

**MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2018
4:00 – 5:30 PM
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER
ALTA, UTAH**

1. Call the meeting to order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Members of the Council present were Harris Sondak, Cliff Curry and Elise Morgan. Present via telephone were Margaret Bourke and Sheridan Davis.

Also present were Piper Lever, Rich Mrazik, John Guldner and Marshal Mike Morey.

2. Citizen Input – 00:01:45

The Mayor called for citizen input but since no public was in attendance, the council moved on to discussion.

3. Discussion of certain sections of Town of Alta Animal Control Ordinance –00:02:22

An updated draft of the proposed ordinance was prepared by legal counsel and staff, provided to the council and made available to the public on the town’s website. The draft was used for reference during the review process at this meeting.

The council reviewed the proposed dog ordinance section by section starting with section 5-2-3(H). The following are highlights of that discussion:

- Confirmed that the council will enact a unique identifier for licensed dogs to wear or display. The mandate will be decided after the ordinance is passed.
- In the case of a death of a licensed dog, the owner has a year from the date of death to replace the dog before they would have to forfeit the license. In the case of a cap on the total number of licenses being reached, this would allow the owner to hold their place in the count for a year.
- Add language in section 5-2-3-(J)(5) ...” subject to the qualifications listed in this section 5-2-3”
- Simplification of the penalty section 5-2-14, providing discretion to police officer of whether an owner should be charged with a violation of this section. If an owner is convicted of violations three times, their license will be revoked. 11:40

- Suggestion that violations be disclosed in a public forum
- Suggestion that a gentler penalty be assessed for section 5-2-5 (Dogs at Large) was discussed but did not achieve consensus. It was decided to leave that matter to the charging officer and the justice court 22:06
- Section 5-2-8(A)(7) passerby includes hikers, skiers and bikers
- Section 5-2-9(C) Harris suggests that dogs not be allowed in Albion Basin, with some exceptions of seasons.
- 00:27:35

Much discussion followed on a variety of specific places, trails and zones and dogs on leash. It was suggested to add a section to 5-2-9 that addresses areas that dogs would not be allowed.

– 00:40:49

Cliff agrees that Forest Service concerns are a public relations issue and we can identify the appropriate number of acres in as much detail as possible to address the concerns, by naming trails and public areas and using distances as a protection guide (for instance 200’ of a waterway).

Harris wants to bring something to the Forest Service that shows them our concern of protecting the fragile watershed. The question is how to frame that proposal.

- Cliff and Sheridan agreed that the Town has responsibility and ability to enforce our ordinances and this should satisfy SLC Public Utilities and the Forest Service that we are serious about sheltering the watershed.00:59:30

More mention of specific areas that dogs should be prohibited and how to propose these areas to the Forest Service.

-1:08:00

Discussion of not only weighing the competing interests of other agencies, but most importantly, considering the interest of our citizens whom we represent.

Harris related that he has the impression the SLC Public Utilities have confidence in Alta’s ability to govern their dogs.

Harris related that Bekee Hotze, representing the Forest Service, told Harris they will not issue a special use permit to exempt Alta from the special order.

The Council wants a new special order or an amendment to the existing order that exempts Alta-licensed dogs, not a special use permit.

Debate followed on legality of the Forest Service Order. Cliff believes the order is worthless and should embarrass the Forest Service and suggested the town not change policy in light of the entire time during which the Forest Service has not claimed the order applies to dogs. Sheridan added that she thinks the council should take their concerns into account while working to improve our ordinance.

1:30:00

Rich Mrazik stated he thinks the council could take whatever they come up with in the new ordinance and leverage to the Forest Service that they cannot change the rules of the game after 30-year practice of looking the other way; that the Town has shown they are a good steward of the watershed so the Forest Service has to put language in the order that gives the Town the ability to govern their dogs, matching what SLCPU and the Health Department has acknowledged.

Harris related that Laura Briefer promised that she would facilitate a meeting with herself and Dave Whittekiend, since he has not responded to Harris' request for a meeting.

The Council identified 3 areas of the ordinance that needed further discussion including setback distance from creek, and agreed to schedule another work session on the matter. The next session was scheduled for June 5 from 4:00-5:30.

4. Motion to Adjourn – 01:35:08

Cliff Curry made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Elise Morgan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Passed and approved this 21st day of June, 2018

s/ Katherine S.W. Black, Town Clerk