

**MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER
ALTA, UTAH**

1. The Mayor called the Town Council work session to order at 4:00 pm. Mayor Harris Sondak and Council members Cliff Curry, Margaret Bourke and Sheridan Davis were present. Elise Morgan was excused.

Others in attendance were Kate Black, Mike Morey, Chris Cawley, Rich Mrazik, Roger Bourke, Pam Buselli, Dawn page, John Reynolds, Leslie Reynolds, Kim Goldsmith, Dan Foxman, Julie Willis, Jon Fay, Heidi Hoffman, Carolyn Ancil and Jodi McLoughlin and daughter.

2. Citizen Input: 00:00:15

Roger Bourke, Pam Buselli, Jodi McLoughlin, Kim Goldsmith, John Reynolds, Dan Foxman and Heidi Hoffman spoke on the following matters:

- The increase of the number of dogs and how it could exacerbate the problems of dog excrement and people's annoyance with dogs.
- Who are the town's accusers and where are they seeing the problems?
- Who is in command – Town of Alta, Salt Lake City Public Utilities or the USFS.
- Who is the Town of Alta representing – property owners, dog owners or the USFS.
- A family's need to have more than one dog at the house when relatives are visiting.
- An example of a dog vest.
- Who has jurisdiction and how did the USFS get involved in this process.
- The need for the USFS to build more trails for owners to take their dogs
- Educate dog owners on picking up after their dogs.

3. Discussion on the following sections of the Town of Alta Animal Control Ordinance – 00:10:20

Harris opened this section of the meeting by clarifying with legal counsel on the reasonable scope of the conversation at the meeting knowing that the agenda is very limited as to the topics that were to be discussed. Rich opined that this is a work session and as such a discussion about a wide range of topics on the matter of the animal control ordinance would be permitted.

Harris referred to two handouts – a list of current dogs licensed in the Town of Alta and how those on that list would be aligned consistent with possible amendments to the ordinance and a redline draft of the ordinance prepared by staff and legal counsel.

The items reviewed and discussed by town council and legal counsel were as follows:

- Minor changes to some of the definitions in the ordinance including the definition of a dog, what type of animal is required to obtain a license, and a household.

- The timing of the annual licensing renewal.
- Who qualifies for a license and the number of dogs per household.
- What happens when a property is owned by multiple families.
- How many dogs should any given family be able to have.
- Who qualifies for what class of license.
- Whether there should be a hard ordinance based limit on the number of licenses issued each year.
- Whether any limit on the number of licensees would be done by resolution after an annual review by the town council.

00:26:55

Additional topics discussed, but without reaching agreement or conclusion included:

- Review and discussion of the following classes of licensees: Class A, B, C, and D.
- Whether anyone who currently has a dog license in the town would retain that license.
- Whether anyone who qualifies under the definition of one of the classes would be able to apply for a license.

00:56:47

- Review and discussion of Class E license – temporary dog licenses.
- Review and discussion of potential Class F licenses – new class of dogs.
- Discussion on how to classify and count the avalanche dogs.

01:16:22

- Review and discussion on what defines a household and how many dogs should be licensed to each household.
- Discussion on how to address people who own multiples homes in the town who might want a dog for each home.
- Further discussion on a cap on the number of dogs that should be allowed and the pros and cons of a lottery.
- Discussion on capping the total number of licenses at 95 for 2018 and setting that by resolution.
- Creating a unique visual identifier for the dogs which will be decided by resolution.
- Discussion on the provision that exempts dogs from licensing, i.e. ADA animals.
- Discussion on extending the time period in which an owner has to obtain a new dog – from six months to one year.

01:41:30

After some discussion, the council agreed to handle amendments to the dog ordinance in two parts – the first to address the classes and the number of dog licenses and the second to address enforcement including, among other matters, where dogs are allowed/prohibited, on leash and off leash and the penalty clause in the ordinance. To that end the council felt it is important to have good rules and serious enforcement.

After some discussion, the council agreed it would consider, by resolution at the April meeting, extending the expiration date for the temporary dog permits from the first of May until the 1st of June –

this would be done by resolution. This would give the council time to address the issue of the number and classes of dog licenses.

Ideally another work session would be necessary to work on some of the more difficult issues but after some discussion, it was agreed that legal counsel and staff would prepare another draft of this ordinance addressing the matters discussed in this meeting. The draft would be reviewed by the council in the April meeting. The goal was to have a final draft of the ordinance prepared for consideration by the council in the May council meeting.

Even though the council has been involved in intense discussions about the dog ordinance and the issue of compliance by the licensed dog owners in the town, Margaret commented that she had found a bag full of fecal matter on her way to the council meeting, reminding all that the community has to do a better job with compliance.

4. Motion to Adjourn – 01:46:38

Hearing no further business before the council, there was a motion by Margaret Bourke to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Sheridan Davis and the motion was carried.

Passed and approved this 12th day of April 2018.

s/Katherine S.W. Black
Town Clerk