

**MINUTES  
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018  
10:00 AM  
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER  
ALTA, UTAH**

1. Mayor Harris Sondak called the meeting to order at 10:00. The following council members were present: Cliff Curry, Elise Morgan and Margaret Bourke.

Mayor Sondak opened with a welcoming statement and mentioned his desire to work with all the constituents of the Town of Alta. He encouraged the members of the council to consider everyone's values and make the wisest decision that they are able to do.

Mayor Sondak acknowledged the contributions of Tom Pollard and Bill Levitt, both previous Mayors of the Town of Alta. Mayor Harris went on to proclaim Tom Pollard as Mayor Emeritus of Alta, Utah – he would be going to Tom Pollard for advice and counsel.

2. Selection of new Alta Town Council member to fill a vacancy on the Alta Town Council due to the election of Harris Sondak as Mayor: 00:01:37

The Mayor explained that the town solicited applications to fill the vacancy on the council – the application period was between December 15, 2017 and January 5, 2018. The town received an application from Sheridan Davis. The Mayor reviewed the letter. If Ms. Davis is appointed, the mayor noted that this would be the first Town Council that would have a female majority.

The Mayor opined that his interactions with Ms. Davis gave him confidence that she would be a valuable member of the town council.

Ms. Davis addressed the Mayor and Town Council.

The Town Council had no questions for Ms. Davis.

**Cliff Curry placed Sheridan Davis's name into nomination to fill the vacancy on the Town Council. The Mayor called for a vote on the appointment of Sheridan Davis to fill the vacancy on the Town Council.**

**Margaret Bourke – aye  
Elise Morgan – aye  
Cliff Curry – aye  
Harris Sondak – aye**

**The vote was unanimous with all those present voting in the affirmative.**

3. Swearing in of new Council Member: 00:05:36

Kate Black, Town Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Sheridan Davis.

4. Mayor's Report: 01:06:50

The Mayor expressed his appreciation to the town staff for assisting the Mayor with this transition.

John will work with the Mayor in developing a grid that outlines projects the town is involved in and what staff member has primary and secondary responsibility for those projects. Harris would also be asking council members to act as legislative liaisons with town staff and Mayor for each of these projects.

The Mayor expressed his condolences to the Jordan family on the passing of Guy Jordan on December 18, 2017.

The Mayor reported on the following matters and meetings:

- The monthly road committee meeting held on January 2, 2018.
- The meeting with Jake Brown, foreman of UDOT for the canyon. The paving of the entire canyon road and bypass road in the summer of 2018 and options for traffic calming devices through the town were discussed.
- The meeting with UDOT, the Town of Alta and representatives from the Snowpine on that construction project.
- The request to Dave Fields from Snowbird to assist with costs for the traffic metering.
- The tour of the Metropolitan Water Treatment Plant near the bottom of Little Cottonwood Canyon.
- The meeting with the director of Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Laura Briefer.
- An update on the Central Wasatch Commission and the request by the Town of Alta to sit on the board of that commission. The timetable to address this matter by the CWC was reviewed.
- Margaret Bourke attended the elected official essentials training sponsored by ULCT. Margaret commented on the training.
- A reminder that all members of the Town Council must go through an Open and Public meetings training. The council was asked to notify Kate Black when members have completed that training.
- The Local Officials Day at the legislature will be on January 24th.
- The meeting of the National Ski Areas Association which will be held at Snowbird.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report – 00:20:52

Marc Dippo read the monthly treasurer's report.

**There was a motion by Elise Morgan to approve the treasurer's report. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried.**

#### 5. Departmental Reports: 00:25:42

The Mayor updated the council on Chris Cawley's recovery. The Mayor also updated the council on the progress being made by ACVB to hire a new executive director.

Marshal's Report: Mike Morey updated the council on the following matters:

- The Run Elevated race sponsored by Sandy City. It will be held on August 18, 2018.
- The meeting with Okland Construction and the reported issues with some of their construction project.

- The sign line between the Town of Alta and Snowbird near the View Condos. There have been reports of Alta residents and guests going through that sign line when it is posted closed.
- The reports of Alta dogs going through this sign line and owners not cleaning up after their dogs. There are game cameras in the area and the Marshal's office is following up on the findings.

UFA Report: Rand Andrus thanked the town for posting the safety messages on the Town website.

UFA deployed fire personnel and equipment to help fight the California fires. UFA is working with the state legislature on the issue of fireworks.

Town Administrator's Report: John Guldner reported on the following matters:

- The effort by the Mayor to bring himself up to speed on matters related to the Town of Alta

6. Town Council Minutes – December 14, 2017: 01:35:52

**There was a motion by Cliff Curry to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 Town Council meeting with edits and corrections. There was a second by Elise Morgan and the motion as carried.**

7. Resolution 2018-R-1 – Appointment of Mayor Harris Sondak to represent the Town of Alta on the unified Fire Authority (UFA) Board: 00:36:31

In the past the representative to the UFA board has been the Mayor.

**There was a motion by Elise Morgan to adopt Resolution 2018-R-1 to appoint Mayor Harris Sondak to represent the Town of Alta on the UFA Board. There was a second by Margaret Bourke. Hearing no discussion on this motion the Mayor called for a vote on the motion and it was carried.**

8. Approval of new signatories on all Town of Alta checking accounts: 00:38:37

The Mayor reported that two signatures are required on all checks issued by the Town of Alta. The action by the Council will remove Tom Pollard and insert Harris Sondak in his place. The following are authorized to sign checks for the Town of Alta: Harris Sondak, Marcus Dippo, John Guldner and Chris Cawley.

**There was a motion by Sheridan Davis to approve the list of signatories as outlined in the attached memo. There was a second by Margaret Bourke. Hearing no discussion on this matter, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion and it was carried.**

9. Approval of Mayor Pro Temp – 00:39:47

The Mayor explained that, with the departure from the Council of Paul Moxley and Tom Pollard, the Council needed to appoint a Mayor Pro Temp. The Mayor Pro Temp fills in for the Mayor when the Mayor is not available.

In the past the council member with the most experience has been appointed Mayor Pro Temp. Accordingly, Mayor Harris Sondak recommended that Cliff Curry be appointed Mayor Pro Temp.

**There was a motion by Harris Sondak to appoint Council member Cliff Curry as Mayor Pro Temp. There was a second by Elise Morgan. The Mayor called for discussion on the motion.**

Margaret Bourke would like to see that position rotate between council members. Margaret's recommendation would be to revisit that appointed position every two years - during the election cycle.

Sheridan stated that those were excellent suggestions.

**Hearing no other comments, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion and the motion was carried.**

10: Update on Little Cottonwood Canyon Road Design Project – John Thomas – Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) – 00:44:17

The Mayor explained that the legislature has allocated funds to address improvements to Highway 210 and Mr. Thomas was the lead on this project.

The Mayor asked Mike Morey to take the lead on this project as the staff member and Elise Morgan to be the legislative liaison.

John Thomas explained that he is the project manager for the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact statement. In last year's legislative session SB 277 was passed that allocated 100 million dollars for recreational and tourism areas in the state that were experiencing congestion. Four areas in the state were identified and Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC) was one of those four areas; \$65 million dollars was designated to this specific project.

Mr. Thomas reviewed the status of the project. John was currently reaching out to stakeholders for input on the various alternatives and solutions to the issues. Further, John reviewed the time line for the project which is moving rather quickly. The expenditure of these funds is programed into a three year timeline: 2020, 2021, & 2022.

John addressed the scale of 65 million dollars and what it could buy. The cost to rehabilitate the pavement in the canyon, by way of example, would be around 6 million dollars.

Cliff Curry asked if Mr. Thomas had a sense of whether avalanche mitigation was within the scope of this project – John felt that it was within the scope of this project.

Sheridan asked if bike lanes, potential picnic areas and pull offs for visitors would be addressed: John confirmed that these potential uses (active transportation) would be addressed.

John went on to explain that there were currently three cooperating agencies involved in the EIS process: UDOT, US Forest Service and UTA.

Harris asked if the plans would interact and possibly- change the wilderness boundaries. John explained the current status on this matter. They are trying to define the easement needs for the transportation project in the canyon.

The study will encompass the entire canyon road including the bypass road and the upper Grizzly lot. This might not mean that all the stakeholders concerns will be addressed with the final plan.

Mike Morey met with John Thomas and reviewed public safety concerns in the canyon.

Keith Hanson reminded Mr. Thomas that there was an important piece of the Alta and Snowbird infrastructure (sewer and water lines) in and around the main highway. As the planning moves forward it is important to address and protect that infrastructure. It was noted that fiber optics was also placed beneath the roadway in the canyon.

John Thomas also stated that Jon Nepstad, a member of the Alta Planning Commission, is a consultant on this project.

Margaret asked if any of the \$65 million can be pulled back by the state legislature in light of the issues that Senator Niederhauser has recently raised – could the scope of the project potentially be narrowed by future action of the legislature or are the funds committed. Although the funds are committed through the bonding capacity of the State of Utah, John said the legislature could “pull” the money back.

The meeting schedule on the process will be posted on a project website that will be created in the very near future. UDOT and the consultants will post past meetings, upcoming meetings, documents and scope of work among other items of interest.

Once the website is up and running, the Town of Alta will provide a link on its website to that project.

#### 11. Discussion: Town of Alta Summer Program – 01:07:52

The Mayor reviewed the spread sheet prepared by staff which details the costs of the program over the past few years and the sources of revenues that fund this program. The Mayor calculated the annual increase in Town expenditures from 2006 to the present to be 13% – this is not sustainable.

Kate Black reviewed the operation of the 2017 summer program.

The Mayor mentioned that the Alta Ski Lift company has floated a suggestion about taking over management of the summer program. The Mayor asked Mike Maughan to comment on this issue.

Mr. Maughan expressed that the Alta Ski Lift Company (ASL) certainly does not want to take it over unless the Town of Alta wishes them to do so. The summer program operates within areas that are currently in the Special Use Permitted (SUP) areas for the ASL.

The Town of Alta understood that ASL would like to be in conversations with the town about managing the summer program starting in 2019 but the town would manage the program during the summer of 2018. Mr. Maughan stated that ASL would do it this summer (2018) if the USFS could analyze and see if it could be done that quickly and would let them proceed. To make that happen, ASL needed an indication from the Town as soon as possible to go further. The

Mayor related that he understood from the Forest Service that even if the town wanted to hand it over to the ASL, the Forest Service would be unable to make that “shift” happen in time for the summer of 2018.

Mike Maughan discussed his observations of the summer program and then gave a brief overview of their proposal to the US Forest Service on the operation of the summer program

- The problem is that too many cars are in the Albion Basin
- There is no way to control the number of cars traveling into the Albion Basin
- The current Forest Service plan for this area does not allow for the restriction of the number of cars or a charge for cars traveling to the basin.
- The ASL felt that under their current SUP, if they were to maintain the facilities including restrooms, the road and parking lots, ASL could charge for access on the road and could limit the number of cars on the road.
- If they took over managing the program, they would take over the operation of the booth, the shuttle and all other components of this program.
- The number of cars in the basin would directly correlate with the number of parking spaces in the basin - one car comes out and one car goes in.
- The ASL would operate the shuttle and charge a fee to ride the shuttle
- The ASL would have to collect enough from parking and the shuttle to cover the operational costs of the program.

Mike Maughan reiterated that they would only pursue this direction if the ASL had support from the Town of Alta.

Harris expected the town to be fully engaged in the conversation about the future of the summer program for subsequent summers and likely the town would operate the program for 2018.

Mike responded that he was not saying that this would happen in 2018 but instead the ASL could approach the Forest Service to see if it were possible in 2018 if the Town gave them an indication before the February Town Council meeting.

Kate explained the town SUP permit for the summer shuttle was renewed in December of 2017 for a three year period. The SUP does allow the Town of Alta to charge for that shuttle service.

The Mayor proposed that Kate Black continue to be the staff person for the project and asked that Margaret Bourke be the legislative liaison. Updates will be provided on a regular basis to the Town Council on this matter and the town would have a plan in place on the direction it wants to take for 2018 by the March or April town council meeting.

Harris asked if Mr. Maughan could provide the town with an update on what will be open this summer like Albion Grill for example.

## 12. Discussion: Town of Alta Dog Ordinance – 01:25:53

Harris explained that one of the first items he addressed as Mayor was related to dogs and the permitting of dogs because the licenses are renewed in January of each year. Accordingly, Harris felt that there were three issues that are of concern. One was the total number of full time licenses and the process that determines that number. The second was status of temporary dog licenses and the third was the locations of the where the dogs are allowed within the town boundaries.

The Town invited a representative from the US Forest Service to address this issue. Harris introduced Marshall Alford.

Mr. Alford addressed the following matters:

- The land inside the town boundaries overlaps a significant portion with forest service land.
- When visitors are coming to the forest land inside the Town of Alta and see that dogs are prohibited, it is challenging for the visitors to understand why dogs are in the canyon. Details for the Town of Alta permit system are often a question.
- To help clarify the confusion, the USFS would welcome ideas from the Town of Alta. The three issues of concern are the time during the day that dogs are seen, where they are seen and how to clearly identify the dogs that are permitted by the Town of Alta.

Harris has had several conversations with Bekee Hotze, District Ranger, on this matter and suggested part of the town's review should consider where in the town dogs are allowed and where they should be discouraged or perhaps prohibited.

Harris commented that after reviewing the science on the effect of dogs on the degradation of the water quality, there is a clear correlation between the two. Harris highlighted some of that research.

Harris also has not been able to come up with a good explanation for why the Town has set the maximum number of permanent licenses at 56 just that based on the ordinance tied to a percentage of the town's population

Elise commented on what she sees as some of the issues with some of the current dog owners – some are not playing by the rules.

Harris relayed Ms. Hotze concerns. Harris opined that it is in the interest of the Town of Alta to have a good relationship with the USFS. To the extent that we can, the town should work in a way that is accommodating to their major concerns..

Elise referred to a letter we sent to the dog owners a year ago reminding owners to play by the rules.

Elise suggested that we look at having seasonal rules that address summer and winter rules for dogs.

The Mayor would like the Town Council to review the number of full time and temporary licenses.

Piper and the Mayor reviewed the current list of licenses and found that some of the temporary license holders might qualify for the permanent license if a permanent permit were available. The Mayor reviewed the history of the method outlined in the ordinance that ties the number of permanent licenses to a percentage of the current census. The Mayor opined that he did not see the science arguing for 57 licenses which is our current limit versus 87 licenses which would include both the number of permanent and temporary licenses.

Harris did not know why the town has a scarcity of permanent permits when there are people who qualify for permanent permits. Accordingly, Harris felt that a survey needs to be done to determine the number of households that could have a dog.

Having two dogs per house hold should be another question that should be addressed.

Harris also opined that he is uncomfortable with the concept of an annual temporary renewable license – this does not make sense. To address the issue of this type of license, the Mayor instructed Piper to renew all the temporary dog licenses that are long term and make them seasonal licenses – November 1st through May 1st. If this particular issue is not resolved before May 1st, owners must ask the Mayor for them to be renewed.

Marshall Alford felt that the Town of Alta should also increase compliance with the town's rules. The Mayor would also like the licensed dogs to be clearly identified – some sort of bright collar.

Elise asked how the business owners in Alta would be addressed in dog licensing. Harris clarified that the current Class B license addresses this type of license. Class C addresses people who work in Alta and remove the dog in the evening. The town does not have a class of license that addresses people that live in Alta for a good part of the year but don't vote in Alta and don't own property.

Elise recommended that the Town Council hold a work session on this matter as soon as possible.

Harris asked Piper Lever to take on this project with the assistance of Sheridan Davis as the legislative liaison.

Margaret asked if staff could put together a list of possible ideas the town is considering on this matter and send it out to the public prior to the work session. Elise opined that we should hold the first work session to review the Mayor's recommendation and public input. We can then compile a list of ideas and concerns and send them out.

Sheridan asked Marshall why this was being brought up by the USFS at this time. Marshall opined that the USFS is interested in water quality. Marshall also stated that there are other areas of the forest that have non-compliance issues with dogs and hopefully with an increase in compliance with dog issues inside the town limits, they would see increased compliance in other areas outside the town limits.

Sheridan pointed out other areas of concern related to the watershed and water quality: the amount of diesel in the canyon, the snow cats that are parked over open water shed run off, and the degradation of wetlands from lift construction.

Marshall commented that management of vehicles and equipment is restricted to specific areas and deemed to be only what is necessary for the operation of the ski area or necessary travel on the roadways. The USFS was concerned about potential impacts related to water quality and watershed protection - the dog issue was the one at hand.

There was a question as to what agency enforces dog regulations in other areas of the forest. Because the USFS does not have enough enforcement personnel, they rely on education and partnerships with other local jurisdictions for enforcement.

The Mayor reiterated that it is not his goal to tell dog owners that they cannot have a dog in Alta. Harris wants the regulations to make more sense and wants our partners happier to the extent that the town is able. Harris's goal is to decrease dog owner anxiety and at the same time make the town's dog regulations better.

### 13. New Business – 01:54:52

The Mayor brought up the following matters that he would like the council to address:

- Live streaming the council meetings on line.
- Provide the ability to have town council members participate in meetings remotely
- Recommends that citizen input be moved to the beginning of the agenda.
- Proposes moving the council meeting to a late afternoon/early evening time. Harris proposed Wednesday afternoon at 5:00 pm. We would put this on a future meeting agenda for discussion.

The Mayor pointed out that the town will begin the budget process soon and asked Cliff Curry and Elise Morgan to serve on the budget committee.

The Mayor asked Cliff Curry to be legislative liaison and John Guldner to be staff representative to address the Town's construction ordinances – should we amend the regulations and rules to make the construction site more acceptable to neighbors.

Harris mentioned that Chris Cawley would like the town to apply for a WFRC grant. The monies from this grant would fund the environmental impact statement for the trail's proposal. Harris asked Cliff to be the legislative liaison on this project and Chris to be the lead staff person.

Harris mentioned that Kate Black will be following up with all members of the council on conflict of interest statements.

Margaret Bourke opined that, to the extent that the town council could put items on a consent agenda that would decrease the length of the council meetings, she would like to see that happen. Margaret used the lengthy treasurer's report as an example..

### 14. Citizen Input – 02:04:47

Karen Travis spoke to the issue of gerrymandering and the effects it now has on the Town of Alta and the effects it could have when the 202 census is addressed.

Mike Maughan addressed the following matters:

- The issue of dogs in the watershed and the effect that overlapping jurisdictions has on the issue.
- Thanked the Town of Alta for working with the ski area during the holidays – special thanks to the Marshal's Office. Mike explained that the 16/17 holiday season was their best in the last 15 years and the 17/18 season was the second best.
- Also mentioned that UTA will be bringing an electric bus up the canyon later this month.

Roger Bourke addressed the following matters;

- Mentioned that he sees a lot of dog “poop” in the town and encourages dog owners to pick up after their dogs.
- Pointed out the lights on the Snowpine crane and asked if the town could have them shut down at night.
- Felt that having late afternoon meetings in the winter could be problematic. He suggested trying the late meeting in the summer first to see how it works.
- Suggested that the town take substantial measures to cut the number of vehicles on the summer road.

Mark Haik asked for the status of the following matters:

- A 1983 action by a past mayor and council on the amended water agreement
- A 1995 letter to the State Water Resources Board from Lee Kapaloski
- The 2004 analysis prepared by PB&L that addresses potential water development in the town.

Mark Haik also commented on the dog issue and the impact of the back country skiers on the watershed.

Motion to Adjourn – 02:19:15

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

Passed and approved this 8th day of February, 2018

s/Katherine S.W. Black  
Town Clerk