

MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
AND REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 3:00 PM

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

PRESENT: Mayor Harris Sondak
Council Member Margaret Bourke
Council Member Cliff Curry
Council Member Sheridan Davis
Council Member Elise Morgan – *joined late as noted*

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 McLean, Town Attorney
Cameron Platt, Town Attorney

WORK SESSION

Mayor Sondak called the virtual work session to order at 3:00 p.m. without an anchor location per a September 21, 2021 submitted declaration.

1. POLICE SALARIES

[00:00:37]

Mayor Sondak stated that it has come to his attention at numerous meetings that police officer wages are being significantly boosted around the valley and that Alta’s officers are near the bottom of the comparable scale. As an example, UPD’s entry level wage is higher than Alta’s mid-career wage. Marshal Morey spoke to the issue noting that officers are leaving one agency to join another at higher pay scale. SLC recently upped their officers salary by 30% and this has caused a cascading effect in other Salt Lake County agencies. Mayor Sondak pointed out the obligation to treat our law enforcement well and said he will be proposing mid-year raises for our marshal’s department. He invited other council members input. Margaret Bourke, Sheridan Davis and Cliff Curry spoke in support of the level of service provided by the marshal’s office and were in favor of increasing their wages.

2. PARKING PERMIT PLAN

[00:05:08]

Mayor Sondak reviewed why the Town is creating this plan and talked about some of the consulting research and the enormous amount of hours and work done by staff to develop the plan. The number of available parking spaces compared to the amount of needed spaces illustrated the problem of allocation. The Mayor outlined the permitting process and the permit costs recommended by the consultant and said the revenue to the Town, after the parking vendor and the Forest Service got paid, was about \$37,000.

Chris Cawley shared a map which identified the allotted parking areas and explained the proposed allocation process. Mayor Sondak and Marshal Morey talked next steps being honing the details of how the permit will work with flexibility for our community, the MOU with the ski lift company, special use permit with the Forest Service and the Interstate contract. Mayor asked the Council for questions and comments. Cliff Curry restated his conflict of interest as an Alta Lodge employee. There was discussion about the numbers associated with the resident and employee classifications and how people that overlapped classifications were counted.

The Work Session was closed and the Council took a short break.

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AND DECLARATION

[01:04:12]

Mayor Sondak called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm and noted that Council members were present, excepting Elise Morgan, who may join later if she can.

2. PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Mayor Sondak introduced 3 people who have expressed interest in filling a soon to be vacancy on the Planning Commission. Bodhi Jhamb, Maren Askins and Rebecca Hall each spoke a bit about themselves and why they would like to serve. Sheridan Davis asked the mayor about the timing of this appointment. The mayor and Polly McLean explained that Roger Bourke's term expired and he has remained in the seat until a new appointment is made by the mayor and confirmed by the Council. Council member Davis reiterated her discomfort with the timing, the process, and precedent asserting appointment with Council consent in December 2019, the commissioner began another five year term. Mayor Sondak rejected that argument, saying the vacancy occurs when he reappoints and the Council confirms. Mayor Sondak suggested council member Davis refer back to December 2019 meeting minutes, as Roger Bourke was occupying the position in absence of a confirmed appointment, as was the understanding roughly two years ago. Polly McLean asserted it was agreed that Roger Bourke would remain in his position until he resigns; he was not confirmed by the Council, he was never appointed by the mayor; he just continued on in his seat. The mayor wanted the opportunity to complete the appointment that did not get completed. Council member Curry stated his support of Mayor Sondak's authority to appoint a successor to the seat. Council member Margaret Bourke disagreed with the stated legal interpretation but agreed to discuss the issue at another time. In conclusion, Mayor Sondak referred all to the December 2019 and January 2020 meeting minutes where an understanding was reached.

3. CITIZEN INPUT

[01:19:00]

Dawn Page thanked the Marshal's Office for their professionalism and compassion during a recent cabin intrusion. Dan Ketner announced a potential \$25,000 donation by Visit Salt Lake towards the operation of the Alta Resort Shuttle and extending operating hours to 10 pm. He will send written information next week. Mike Weems emphasized the need for transferability by the Albion Basin cabin owners.

Council member Elise Morgan joined the meeting.

Bob Pruitt spoke about a valid existing parking right of Albion Basin cabin owners that is stipulated in an Alta Ski Lifts' special use permit provision. Del Draper objected to the proposed system of resident permit

fees and is in favor of occasional multiple permits, more aligned with how owners use their cabins. Talley Goodson reiterated Del Draper’s comments; they are not there all the time, when they are, they need more than one permit. Charlotte Pratt echoed Bob Pruitt’s comments and said that the Basin cabin owners pay for a special use permit and it should afford them parking rights and transferability. Becky Hall asked how it would work for both she and her husband, who are year round residents/caretakers, pass holders, employees and a 2 car family.

4. ALTA SKI AREA UPDATE – MIKE MAUGHAN

[1:41:44]

Not present.

5. UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY – JAY TORGENSEN

[1:42:18]

Jay Torgersen, Unified Fire Authority, reported total of 13 calls; 2 fire and 11 emergency medical calls. Wildland fire crews winding up their season. Winter interagency meetings are imminent. New uniform arm patches for station #113 to acknowledge their connection to LCC community. UFA budget book is available for review at the Alta Town Office.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

[1:50:30]

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to APPROVE the consent agenda. Council Member Morgan seconded the motion.

MOTION: Council Member Bourke moved to AMEND the consent agenda to exclude the Sept 29 draft minutes. Mayor Sondak seconded. All voted in favor to AMEND.

All voted in favor of the amended motion to APPROVE the consent agenda. The motion carried.

7. QUESTIONS REGARDING DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

[1:54:14]

Margaret Bourke asked about the Pathway study schedule. Jen Clancy answered that the study was running a little behind and that they expected a final report in late November.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-R-18

[1:55:35]

Cliff Curry again stated his conflict of interest as an Alta Lodge employee.

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to ADOPT 2021-R-18; a resolution repealing and replacing the fee schedule to include parking permit fees. Council Member Bourke seconded the motion.

Mike Morey questioned if the latest version of the fee schedule included the late fee, which doubled the fine if not paid or appealed within 10 days. Margaret Bourke also suggested adding the word “some” to the first whereas clause; (“manages *some* public parking”).

MOTION: Mayor Sondak moved to AMEND the fee schedule to include the line, “Parking Permit Violation Fee (total due if \$75 violation fee is not paid or appealed within 10 days) \$150”. Sheridan Davis seconded. All voted in favor to AMEND the fee schedule.

MOTION: Margaret Bourke moved to AMEND the resolution to add the word, *some*. Mayor Sondak seconded. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The Council voted unanimously to ADOPT 2021-R-18, as amended.

[2:18:33]

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MARSHAL’S OFFICE WAGES

[02:19:00]

Sheridan Davis would like to see more comparative data and a proposal before acting on this subject. Council members Curry and Bourke agreed with that approach. The Mayor asked Mike Morey and John Guldner to prepare a staff report with comparative data and they would bring a concrete proposal to the Council next month.

10. MAYOR’S REPORT

[02:23:59]

The Mayor reported on COVID infection rates in SLCO, above the national average. The mayor expressed his concern for the upcoming winter season. He wrote a letter to Alta business owners requesting them to require their employees to be vaccinated for lodges and dining businesses, and recommended they require all of their guests be vaccinated as well. He thanked Sara Gibbs for making the difficult decision to require vaccinations at all ACE in-person events. He reminded people of “Meet the Candidates” night. He mentioned that the census numbers will likely affect town funding eventually. He reported about the UFA and UFSA board meetings, Council of Mayors meeting, UFSA Finance Committee and CWC meetings. Lastly, the dates for the CWC Retreat and the next Council meeting.

Temporary dog licenses issued with a start date between 9/7/21 and 10/12/21.

- Marcia Decker (30 days)
- Brian Jones (1 day)
- Katie Shigeoka (8 days)
- Cathy Moore (8 days)
- Correction from last month: Marco Young (8 days)

11. NEW BUSINESS

Margaret Bourke asked if the Council could see the two MOUs related to the new permitted parking agreements before the TC meeting. Polly McLean answered that staff would have the MOUs ready to present with the materials for the next Council meeting.

12. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: Council Member Davis moved to adjourn at 5:34 pm. Mayor Sondak seconded and the motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

Passed this 10th day of November, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Piper Lever", written over a horizontal line.

Piper Lever, Town Clerk