

Thayne Town Council Meeting
Special Meeting
September 1, 2021

FINAL

Council in attendance: Mayor Simpson, Councilwoman Passey, Councilman Heward, Councilman Woolley and Clerk Hillstead

Excused: Councilman Schwab

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Welcome: Mayor Devin Simpson

Pledge of Allegiance: Clerk Hillstead

Prayer: Mayor Devin Simpson

Mayor Simpson stated that he would like to add two items to the agenda. The first is the escrow agreement with Doug Childs and the second is a discussion on having a seal coat put on the big pavilion parking lot. Mayor Simpson stated that where these items were not on the finalized agenda, there can be no vote taken but the decision will be ratified at the next regular Council Meeting.

Adoption of September 1, 2021 Agenda as finalized.

Motion- Councilwoman Passey

Seconded- Councilman Schwab

Motion Carried

Ordinance 366 – Lots #1-#7 Paul Addition Zoning Change from C-2 Heavy Commercial to AR-2 Agricultural Residential/Duplex and lot sizing variance – 2nd Reading

Mayor Simpson asked for any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Ordinance 366; none were given.

Motion to approve Ordinance 366 on 2nd reading.

Motion- Councilman Woolley

Seconded- Councilwoman Passey

Motion Carried

Options and future uses for the Town Hall building located at 115 Petersen Parkway

Mayor Simpson thanked those present for attending the meeting. Mayor Simpson stated that there was some misinformation sent out and he would like to get that set straight. Simpson asked those in attendance to be considerate of one another, and if anyone wanted to speak to please step up to the microphone so that their comments can be recorded. There is no set time limit for those commenting but please use a timely manner so that everyone that would like to speak gets the opportunity. Mayor Simpson stated that the Town Council was blindsided by the Thayne Senior Center wanting to leave the Town Hall building and build a building of their own. The Town Council did not want to see half of the Town Hall building empty. Councilman Heward mentioned the possibility of moving the Town Hall to the Community Center Building and selling the building at 115 Petersen Parkway. Currently the Cutter Racing Museum is locked at all times; the Town Council doesn't feel ok with leaving the museum open without supervision due to the valuable and irreplaceable items within. Heward's idea was to move the Town Clerk's office into the Cutter Racing Museum so that the museum could be open to the public

during regular office hours. The museum would not need to be changed at all and all the memorabilia would remain. The chariot and the sled would need to be modified slightly and would be moved to the opposite side of the main doors across from the current museum for display. Mayor Simpson assured that this is all just an idea and won't be happening anytime soon if at all; this is just the information gathering stage. Mayor Simpson then stated that if any of those in attendance would like to comment to please come up to the microphone and state their name and where they are from for the record.

Misty Nelson-Freedom, WY

Misty asked with the possibility would be to allow people to check out a key to the museum from the library. Councilman Heward replied that it was an idea, but the library doesn't want the liability.

Lou Scarlett- Freedom, WY

Lou stated that he was in attendance on behalf of the Jackson Hole Shrine Club and any help to keep the museum open is greatly appreciated.

Sharron Woolley-Thayne, WY

Sharron stated that some of the Town documents and or discussions may be confidential which would be challenging for the Clerk being in the museum with the public. Woolley also commented that she would hate to lose the Town Hall building that the community has worked hard for.

Chris Allred-Etna

Chris clarified that the Town Hall would not move, and the building would not be sold before the Senior Center has moved into their new building which might be years in the future. Mayor Simpson stated that the building could not be sold until the Senior Center's contract is up.

Donny Wheeler-Idaho Falls, ID

Donny stated that he was in attendance on behalf of the World Championship Chariot Racing Associate and that he had no idea that the Cutter Racing Museum even existed. Cutter racing started in Thayne and is a great heritage for the Town to have; the Town really has something special with the museum.

Mike Newman-Etna

Mike asked the Town Council to do more marketing for the museum so that people know that it exists. Mike also asked the Council if the museum could possibly be expanded. Mayor Simpson commented that he would like to see the museum be advertised more and that he would also like to see new items added to the museum to keep returning people interested.

Susan Hale-Fairview, WY

Susan stated that she was raised in Star Valley and wants to protect the museum because it is a part of her family heritage, and her family has donated many things to the museum. Cutter Racing is now beginning to thrive again. Susan asked what the possibility would be to move the museum over to the Town Hall building and expand. Susan stated that she would not like to see the chariot and sled modified where they are antiques.

Tom Nelson-Freedom, WY

Tom asked if the sled and chariot could be hung from the ceiling. Mayor Simpson stated that has been discusses but the ceiling is too low in the museum.

Councilman Heward left meeting.

Jimmy Stoker-Thayne, WY

Jimmy stated that he is a lot of things in the museum, and he doesn't see an issue with moving the Town Clerk's office.

Councilman Woolley commented that next to the chariot racers, he has spent close to 1,000 hours of his personal time to get the museum where it is now and that there are still things that are not currently in the museum that should be. Woolley would really like to expand the museum and with the Town Clerk office in the museum there just won't be room. Councilman Woolley mentioned to those in attendance that there is a Community Center Coordinator that has an office in the Community Center already and her desk could possibly be moved into the museum to have it open. Woolley also stated that he doesn't feel good about selling the current Town Hall building when the taxpayers of Thayne paid for it. The building is the nicest building that the Town has ever had, and the community takes a lot of pride in it. Lorrell felt that there are plenty of options for things to do with the building and would like to get suggestions from the community.

Lesli Dana-Thayne, WY

Lesli stated that it seems like the Town is wanting to trade a new building for an old building and she agreed with moving the museum to the current Town Hall building and expanding.

Bob King-Thayne, WY

Bob stated that he was the mayor when the building was built. The building represents the Town of Thayne, and the citizens don't want to see it sold or moved out of.

Mayor Simpson asked for any other comments from the audience; none were given. Mayor Simpson stated that he sincerely appreciates the attendance at the meeting and the Town Council truly doesn't have any plan to change anything that is in the museum, and he is not trying to blindside the public but just exploring options.

Mayor Simpson stated for the record that the next topics are informative only and not for vote. The escrow agreement with Doug Child has been sent to each Councilmember via email. This will be a cash escrow of \$237,000.00 at the Bank of Star Valley signed by Doug Child, Town of Thayne, and Sharron Walker. This fund can not be used to pay any bills but after project is completed a release can be signed for a withdrawal of the amount completed. The Town of Thayne is not responsible for this account. Mayor Simpson mentioned that there will be parallel parking striping painted in front of the tennis courts at the Thayne Community Center. Simpson stated that he was going to have striping done in the parking lot for the big pavilion, but it was suggested that the parking lot be sealed with the same slurry that Hemmert Street is getting. Simpson stated that it will cost roughly \$14,725.00 for the big pavilion parking lot. Councilman Woolley stated that there has never been anything done to the parking lot and it is a good idea to complete some maintenance. Mayor Simpson asked for any other questions or comments and asked that Council to send either an email or text with their vote on each on the topics discussed.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion- Councilman Woolley

Seconded- Councilwoman Passey

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 P.M.