

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on December 19, 2023, at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Adam Estenson, Council members Bill Malloy, 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 and Town Engineer Anthony Barnett.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Malloy made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the financial statement for November 2023.

SALES TAX APPEAL REFUND: Van Heule noted a letter was received from the Department of Revenue advising the town of a sales tax refund to Merit Energy of \$277,416.41. The refund was a result of a Board of Equalization hearing from a 2017 to 2020 audit, that 49.3% of electrical usage at the well site was exempt from sales tax. The department of revenue applied the November sales and one cent tax distribution toward the refund amount. The amount remaining of \$143,463.50 is required to be paid before December 31, 2023. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the reimbursement.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: OEB SALOON: CATERING PERMITS: Malloy made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve two catering permits for OEB Saloon. The first is for the PRCA Rodeo party on December 31, the second is for the Hot Springs Health Christmas party on January 20, 2024. Both permits were for the fair building and fair board approval was received.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: KIM BARTLETT: Bartlett requested an ordinance to prevent parking on 5<sup>th</sup> street from Broadway, south to the alley during Farmers Market. Following discussion, Estenson directed Keller to prepare an ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING: CASSANDRA NORSKOG: HOME OCCUPATION – CHILDCARE: Malloy made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve a home occupation permit for childcare at 1122 Broadway.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Estenson noted Dispatch will have the capability to summon a medical helicopter with the touch of a button, during a critical response situation. He also noted the 911 calls have been routed to Washakie County and work is being done to rectify the problem.

TOWN ATTORNEY: WATER RATE ORDINANCE: Keller read the proposed ordinance which would raise the base rate from \$19.80 to \$25.00 per month. Malloy made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the third and final reading of the ordinance.

#### ORDINANCE 874

An ordinance enacting new water rates for units and use by more than 5% by ordinance instead of by resolution as required by town code 14-601(b). Whereas the current water rates do not meet the current expense and depreciation cost. Whereas the enterprise fund cannot operate at a deficit. The effective date of the ordinance is February 1, 2023.

Passed on first reading, November 21, 2023. Passed on second reading, December 5, 2023.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on third and final reading, December 19, 2023.

TOWN ATTORNEY: BAR & GRILL LIQUOR ORDINANCE: Following the reading of the ordinance, Dorman made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the third and final reading of the ordinance.

#### ORDINANCE 872

An ordinance amending town code section 3-107 by increasing the number of liquor licenses within the limits of the Town of Thermopolis. Whereas the state of Wyoming amended Wyoming statute 12-4-413 on the first day of July 2023 to allow four bar and grill liquor licenses for incorporated towns with populations of 7,500 or less. Whereas the Town of Thermopolis has a population of approximately 2,700 people counted in the last census.

Passed on first reading, November 21, 2023. Passed on second reading, December 5, 2023.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on third and final reading, December 19, 2023.

TOWN ATTORNEY: AMEND ORDINANCE 864 (TOWN CODE SECTION 11-611):

Following the reading of the ordinance, Dorman made a motion, seconded by Malloy and carried to approve the third and final reading of the ordinance.

#### ORDINANCE 873

An ordinance amending town code section 11-611 concerning gambling, permitting pari-mutuel events and pari-mutuel wagering and skill-based amusement games pursuant to Wyoming Statutes 11-25-101, et.seq. Thereas the town code for pari-mutuel betting and skills-based games state 11-25-101 through 11-25-209, the state statutes for pari-mutuel betting and skills-based games go from 11-25-101 through 11-25-306.

Passed on first reading, November 21, 2023. Passed on second reading, December 5, 2023.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on third and final reading, December 19, 2023.

ADMINISTRATION: PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL: Jeunehomme noted that HUB quoted \$58,766 and Tegeler quoted \$51,917 for 2024 property insurance. Following review, Jeunehomme noted the two bids provide similar coverage. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to accept the low bid from Tegeler.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION: Estenson presented Devin “Dood” Jaussaud a certificate of commendation from Chief Cornwell for superior performance during duty.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: OTHER: Estenson requested a \$300 net bonus for town employees. The bonus will be funded by decreasing the town’s contribution to the health insurance fund. Lewis

made a motion, seconded by Malloy and carried to approve the bonus and corresponding budget changes. At 7:28 Malloy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dorman and carried. The next Council meeting is January 2, 2024, at 7pm.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracey Van Heule, Clerk/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adam R. Estenson, Mayor