

MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 5:00 PM
Alta Community Center, 10351 E. Highway 210, Alta, Utah

PRESENT: Mayor Harris Sondak
Council Member Margaret Bourke (via internet connection)
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
Mike Morey, Town Marshal
Polly Samuels, Town Attorney
Jay Torgersen, UFA

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

00:00:10

Mayor Sondak called the meeting to order 5:00 PM and expressed appreciation for those in attendance.

2. UDOT EIS UPDATE – Brianna Binnebose and John Thomas

00:00:44

Mayor Sondak introduced John Thomas from UDOT, who would be providing an update on the Environmental Impact Study (EIS).

00:01:00

John Thomas, UDOT Project Manager for the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS, presented a project overview document. The first step of the project was to provide transportation information to the public, host an open house, and obtain public input. They UDOT already hosted the open house and put the public comments into a scoping report. They received almost 1,500 comments, and those were not organized into trends. One hundred concepts for improved transportation were identified. Mr. Thomas said that they were currently on the second step in the process, which was to define purpose and intent of the EIS. The next step would be to develop alternatives. They hoped to have a draft statement that would have a preferred alternative.

00:07:21

Mayor Sondak asked for clarification about the informational figures for trips into the canyon, and Mr. Thomas said that the trips would be a percentage of the one million new residents in Salt Lake

Valley. With information provided by the State and municipalities, the model shows a 1.2% travel increase in the canyon annually. By 2050, that would be roughly a 50% increase.

Mayor Sondak asked who made the final decisions regarding the EIS, and whether the Town of Alta had any say in that decision. Mr. Thomas said that the Town of Alta was a participating agency, so their input would help shape the plans. UDOT would be making the final decisions. Sheridan Davis asked about raw data from the comments and Mr. Thomas said that should be available online.

3. UTA – Bill Humphries

00:20:25

Mayor Sondak introduced Bill Humphries from UTA.

Bill Humphries said that UTA had made some bold steps in changing ski services this year. They had increased the 953 route, which serviced Little Cottonwood Canyon. UTA would not be servicing the Park and Ride lot at the mouth of Little Cottonwood this year, because they were only getting about 4% ridership from that location. They also made a decision to remove the ski racks from the inside of the buses this year, which would hopefully help with loading times and provide more space on the bus for standing riders.

The Council asked if there would be an express bus that bypassed Snowbird and came straight to Alta, and Mr. Humphries replied that there would not. However, the ghost bus route was on the public schedule this year.

4. UFA ILA UPDATE – Chief Dan Petersen

00:30:30

Mayor Sondak said that Chief Petersen was on his way to the meeting, so they would come back to this item once the Chief arrived.

00:52:24

Chief Petersen arrived.

Chief Petersen gave a brief history of the UFA. As the UFA discussed the existing interlocal agreement, it was clear that there needed to be some amendments. The process of changing the agreement began eighteen months ago, and it was slowly paced to allow organizations to discuss and understand components of the agreement. The conversation that needed the most time was weighted voting. Now, the proposed change had almost unanimous support. Mr. Petersen explained weighted voting in more detail.

01:02:59

Mayor Sondak asked about the timing of the interlocal agreement. Chief Petersen said that the draft interlocal agreement would be voted on at the next UFA Board meeting. Although the existing agreement allows for a two-thirds vote to officially adopt something, the board had agreed

not to uphold that rule in this instance. Once the new interlocal agreement was accepted, involved communities has 60 days to work through the document.

5. SALES TAX UPDATE – ULCT Wayne Bradshaw

00:30:40

Mayor Sondak introduced Wayne Bradshaw with the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT).

Wayne Bradshaw, the Director of Policy with the ULCT, provided an update on the proposed tax reform that currently sat with the legislature. During the last legislative session, the State set up a tax task force to meet with communities around the state and gather input. They've held six meetings in Salt Lake City to discuss different options, and they released a preliminary bill for review last Thursday. This reform had not been adopted yet. The four major items of the preliminary bill were as follows:

- Income Tax from 4.95% to 4.58% for all residents in Utah
- Base Expansion- eliminates tax exemption, base expansion to current services that do not have sales tax
- Adding a state sales tax to motor fuel at the retail level
- The State increasing their portion of sales tax on food

Mr. Bradshaw noted that they were offering some income tax credits for low-income earners.

00:03:27

Mayor Sondak asked if the bill would be passed if they could reach a two-thirds majority, and Mr. Bradshaw answered affirmatively.

6. CITIZEN INPUT

00:47:00

Dan Colangelo, a property owner, brought to the Council's attention an issue with the old road to Grizzly Gulch near his house. The summer storms pulverized the road and it was nearly impassible. He and the neighbors were working with the Forest Service regarding winter routes.

Mayor Sondak said that he had some conversations with staff about this issue, and he would continue to pursue that.

00:50:28

Mayor Sondak acknowledged a letter received from Mark Haik. The letter reported that there was a stay of proceedings in an appeal case between Salt Lake City and Mark Haik. He urged the Council to forego any proceedings or votes on the proposed Albion Basin Protection Overlay Zone. Mayor Sondak said that the zoning update was not on tonight's agenda. The Town Attorney had stated that there was no clear relationship between the stay in this case and the Council moving forward with zoning decisions.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- Treasurers Report
- Town Council Meeting minutes for October 16, 2019
- Staff Report

01:10:10

Jay Torgersen, UFA, introduced the crewmembers present. Since calls were down this time of year, UFA was doing inspections and training to prepare for winter.

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved that the Town Council APPROVE the Consent Agenda. Council Member Morgan seconded the motion.

There was a brief discussion about an amendment to the minutes from October 16, 2019. Town staff made the requested changes.

Mayor Sondak called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with unanimous consent of the Council.

8. 2019-R-15 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING JUSTICE COURT RECERTIFICATION

01:16:30

Mayor Sondak called for a motion on the proposed Resolution to recertify the justice court.

MOTION: Council Member Curry moved that the Town Council APPROVE Resolution 2019-R-15 to recertify the Justice Court. Council Member Davis seconded the motion.

Deputy Town Clerk Jen Clancy stated that the recertification of the justice court happens every four years.

Mayor Sondak called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with unanimous consent of the Council.

9. QUESTIONS REGARDING DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

01:18:22

Council Member Curry asked if staff could provide the Council with budget highlights. It would be helpful if they could see if there were expenses that were over or under what was expected. There was some discussion with staff.

Mayor Sondak requested a mid-year budget amendment process.

Council Member Curry asked about the time and place of the road meeting on Nov. 21st. Mayor Sondak said it was at the Albion Grill at 10:00 a.m.

10. MAYOR'S REPORT

01:27:48

Mayor Sondak reported on the election and said that the official canvass of the results would be on November 19th at 4:30 p.m., and the swearing-in ceremony would take place on January 6th. He also reported on a discussion he and Town Counsel had with Congressman John Curtis regarding the draft Natural Conservation Recreation Area legislation, a meeting with the Finance Committee of the CWC, Dark Skies, and the Council of Mayors meeting. There was a CWC Board Retreat on November 7th and 8th, and there were discussions on the agenda about reorganizing the Board.

11. ALTA SKI LIFTS UPDATE – Mike Maughan

01:43:30

Mike Maughan expressed appreciation for Mayor Sondak’s representation on the CWC Board. As the Ski Area talked about the legislation, they decided not to pursue the land exchange based on the lack of support from other ski areas and the US Forest Service. Instead, the Ski Area would focus on resolving transportation issues.

Mr. Maughan reported that they were finishing up work at Alf’s and they had a temporary occupancy permit. Work should be done by Saturday, which was the day they intended to close the road for winter. Based on weather, they hoped to open the ski area by Thanksgiving.

Mr Maughan said ASL was exploring options to address the shortage of ski area customer parking spaces and discussion to increase snow tire requirements in the canyon during the ski season.

12. NEW BUSINESS

01:56:31

Mayor Sondak said that he would like to discuss Planning Commission membership terms.

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to ADJOURN at 6:58 PM. Council Member Morgan seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous consent of the Council.

APPROVED by Alta Town Council on December 11, 2019

Piper Lever, Town Clerk / s