

**MINUTES**  
**ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 13, 2018, 8:00 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

**STAFF PRESENT:** John Guldner, Town Administrator  
Chris Cawley, Assistant Town Administrator  
Piper Lever, Town Clerk  
Jen Clancy, Deputy Town Clerk  
Jay Torgersen, Unified Fire Authority  
Mike Morey, Town Marshal  
~~Nora Pincus, Town Attorney~~

**OTHERS:** Mike Maughan, Alta Ski Area  
Maura Olivos, Alta Ski Area  
Colton Rogers, USFS, Salt Lake Ranger District  
Lisa Romney, Rocky Mountain Power  
Mr. Brian, Rocky Mountain Power

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

00:01:42

Mayor Sondak called the meeting to order 8:08

**2. CITIZEN INPUT**

Mike Maughan, General Manager of Alta Ski Area, discussed S.2501, the Ski Area Fee Retention Act. He reported the ski area was now open and attendance was higher than last year. He discussed an increasing parking problem and asked for solutions in addressing the issue.

Maura Olivos reported on the monthly bird surveys and noted they were hosting monthly snowshoeing tours with park rangers through April.

**3. MAYOR'S REPORT**

00:06:45

Mayor Sondak noted that the Town Attorney was not present due to medical issues. He stated that the ski season was off to a good start due to the recent snowfall. He noted everyone had

completed the open and public meeting trainings. He reported issuing two temporary dog licenses.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor met with the Salt Lake Public Utilities to mediate a solution to the Alta Ski Lift land exchange issue, as more fully addressed in the Mayor's newsletter.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, there was a pre-road committee meeting regarding the interlocal agreement. The highway would close at 5:30 am on days where avalanche risks are high. He attended another meeting with the Central Wasatch Commission, wherein legislation was approved that did not include Alta; additional information was included in his newsletter. He reported that the UFA met and discussed a potential civil suit for allegedly misspent funds. The Attorney General declined to entertain a criminal action against the senior leaders. He said it was not in the best interest for UFA to pursue the lawsuit.

Mayor Sondak noted he would be supporting the election of the new Salt Lake Mayor as Ben McAdams moved into his new role in Congress. This would give Alta representation for the election. He said the Planning Commission discussed potential changes to the SR210 EIS. The project had become a more complicated problem than expected.

Mayor Sondak stated that he met with Maria Poulson, Alta's Representative in the State legislature. He also heard from Brad Wilson and Senator Jerry Stevenson. They discussed unfunded mandates from the State. The State blamed the expansion of Medicaid for the inability to work on local projects. He then reported on having met with the Central Wasatch Commission to discuss last year's financials.

Mayor Sondak reported that he attended an EMS briefing at the UFA. The UFA would try not to use fire engines to bring paramedics, in an effort to reduce costs. He reported there was recently a health insurance sign up-event. He noted that the sales tax was passed to fund transportation, and the Town was granted \$100,000 for transportation improvements.

Council Member Davis asked the Mayor to expand on the CWC changes. Mayor Sondak responded he was not aware of any changes since the last meeting. He said information was available on the CWC website, including audio recordings and meeting minutes. Council Member Davis thanked the Mayor for the newsletter. She expressed concern with a lack of consensus pertaining to the CWC, to which Mayor Sondak replied that further discussion could take place at the next meeting.

#### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

00:32:35

Mr. Guldner reported on the Town's major bills, and reported that they were beginning to receive property tax and sales tax revenues. He discussed some of the Town's expenditures and revenues. When asked if the legal bills were higher than last year, Mr. Guldner responded they were lower.

**MOTION:** Mayor Sondak moved that the Town Council APPROVE the treasurer's report. Council Member Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**5. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

00:37:03

Mr. Guldner reported that the Utah Local Government Trust gave Alta a refund due to the Town's relationship with the trust. He reported that the new Patsy Marley water line had been buried, and the Syringa fiber optic line was also in the process of being buried. This would provide better high-speed internet service and would be completed by spring. He reported there were 74 proposed zoning amendments. He would create a red-line index to discuss the proposals.

Mr. Guldner reported the Planning Commission suggested the council create an action for a West Grizzly sewer, explaining that they needed to discuss the costs of connecting this to the main sewer line. Staff needed approval from the Council to research the costs. Mayor Sondak suggested staff find out if this needed to put the study out to bid. Mr. Guldner explained this was something a Planning Commissioner suggested they explore.

00:50:40

Mr. Morey reported there was an investigation of a man that was bitten by a dog. He asked for any information on the dog and said the Town would be enforcing dogs on leashes.

**6. APPROVAL OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES AND TREASURERS REPORTS FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

- NOVEMBER 8, 2018**

00:52:00

Council Member Bourke stated she received Mayor edited portions of the minutes and asked if they were approving that edited version. She said she was not in favor of transcribing the entire meeting and explained that it was more important to have highlights of the meeting. The comment was then made that transcribing was a burden on staff and therefore outsourcing the minutes was beneficial. Council Member Bourke commented that she was spending too much time going over minutes. Council Member Curry desired complete minutes and did not want the transcriptionist to summarize the information excessively.

**MOTION:** Mayor Sondak moved that the Town Council APPROVE the Minutes. Council Member Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTION OF UP TO \$2,000 TO BE ALLOCATED TO PARTNER WITH ASL, FOA, SLC, AND USFS TO EMPLOY A DEDICATED SUMMER RANGER IN ALBION BASIN**

00:59:34

Mayor Sondak explained the Town would be the contracting entity and the total cost would be \$8,000. The program description was available on the website. It was noted that the ranger would be a seasonal employee.

Mr. Cawley stated that Colton Rogers was the USFS point of contact for bringing a ranger to Alta to interact with recreation visitors during the summer. An additional person would provide legitimate presence of the Forest Service. Mayor Sondak discussed the scope of the ranger's responsibilities and recommended the Council request someone without an FPO certification. Staff noted that the position was based on the applicant's trainings and certification. It was not their intention to hire an employee with FPO certification. Rather, they sought a ranger that would assist partners in remaining compliant with Forest Service regulations.

Council Member Bourke requested clarification on what FPO certification entailed. Ms. Olivos explained that an FPO certified ranger had authority to issue citations to visitors. It was then noted that no more than five citations were made last year. Mayor Sondak stated that if the ranger issued citations then they would also need to be available to go to court. Mr. Rogers said it was helpful to have a ranger that had the authority to issue citations.

It was noted that the ranger position would only be for one summer; adjustments could be made to the position in the future. Council Member Bourke asked if they needed to consider the ILA draft before passing this item. Mayor Sondak said this did not need to be addressed as it would be discussed in January.

**MOTION:** Council Member Curry moved that the Town Council APPROVE the \$2,000 be allocated to partner with ASL, FOA, SLC, and USFS to employ a dedicated summer ranger in Albion Basin with the Amendment to not require the ranger have FPO certification. Council Member Bourke seconded the motion. Council Member Curry voted "aye," and Council Members Bourke, Morgan, Davis and Mayor Sondak voted "nay." The motion failed.

When asked why the Town currently did not have a ranger, Mr. Rogers responded that the available funding was budgeted primarily for areas with visitor centers. Mayor Sondak said the ski area could work this issue out on its own. He noted this was a pilot program and would help the marshal. Mr. Rogers suggested reaching out to Alta's Congressional representative about the federal government providing a permanent ranger in this area. This was not contingent on a visitor center.

**MOTION:** Mayor Sondak moved that the Town Council APPROVE the \$2,000 be allocated to partner with ASL, FOA, SLC, and USFS to employ a dedicated summer ranger in Albion Basin, with the Amendment to require the ranger to have FPO certification. Council Member Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**8. DISCUSSION OF TOWN OF ALTA GOALS FOR ALBION BASIN SUMMER RECREATION EXPERIENCE AS IT RELATES TO THE VISION STATEMENT IN 2005 ALTA GENERAL PLAN**

This item was moved to the end of the meeting to accommodate agenda items for other persons present at the meeting.

**9. LISA ROMNEY FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER WILL ADDRESS POWER INTERRUPTION ISSUES**

01:40:30

Mayor Sondak stated that a power failure was considered an emergency. He suggested they make plans to mitigate problems with the power supply. He asked Ms. Lisa Romney, ~~with Rocky Mountain Power,~~ to discuss possible solutions. Ms. Romney provided a service report of power outages, explaining that the process included discussing issues with local businesses. The data reflected current and future power usage. Rocky Mountain Power planned on improving the equipment as the Town grew. She discussed the various investments they had made to ensure excellent service was provided.

Ms. Romney stated there were a high number of people using solar panels in their total service area. Additionally, Rocky Mountain Power had another program where they paid people not to use the power. She then presented a report detailing the power outages in Alta. Mayor Sondak stated that there were fewer outages in the report than he had experienced. Ms. Romney explained that the mainline outages were the only ones presented in the report.

Mayor Sondak stated that the biggest issue with power outages was access to heat. Some residents and businesses had back-up generators; however, the Town did not want to encourage generators because they were more polluting. Council Member Davis commented that a recent outage was caused by an accident in Brighton, through which most of Alta's power was provided. The ski areas could switch from one feed to another. Mayor Sondak referred to a recent five-hour power outage and asked why the Town had not been switched to another feed. Mr. Brian explained that anytime outages took place they had to locate the problem, and this caused delays in restoring power.

Mayor Sondak said this issue was discussed when the Town renewed its contract with Rocky Mountain Power. He asked if they could isolate the Town from the feed coming from Brighton. This would create a redundancy, so the Town could consistently receive power from one source or the other. Ms. Romney said this was a reasonable request and could be discussed in a future work session.

Council Member Davis asked if there would be enough power from the quarry feed. Mr. Brian said there would be restraints on the ski resorts. Mayor Sondak said this was reasonable and explained that he was mostly concerned with emergencies. Council Member Davis stated it was common to have road closures during the winter which made power outage repairs challenging. A redundant system was necessary for safety and business.

It was noted that residents and visitors relied on power. Ms. Romney stated it was Rocky Mountain Power's priority to provide this service. In response to a comment from Council Member Curry regarding Rocky Mountain's customer service during periods of outage, Ms.

Romney explained that there was only so much information that could be provided during repairs. She said the Town could contact her personally to obtain better information.

Mayor Sondak suggested the Town staff create a plan to provide public information as outages occurred, perhaps through the interlodge system. Council Member Davis said they needed more information for residents. Council Member Curry added there were meters that could be read remotely by Rocky Mountain Power. Ms. Romney noted that these were currently being updated, but due to privacy concerns expressed by certain groups, the upgrade process might take more time.

02:16:00

UFA's, Captain Torgersen reported on safety issues and asked residents to be aware of snow piling up around fire hydrants. He stated that smoke and carbon dioxide detectors had been ordered for the Library. Legal action would not be taken against the previous UFA senior administrators. Response times were then discussed. Mr. Torgersen reported that they were in the process of hiring new firefighters to avoid reliance on part-time employees.

**10. DISCUSSION OF ENDORSEMENT OF SLC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION PLAN**

02:22:00

Mayor Sondak explained there was confusion on the sequence of events for this item. The next step was for the Council to give its endorsement.

**MOTION:** Council Member Morgan moved to ENDORSE the SLC community development and conservation plan. Council Member Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**11. SCHEDULE WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS USFS CLOSURE ORDER WITH BEKEE HOTZE**

02:29:55

Mayor Sondak asked if the Council was in favor of having a work session prior to the next Council meeting. Mr. Cawley commented Ms. Hotze suggested that Laura Briefer and Lisa Gray also be invited to this session. It was determined that the work session would begin at 9:00 am, before the council meeting on January 10.

**12. DISCUSSION OF TOWN OF ALTA GOALS FOR ALBION BASIN SUMMER RECREATION EXPERIENCE AS IT RELATES TO THE VISION STATEMENT IN 2005 ALTA GENERAL PLAN**

Council Member Bourke suggested deferring Item 8 to another date because the Mayor and other council members needed to leave the meeting shortly. The ski area reported hosting an open house in January on the topic. After some discussion regarding time sensitivity of the item, Mayor Sondak advised staff to determine if the issue could be discussed in January due to the Alta Ski Area's need for input for their summer 2019 planning.

Mr. Cawley thanked everyone for their comments at the November work session.

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

02:38:40

There was no new business.

**14. ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Council Member Morgan moved to adjourn. Council Member Davis seconded. The motion carried.

Passed and approved this 10th day of January, 2019.

Piper Lever/s , Town Clerk \_\_\_\_\_