

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on March 17, 2026, 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, Town Attorney Marshall Keller, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Connie Guntly, Public Works Director Basil Sorensen, Police Chief Pat Cornwell, and Town Engineer Anthony Barnett.

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT RESOLUTION NO. 589: Dorman made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve and adopt Resolution 589, which adjusts the budget to reflect actual costs.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Hughes made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve the financial statement for February 2026.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: CATERING PERMIT: The following 24-hour Catering Permits were presented for approval: 1. OEB Saloon, March 20, Basket and Cookie Jar Auction; 2. OEB Saloon, March 28, Hospital Foundation Gala; 3. OEB Saloon, April 11, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; 4. Double D LLC (Shorty's), May 2, Figure 8 Race. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve all four catering permits for events at the Fair Grounds. Fair Board permission was received.

CHIEF OF POLICE: Casey Fisher was sworn in by Mayor Estenson for the Police Officer position. Chief Cornwell commented that another officer should start in May.

TOWN ENGINEER: Anthony Barnett informed the Council the pre-bid meeting for the tank painting project has been moved to Thursday March 26. Further information should be presented at the next meeting.

### TOWN ATTORNEY:

1. First Reading Amending Ordinance 857 Adoption of Codes: Keller stated the amendment to the ordinance is for International Building Codes (IBC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes. This ordinance allows for the Town to automatically include and adopt each and every future edition to the IBC and NFPA codes and provide notice to the public, without further legislative action by the Town of Thermopolis. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve the first reading of amending Ordinance 857.
2. First Reading Repealing and Reenacting Fireworks Town Code Section 11-102: Keller explained this ordinance to repeal and reenact the Fireworks Town Code Section 11-102, which still allows for fireworks on New Year's Eve and the Fourth of July, and requires Council approval for any other event. Discussion ensued regarding the boundaries in

town to be considered “no fly zones” and detonation times, 3:00 pm was suggested for start time and 12:30 am finish time for both holidays. Larson made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the first reading for Fireworks Town Code Section 11-102 with changes as discussed.

3. First Reading Mayor and Council Pay Rate Scale Ordinance: Keller presented an ordinance establishing salaries for newly elected mayor and town council members, raising the pay. Keller further explained this would not go into effect until after the newly elected members take their positions, and the suggested amounts are well below statutory maximum. Topics discussed included increased salary as an incentive, current council rates being adequate for the work performed and increasing the Mayor’s rate due to increasing complex circumstances. Lewis made a motion, seconded Larson to leave the ordinance as written. Lewis stepped out of the meeting for a personal reason, before the voting. Motion carried with Larson, Dorman, and Mayor Estenson in favor and Hughes opposed.

ADMINISTRATION – VOTING DELEGATES FOR 2026 WAM CONFERENCE: Dorman made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to nominate Rachel Hughes as the voting delegate at the 2026 WAM summer conference.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: Mayor Estenson stated the County is seeking funding for the hangar project at the new airport, and requested a letter of support. Lewis returned to the meeting and made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve a letter of support. Dorman suggested budgeting for tree trimming at the water and sewer plant. At 7:40 pm Larson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hughes and carried. The next Council meeting is April 7, 2026, at 7pm.

ATTEST:

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Connie Guntly, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

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Adam R. Estenson, Mayor