

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
1558 West 4000 North Altamont Utah
February 9, 2023

Present:

Clyde Watkins

Ole Olsen

Shilo Monney

Sommer Arnold

Glen Jessen

Craig Kettle, Town Employee

Amanda (Mandy) Gardner, Town Clerk

Public:

Tony Thacker

Ashley Jessen

Blake Jessen

Clyde Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved (7:00 p.m.)

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to approve the minutes of January 12, 2022 as written. Motion seconded by Shilo Monney. Motion carried unanimously.

Blake Jessen Service Project (7:02 p.m.)

Ashley Jessen informed the council that each year the fifth-grade student at Altamont Elementary complete service projects as part of a citizenship packet. When completed the students receive an award and plan a fieldtrip.

Blake Jessen told the council that he would like to clean the snow away from fire hydrants in town. The council asked how many hydrants were in town. Glen said that he had mapped out eleven in the south end of town. The council told Blake, that when he decides how much snow to move, to keep in mind that three men would need access to the hydrant. The council thanked Blake for coming and for his willingness to serve.

Ashley and Blake Jessen left the meeting (7:05 p.m.)

Ethical Behavior Pledge (7:05 p.m.)

Mandy passed out the Ethical Behavior Pledge for the council to review and sign. She informed the council that the Pledge is part of the Fraud Risk from last month. The council reviewed and signed the pledge.

Sommer Arnold arrived (7:06 p.m.)

Public Hearing: Division of Parcel ID 00-0026-2786 Serial AL-0056-002 and Secondary Water rate increase (7:07 p.m.)

A Motion was made by Ole Olsen to exit the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting and enter the public hearing. Motion seconded by Shilo Monney. Motion carried unanimously

Division of Parcel ID 00-0026-2786 Serial AL-0056-0002

Shilo informed the council that when the zoning committee first met together last year the main concern was the property's setbacks for safety and for fire. The size of the second lot is a concern. The fence between the first two sections goes approximately 38 feet into the easement that the land owner of lot 8 has. Legally, that 38 feet is not part of the land, but will function as the front part of each section. With the 38 feet the second section will be short approximately 200 square feet of the required 7000 square feet. The zoning committee reviewed the size of other properties in town and found one lot that was smaller. The committee recognizes that small lots are not the norm for Altamont. In the future, if the land owner were to replace the mobile home, the land owner would have to build to the size of the lot. The Zoning committee recommends splitting the lot into the three sections.

Tony Thacker informed to the council that when he acquired lot 8, he only paid for sections A and B. Ashley Webb has a quick claim deed to section C. After the paper work is filed with the county then the quick claim deed can be recorded. Tony plans on selling both A and B as separate lots, and is unable to sell until they are separated. Tony told the council that the owner of section C has not paid Tony for some previous jobs. He has placed a lien on that section of land that will go into effect with the splitting of lot 8.

Ole asked if the double wide had a sperate own sewer connection and secondary water connection. Shilo answered that the double wide had its own culinary water meter, and sewer connection. Mandy answered that the secondary water has not been added to that lot. Shilo asked if the land owner was required to have the secondary water hookup? Glen added that the water goes with the land. Mayor Watkins clarified that each land owner, in town, is billed for the secondary water, even if they do not use it.

Secondary Water rate increase (7:22 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins stated that with current secondary water laws the Town will have to upgrade parts of the system. With an upgrade the secondary water rate will need to increase. Glen added that we need to have a public meeting about rates before the Town can apply for a grant. Glen asked if there was a set amount for the increase. Craig stated that meter for the one-inch connection cost \$789.08. Meters for one- and one-half inch connection costs \$3402.00. That includes the meter, meter set, box, and fittings. That does not include labor. Craig estimates that half the town has one- and one-half inch. Total cost at minimum is between one hundred to one hundred twenty thousand dollars. There are a handful of larger connections. Mandy informed the

council that there are one hundred and twenty-two connections. Neither Craig or Mandy had a list of the meter size. Glen stated the next step the town needs to take is to get an exact number of each meter size. Clyde informed the council that the Town has not set aside any savings for a project to date. The budget was set at operating and maintaining costs. The Town can apply for a grant, but the grant will not cover all the cost. The Town will also need to obtain a loan to pay for the upgrade. The rate increase will be used to pay repay the loan.

Clyde stated that even though the Town has federal water, the current secondary water laws set by the state applies to the Town. If the Town wants the law to change, the Town need to write a letter to Representative Christine Watkins, who is over the secondary water bill.

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to exit the public hearing and re-enter the regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously (7:31 p.m.)

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to approve the division of Lot 8 as presented. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously

Tony Thacker left the meeting (7:33 p.m.)

A Motion was made by Shilo Monney to increase secondary water rate as needed to install new metering at the cost of parts and labor. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously

Ole asked if other communities are against the bill? Clyde replied yes, that is why a letter should be written to Representative Christine Watkins. Does the Town want to send a letter to explain why the town does not fit the current law? The letter needs to address why the town thinks it needs to be exempt, and that the town would like a modification add to the current bill. An item to be include in the letter is, conservation efforts should come from the source of the water. Our water is BIA federal water, so BIA should be the one in charge of conservation efforts.

Glen stated that the town should write a letter. Mayor Watkins added that in addition to Christine Watkins, the town should send a letter to our representative. Christine Watkins is over the committee this year. The council asked Mandy to write the letter. Mayor Watkins suggested sending the letter to Scott Chew, and Ron Winterton in addition to Christine Watkins and our Representative.

Comprehensive Asset Self-Inventory (CASI) and PCIF Capital Improvement list (7:43 p.m.)

Mandy informed the council that in order to apply for PCIF Capital Improvement list formerly known as CIB, the town has to complete the Comprehensive Asset Self-Inventory CASI. Mayor Watkins added that the CASI replaces the 2–5-year list.

Mandy reviewed last year's categories in order of priority with the council: 1st Planning, 2nd Roads, 3rd Fire, 4th Secondary & wastewater, 5th Sewer, and 6th Community Vehicles.

Mayor Watkins informed the council that this list is not iron clad and can change as need. The council agreed to keep the same priority order.

Mandy reviewed the PCIF list with the council. On the one-year list is Street Improvements and Equipment Maintenance Building. On the 2–5-year list are Fire Truck, Chip and Seal streets, and Cemetery Improvements. The Council agreed to keep the two list as they are, and did not have anything to add to the lists.

The meeting for CIB is March 13, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. Someone will need to attend the meeting to represent the Town. Mayor Watkins will be there for the Conservatory District; he can represent both if needed. Glen will not be able to go. Mandy was not sure if she would be off work at her other job, in time to attend the meeting.

Fire Department (7:51 p.m.)

Chief Phillip reported that Ovintiv has a priority list of companies to do the fire protection on fracking. To be on that list there is a set of requirements that must be met . Being a member of ISN, (membership cost \$3,000.00 each year). With a membership, insurance, drug and alcohol policies, DARTS, safety program, and dotero are run through that. It will cost for the town to continue working frack jobs. A five million Insurance policy that is required. The Altamont Fire Department is trained to do the frack jobs if the Town wants to put the money into the project. Chief Phillips would not be one of the fire fighters used at an Ovintiv site. The work is available if the town wants to join in. The setup, is time consuming and costly. Sommer added that the company She and her husband own, pay \$8,000 for insurance on one truck and one employee. The cost for the town to obtain that insurance would get expensive.

Chief Phillips informed the council that on the wildland end of firefighting, red cards are coming up, and there are about sixteen that need to be reissued and they also need pack test. There are six potential candidates to join the fire department, Brytan Lisonbee has moved. The two junior firefighters that are still in High School, have turned eighteen and have been moved up, and are training with the department and are running on calls. There are two firefighters who are thinking about wildland, and two new people came to the last meeting. That would put the numbers at twenty with one person not on the rooster until a spot becomes available. The Six new firefighters will need a red card.

The county has started an engine boss training program. The training and certification make it possible to take our truck and find work. There is a two week commitment for each job, and the work is coordinated through the county. Chief Phillips stated that this type of work would

be a vacation for him, and would welcome the chance to take a break from his day job. Chief Phillips stated that the fire department has enough personnel to split into two groups, one to stay and cover and one to go out and fight fires elsewhere. Ideally the department could commit to one or be two jobs a year.

Glen stated that the option to go fight other fires sounds more cost friendly. Mayor Watkins stated that we need to have an understanding with the county about equipment upkeep. When a new fire truck is need, where is the funding coming from? Will the county support CIB funding, will they help with any of the costs. When county commissioner change, our support can change. The town does not have the resources to go and buy a new fire truck right now without assistance. Mayor Watkins added that with some structure in place, the fire department can do it.

Chief Phillips reported that equipment is in good shape, but the pump on 157 needs to be examined. The department is waiting for warmer weather to do so.

Josh Phillips left the meeting (8:07 p.m.)

Upper Community Recreation District (8:07 p.m.)

Shilo reported that UCRD plans to treat this year like last. Shilo told UCRD the cost of the park is what the Town bill them for. He also so informed URCD that we cannot have a day's notice for something new and then be expected to pay for it. Example the woodchips last fall. URCD agreed that was not fair to the town.

URCD want the town to know that they are going to go to CIB for funding for the new rodeo arena. UCRD does not have any planed projects for the park currently.

Training (8:12 p. m.)

Mayor Watkins reminded the council that this training is required yearly by the state and there is a quiz after. If there is a question someone does not understand, let's talk about it as a group. The goal is understanding the process, not pass the quiz by guessing the answer. The council reviewed training on Open and Public Meetings Act and took the quiz.

The next council meeting, March 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to end the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved this 10 day of March, 2023.
Minuets of the meeting prepared by Amanda Gardner Town Clerk