

MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2017
3:30 PM
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER
ALTA, UTAH

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Mayor Tom Pollard and Council members Cliff Curry, Harris Sondak and Elise Morgan were present. Paul Moxley was excused.

2. Mayor's Report – 00:00:13

The Mayor reported and updated the council and the public on the following matters:

- The Conference of Mayor's meeting that was held in Alta where the main topic of discussion was the homeless issue in Salt Lake County.
- The monthly UFA meeting where three items were discussed: a new interlocal agreement between the UFA and the service area on cost sharing, the strategic planning goals and UFA's review of the tax rate for their service area. This review might also translate into an increase in the Town of Alta's member fees for UFA's services. The Town pays its UFA member fees out of the general fund.
- The Wasatch Canyons Master Plan Update.
- The UDOT recreation hot spot funding of which \$2,000,000 has been earmarked for Little Cottonwood Canyon to start an EIS process for transportation improvements in the canyon.
- Weather permitting, the summer road will remain open through the end of October.
- Maggie Sullivan has taken a job back east and will be leaving ACVB soon.
- The next meeting of the Town Council will be November 9, 2017 at 10:00 am.

3. Treasurer's Report – 00:14:30

Marc Dippo read the monthly report. The Mayor pointed out that the cost of the summer shuttle went up about \$10,000 due to the increase in the operational hours and the running of three shuttles during those hours. The town received around \$9,000 in donations from the public which helped offset the increased cost of the summer program.

It was also pointed out that Friends of Alta increased its donation in support of the summer program by \$1,000 – FOA gave \$9,000 this summer.

Hearing no further discussion on this matter, there was a motion by Elise Morgan to approve the treasurer's report as presented. There was a second by Harris Sondak and the motion was carried.

4. Departmental Reports – 00:20:43

John Guldner was excused from the meeting.

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

- The Commercial Core Implementation Project

- Maggie Sullivan’s departure from ACVB. Maggie was with ACVB for five years and oversaw a fair amount of transition in the website, the biggest asset of ACVB.
- The Town of Alta Trails Plan. The Town might be able to secure funding through WFRC to hire a consultant to conduct the environmental assessment. The deadline to file a letter of intent with WFRC is October 31, 2017.
- The grant secured from the Office of Outdoor Recreation - the Town will receive \$5,000 to build interpretive signage along the lower Albion Meadows Trail.

UFA Report – Rand Andrus reported on Fire Prevention Week where there was an emphasis on a two exit plan from all single family homes. Also Rand reminded people when exiting a building during a fire to close the door behind you. This helps hold the fire in check until the fire department arrives.

Marshal’s Report – Mike Morey reported on recent reports of gun fire in the Town of Alta – all have been investigated. Mike also reported that the Town has secured a \$6,000 grant to purchase speed enforcement equipment.

5. Town Council Minutes – September 14, 2017 – 00:36:20

There was a motion by Harris Sondak to approve the minutes as submitted with changes. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion as carried.

6. Date and time of the 2017 Municipal Election Canvass – 00:36:45

The Mayor explained that the actual date of that canvass has been set – Tuesday, November 21, 2017. The time of the meeting was discussed.

The County Clerk’s office will be forwarding the results of the election between 1:00 and 2:00 pm on Tuesday, November 21, 2017. With that in mind, the Town Council agreed to hold the election canvass meeting at 2:30 pm at the Alta Community Center on November 21st.

7. Presentation: Alta Invasive Weeds Plan – 00:39:00

The meeting was turned over to Chris Cawley, who began a presentation on the Alta Invasive Weeds Plan. Chris described the process to create the plan: this process was led by planning commission chair Joan Degiorgio. The plan was developed over the course of more than two years by a collaborative working group of partners, including Alta Environmental Center, Friends of Alta, the US Forest Service, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, and Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. Chris described the “status quo” of noxious and invasive weeds management in Alta, which is that Alta Environmental Center, Friends of Alta, and Cottonwood Canyons Foundation manage a comprehensive treatment and monitoring program on public and private lands within the Town of Alta boundary.

Chris stated that Town of Alta Municipal Code contains an outdated provision related to noxious weeds, and described a process to draft an updated local noxious weeds ordinance based on ordinances in nearby communities such as Summit County, Park City, and Midvale City. Chris opined that, pursuant to the Alta Invasive Weeds Plan, the more important element of the town’s contribution to community-wide efforts to manage the spread of noxious weeds will be to promote awareness, communication, and education in regards to the problem of noxious weeds, and to work with private property owners to take more responsibility within their properties.

Karen Travis asked about creating a weed guide with pictures that could be a resource for homeowners. Chris mentioned that one is being developed in conjunction with this plan – education and stewardship are the main focus.

Harris asked if the town communicates with construction companies regarding bringing outside dirt/fill into the Town of Alta. Chris did not believe that the town had any regulation in place that addressed this situation. Maura commented that they have identified that soil brought in from outside the town presents a large risk and brings in weeds. Hopefully this matter would be addressed in the new ordinance.

Harris asked about a possible botanical area in the town and how this concept dovetails with adopting a plan such as this – does the town need to pass an ordinance addressing invasive weeds before a possible botanical area is considered. Maura commented that these are two separate efforts in as much as the botanical area refers to federal lands and a possible ordinance addressing invasive weeds would refer to private lands.

Maura also addressed the idea of the Town of Alta being a weed free zone. This designation could support moving forward with the proposed ordinance. This could also provide the Town with funding opportunities to help with the eradication of weeds from areas in the town.

Cliff asked if this proposed ordinance would be a land use ordinance which would run through the planning commission process. Chris did not think this ordinance would fall under the land use ordinance process but it also would depend on where the Town would put the building code requirement regarding this matter.

8. New Business – 1:02:10

The Mayor noted that during the last legislative session a change was made to the business license process regarding home occupation businesses. The Town is currently reviewing how to address this change to bring the Town into compliance with state code. Currently the Town Code requires home occupation businesses to obtain a business license. The Mayor is leaning towards requiring these types of businesses to “register” with the Town. This requirement would address public safety concerns and also address the need for these types of businesses to have a license certificate: securing a loan or a wholesale purchasing license.

Rich Mrazik explained what was currently in place in the town code regarding these types of businesses: it cannot have a material off site impact. A person can have a business in their home with certain limitations currently this type of business is charged \$128.00 per year.

Rich further explained that state code states that municipalities cannot charge a license fee for two types of home occupation businesses – businesses operated only occasionally by people under the age of 18 years old and a business whose offsite impact is materially indistinguishable from the impact of the home alone. Knowing there are circumstances that would require a home occupation business to request a license, the legislation said a municipality could charge an oversight fee or processing fee.

Rich recommended that the Town stop collecting business license fees for home occupation businesses and reduce the amount the town would collect for processing these types of businesses i.e. \$25.00.

The Town of Alta estimates it currently has two home occupation businesses that it licenses and the Town has not charged those businesses this year for a license.

Harris inquired as to how the Town currently distinguishes between the businesses affected by the definition of a home occupancy and those that are not. Rich explained that the current wording in the town code makes that distinction. Rich opined that the currently definition puts all home occupation businesses currently in the town within one of the exceptions that state code has now codified.

There was also a discussion on whether the Town should require all such business to register with the Town but not charge a fee – this would address the town’s public safety concerns.

Rich explained that if the council agrees with the recommendation on this matter, then staff will work with counsel to draft an ordinance and fee change proposal for consideration.

Currently under town code if you have a business in your home that changes the residential character of the home, you cannot have the business in your home: one has to make sure the business use is secondary and low enough.

Mike Morey opined that his department has an interest in knowing about what type of business is taking place in the home for two reasons: interlodge and avalanche closure notification and storage of hazardous materials.

9. Citizen Input – 01:15:35

Mark Haik commented on the following matters:

- ACVB and creating a metric to measure the effectiveness and success of this organization.
- The lack of public participation in the public process in the Town of Alta and suggestions on how to address this situation.
- The Salt Lake City effort to document all the Albion Basin homeowners’ water diversions and also the review of all change applications currently in the Town of Alta.

Maura Olivos updated the Council on the public participation in the stewardship and educational events held in the community this summer. Maura also mentioned the effort undertaken by Tracy Avery and local Alta organizations to monitor birds and those birds that breed in Alta. A fund raising event called Skiing and Birds will support this effort. This event will take place on December 8 & 9.

10. Motion to Adjourn – 01:31:20

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

Passed and approved this 9th day of November, 2017.

/s/Katherine S.W. Black, Town Clerk