

**MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
10:00 AM
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER
ALTA, UTAH**

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. All members of the Town Council were present.

2. Mayor's Report – 00:00:13

The Mayor gave an update on the following matters:

- The work with legal counsel to address the absence of the Town of Alta on the study area map for the Central Wasatch Commission.
- The routine maintenance at the mouth of the canyon by Rocky Mountain Power
- John's meeting with Rocky Mountain Power on the recent power outages – a problem area near the China wall was addressed.
- The summer program
- John and met with representatives from the Patsy Marley development on the issue of the installation of utilities.
- Meet the candidates' night on October 3, 2017 at the Community Center.
- The Conference of Mayors meeting being held on September 28, 2017 at OLS
- The ULCT conference being held in Salt Lake City. Cameron Diehl has been hired as the new director.
- The meeting between Snowpine and various agencies on concerns and impacts that might arise during the winter construction process.
- The open house on the active transportation study.
- The numerous GRAMA requests from basin property owners
- The next meeting of the Town Council may be changed due to a lack of a quorum. The new date and time will be announced once a consensus is reached.

2. Presentation on Canyons School District Bond Election to be held on November 7, 2017 – 00:10:24

Jack Meany from the Canyons School District updated the Town Council and the public on the upcoming bond election for the Canyon School District. The following were highlights of that presentation.

- When the school district was formed in 2009 an architectural review was completed of all the school buildings. The review pointed out that there was 650 million dollars' worth of needed repairs to the schools in the district.
- In 2010 the district asked the public for approval to bond for 250 million dollars. The district layer in the debt so as not to increase the property taxes to pay off the bonds.
- The district promised the public 13 new schools and the district just started construction on the 13th school.
- The district is now requesting a 283 million dollar tax rate neutral bond to continue with improvements in the district – Jake reviewed the schools that will be addressed and the projects inside those schools.

Margaret Bourke asked if the science center for Alta mentioned by the prior superintendent is on the projects to be addressed by this bond. Jack said it is not on the bond project list but is something that is still being discussed by the Canyons District Foundation.

The Mayor asked how we keep this project on the “front burner”. Mr. Meany will report back to the board and the foundation on the desire of the Town of Alta to keep the center on the table for discussion.

Harris Sondak asked how the district is paying for the bond. Jack explained that the district has accelerated the payment of the old debt and also mentioned that the assessed valuation of homes is going up. This allows the district to layer in new debt after the old debt is paid off making the effect a property tax revenue neutral situation. Also the district could and would augment the payment of the debt from their ongoing budget. Jack went on to explain that interest rates are low right now so if the bond is approved, the district could take advantage of the lower rate. Jack acknowledged that the projection that the bond is revenue neutral assumes continuing low interest rates. Harris asked what the long term growth projection is for the district and how the district plans on paying for the growth.

Mr. Meany explained the funding related to the weighted pupil unit that is issued by the state is the source of a majority of the educational expenses for the child. Property taxes also make up a significant revenue source for the district’s budget. Finally new growth brings in additional revenue to the district – the prison land is anticipated to bring in new development and tax revenue.

Karen Travis asked about the need for a new state of the art auditorium at Alta High School – should the money to build it be spent on a better arts program throughout the district. Jack explained that the current facility is too small to house the student body at the school and the school has only one gym; a school that size should have at least two gyms. Finally ongoing art programs are funded using ongoing revenue and not bond money.

John Guldner brought up the concept of Certified Tax Rates as it relates to increased property tax assessments. Jack suggested that that constraint does not apply to school district revenues.

The town thanked Mr. Meany for his time.

3. Treasurer’s Report – 00:27:44

Marc Dippo read the monthly treasurer’s report. Harris asked about the amount of GRAMA fees collected and if those funds covered the costs associated with providing those records. John explained that fees are set by the town per state law for the cost of providing records to the public.

Hearing no further questions, there was a motion by Elise Morgan to approve the treasurer’s report as submitted. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried.

4. Departmental Reports – 00:31:24

Town Administrator’s Report - John Guldner reported on the following matters.

- The upcoming legislative session and the monthly legislative policy meetings held by the ULCT
- Ongoing building projects in the Town of Alta and the fees associated with those permits.

Assistant Town Administrator's Report – Chris Cawley reported on the following matters.

- Status update on the Commercial Core Implementation project. There is a link to this project on the town website. There was an open house on Monday, September 11th which was well attended. The comments received at this open house will be compiled and released to the public.
- Related to this project, UDOT plans to place break away sticks along the stretch of highway between the Alta Lodge and the Rustler Lodge.
- The Commercial Core Implementation Project slide show was presented and reviewed at the open house on this project.

UFA Report – Rand Andrus reported that UFA sent teams to Houston to assist in relief effort after hurricane Harvey.

UFA is working with legislators on a city's ability to have more control over fireworks; Rand thanked Alta for its ban on fireworks.

UFA will provide Alta with a copy of their strategic plan along with their escape plan.

5. Town Council Minutes – Work Session – August 3, 2017 – 00:45:33

There was a motion by Cliff Curry to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2017 worksession as submitted. There was a second by Harris Sondak and the motion was carried.

6. Town Council Minutes – August 10, 2017 – 400:46:02

There was a motion by Elise Morgan to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2017 Town Council meeting as submitted. There was a second by Harris Sondak and the motion was carried.

7. Resolution 2017-R-10 – **AMENDED** – A resolution amending certain sections of Resolution 2017-R-10 related to confirmation of Judge Paul Farr as Justice Court Judge for the Town of Alta – 00:46:16

The Mayor explained that the initial resolution passed by the Town Council appointing Judge Farr as the Justice Court Judge had given an end date to his term of service. The Mayor went on to explain that the only way Judge Farr can be removed from office is through a retention election by the voters in Alta or by a vote of the Town Council. Accordingly, certain language has been removed from the amended resolution.

There was a motion Paul Moxley to approve the amended Resolution 2017-R-10 that addresses the appointment of Judge Farr as the Justice Court Judge. There was a second by Cliff Curry. Hearing no discussion on this matter, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion and it was carried.

8. Resolution 2017-R-12 – A resolution recognizing the value of federal public lands to the Town of Alta, Utah's economy, recreation and quality of life – 00:47:25

The Mayor explained that this matter was one of the items discussed during the August 3, 2017 worksession. The Mayor asked Chris to draft a resolution addressing this matter and put the topic on the agenda so the council can discuss this topic.

Harris addressed the “whereas “paragraphs in the draft resolution and asked if there was any value in citing sources for the numbers outlined in the paragraphs. Chris explained that those numbers came from an outdoor industry association report and a citation could be added to that section of the resolution.

Harris went on to comment on #1 in the body of the resolution by asking if there was a presumption that the federal government ownership and management of public land across the United States is related to the ownership and management of public lands within and around Alta – what is the connection between what goes on outside Alta and what goes on in Alta.

Chris commented that there is a broad line of argument that people follow or don’t follow in the debate over ownership of federal public lands.

Related to this argument, Harris suggested the Town include a statement that the integrity of the whole system is an important part of maintaining national forest land inside the Town of Alta. Harris felt that a logical connection between the big picture and our picture should be addressed in the resolution.

Elise is happy to start the discussion on this matter and felt that the council should workshop the language of the resolution a bit more.

Paul Moxley acknowledged he did not attend the worksession on this matter but felt that there was a question about the motivation of the whole matter. Paul is personally in support of the concept of the resolution but during his tenure on the council, the council has spent a lot of time being politically sensitive on matters such as this: does the sentiment in this proposed resolution put the town in a polarized position with the state government.

The Mayor felt that there could be a negative result in making a statement such as this.

Cliff commented that the council’s responsibility is to represent our community. Sometimes that means that we stay silent on an issue and other times that means speaking up even if it is not a popular viewpoint. Our goal should be advancing the long term interest of our community as a whole.

Paul agreed with the sentiments expressed by Cliff Chris will try to address the questions, concerns and ideas of the council on this matter brought forth in this meeting. Chris went on to ask if the council wanted to make a statement at all about the national monuments review. Park City found a way that did not speak directly to the state legislature and asked if the council wanted to approach this subject in the same manner.

Harris felt the Town’s interest in working with the federal government is not only from the aspect of recreation but also with safety and fire. Harris suggested pointing these out somewhere in the resolution.

Elise has heard comments that if the state took over federal lands in Utah that the land in our community could potentially become state land. The question should be asked if the state would protect our community against fire better than the Forest Service.

Chris will continue to work on drafting this resolution.

9. Presentation of Alta Summer Trails Master Plan – Chris Cawley and Coleman Worthen – 01:04:31

The Mayor explained that earlier this spring a meeting was held to discuss, among other matter, the trails plan proposal and the funding possibilities for this proposal.

Chris Cawley and Coleman Worthen reviewed the proposed Alta Summer Trails Master Plan.s. Some of the broad purposes of this plan are to create a modern network of purpose-built trails, to decommission and restore unofficial “rogue” trails throughout Alta, enhance connectivity to other portions of the regional trail network, and create a framework of collaborative relationships with partner agencies and organizations to build and maintain individual segments of trails. The Alta Ski Lift Company has been working on this plan over the past four years, and the ski area has asked that the town take the lead in proposing this project to the Forest Service and assume the lead role in administering partnerships to implement the plan.

The slides presented to the town council at this meeting are attached to the minutes and are available on the Town of Alta website – www.townofalta.com.

After reviewing and addressing various questions from the council, Elise Morgan asked if the Town of Alta was being asked to take ownership of this plan; if so, she asked if the council should take a vote on this matter.

The Mayor said the purpose of this presentation was to get the proposal in front of the council and then take a look at the ramifications of taking ownership of the proposed plan.

Harris felt that the Town of Alta would be the right entity to take this project on. Elise is supportive of this path but did not know where the town stood in that process. Cliff mentioned the town would need to budget funds for which ever staff member would manage this process.

Coleman said the recommendation of the Forest Service is for a municipality to take a lead on this project.

10. New Business – 01:42:23

Paul Moxley wants to figure out how the Town of Alta can get more public support for the council meetings – can we stream it live on the internet.

Harris pointed out that one way to live stream the meetings is through Facebook. The quality is less than a professional but it is quick and simple.

Elise pointed out that it would be nice to have all the handouts for the meeting on the town website.

Chris pointed out that there is now a column on the town’s website where staff can upload a PDF of all relevant handouts/documents for a particular meeting. Town staff will use this function in the future.

Harris also requested that council members have the ability to attend remotely and electronically.

11. Citizen Input – 01:47:27

Mark Haik commented on the following matters:

- The Town of Alta's exclusion of a board seat on the Central Wasatch Commission.
- The Commercial Core Implementation Plan
- Alta Summer Trails Master Plan and funding for the same.

Mike Maughan updated the council on the following matters:

- The water tank project near the South Hecla mine
- The work in the Buckhorn parking lot– a new trash compactor has been installed
- The upgrades to the Supreme lift and provided the following details on this project:
 1. During the Supreme Lift upgrades the alignment was changed and by doing that the company minimized and reduced the impact the lift would have on the fen. As a result, the Ski Lift Company had to cut a new lift line. This resulted in the removal of between 150-200 trees.
 2. They have planted over 1500 trees in the last month.
 3. There are three towers that had to be placed in areas that were delineated as wetlands. The cut for the base terminal went into an area delineated as a wetland as well – 560 feet of wetland was disturbed. The lift company is working with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to replace over 3000 sq. fit of wetland in this area.

Roger Bourke made the following comments:

- Alta Ski Lifts should address the toilets in the basin
- The residents and citizens of Alta are operating a regional park for the residents of the Salt Lake Valley and are financing it as well. Roger asked if the town could find a way for the Salt Lake Valley residents to contribute to the financing of the operation of the summer program
- Addressed some possible alternatives for the resolution that addresses the value of federal public lands in the Town of Alta.

12. Closed door meeting pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205 – 02:03:20

The Mayor announced that there will be a closed door meeting to discuss potential litigation regarding violation of the open meetings act by Mountain Accord.

There was a motion by the Harris Sondak to hold a closed door meeting to discuss potential litigation regarding the possible violation of the open meetings act by Mountain Accord. There was a second by Cliff Curry. The Mayor called for a roll call vote.

Harris Sondak – aye

Cliff Curry – aye

Tom Pollard – aye

Paul Moxley – aye

Elise Morgan aye

The vote was unanimous and the motion was carried.

The Mayor asked for the public to vacate the room.

A closed door meeting of the Alta Town Council was convened at 12:15 pm. Those present at the meeting were Mayor Tom Pollard and Council members Paul Moxley, Cliff Curry, Harris Sondak and

Elise Morgan, Marc S. Dippo, Town Treasurer, John Guldner, Piper Lever, Chris Cawley and Mike Morey,, Town staff and Rich Mrazik, Town Counsel. Potential litigation matters were discussed and no actions were taken. The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.

13. Motion to adjourn – 12:47 pm

There was a motion by Harris Sondak to reopen the public meeting of the Alta Town Council. There was a second by Elise Morgan and the motion was carried.

There was a motion by Elise Morgan to adjourn the public meeting of the Alta Town Council. There was a second by Harris Sondak and the motion was carried.

Passed and approved this 19th day of October, 2017

/s/Katherine S.W. Black
Town Clerk