

MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, October 11, 2018, 10:00 AM
Alta Community Center, 10351 E. Highway 210, Alta, Utah

PRESENT: Mayor Harris Sondak
Council Member Margaret Bourke (via telephone)
Council Member Cliff Curry
Council Member Elise Morgan
Council Member Sheridan Davis (via telephone)

STAFF PRESENT: John Guldner, Town Administrator and Town Treasurer
Chris Cawley, Assistant Town Administrator
Piper Lever, Town Clerk
Jay Torgersen, Unified Fire Authority
Mike Morey, Town Marshal
Nora Pincus, Town Attorney

OTHERS: Mark Haik, Mike Maughan,

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sondak called the meeting to order 10:00 a.m. and noted that they would be piloting a closed, live stream video of the meeting.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

00:01:00

| Mark Haik, a property owner, commented on the Dr. Haas' report, Alta water and his concern with a home that was listed for sale in the Basin that indicates private water.

00:05:38

| Mike Maughan, Alta ski lift manager, reported on the repair of the Cecret Lake Dam by Salt Lake County. If the dam isn't fixed, it would seriously inhibit the ability to make snow and they may have to find other options. Mr. Maughan said that ASL would also be continuing to work with the Central Wasatch Commission to find a solution regarding Grizzly Gulch. They had received input from some lodge owners indicating very strong support for Grizzly Gulch to be maintained and not included in the land swap with the U.S. Forest Service.

3. MAYOR'S REPORT

00:15:13

Mayor Sondak noted that they had neglected to put the approval of the previous meeting minutes on the agenda, so they would approve those during the next Council meeting. He then reported

on various meetings and events he had attended in the past month, including the swearing in of Rich Mrazik as a District Court Judge, a meeting for CWC, a field trip with the Planning Commission to Albion Basin, and a meeting with Salt Lake County staff regarding how Alta could benefit from more tax revenue to the town by creating a community redevelopment area. Mayor Sondak had also met with Chief Peterson of the UFA to discuss the issues with Little Cottonwood Canyon, and he was reassured by Ben McAdams that Alta would not be affected. Regarding dog licenses, Mayor Sondak reported that the town held a lottery for two Class A dog licenses on October 1st, and all who applied were granted six Class B licenses. The Mayor also reported that he authorized 2 temporary 30 day licenses to Alex Wheeler and Susan Ussery, so they could visit Alta residents with their dogs. Finally, he encouraged everyone to vote on or before Election Day.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

00:30:27

Town Treasurer John Guldner presented the Treasurer's Report for the period of September 12 to October 4, highlighting a few items. It was noted that the Report would be approved when minutes from the last meeting were approved.

5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

00:34:19

Town Clerk Piper Lever noted that she had lost her packet, so she had been unable to answer Council Woman Bourke's questions regarding the proposed budget amendments for the Caselle program. Nonetheless, she had submitted a staff report outlining the information and felt that this was a good investment for the Town.

00:35:29

Administrator Guldner thanked Mr. Maughan for his report on the Secret Lake Dam effort. He reported that the Estate's project to extend the water line had re-started on Monday. The intention of the project was to install a new four-inch town water line alongside the County's 10 to 12-inch water line, together with the Syringa cable and utilities for Patsey Marley. Administrator Guldner briefly reported on the building season permit number and the fees collected by the Town.

Mayor Sondak asked if the Snowpine Lodge had pushed back their opening. Administrator Guldner said that they were badly affected by the recent snow. It was noted that Snowpine was taking reservations for mid-January, but they hoped to open before then.

00:42:34

Assistant Town Administrator Chris Cawley reported on a well-attended Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan meeting last Tuesday. He reported that he had been working with Council Woman Bourke to evaluate the community's interest in a glass recycling program, finding interest, they would be initiating an "opt-in" program next week. Mr. Cawley said that he was putting together a design program for the median. They hoped to find a temporary fix for the winter months and then get a median landscaping project started in the spring. He also responded

on an Emergency Management program designed by his predecessor and hoped to update that program with FEMA online training for elected officials, following the County providing initial training.

00:54:18

Jay Torgersen, with the Unified Fire Authority, reported that it had been a busy September for people in the canyon, particularly on the weekends. Luckily, this did not increase their call volumes significantly. Snowbird's Oktoberfest had a few more weeks to run, so they would continue to see busy weekends. Mr. Torgersen reported on the UFA's current hiring process, the Wildland Preparedness program and property assessments in 2019. He also gave a safety message to annually check smoke detectors, and in the event of an emergency, the first person contacted by responding emergency personnel should be prepared to provide information whether all persons were accounted for, or, the possibility of people still being in the structure..

01:00:40

Town Marshal Mike Morey reported on one case of felony burglary, which involved a quick investigation , resulting in an arrest. He anticipated that the victim would receive all of their property back. The Marshal's office had also been experiencing an increase with mental health responses, and this month they were involved in two very active suicidal threat calls. Both had positive outcomes. Marshal Morey reported that Damien Jackson would be stepping in as their lead avalanche forecaster for Little Cottonwood Canyon.

6. DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION TO AMEND BUDGET TO ALLOW FOR PURCHASE OF ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND CASH RECEIPTS MODULES FROM CASELLE

01:04:14

Ms. Lever explained the proposal for a budget amendment that would allow the purchase of two modules—"accounts receivable" and "cash receipts"—from Caselle. Training and setup would be included in the cost, and it would be about three months before the system was live. There was a one-time expense of \$5,425 for the software, and the monthly cost would increase from \$167 to \$267.

Mayor Sondak explained that a budget amendment was necessary because this expense was not part of the original budget. He thought that this software would be beneficial to the Town and staff.

MOTION: Council Member Morgan moved that the Town Council AMEND the budget by moving \$6,625 from the General Fund balance to the appropriate budget category. Council Member Curry seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous consent of the Council.

7. DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING DR. HAAS'S STUDY

01:09:48

Before discussing the Haas study, Mr. Cawley reported the ski area held a meeting to report on their pilot summer program. Mayor Sondak asked how long the ski area was authorized to have

the pilot program, and Mr. Maughan indicated the program was being conducted under the ski area special use permit, and that it does not have an expiration date. Mr. Maughan suggested it could take three years to determine whether the program can be sustainable. Mr. Cawley said ASL wanted to have another stakeholders meeting in January. He asked the Council for their input as to what the Town wanted to see during the summer.

Council Member Davis asked to review the Alta Ski Lifts financials from the summer, as well as the public comments that were submitted to the Forest Service and the ski lifts. She also wondered if the entire Council could attend the next stakeholders meeting. Mr. Maughan indicated the ski area could provide more refined financial information, but invited the Council to develop its own vision for future recreation in Albion Basin.

Mr. Maughan also reported ASL will operate the campground in the Basin, under a Granger permit, not special use permit, allowing for maintenance and credits towards fees they are charged for using the facilities of the USFS.

Mr. Crawley next addressed the study completed by Dr. Haas by reading the first two recommendations, which were to develop a Comprehensive Recreation Use Management Plan, and to define the desired recreation opportunity for the Basin. He reminded all of the Town's influence in the Basin regarding funding opportunities, law enforcement and education.

Council Woman Bourke said the Council first needed to have a real discussion on the study and determine if there was a summer visitor capacity issue that needed to be addressed. If there was no issue, then there was no need to engage the Town in that process. However, based on the discussion, it appeared there was a consensus an issue existed.

Council Member Morgan suggested a vision statement be summer specific and she wanted more input from the people in the community on the matter.

Mayor Sondak understood that there was a connection between recreational opportunities that they may want in the Town and how many people could be served. He thought that determining the Town's vision was the place to start with public events to receive public input.

Council Member Curry thought it important to receive the ASL perspective, but also a Town perspective, as well as the community more broadly.

Council Member Davis suggested that the Council have a work session to unpack Dr. Haas's study before opening a meeting to the public. Council Woman Bourke agreed that the public meetings should come after the Town Council and staff decided that this was something in which the Town was going to engage.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. MOTION TO ADJORN

MOTION: Council Member Morgan moved to ADJOURN at 11:53 a.m. Council Member Curry seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous consent of the Council.

Passed and approved this 8th day of November, 2018.

Piper Lever, Town Clerk / S