

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
August 12, 2021

Council Members Present:

Mayor Clyde Watkins
Brent "Ole" Olsen
Glen Jessen
Sommer Arnold
Craig Kettle, Town Employee
Melba Markham, Town Employee
Josh Phillips, Altamont Fire Chief

Also Present:

Vicky Jessen
Erin Phillips

Also present was Kimberly Layton, taking minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Clyde Watkins.

Minutes Approved (7:06 p.m.)

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to approve the minutes from the Altamont Town Council Meeting of July 8, 2021. Motion seconded by Sommer Arnold. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department (7:08 p.m.)

Chief Phillips reported that the department is back down to 18 firefighters. He has two respective firefighters. John Bagley and McKinley Thacker have both shown an interest in joining. Chief Phillips would also like to get a youth program going again if there is an interest in the juniors or seniors. He further reported that the trucks are running good. Chief Phillips asked about options for internet access at the firehouse. He learned about a system that could be set up to piggyback off of the Town building's internet. The system he found would cost \$350 and he has someone who would donate their time to install it. The department would like to use internet to run the printer and run reports. Mayor Watkins stated his only concern was safety and assuring that we did not go over what the Town's plan limits.

Chief Phillips reported that there was an incident at the firehouse during Longhorn Days. One of the firefighters' kids was pulling up to the fire department and hit the building. Structurally it didn't do anything to the building but there is some cosmetic damage. The firefighter offered his insurance to fix whatever needed to be replaced, but Chief Phillips thinks the repairs could be done quite easily. Mayor Watkins stated that if it's something that could get fixed easily don't worry about turning it over to any insurance company.

Josh and Erin Phillips left the meeting.

Upper Community Recreation District (7:21 p.m.)

Vicky reported that the Recreation District is wondering how to make this transition as easy as possible. The District will not have any funding available until January. She asked if deeds should be changed on the property January 1 or if it would be easier for the District to

lease the park for a year to allow time to get deeds settled and surveys complete. The council stated that they were not concerned about it taking some time to get the property deeds complete. Mayor Watkins stated his biggest concern would be who is responsible for breakdowns or problems with the property until it changes hands. Vicky stated that they will shoot for January but will have it done by at least April because the water would be in by then as well. Property needs to always be used for recreational purposes. The deed will contain that wording. The property will revert back to the Town of Altamont in the event that the Recreational District is ever disbanded or choose to use the property for anything other than recreation.

The budget has been discussed with Craig and Melba. Craig mentioned that there will need to be a meter installed on the secondary water. Vicky asked whose responsibility it would be to install the meter. The council stated that Craig would install the meter. Mayor Watkins stated that if there's plenty of water it won't be as critical but on a dry year when we are needing to watch water it will make a difference because we have to cut agricultural users back, and the park must cut back as well. Melba further stated that the light bill needs to be changed to the Recreation District's name in January. Upper Country Water also bills, but only during the summer. Sommer and Craig will let Vicky know about projects that may need to be included in budgeting. Craig stated that the fences need new wire.

Council Position (7:34 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that Shilo Monney provided the Town with a letter of interest to serve on the council. *A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to accept Shilo Monney's letter of interest to serve on the council. Motion seconded by Sommer Arnold. Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion – Town Clerk Position (7:50 p.m.)

Melba provided the council with a list of Town Clerk Duties. Mayor Watkins stated that he spoke with Gayle McKeachnie about any rules the Town needs to follow in the hiring process. There is nothing in the Altamont code or Utah code that would prohibit the Mayor or the Town Council from selecting a person to fill the town clerk position. Mr. McKeachnie recommended that the appointment be made in writing and that it states the position is exempt from the protections of sections 10-3-1105 of the Utah Code. Every Town in Utah is required to have a certified records officer so the new clerk should be trained and certified. He provided information on obtaining this training and certification. The Town could go through the process of applications and interviews or could hire someone they know would be interested in filling the position. Glen Jessen and Sommer Arnold have both been contacted by an interested person and both feel good about her filling the position. She lives in Altamont, has an appropriate degree and is dependable. Mayor Watkins asked the council members to think about the benefits of hiring an interested person, or the benefits of opening the position up for applications. Glen stated that a decision should be made by next month so that the new employee could work with Melba for some time prior to Melba retiring.

Melba reviewed the Clerk's list of duties with the council. She stated that the job requires between 20 and 30 hours per week. The council discussed whether the new clerk should be paid hourly or salary. Melba stated that her income has always been salary. The

council agreed that salary would be fine. They will discuss the amount later. The council agreed to see if Mandy Gardner would like to come and meet with the council to discuss the job opening. Glen will talk to her and see if she can come on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Secondary Water (8:18 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins asked Craig how much water was in the pond. Craig stated that the pond is full but that is because whoever was in the park Saturday flipped the breakers and messed up all programming, so the park didn't water like it was supposed to. It has dropped to half full. Mayor Watkins stated that the Town would just need to follow Rodger's instructions. He is planning on taking a cut.

Altonah Cemetery (8:22 p.m.)

Melba stated that she has received a few phone calls about flowers disappearing from built-in vases, and there were also concerns about the headstones being run over. Craig stated that he often picks up flowers from the rock piles after windstorms. He further stated that he has received a lot of complaints about removing flowers from headstones after Memorial Day. A sign was placed at the cemeteries explaining that all flowers would be removed eight days after Memorial Day. All council members stated that they would back him up for removing all flowers after Memorial Day.

Illegally parked trailer/zoning/nuisances on properties (8:34 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that two of the trailers have been removed. It took several steps, but two are gone and the owner of the trailers paid to haul them off. There is still one trailer there. The two that were removed didn't meet the year requirements. The one that is still there met the yearly criteria. Our legal counsel stated that the Town needed specific reasons to have the trailer removed. The reasons included the potential of mold, insulation was not contained, stubs appear bent or broken, and the integrity of the trailer would not meet code. The owner has asked to move the trailer into the trailer park and the Town did not allow him to do that. Gayle sent him a letter giving a deadline of Monday to remove the trailer, but Gayle has not heard anything back from him. The Town is trying to get the trailer removed but must follow all laws.

The new owner of the trailer park has lost the grandfather status, so he needs to meet all new zoning and setback laws.

Mayor Watkins stated that with the Town pushing to clean up the trailer park, we need to make sure that the Town's property looks clean. There are other areas of Town that need to be cleaned up as well and the council discussed sending letters to property owners where there are other issues. Ole stated that he spoke with one property owner when he purchased the property and told him that it would need to be cleaned up.

Miscellaneous

Craig Kettle stated that the pond at the Altamont Cemetery leaks, and he asked the council if they would like to make some repairs. When he puts water in the pond it drops a foot overnight and we irrigate the cemetery out of that pond. He talked to Rodger about getting a plastic liner which would cost about \$3,000. If we line the pond, it will also need to be fenced

to keep deer off the liner. Mayor Watkins suggested taking funds from the Town's general fund to make this repair. Melba stated that the Town has about \$8,000 that they earned from the oilfield. The council agreed to make the repairs at the Altamont Cemetery to keep the pond from leaking.

A Motion was made by Ole Olsen to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Motion seconded by Glen Jessen. Motion carried unanimously.

Dated this 9th day of Sept., 2021.

Mayor Clyde Watkins