

MINUTES
TOWN OF ALTA, COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 4:00 PM
Our Lady of the Snows, 10185 E. Highway 210, Alta, Utah

PRESENT: Mayor Roger Bourke
Councilmember Carolyn Anctil (attended virtually)
Councilmember Craig Heimark
Councilmember Elise Morgan
Councilmember Dan Schilling

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Cawley, Town Manager
Mike Morey, Town Marshal
Jen Clancy, Town Clerk
Molly Austin, Assistant Town Manager
Brooke Boone, Deputy Town Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Cameron Platt, Legal Counsel (attended virtually)

NOT PRESENT: N/A

1. Call the meeting to order

00:00:00

Mayor Bourke called the March 11, 2026 Alta Town Council meeting to order.

2. Citizen input

00:00:23

None.

3. Alta Ski Area, Mike Maughan

00:01:00

Maughan provided an update on current and upcoming ski area operations. Regarding the remainder of the season, Maughan reported that business during the first week of the final eight-week period was approximately flat compared to the prior year, and that the overall seasonal impact was projected to be down between 10 and 15 percent. A target closure date of April 26 remained in place, with some lodges planning to remain open through that date and others closing earlier. Maughan noted that the 100-inch base was dense and holding well, though conditions going forward would depend on temperatures. It was also noted that ticket window sales had increased, attributed to skiers arriving from areas with less favorable conditions.

Regarding summer projects, Maughan outlined several planned improvements at the ski area, including completion of the Albion Day Lodge expansion, completion of an equipment storage building, a planned restroom in the Grizzly parking lot in coordination with the town, terrain work on Big Dipper, replacement of a snowmaking line from the top of Corkscrew to the angle station, undergrounding of an overhead power line that failed during the winter ice storm, and a possible installation of a Wyssen avalanche tower above Devil's Castle Road. Maughan noted that several of these projects were moving through the town and U.S. Forest Service planning processes. Maughan also mentioned that season pass sales for the following year were expected to begin approximately one week after the area's closure date.

4. **Discussion regarding Municipal Wastewater Planning Program (sewer), Chris Cawley and Steve McIntosh**

00:8:45

Chris Cawley introduced the Municipal Wastewater Protection Plan (MWPP) report, describing it as an annual requirement of the state Division of Water Quality for municipal wastewater collection systems. Cawley noted that the report had been filled out collaboratively by Steve McIntosh, who had served as the town's sewer system operator for 26 years, and Fred Swetland, the town's facilities manager and future sewer operator. Cawley explained that the town's system is relatively simple compared to larger municipalities, as it is a collection-only system with no treatment component, which limits regulatory complexity. McIntosh confirmed that the report is submitted to the state primarily to ensure that mayors and councils are aware of the condition of their sewer systems, and noted that the system, installed in 1970, has items scheduled for repair and replacement to be discussed at a future meeting. Cawley indicated that the council would be asked to approve the report by motion, as had been done in prior years, without a formal resolution.

Craig Heimark asked whether the report served any purpose beyond annual review, including potential ties to grant funding or state infrastructure assessments. McIntosh responded that House Bill 280, passed in the prior legislative session, had established a framework for a unified water and wastewater infrastructure plan, and that state funding tied to that effort was anticipated in the future, though not yet available. McIntosh further noted that House Bill 501, which would have required municipalities to raise water and wastewater rates to fund infrastructure replacement accounts, did not pass in the current session. Cawley added that the town had previously provided capital needs data to the state as part of a statewide survey, and that the state had identified approximately \$70 billion in statewide infrastructure maintenance needs.

Dan Schilling asked whether the town's proximity to a critical watershed and the age of its system might position it to access state or legislative funding. McIntosh indicated that given the town's relatively low median adjusted gross income, it may qualify for grants or reduced-interest financing, and encouraged applying broadly for all available programs.

Heimark also sought clarification on a capital assets depreciation figure in the report, confirming with Clancy and McIntosh that the number represented cumulative depreciation since the inception of the assets rather than a single-year figure. Heimark noted that the comparison between the original book

value and current replacement costs illustrated the significant effect of inflation on infrastructure. McIntosh acknowledged that had depreciation been funded from the beginning, the town would be better positioned for replacement. Elise Morgan closed the discussion by expressing support for the town's efforts to update its utility.

5. Discussion regarding Capital Improvements Citizen Advisory Committee

00:23:00

Cawley introduced discussion about the formation of a citizen advisory committee to support community engagement around the town's capital infrastructure funding needs. Cawley explained that the town faces significant upcoming expenses related to buildings and other infrastructure, and that taxpayers and ratepayers would likely bear substantial costs through increased rates. The purpose of the proposed committee, envisioned at no more than 10 members, would be to help the community understand the town's budget and services, evaluate funding mechanisms, and ultimately make recommendations to the council. Cawley noted that the committee had been under discussion for several months and that the goal was to build a sense of community ownership around the improvements. Mayor Bourke affirmed that the core message was that the projects are necessary, expensive, and that taxpayer input is essential.

Discussion among council members focused on committee composition, outreach, and meeting schedule. Morgan suggested allowing the ski area and lodging community to self-select their own representatives rather than having the council appoint them, and recommended using an online sign-up form promoted through the town newsletter to gauge broader community interest. Schilling supported the idea and suggested that a one or two page informational outline be distributed to help potential members understand the committee's purpose. Heimark agreed, recommending that each meeting be structured around specific questions to be answered, rather than simply setting dates, in order to keep the committee focused and productive. Heimark also noted that a November bond election timeline was no longer feasible given the committee formation process, and suggested that an initial building "tour" meeting could potentially be held before the end of ski season.

Cawley and several council members acknowledged lessons from prior committee efforts, including at least two previous community center committees and a commercial core planning committee, which had resulted in overly broad scopes and facilities that exceeded essential service needs. Morgan emphasized that a primary goal of this committee should be to gauge community sentiment on funding mechanisms, particularly if a bond measure requiring voter approval becomes necessary. Schilling noted that unlike prior efforts, the current process was more defined in scope due to preparatory work already completed with staff and other partners. Cawley credited Heimark with significant early work on the initiative.

Cawley concluded by summarizing next steps, Cawley stated staff would prepare a sign-up and notification process, responses would be collected and brought to the April council meeting, and an initial committee meeting or informational gathering would be organized prior to the close of ski season.

6. **Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 2026-R-3 repealing and replacing dog license numbers**

00:42:20

MOTION: Mayor Bourke motioned to approve Resolution 2026-R-3. Dan Schilling seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Anctil – yes, Councilmember Heimark – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, and Mayor Bourke – yes, Resolution 2026-R-3 was approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

7. **Mayors Report**

00:43:30

Mayor Bourke recognizing two acts of heroism within the community. First, Mayor Bourke recalled that approximately three years prior, Deputy Marshal Spencer had responded to a roof slide and rescued a child who had been buried. Second, Bourke recognized Town Manager Chris Cawley and spouse Heather, who on February 21 of the current year were skiing in the backcountry of Big Cottonwood Canyon when a slide buried two other skiers. The two responded immediately, located the buried skiers, and administered life-saving measures, with Cawley crediting Spencer's prior avalanche beacon instruction as instrumental. Mayor Bourke expressed pride in being part of a community where individuals act in the face of danger to help others.

Mayor Bourke then provided a report on the recently concluded 45-day state legislative session, noting that much of the town's focus had been on opposing legislation that could negatively affect the municipality. Mayor Bourke acknowledged the Utah League of Cities and Towns for its effective advocacy on behalf of smaller communities. One bill of particular concern, HB 479, which would have required the town to staff election monitors at its drop box and limit its hours of operation, was defeated with the League's assistance. Mayor Bourke also noted that SB 238 passed, clarifying annexation and vacation procedures that had previously been a source of confusion. Mayor Bourke mentioned having contacted State Senator Cullimore regarding the election bill and having introduced the town's new state representative, John Arthur, to the legislative process. Bourke anticipated continued legislative challenges in future sessions.

Mayor Bourke concluded the meeting with an informal educational presentation on the planet Saturn, touching on its ring system, the history of its observation dating to Galileo, and the nature of its rings as composed of individually orbiting objects. Mayor Bourke said the next town council meeting was scheduled for April 13 at 4:00 p.m.

8. **Approval of: February 11, 2026 Town Council Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2026 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes, and the March staff and finance reports**

00:50:40

MOTION: Elise Morgan motioned to approve the February 11, 2026 Town Council Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2026 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes, and the March staff and finance reports. Craig Heimark seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor, the February 11, 2026 Town Council Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2026 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes, and the March staff and finance reports were approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

9. Questions regarding departmental reports

00:51:20

Mayor Bourke called on Marshal Morey to address an incident that had received press coverage. Morey reported that the Alta Marshal's Office was actively investigating a fatal ski accident that occurred on Sunday in the Nina's area on the Wildcat side of the mountain. Morey described the investigation as complex and wide-reaching in its community impact and noted that the victim was reported to be a 19-year-old. Morey indicated that due to the active nature of the investigation, details would not be released publicly, and that the process was expected to take several months to complete. The Marshal's Office noted it would be working in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, to whom a reporting responsibility exists, as well as the Office of the Medical Examiner.

Morey emphasized the department's commitment to conducting a thorough and careful investigation, and took the opportunity to recognize the response efforts of the Alta Ski Lift Company staff and the flight crew involved, expressing gratitude for the longstanding partnership and the coordination systems in place between agencies. Morey offered to answer general questions but reiterated that no further details would be shared at that time.

10. New business

00:54:20

Carolyn Anctil echoed the recognition of the emergency response to the Sunday incident, commending the coordinated efforts of the clinic, local paramedics, fire department, and ski patrol. Anctil characterized the response as exceptional and praised the professionalism of all parties involved, also noting the support provided by the broader medical community in the aftermath of the event.

11. Motion to adjourn

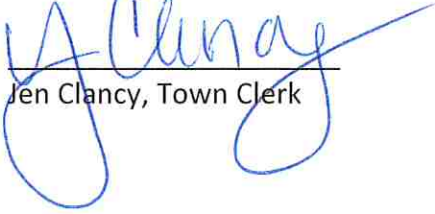
00:55:25

MOTION: Craig Heimark motioned to adjourn, and Dan Schilling seconded.

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

RESULT: APPROVED

Passed this 8th day of April, 2026



Jen Clancy, Town Clerk