

MINUTES

ALTA TOWN COUNCIL Work Session

Thursday, April 18, 2019 3:00-4:30 pm

Alta Community Center, 10351 E. Highway 210, Alta, Utah

PRESENT: Mayor Harris Sondak
Council Member Elise Morgan
Council Member Sheridan Davis

STAFF PRESENT: Piper Lever, Town Clerk
Jen Clancy, Deputy Town Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Bekee Hotze, USFS District Ranger

1. Call the meeting to order

Mayor Sondak called the meeting to order introduced District Ranger, Bekee Hotze. Ms Hotze came to the front table.

2. Discussion: USFS Closure Order relating to dogs on public land

Mayor Sondak started off by stating that this work session was called for the Council to address Ms. Hotze, and if time allowed he would extend an invitation for the public to speak with Ms Hotze as well. He also clarified to Ms Hotze that the Town Council had not significantly increased the amount of dogs in recent resolutions, but rather had changed the numbers within the various categories while the total number remained the same. Ms Hotze gave some history of the 1997 special closure order and explained the authority of the order. She stated she and her staff had received complaints from the public, but not more than one was documented. In response to questions from council members, she stated that her goal was to compromise with the Town in acknowledgment of our long-standing cooperative relationship and to use this opportunity to write a one year closure order that would protect the watershed and sustain the natural beauty of the Albion Basin while allowing the dog-licensed residents to walk their dogs off of private property in Alta.

- Mark Hoffman asked about the authority of the closure order and apparent arbitrary enforcement.
- Doug Goldsmith asked about water quality testing that showed contamination and Ms Hotze said she knew of no such results.
- Ken Libre pointed out that the closure order does not specifically mention dogs.
 - Ms Hotze said she has an order that specifies "any dog or horse".
- Hannah Gross said she doesn't mind if some areas are closed to dogs because it would allow her to take her dog in other areas.
- Kim Goldsmith would like Alta licensed dogs to have Alta-specific vests.
- Elise Morgan asked if a new order would affect both LCC and BCC.
- Ms Hotze replied yes, but then said the difference between the canyons is that Alta has its own ordinances and its own law enforcement.

- Heidi Hoffman
- Doug Goldsmith

It was suggested that more discussion take place at the next Council meeting or another work session. There was pushback that residents might not be in town, but also articulated that it would be nice to have a new order in place before the summer hiking season.

Marshal Mike Morey asked the Council to consider that this closure order negates Alta's current ordinance and the Alta Marshal's Office can cite violators under state law, if our ordinances don't hold up.

Ms Hotze said she would send the Town the following 3 items. She also agreed to talk to her Supervisor about the meeting today.

- 1) USFS law enforcement regulations
- 2) Closure order 04-19-85 specifically listing dogs and,
- 3) a write up from the USFS Hydrologist

3. Motion to Adjourn

Elise Morgan moved to adjourn. Sheridan Davis seconded and meeting was adjourned. Passed and approved this 9th day of May, 2019.

Piper Lever/s, Town Clerk

