

**MINUTES**  
**ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 4:00 PM**  
Alta Community Center, 10351 E. Highway 210, Alta, Utah

**PRESENT:** Mayor Roger Bourke  
Councilmember Carolyn Anctil  
Councilmember John Byrne (virtual)  
Councilmember Elise Morgan (virtual)  
Councilmember Dan Schilling

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chris Cawley, Town Manager  
Jen Clancy, Town Clerk  
Molly Austin, Deputy Town Clerk  
Chris Otto, Assistant Town Manager

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cameron Platt, Legal Counsel  
John Guldner, Contractor

**EXCUSED:** Mike Morey, Town Marshal  
Craig Heimark, Treasurer

Written public comments that were received for this meeting, are attached as Exhibit A.

**ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

00:00:09

Mayor Bourke called the March 13, 2024 Alta Town Council meeting to order.

**2. PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF JOHN CAHILL**

00:00:15

Mayor Bourke began the meeting by introducing John Cahill, an esteemed member of the community. Mayor Bourke read a proclamation recognizing Cahill's contributions, highlighting his dedication to skiing at Alta since 1960 and his ownership of the Peruvian Lodge since 1970. The proclamation also praised Cahill's support and advocacy for Alta, which has led to its improvement and advancement. Cahill's colorful personality and nearly 100 years of age were also acknowledged.

John Cahill reminisced about the history of lodge ownership in Alta, mentioning deceased owners and significant events like the explosion at Goldminers in 1985. Cahill recounted the construction of the

Peruvian Lodge using barracks from World War II and mentioned the upcoming 75th anniversary of the lodge.

### **3. CITIZEN INPUT**

00:08:40

Margaret Bourke expressed gratitude towards John Cahill for his dedication preserving Alta's community spirit and maintaining its essence. Bourke then commended Jen Clancy for suggesting the installation of a bird feeder at their home, which has brought many hours of enjoyment. Finally, Bourke praised the Town Council for their persistent efforts to draft a resolution in response to the Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), acknowledging the significance of their work to the Alta community and expressing hope for a resolution.

Written public comments that were received for this meeting, are attached as Exhibit A.

### **4. ALTA SKI AREA UPDATE, MIKE MAUGHAN**

00:11:15

Mike Maughan updated the Council on snow conditions, reporting over 500 inches of snow for the year. Maughan said the ski area is having a strong season surpassing the previous year in visits and revenues. Maughan reported on ongoing discussions with UDOT regarding traction laws related to LCC, Snowbird merging issues, and the need for snow sheds. Maughan said UDOT would not actively pursue funding for snow sheds under Mount Superior due to other priorities. Maughan proposed the ski area and Alta community lobby for funds at the federal level, with UDOT expressing support if funds were independently obtained.

Maughan announced the upcoming closure date of April 21<sup>st</sup>, with April 22<sup>nd</sup> designated as an employee ski day. Maughan outlined changes in Alta's management team due to Dave Richards and Josh Church's upcoming departures. Maughan said that upcoming summer projects, included plowing the road to Sugarloaf and constructing a new patrol shack. Maughan noted construction and terrain projects, such as expanding the Albion Day Lodge and addressing a retaining wall issue at Alfs. Maughan mentioned plans to relocate the ski school conveyor and expand the Wildcat parking lot pending approval from the US Forest Service.

Dan Schilling inquired about the UDOT meeting and whether they would support projects if funds were allocated through collaboration or legislative means. Maughan clarified that UDOT expressed support for projects like snow sheds if funds were independently obtained, as they couldn't actively lobby for them due to other priorities. Maughan explained the potential need for an EIS for certain projects, such as adding a third lane at Snowbird, and the condition that Snowbird requires a replacement plan for roadside parking before considering any changes.

Carolyn Anctil expressed appreciation for the new loading method at Sugarloaf and sought clarification on funding for the snow shed project. Maughan explained that UDOT wouldn't oppose external

funding efforts but couldn't actively pursue funds themselves due to prioritized projects. Anctil acknowledged the potential community-wide benefits of the snow shed project.

**5. QUESTIONS REGARDING DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

00:28:10

John Byrne commented the reports were fine, and that the financial reports looked good.

**6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: FEBRUARY 14, 2024, MEETING MINUTES, STAFF AND FINANCE REPORTS**

00:29:00

**MOTION:** Elise Morgan motioned to approve the consent agenda including the February 14, 2024 Town Council meeting minutes, and staff and finance reports. Dan Schilling seconded.

**VOTE:** All were in favor. The February 14, 2024 meeting minutes, and staff and finance reports were approved.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**7. MAYORS REPORTS**

00:30:25

Mayor Bourke began by discussing the upcoming vernal equinox and shared some interesting information about craters at the lunar south pole that receive continuous sunlight, making them potential locations for a permanent base. This led to a discussion about recent lunar landers, both of which experienced challenges upon landing.

Mayor Bourke then provided highlights from the recent Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) meeting. Mayor Bourke reported the CWC is discussing raise membership dues (from \$15k to \$25k for Alta), which Mayor Bourke questioned the value of, and suggested negotiation may be possible. Additionally, Mayor Bourke mentioned that the CWC is seeking short-term project proposals. Mayor Bourke also mentioned a recent incident involving a snowboard crossing private property and a cabin owner reacting by brandishing a shotgun in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Mayor Bourke addressed the issue of restoring bus service to Alta to previous levels. Mayor Bourke said he spoke with a senior Utah Transit Authority (UTA) official who indicated that restoring route 953 is a top priority for them. The official also stated that they will have a definite plan by the end of April, indicating potential future developments in bus service to Alta. Mayor Bourke noted that while the town is currently being served by Alta Shuttle and private multi-passenger vans, the potential restoration of bus service into the canyon would be a significant development for the community.

Mayor Bourke briefly mentioned the conclusion of the legislative session on March 1, stating that there were no bills passed that he thought significantly helped or hurt Alta. Mayor Bourke highlighted the

importance of having Gay Lynn Bennion as Alta's representative in the legislature and invited her to share her insights.

Gay Lynn Bennion provided an overview of the recent legislative session. Bennion highlighted the busy nature of the session, with nearly 2,000 bills requested and 591 bills passed during the 45-day period. Bennion mentioned HB 84, a school safety bill that will require schools to complete a building safety analysis with local law enforcement, which could impact places like Alta with small schools.

Bennion also noted there were bills related to the Olympics, major league baseball, and hockey, which could indirectly affect Alta due to its status as a tourism town. Bennion mentioned efforts to address homelessness and housing issues, including funding for a low barrier shelter. Additionally, Bennion talked about her bill regarding short-term rentals, which did not pass but influenced regulations in other municipalities like Brighton.

Gay Lynn Bennion also mentioned her focus on water-related issues, including her plan to take a tour of the drinking water system at Snowbird with the new director of drinking water quality, Nathan Lunstad the following day. Bennion outlined another one of her bills from the legislative session that didn't pass, which aimed to require cities and counties in Utah to develop a vision for their riparian areas within their general plans within the next five years. Bennion highlighted flooding issues in areas like Bluffdale, which are attributed to the release of water at higher levels to reach the Great Salt Lake due to Utah Lake being at a compromised level. Bennion emphasized the need for a riparian specialist within the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to address such issues and help redesign water flow in ecologically sound ways. Although the bill underwent modifications and ultimately focused on providing a specialist to assist cities, Bennion expressed a commitment to continuing work on this issue.

8. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-5 LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

00:47:50

Mayor Bourke introduced the resolution regarding the LCC EIS. Mayor Bourke expressed gratitude to UDOT for their efforts in maintaining safety and keeping roads open. He noted the resolution reflected input from a recent special session and aimed to address traffic flow concerns without implementing a gondola.

**MOTION:** Dan Schilling motioned to approve Resolution 2024-R-5. Carolyn Anctil seconded.

Schilling and Anctil expressed support for the resolution, praising the collaborative effort in its development. Byrne commended the revisions made based on feedback and indicated his endorsement of the resolution.

Elise Morgan expressed reservations about the inclusion of tolling in the resolution, citing concerns about its potential impact on employees and residents. Anctil and Schilling advocated for exploring

tolling as a means to address traffic issues. The discussion revolved around whether to retain or modify the language related to tolling in the resolution. Cameron Platt intervened to clarify the motions on the table, suggesting that each proposed change be addressed separately for clarity in the voting process.

**MOTION TO AMEND (A):** Elise Morgan motioned to strike the tolling bullet on page 2. No one seconded, the motion failed.

Morgan continued to express concern about the tolling proposal, citing information from Josh Van Jura regarding UDOT's inability to offer special treatment for certain groups with regards to tolling. Morgan emphasized her worry that tolling might affect all canyon users, including residents and employees. Schilling acknowledged Morgan's concerns but advocated for exploring tolling as a potential solution. Anctil mentioned precedents in other communities and Mayor Bourke highlighted the ongoing advancements in the technology. Cawley clarified that UDOT may not be able to offer exemptions for residents from tolling, prompting Schilling to suggest that rejecting tolling if it becomes mandatory would be an option. Byrne supported leaving tolling in the resolution, noting the existence of bus passes and likening the situation to technological advancements in other fields.

**MOTION TO AMEND (B):** Dan Schilling motions to amend the tolling bullet on page 2 to read "and with flexibility to accommodate Little Cottonwood canyon employees, residents, and delivery vehicles." Carolyn Anctil seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDMENT (B):** Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Councilmember Schilling – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes.

**MOTION (C):** Mayor Bourke motioned to approve Resolution 2024-R-5 as amended. John Byrne seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE (C):** Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Schilling – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes. Resolution 2024-R-5 was approved as amended (inclusion of Little Cottonwood Canyon Employees to tolling bullet).

**RESULT: APPROVED**

9. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-6 ADOPTING A BUDGET COMMITTEE CHARTER**

01:13:15

Mayor Bourke initiated the discussion, expressing personal approval of the charter. Schilling and Morgan also indicated their support for the charter. Byrne raised a concern about the lack of provision for interaction between the Budget Committee and a potential Audit Committee. Mayor Bourke suggested that this issue could be addressed in the future if necessary and noted that the two committees were not intended to disassociate from one another.

**MOTION:** Mayor Bourke motioned to approve Resolution 2024-R-6. Dan Schilling seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Councilmember Schilling – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes. Resolution 2024-R-6 adopting a Budget Committee Charter was unanimously approved.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-7 APPOINTING BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

01:15:45

Cawley announced Schilling's willingness to serve on the Budget Committee, alongside Mayor Bourke. Byrne expressed agreement with the proposed composition of the Budget Committee, noting that the group size, was suitable for efficient budget review and presentation of the Town Manager's proposed budget to the Council.

**MOTION:** Mayor Bourke motioned to approve Resolution 2024-R-7. Elise Morgan seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Councilmember Schilling – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes. Resolution 2024-R-7 was unanimously adopted.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-8 REPEALING AND REPLACING DOG LICENSE CLASS NUMBERS**

01:18:30

Molly Austin provided an overview of the resolution. She explained that five licenses were forfeited, and the resolution aimed to reappoint three Class A licenses while reallocating one each from Class B and Class C, to Class B. Anctil sought clarification on the differences between the classes of dog licenses. Austin explained the distinctions between Class A, Class B, and Class C licenses, stating that Class A is for resident voters, Class B is for property owners, and Class C is for commuters or employees.

Byrne expressed compassion for Tim Alley, who operates a snowcat and plows snow in the community. Byrne suggested finding a way to accommodate Tim, such as providing a temporary permit for his dog during the winter. Morgan relayed the history of the former council's approach to dog licenses, highlighting past concerns about the commuter class license and the number and allocation of permits. The discussion continued with considerations about the fairness of allocating licenses and the potential impact on residents and taxpayers.

Anctil raised questions about historical considerations regarding dog licenses in the Class D temporary license section of the ordinance. Anctil inquired about ways to better accommodate occasional visitors

who bring dogs during peak times. Clancy explained that that would require an ordinance revision. Platt cautioned against reopening the issue of dog licenses, emphasizing the complexities involved and the potential for less favorable outcomes including the potential conflicts with Salt Lake City watershed regulations, which prefer minimal dog presence in the area. Cawley sought clarification on the allocation of Class D "temporary" licenses, which Austin explained could be at the council's discretion, with ten being the historical standard.

**MOTION:** Dan Schilling motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-R-8. Carolyn Anctil seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Councilmember Schilling – yes. Resolution 2024-R-8 was unanimously adopted.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

Anctil inquired about the fairness of the drawing and suggested a potential change to the ordinance where participants who enter the drawing multiple years in a row could have their names entered multiple times. Clancy explained that such a change would require amending the ordinance and acknowledged the perceived unfairness of the current system. Clancy stated that everyone has an equal opportunity each time they enter, although the odds may vary based on the number of participants in a given year.

**12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-9 TO ADOPT AN UPDATED FEE SCHEDULE PER THE ADOPTION OF CIVIL CODE ENFORCEMENT**

01:40:20

Cawley provided an overview of the purpose of the fee schedule, which allows for the assessment of fees for violations. Cameron Platt then explained the tiered classification system for violations based on their severity, with corresponding fines ranging from \$50 for infractions to \$300 for Class B misdemeanors. Examples of infractions, Class C misdemeanors, and Class B misdemeanors were provided to illustrate the types of violations covered. The discussion also touched on the relocation of the noise ordinance fines within the document and the potential use of civil enforcement for noise violations before resorting to criminal enforcement. Overall, there was agreement among the participants that the updated fee schedule provides flexibility and additional tools for Civil Code Enforcement.

**MOTION:** Dan Schilling motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-R-9. Carolyn Anctil seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Councilmember Anctil – yes, Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Schilling – yes. Resolution 2024-R-9 was unanimously adopted.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

01:48:40

No new business

14. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO COMMENCE A CLOSED DOOR SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING OR REASONABLY IMMINENT LITIGATION AS AUTHORIZED BY UTAH CODE SECTION 52-4-205(1)(c)**

01:49:20

**MOTION:** John Byrne motioned to commence a closed door session. Carolyn Anctil seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Councilmember Schilling – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes. Commencing a closed door session was unanimously adopted.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

15. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

After adjourning the closed door session, the council resumed the main part of the meeting in order to adjourn it.

**MOTION:** Dan Schilling motioned to adjourn, and Elise Morgan seconded.

**VOTE:** All in favor. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.

**RESULT: APPROVED**

Passed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024

  
Jen Clancy, Town Clerk