/yr. Discussion ensued on costs and rules in neighboring communities, agricultural products, sales tax, food permits, sanitation fees and local event fees. Keller was directed to prepare an ordinance lowering the transient merchant fee and adding a food service permit to the application.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: MERI ANN DORMAN – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – THERMOPOLIS TASTEFEST: Meri Ann noted the chamber is taking over the brewfest and changing the name. She noted they would like to open the event to wineries and distilleries. She asked for street closures on Broadway from 4th to 5th street and permission to use the old fire hall for music on June 6, 2026. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Dorman Sr. and carried to approve the event requests.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: LISA BOMENGEN; SENIOR BANNERS: Cassie Owsley and Natalya Keller were present to ask for permission to hang senior class banners on 44 decorative lights from Dairyland to Maverik from May 3 to June 14, 2026 (High School graduation is May 17, 2026). They noted the banners could be removed earlier, if needed. Larson made a motion, seconded by Hughes to approve the request.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: VFW – LETTER OF SUPPORT: Larson made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to allow the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the VFW. The letter will be attached to a grant request to purchase all the different American flags in the last 250 years. It was noted the VFW will need to coordinate with John Gerrells who displays American flags on Broadway.

TOWN ENGINEER: ANTHONY BARNETT: RESOLUTION 586: Barnett noted this resolution will begin the process of securing funds for the town to comply with federal laws on lead water lines. A motion to approve the \$6,081,495 request to the State Loan & Investment Board was made by Dorman, seconded by Larson and carried. Barnett also noted there will be a public

hearing on December 2 as required by the DEQ. He also noted there will be a transfer station funding resolution at the December 2 meeting.

ADMINISTRATION: POLICE DEPARTMENT BASE RATE INCREASE: Jeunehomme noted the Town has one of the lowest wages for police officers and dispatchers in the Big Horn Basin and proposed a \$2/hour increase for the police and dispatch departments. Discussion ensued on the upcoming recruitment campaign, a January 1 effective date, per hour wages in other communities, increasing wages for all departments, a tiered approach to increases and establishing an annual wage increase. Lewis made a motion and Larson seconded to increase police and dispatch wages by \$2.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2026. Discussion ensued. Voting aye were Larson, Dorman, Estenson and Lewis. Hughes voted no, motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION: PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL: Dorman made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the property insurance renewal from Tegeler. The rate increased from \$65,193 to \$67,079 a 3% increase. The bid from Hub was \$76,888.

ADMINISTRATION: HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL: Administration recommends increasing single coverage by \$10/month and family coverage \$20/month, effective January 1, 2026, due to the renewal increase. Larson made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve the employee health insurance premium increases.

ADMINISTRATION: BUDGETED BONUS: Hughes made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve the \$300 net bonus to employees, as budgeted.

ADMINISTRATION: PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACT ADDENDUM: Councilman Larson recused himself from the discussion. Jeunehomme noted the addendum addresses the landscaping change in front of town hall due to concrete repair. Dorman made a motion and Hughes seconded to approve the addendum. Voting aye were Dorman, Estenson, Hughes and Lewis. Larson abstained. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: TRAVEL & TOURISM – WAYFINDING SIGNS: Angie Guyon presented examples of the proposed signs. She noted the group received \$80,000 in destination development funds for the signs. Following town approval, a walk through will be scheduled with WYDOT, then an M29 form will be completed by Travel & Tourism. She noted duplicate signs would be removed, and the new signs will be purchased and installed by Wyo Signs. Discussion ensued on maintenance and Guyon will see if travel & tourism will establish a sign maintenance fund. Larson made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to move forward with the sign project. At 8:20 Dorman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Larson and carried. The next Council meeting is December 2, 2025, at 7pm.

ATTEST:

Tracey Van Heule, Clerk/Treasurer

Adam R. Estenson, Mayor