

**MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008
10:00 A.M.
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER
ALTA, UTAH**

The Mayor called the meeting to order. All members of the Alta Town Council were present.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor thanked Paul Moxley for filling in for him last month as Mayor Pro Tempore.

The Mayor passed on condolences to Mike Morey on the passing of his mother in law.

The opening of Forest Road 028 went off without a hitch with a combined effort of many agencies. The Town received written approval from the Forest Service to go ahead with the work on the road. We are currently working on a permanent agreement with the Forest Service. The Mayor thanked that Ski Lifts and WRR for their efforts.

The Wildflower Festival was a very successful event this year.

The Mayor reviewed the information that came out of last month's meeting on what the Town Council would like the Long Range Planning study to address. As a result of that discussion, a decision was made to try and define more specific goals as apposed to trying to look at everything. The goal now is to try and set up a joint meeting with the Planning Commission by next month to arrive at some consensus on the contents of the RFP for this Long Range Planning study.

The Mayor reported that we are trying to obtain three bids on the building of the entry signs.

The Town continues to work with a consultant on the solar array project that will be located on the Town Office building.

The UFA monthly meetings have now been moved to 11:00 a.m. on the 3rd Monday of each month. Their next meeting will address their proposed annual budget.

We are still receiving multiple GRAMA requests regarding water issues and Patsy Marley.

The Mayor gave an update on the Melville vs. Town of Alta and John Guldner lawsuit. On July 3rd Judge Medley ruled against the plaintiffs by stating that a discovery request for many years worth of water and mining records would be denied. The Judge characterized the plaintiff's discovery demands as overbroad and irrelevant.

The annual conference of the League of Cities and Towns will be held at the Sheraton City Center from September 10-12. Please contact John or Kate for more information.

The Governor has mandated a four day work week for state employees except for example, public safety.

The Mayor reported that most of the communities in the valley are proposing tremendous increases in their property tax rates in order to try and meet the budgetary demands of their communities. This year the Town of Alta's property tax rate did not go up.

Tom gave an update on the progress of the school district. The key stumbling block is still the distribution of assets between the districts. The two transition teams cannot reach a compromise and it looks like the process will go to arbitration. The Mayor gave a brief history of this process. If it does go to arbitration, this process could cost up to three million dollars. There will a meeting on August 26th at 5:00 pm at Sandy City Hall involving all the cities, their Mayors and Councils to meet the new school district board and possibly new superintendent.

On August 7th the Mayor and staff met with the Salt Lake County Canyon Roads committee. The focus of this meeting as well as past meetings is to determine what the group can do to maintain funding and cooperation among all the agencies trying to solve many of the transportation problems that are present in the canyons: public transportation, park and rides, traffic metering, disseminating information to the public etc.

Sara Gibbs is working with a woman who would like to create a program in our community to recycle glass. She is a private person who will be working with each individual business or resident to pick up their glass for a fee.

The Mayor reported that there will be no update given on our antimony project today. The engineers should have their final report within the next two weeks and should have a report for the Council at the September meeting.

There will be three bike races in the canyon this Saturday. The public should expect intermittent road restrictions. Mike Morey expanded on the time frames for those restrictions.

The annual Peruvian down hill dash will be held on Saturday, September 6th.

County Sheriff Jim Winder to discuss Salt Lake County Jail and other issues.

The Sheriff thanked the Mayor and Council for an opportunity to speak to the issue of jail overcrowding which over the last few years, has reached a crescendo. Beginning in 2002 the County had around 2700 beds available for inmates. At that time, the County Council decided to close down the Oxbow Jail and as a result 560 beds were lost. The resulting

jail facility was taken to immediate capacity. In 2003 the County jail was in an overcrowding situation and the County created a capital management plan in which they “triaged” inmates as they came to the jail to determine who would go and who would stay. The Sheriff explained this “triage” process.

In 2007 the Sheriff explained that he started what is called a book and release system. He explained that system and ways that he maximized the existing jail beds. This summer, the Sheriff has reached approximately 850 overcrowding releases a month. In addition to that, the static population in the jail, the number of people physically incarcerated in the jail, has climbed about 2%. The Sheriff explained that two percent of full becomes really, really full.

Meantime there was debate going on in the County Council about criminal justice master planning but it does not do anything about the immediate needs of more beds. He approached the County Council about opening the fully capitalized moth balled facility called the Oxbow Jail. As a result, the County Council appropriated funding in the amount of \$640,000 to begin to refurbish the facility.

The Sheriff asked for support of the Town Council to pass a resolution that supports the opening of the Oxbow Facility. There are a fair number of individuals that come out of this canyon that are photographer at the jail and then released and make it back up the canyon within hours.

The Sheriff explained the time line in opening the Oxbow Jail and also the programs that are offered to inmates in the jail, which, hopefully, reduce recidivism. He also explained that it is his intention to introduce in 2011 the need for a bond to build two or three new housing units at the Adult Detention Center (ADC). This bond would be from 60 to 70 million dollars and provide an additional 1,000 beds at the ADC.

The Sheriff talked about other approaches that have been tried to address this issue: housing inmates in other county jails for example.

Mike Morey reminded the Council of the support his department gets from the County Sheriff’s Office and he encouraged the Town Council to support the Sheriff’s efforts.

Paul Moxley suggested that a resolution in support of the Sheriff’s efforts be drafted for the Council to address at their September meeting.

The Mayor asked the Sheriff about the issue at the bottom of the canyon that occurs when the canyon is temporarily restricted. How does he plan to handle the cars that tend to park along the side of the roads waiting for the canyon to open?

Sheriff Winder explained his history with meeting with the residents at the bottom of the canyon and the concerns and complaints from those residents about the parking situation while people are waiting for the canyon to open. The residents brought up several options to the Sheriff. He committed to the residents that he would look at all possible

solutions but sheriff has to look to the partners when making a final decision on this issue: UDOT, bus transportation for school children, UTA among others. There are about 10 to 12 days a year where the residents, literally, cannot get their children to school and find people urinating on their lawns, and parking cars in front of driveways and leaving them. No definitive decision was made with these residents on a solution to this problem and the Sheriff suggested that a joint meeting with these residents and all the partners take place before the winter season.

The Mayor thanked Sheriff Winder for his time.

Treasurer's Report

Marc Dippo gave a two month report which is attached for the record.

Hearing no comments or questions, there was a motion by Cliff Curry to approve the report as read. There was a second by Dave Richards and the motion was carried.

Departmental Reports

The Mayor reported that John is on vacation so there will be no Town Administrator's report.

Marshal's Report: Mike Morey gave his monthly report which is attached for the record. Mike gave an update on the information sign at the bottom of the canyon. The Town is getting real close in establishing an agreement with the TOC on Central's ability to operate the sign using the state's software in one of the Town's computers. Given that progress, the sign is still hard to see and it will not accept certain characters. It cannot display the word "avalanche" all at one time.

Kate reviewed the ridership numbers thus far from the Albion Basin Shuttle along with the number of cars that have passed through the summer booth.

Kate also gave an update on the Albion Basin Transportation Study being funded by a grant through the Forest Service. Hopefully they will begin their preliminary work late this fall with the bulk of the study to take place next summer.

Kate mentioned that Susan Ragsdale is attending a Ski Utah meeting and reviewed her report with the Council.

Update on Antimony Treatment Project

This report was tabled until the September meeting.

Discussion with possible action on July 10, 2008 Town Council Minutes

Paul Moxley noted for the record that the minutes should be corrected to state that when the Town Council took a vote on the municipal lease for the police car the minutes should reflect that a “roll call vote” was taken.

Hearing no further comments or corrections, there was a motion by Dave Richards to approve the minutes as amended. There was a second by Steve Gilman and the motion was carried. Tom Pollard abstained from voting, as he was not present at the July meeting.

Discussion about Town of Alta Animal Control Ordinance.

The Mayor reminded the Council that when action was taken earlier this year on the number of license to be issued in 2008, the Council agreed to revisit the Dog License Ordinance.

Tom stated that it is a hard issue in the Town because we are trying to balance the wishes of the residents who live here and trying to work to protect the watershed.

The Mayor reviewed his meeting that he had with Salt Lake City Public Utilities and Watershed departments when he took the office. They informed him that there is a direct correlation between the quality of the watershed and the increased number of dogs. Dogs have human contact and eat processed food and the bacteria that they release are very difficult to remove from drinking water. This is the information that is disseminated by the Mayor if people ask. That being said, the Mayor then asked the question that if we now have 42 dogs and increase that number to, let's say to 60, what impact will that increase have on the watershed. Is there a number in there that will have a positive or negative impact on the watershed and watershed quality? He opened the floor to discussion from the Council on this matter.

Dave Richards sees this as an opportunity to get this dog issue right and also eliminate the number of people that come to the Mayor asking for a temporary dog license. This could potentially be a way to get rid of the concept of a temporary license. In conjunction with Salt Lake City Water, Dave would like to see a way to come up with a method of increasing the number of Class A licenses and Class B permits. In conjunction with that, he proposes to do away with all Class C permits, which are employees of businesses that work in the Town and commute everyday from the valley.

Dave would also like do away with Class D temporary licenses. He knows people who are full time residents in Alta for years and depend on temporary licenses for their dogs because their names were not drawn for a permanent license. He does know of watersheds in the country that do allow unlimited number of dogs. He is **not** proposing that we open the door at the bottom of the canyon to every dog in the valley.

Steve Gilman asked how many temporary dog licenses fall into the temporary category. Marcus Dippo asked how many people who applied for the dog drawing and did not get their names picked.

As to the first questions, the Mayor felt that if we gave licenses to all those with temporary, we might have 20 additional licenses. Piper answered the second question by stating that eight to ten people applied this last go around whose names were not picked.

Cliff mentioned that there are two questions from his point of view: first what is the right answer in terms of the number of dogs in the Town of Alta within the watershed and second what is the point of view of Salt Lake City Watershed and to a lesser extent, Salt Lake County. He asked how we get a considered and thoughtful position from Salt Lake City Water Department on the issue of dogs.

The Mayor's answer to that question is to ask them to sit down and talk about this issue. He believes they would be very forthright with their answer.

Dave asked if there is a study to back up their decisions on this dog issue. Where is the science? Where do we send people when they ask about a study that backs up a decision to limit the number of dogs in Alta?

Paul Moxley asked how you balance a long time resident who wants a dog versus a new comer who wants a dog license.

Mike Morey believes that the Town needs an informed defensible management plan on dogs. There is a lot of public perception on how the Town handles the dog license situation and he feels we owe it to the staff, more specifically Piper, to have process streamlined. If the Town Council's decision is to increase the number, he would recommend that it be done incrementally.

Dave also thought we should clean up the enforcement regulations at the same time. For example we should look at prohibiting dogs off leash at all times in the base facilities zone.

The Mayor felt that the first goal is to find and locate any science behind the position on dogs.

Dave asked if Salt Lake City would be willing to work with us on this issue.

In Big Cottonwood Canyon the rules are more restrictive in as much as owners are only allowed to take their dogs from their car to a pen or fenced in area on their property. They are not allowed to walk their dogs off their property but at the same time there is no limit to the number of dogs in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Cliff had circulated some housekeeping items that needed to be addressed in the Dog Ordinance and he agreed to have them addressed at a later meeting.

Discussion about enacting an Anti-Idling Ordinance.

The Mayor said that staff has found that the Salt Lake Valley Health Department does have a diesel anti idling ordinance and we are governed by that ordinance. Having such an ordinance in place in the Town does make sense but it does help reduce the PM10 emission and overall the air quality in the valley and in our Town.

Cliff felt that the existing Health Department regulation does not go far enough and asked if Town could enact a regulation that was more restrictive. He feels that we should approach this issue from a micro local air quality concern in Alta. He has found a study from California that states that if a vehicle is idling for more than ten seconds, by shutting down the vehicle, the operator of the vehicle is saving fuel. He feels that there is no good reason why a vehicle should be idling for more than one minute within 500 to a 1,000 feet of any building that is occupied. Of course there will be exceptions such as emergency vehicles. He used the red snake as an example of a problem that occurs in our Town with hundreds of cars idling for sometimes long periods of time.

Paul Moxley felt we should look at other ski resorts and how they handle this situation. We haven't done a very good job of regulating the snake and now we are telling them they can't run their cars. He believes that this approach will hurt the Town.

Do we want people turning their cars on and off to go ten feet while they are sitting in the red snake.

The Mayor has heard that there is a breaking point where the particulate matter that is released by cars that start up is greater than letting them idle.

Steve Gilman and Dave Richards explained that diesel engines like ones found in snow cats, take a good ½ hour to warm up.

Tom stated that we should move forward with research on this matter taking into consideration particular situations that might require extended periods of idling and also look into how other resort communities address this situation.

Citizen Input

Karen Travis gave a brief history of the dog situation in Alta that went back to the 60's and 70's. Eventually a few members of the Town Council met with Salt Lake City and came to agreement on allowing a certain number of dogs. It was made clear, though, that having a dog was a privilege and not a right. She feels that the Town Council ought to think about their goal in all of these discussions: do you want the residents to have dogs or do they want the guests that come skiing to have a good experience by not having to ski over dog poop and have dogs chasing after them.

Karen also explained that years ago there were no large animals in Alta and people would drink the water from any source. Now there are a lot of deer and moose and as a result, she does not drink the water from those sources. She feels we should continue to limit the number of dogs.

Karen asked Sheriff Winder if their department was getting tired of all the car windows being broken at the park and ride at the mouth of the canyon and had they thought of installing a security camera to deter that activity.

The Sheriff commented that they had looked into many options. They are focusing on trying to educate the public by letting them know not to leave anything of value in plain sight in their cars.

Roger Bourke finds it very interesting that no one knows the science of the dog situation and suggested that the Town commission such a study of the effects of dogs in the watershed.

Roger feels that the biggest contribution to pollution in Alta is the red snake. When the metering took place last season, the effect was dramatic in reducing this problem. He feels that the management of traffic is the key to the idling problem and a study ought to be commissioned.

He commends the Town for placing trash cans throughout the community for the public to use. He wants to see some similar arrangement in place for the residents of this community.

Mark Haik commented that at the July Planning Commission meeting the Shrontz Estate indicated that they were the owners of a water contract. This contract would have the effect of reducing the Town's water contract with Salt Lake City by 80 to 90 thousand gallons a day. The Town has stated those numbers to be different and the statement by the Shrontz Estate directly contradicts that. He feels that the Town would be wasting money on a Long Range Planning Study if the Town's water contract will be reduced by 90,000 some gallons a day. The Town should direct staff to complete a report on the amount of water under the Town's contract currently and direct our legal counsel to do the same. It then should be reported to the public under a separate agenda item at a council meeting.

Haik also commented that at the candidate's forum, Mayor Pollard indicated that he was interested in working on solving the problem in Albion Basin. He believes that Mayor Pollard should now indicate what the problem is and what avenues he sees as the solution to that problem.

Mr. Haik felt that if the Town wanted to reduce the particulate matter in the air that they should preclude property owners from wood burning in fire places unless it their sole source of heat. If that is the case, they should be given financial assistance to get them on a cleaning burning fuel.

Bill Hodge commented on the idling issue by stating that there are multiple issues with vendors coming up the canyon and the use of snow cats for example as well as the red snake. He encourages the Town to work with and communicate with Snowbird on this issue.

Hearing no further business before the Town Council, there was a motion by Dave Richards to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried.

Passed and approved this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Katherine S.W. Black
Town Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT	
2 MONTHS	
14-Aug-08	
Major Bills Paid	
Payroll - 6 payroll periods	\$106,916.13
Payroll Taxes - 6 payroll periods	\$39,028.66
Health Dental and Life Insurance- 2 months	\$17,849.68
Attorneys	\$29,203.01
Final Payment - 2006 Chev Police Car	\$8,686.40
Hub International Management Fee	\$8,000.00
Inspectors	\$3,295.00
Quarterly Payment - UFA	\$25,176.00
Workers Comp Insurance - 2 months	\$1,114.04
Judge Balmforth Yearly Retainer	\$2,400.00
Tony Divino Toyota - 2009 Toyota Police Car	\$26,799.69
AVB Promotions	\$2,960.00
Town Insurance 2008-2009 - Travelers Insurance	\$31,986.00
WRR - Dust Control	\$8,000.00
Work on Summer Road - Alta Ski Lifts	\$15,577.00
Equipment - 2009 Toyota Police Car	\$4,190.14
URS Payments	\$13,178.77
Refund - Revegetation Bond	\$2,000.00
Other Town Bills - 2 months	\$33,324.12

Total	\$379,684.64
Major Revenues Received	
Sales Tax - 2 months	\$65,924.91
Resort Sales Tax - 2 months	\$107,546.75
US Postal Contract - 2 months	\$2,333.34
Dog Licenses	\$180.00
Court Fines	\$2,107.00
Energy Taxes - 2 months	\$4,823.68
Building Permits and Plan Check Fees	\$5,996.74
Cobra Payments	\$479.80
Property Taxes	\$508.94
Refund - Workers Comp. Insurance	\$475.56
Homeland Security Grant Fund Reimbursement	\$9,274.05
Zions Bank - Loan Disbursement/Toyota Truck	\$26,770.54
Other Revenues	\$535.68
Total	\$226,956.99
General Fund Checking	\$29,123.55
General Fund Savings	\$421,557.45

