

**MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2015
10:00 AM
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER,
ALTA, UTAH**

1. Called the meeting to order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Mayor Tom Pollard and Council members Cliff Curry, Harris Sondak and Elise Morgan were present. Paul Moxley was excused.

2. Mayor's Report

Mayor Tom Pollard reported and updated the Town Council and the public on the following matters.

- The signing of the Mountain Accord document on August 3, 2015; many dignitaries and support personnel were in attendance.

The Mayor did prepare and present the Town's concerns on the Mountain Accord document. Other members of the executive board also expressed their concerns before the signing of the final document.

The executive board of Mountain Accord has met since the signing of the document. The board discussed to move forward now that Phase 1 is complete; new web site and discussion on the Phase 2 budget.

There was discussion of the NEPA process on Mountain Accord and the hiring of Laynee Jones as a consultant for Phase 2. The system groups will also continue to meet during Phase 2.

- The Mayor reported that Mike Allegra will retire from UTA at the end of August 2015.
- The summer road has created challenges this summer mostly due to the increased visitation to this area of the Town. The summer road committee met to discuss options for this summer and options moving forward into the future. The Town anticipates operating this program in 2016 and then work with the Forest Service on management options for future years.
- The Mayor reported that the Conference of Mayor's meeting will be held in Alta on September 24th.
- Harris Sondak has asked to be nominated to the Utah League of Cities and Towns Board of Directors. The entire Town Council supported this effort.

3. Treasurer's Report – 00:11:00

Marc Dippo read the monthly treasurer's report into the record; the report is attached to the minutes.

Hearing no comments or questions, Elise Morgan made a motion to approve the report as submitted and Cliff Curry seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

4. Departmental Reports; 00:16:31

Town Administrator's Report: John Guldner reported and updated the Council on the following matters.

- The sales tax for transportation will appear on the November ballot in Salt Lake County. The Town provided a list of projects that the Town would address with these funds..
- The Town Council as a body cannot promote this ballot measure but individual members of the Council acting as citizens can provide comment.
- Staff encouraged the Town to approach UTA to spend some additional monies on operating a shuttle between the two ski areas in Little Cottonwood Canyon.
- There has been a change in the distribution of CDBG funds with Salt Lake County and those cities that participate in this program.
- An update was given on the August 3, 2015 Planning Commission meeting where the WFRC grant was discussed.
- The Salt Lake County Planning Commission discussed the Mountainous Planning District. The County Planning Commission will not make any recommendation on this matter until after the November elections.
- The Utah League of Cities and Towns will hold their convention in September. All members of the staff and Council are encouraged to attend.
- Update on building permits issued in the Town this summer.
- Discussion on how long a building permit remains active if you do not finish the building within a summer season. Staff will look into this matter and report back to the Council.
- Update on the State Ombudsman's ruling on the Evan Johnson matter.
- Update on meeting with Wade Budge on the Patsy Marley development related to parking.
- There is not date set for the next Planning Commission meeting.

Elise Morgan asked why there was no set meeting schedule for the Planning Commission that is approved and published on the Town web site. Harris Sondak also encouraged the Town to try and set a meeting schedule for the Alta Planning Commission.

John explained that at one point in time the Planning Commission did have a set schedule but attendance at those meetings became very problematic for the members. John will put this on the next Commission agenda.

Marshal's Report: Mike Morey reported on the following matters.

- Reported on the increase in the number of visitors using the Albion Basin area of the Town; thanked all the agencies and private businesses in Alta that are helping manage this area.
- The increased number of "service and comfort" animals that are visiting Alta and what types of questions can be asked of the owners of those animals. Service animals may accompany their owners anywhere the public is allowed and they do require a Town tag.
- A report on the ongoing investigation of human remains and personal effects found near the Hellgate Cliffs.

- The archery season opens on Saturday the 2015. When the Town codified its ordinances in 2010 the Town's hunting ordinance was not brought forward. Mike asked if the Town could address this issue before the September meeting of the council; he asked for a special meeting. Mike gave recommendations on how private property owners could post no hunting signs on their property.

Cliff asked questions on how and why this ordinance was not brought forward when the Town re-codified its ordinances.

Liz responded by stating that the Town Code has a general repeal language that states that those ordinances not carried forward were repealed. Although the answer is not totally clear, Liz recommends going the conservative route and default to state law.

Cliff recommended holding a special meeting and re-enacting the hunting ordinance.

Kate Black thanked the Marshal department for their tireless efforts in helping manage the summer road.

5. Town Council Meeting and Work Session Minutes – July 9, 2015 – 01:06:10

There was a motion by Elise Morgan to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2015 Town Council meeting and work session as submitted. There was a second by Harris Sondak and the motion was carried.

6. Town Council Work Session – July 13, 2015 – 01:06:45

There was a motion by Cliff Curry to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015 work session with the corrections submitted by Mr. Curry and Mr. Sondak. There was a second by Elise Morgan and the motion as carried.

7. Multi-Jurisdictional Mutual Aid Agreement for Sheriff and Police Services – Mike Morey – 01:0718

The Mayor explained that this agreement addresses the mutual aid between agencies in the event such aid is needed. A new version of this agreement was just received Tuesday of this week and the agreement requires that a resolution be passed by the governing body; that resolution was not noted on the agenda of this meeting. Accordingly, it was recommended that the Council discuss the agreement today and take action in the September Council meeting.

Mike Morey explained that the Town has had in place an interlocal agreement between police agencies within Salt Lake County for over 20 years. Mike went over the highlights of this agreement. Mike opined that this is a valuable document to maintain between the Town and other police agencies and provides a framework where the Town can call on other agencies to assist in an incident in the Town. The Town can also provide aid to other agencies outside in boundaries as well. This agreement also provides for local controls and an incident command structure.

This agreement needs to be approved by either an ordinance or resolution; the Town will prepare a resolution for the Council to consider in their September meeting. Liz Schulte, legal counsel, has also reviewed the document.

Harris asked if the incident commander was the local police chief/Marshal; Mike confirmed that that was the case.

8. Discussion with possible approval of an amendment to the Contribution Agreement between the Town of Alta and ACVB: increasing monthly contribution. – 01:12:17

Adrienne Ruderman, an owner of Alta Chalets and one of the founding members of ACVB was asked to speak to this matter. Adrienne also authored the letter that was presented to the Town Council in the June meeting. Adrienne asked the Town Council to consider increasing the funding contribution from the Town to ACVB.

Adrienne went over some of the points in that letter that she felt were important and issues that were pertinent to the discussion today.

- The concept of the chamber came out of the economic analysis study that was done by Karen Wikstrom.
- The study recommended that the chamber effort be funded by a ½% sales tax increase.
- The proposal was put on the ballot and the voters agreed and in 2004 the tax increase took effect.
- At that time the Town decided to run all economic decisions that promoted increased visitation to the Alta community through the Town of Alta with the help of an advisory committee of Alta businesses; it was called the Alta Resort Association (ARA).
- The budgets of ARA were reviewed.
- The success of ARA was reviewed after five years and the businesses made a recommendation to the Town Council to form a non for profit Chamber and Visitors Bureau.
- The Chamber made a commitment to the Town Council that the business community would work diligently to continue the effort started by ARA by donating time to manage, oversee and create and implement marketing plans and contribute additional funding to the ½% from the Town.
- She represented that Alta Chalet's membership fee to the chamber was about \$1,500 and the total membership fees collected from the community are \$21,700.
- The first year of its operation the Town contributed \$86,200 and it is now \$60,000.
- ACVB has worked tirelessly for the community of Alta and has only one full time paid staff member.
- The nine member board volunteers their time and puts in long hours for this organization.
- Due to lack of funding, ACVB has had to discontinue some of their web site services.
- She reviewed the progress and services that ACVB currently provides; website, newsletter and jackrabbit.
- They also hold member get together's, where over 30 to 40 community members attend.
- ACVB did have a Council member on its board and she encouraged the Council to appoint another member to participate in ACVB.

Adrienne asked the Council if they still feel that the ideas outlined in the economic growth plan are important to the community and if they are, is the ACVB the organization that should be doing that work. If the answer is yes, Adrienne strongly suggested that the Town Council increase the ACVB budget.

Joni, president of ACVB, opined that unlike other organizations, the ACVB provides this community a lot of bang for their buck. It is really exciting for her to work with the business community in Alta who has a lot of experience and knowledge.

Harris Sondak asked what portion of the sales tax collected in the Town comes back to the Town. All of the 1.5% resort communities' sales tax (minus administrative fees) comes back to the Town and a portion based on point of sales/population formula for the regular sales tax. Also, all sales tax collected by the Town goes into the general fund to operate all municipal type services.

The Mayor went on to say that when the sales tax increase was approved by the residents, there was a "gentlemen's" agreement to take that money and spend it on marketing for the entire community. When the economy experienced a downturn, the funds contributed to this organization were decreased.

The Mayor would like to propose that the Town increase its monthly contribution to ACVB to \$6,000. This would bring the annual contribution for 2015/2016 to \$72,000. The Mayor also suggested that the Town could look at increasing the matching funds available to ACVB.

Harris asked Adrienne and Maggie how much money they would like to see from the Town of Alta and does an additional \$12,000 makes a difference in the operation of this organization, or what amount reaches a threshold for increased effectiveness of the ACVB. Harris also asked the Mayor where the additional funds, if appropriated, would come from in the Town's budget. Adrienne and Maggie could not say if there were thresholds but did say that more money is always better.

Harris asked Adrienne where the ACVB thinks the money should come from given the small and tight budget of the Town of Alta. Adrienne cannot speak to where the funds should come from the Town's budget and any increase in the Town's contribution will give ACVB a bit more room to move. Joni also commented that there are many marketing plans available to organizations and any additional funds would help ACVB's ability to get more grants to use for marketing.

The Mayor opined that in general the Town makes a very conservative estimate on the revenues that are anticipated from sales tax. Also, if needed, the Town uses some of its unreserved fund balance to balance its budget. If ACVB achieves a return on investment in their marketing campaigns, that could translate into an increase in sales tax collection for the Town. Accordingly the Mayor would recommend increasing the contribution this year and next fiscal year he recommends doing the same.

Elise felt that the Town should be contributing more to ACVB than we are and would agree with the Mayor on the recommendation to increase the Town's contribution this year. Elise would also like to see the Town consider increasing this contribution even more in the next fiscal year. Community members have approached Elise and remarking that the Town and the business community should work on being better partners in this effort.

Cliff Curry stated that he is on board with the Mayor's suggestion of increasing the funding to ACVB by \$1,000 a month for a total of \$6,000 a month.

Harris Sondak does not have a problem with increasing the funding by \$12,000 but he does feel that if you look at the 2004 document it talks about increasing summer business and a number of other agreements on the side of the businesses in Town which also have not been met. Harris feels that the

Town's financial commitment to the summer program should be recognized in the total amount that the Town contributes to any marketing in the Town, consistent with the 2004 report. Harris also pointed out that the 2004 document mentions that the membership dues collected by a chamber in Alta would be around \$40,000, which is more than they actually collect.

The Mayor reminded everyone that in 2004 AVB was a department of the Town and it was responsible for creating a brochure; now the brochure has turned into a web site.

There was a motion by Cliff Curry to increase the funding to ACVB on a monthly basis for an additional \$1,000 per month through this fiscal year. Elise Morgan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Maggie, the executive director of ACVB explained that they have applied for an Office of Tourism grant and she is asking the Town for matching funds totaling \$5,500 for this grant. The program will fund an Australian promotion with the Utah Office of Tourism. Maggie explained the details of this program.

Harris asked why ACVB has to request the funding from the Town for each specific promotion. Kate explained that the interlocal agreement requires ACVB to approach the Council when asking for matching funds for grants.

Harris felt that it would be appropriate to have a member of the Council on the board of ACVB. This would provide a mechanism to monitor the spending of Town funds.

Hearing no further comment or questions, there was a motion by Tom Pollard to contribute \$5,500 to ACVB for matching funds for this program. There was a second by Elise Morgan and the motion was carried.

Elise Morgan expressed her willingness to attend some of ACVB board meetings as a representative from the Town Council.

Kate Black explained that in the interlocal agreement with ACVB it requires that this organization provide the Town Council a "financial statement" at the end of their fiscal year. Kate explained that there are different levels of financial review with a "compilation" be the less expensive and comprehensive. Kate has reviewed what is required of ACVB by the Office of Tourism and has found that they only require a "compilation". Kate is recommending that agreement with ACVB be changed to reflect that type of report.

Harris felt that if the State of Utah requires this type of financial review then he would agree that the Town should require the same.

It was agreed that the ACVB agreement will be modified and brought before the Town Council at the September meeting for approval. It was also agreed that the disbursement of the additional \$1,000 will begin August of 2015.

9. Closed door meeting pursuant to Utah Code 52-4-205 – 01:45:58

There was no closed door meeting held.

10. New business – 01:46:03

The Mayor mentioned that the Town Council should start the process of addressing the proposal on the ridge line ordinance that was forwarded to the Town Council by the Planning Commission.

Harris asked about the change on the road at Snowbird entry one. Mike explained that when traffic metering takes place in the winter, this type of configuration is used by UPD to help facilitate the flow of traffic down the canyon. Accordingly UDOT engineers decided to install these traffic control devices.

UDOT will be milling the road within the next two weeks; an email will be going out regarding the timing of this work.

There will be a ½ marathon in the canyon on August 22nd.

11. Citizen Input – 01:53:35

Roger Bourke commented on the recent power outage and the fact that the few houses above the summer road near the 10,000 gallon water reservoir lose not only power but water. Roger feels there is a cost effective solution to this problem and offered to meet with Keith and the Town to come up with some ideas.

Roger commented on the Albion Basin Transportation feasibility study that was conducted by the Forest Service and Carol Majeske. Roger read into the record the first paragraph of this study which he felt pertains today as well. In Roger's opinion the study concluded that as a result of the increased visitation to this area of Town, something needed to be done to manage the volume of cars and people.

Carol also did a survey of people during that study of which Roger was one. The general consensus was that limiting the number of people visiting Albion Basin was an option.

The recent data from the booth suggests that the number of people has doubled since the Forest Service study was done and Roger feels that the Town is trying to manage a "regional park" for the Salt Lake valley. Roger feels that this is more than the Town can manage and handle and thinks the community of Alta should think beyond what the Town has done in the past to manage this program. Roger offered to be part of this discussion.

The Mayor thanked Roger for his comments and knows that the Town needs to address long term solutions to this program.

Kate commented that the Town did not respond appropriately to the staffing needs this summer and is actively trying to approach the management of this program for the short term (summer of 2016) and for the long term as well. The Town welcomes any and all suggestions on future the operation and management of this program.

12. Motion to adjourn – 02:02:05

There was a motion by Cliff Curry to adjourn the Town Council meeting. There was a second by Elise Morgan and the motion was carried.

Passed and approved this 10th day of September, 2015.

s/Katherine S.W. Black, Town Clerk