

MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2011
10:00 AM
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER
ALTA, UTAH

1. Call the meeting to order

The Mayor called the meeting to order. All members of the Town council were present with Steve Gilman arriving during the course of the meeting

2. PUBLIC HEARING – To receive comments and recommendations on the use of Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) for 2011/2012 Program Year.

The Mayor explained that the Town of Alta has made recommendations on the use of the CDBG funds for the 2011/2012 program year and received two responses from the public: one of Alta Community Enrichment and one from Creighton Hart.

The Mayor reviewed the guidelines that govern the use of these funds. The purposes of these funds are to benefit low to moderate income people in the Town of Alta. The Mayor went on to say that the federal government has cut the funds to the county which translates into a cut to the Town of Alta.

The Mayor opened the floor to comments from the public. Celeste Eggert, Development Director from The Road Home, thanked the Town Council for their past support of their efforts in providing assistance to the homeless population of the county. Celeste reported that the Road Home has had a 48% increase in homeless families and overall they are experiencing a 32% increase. Celeste also reported that The Road Home has moved over 500 families from homelessness into housing. She went on to state that The Road Home has a request into the Town of Alta for funding for not only the main shelter (\$750) but the overflow winter shelter in Midvale(\$750). Any support that can be provided would be greatly appreciated.

Kate Black reported that the Town is only allowed to give 15% of its total allocation to soft cost projects such as contributions to the Road Home and like agencies. Kate went on to explain that anything that is not brick and motor such as the Community Center Improvements is also considered a soft cost expense. The staff recommended that all soft cost projects stay in Alta but Kate explained that the Town Council may change that allocation to move some of those funds to projects like the Road Home.

Hearing no further comments from the public, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

3. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that Kate has been asked to sit on a sub-committee of the state committee that is addressing and reviewing possible changes in the GRAMA legislation. The sub-committee is making recommendations to the city and town representative on the committee.

The Mayor reported on the last meeting of the Little Cottonwood Road Committee. The Mayor reminded employees that they should try not to park at the park and ride at the mouth of the canyon and should use alternative parking lots. The deterioration of the bypass road was discussed and UDOT will try addressing that road this summer. At this meeting AM530 was also discussed as it relates to the effort being made by the Traffic Operation Center (TOC) to provide better messaging on the radio at the mouth of the canyons.

The Mayor attended the monthly UFA meeting and reminded everyone that the station at Snowbird is now back to a three handed crew instead of the four that they have during the winter. The Mayor reminded everyone to keep the gas meters free and clear in Alta to prevent damage to those meters which can and does result in gas leaks.

The Mayor reported on the kick off meeting held on April 13th of the Alta Chamber and Visitors Bureau at Our Lady of the Snows. It was very well attended with over 50 people present. There was a lot of enthusiasm and he commended the steering committee on their efforts in getting this organization up and running. There was also a presentation by BlueTent on the new web site. The Mayor thanked the entire steering committee for their efforts on establishing this new organization.

Adrienne Ruderman, representing the steering committee, reported that as of the last report to the Council, the Town had hired BlueTent a web/marketing company to create the new web site. BlueTent is moving ahead with that project and are near the end of the design phase. The new web site should be up and live sometime in June. Adrienne also mentioned that the ACVB has a new logo. The steering committee is in the process of filing the Articles of Incorporation with the IRS and other entities and it is projected that everything will be finalized so this organization will be up and operational by July 1, 2011. Adrienne handed out a very tentative budget for next year for the ACVB and she also explained that the steering committee will need to appoint the new board of directors. The Board of Directors will most liking be asking the Town Council for funding similar to what was allocated to operate the AVB department for this year. The ACVB intends to take over all the responsibilities of the now AVB department of the Town. The Board will make final decisions on many of these items once it is formed. Adrienne went on to comment that they received a lot of completed membership applications from businesses that attended the kick off meeting.

The Mayor reported on the most recent COG meeting where a presentation was made on the changing demographics of Salt Lake County; Salt Lake County is becoming more diverse and is aging.

The Mayor mentioned that the Planning Commission has forwarded on the proposed Land Use Application ordinance to the Town Council. The Town Council will have to hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance. The Commission is also in the preliminary stages of looking at the General Plan with assistance from Meg Ryan.

On April 13th there was a ski around with a few members of the Planning Commission lead by Onno from the Alta Ski Lifts. They reviewed the proposed Ski Lift projects, got a tour of the new gun facility, looked at the area proposed for the Snowbird expansion and the area between Alta and Solitude.

With the release of the Albion Basin Road Study from the Forest Service, the Town of Alta, Ski Lifts and Forest Service are looking at what modifications the Town can put in place for planning as we move into this summer only. We are looking at some proposed changes to traffic flow and we have a commitment from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for volunteers to assist the Town in providing information and education in Albion Basin. The Mayor is hopeful that some of the changes being proposed will positively affect the management of the summer program in Albion Basin. As it relates to the Albion Basin Transportation Study and the future transportation alternatives, the Town and the Forest Service will probably be holding public information and input sessions over the course of the next few months.

The Mayor announced that the Town did send a letter to UDOT as it relates to the proposed Mountain Coaster at Snowbird. The letter expressed the Town's concerns about the bridge as it relates to access to Alta by high profile vehicles.

The Town has been working with Keith Hanson on improvements and repairs to both our water and sewer systems for the upcoming summer.

The budget committee met on March 11th to discuss the proposed 2011/2011 fiscal budget. The Council will be reviewing and passing a tentative budget in their May meeting.

The Mayor addressed flooding concerns of the creek toward the middle of the canyon. There is a lot of debris in the creek bed could block the flow of the river and create a potential flooding situation. We are hopeful that a few public agencies will address the clearing of this debris.

John is currently attending depositions related to the Shrontz lawsuit. Paul Moxley commented that there are potentially 40 people that could be deposed on the case.

4. Treasurer's Report

Marc Dippo read the monthly reported which is attached to the minutes.

Hearing no comments or questions, there was a motion by Dave Richards to approve the treasurer's report as read. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried.

5. Departmental Reports

Assistant Town Administrator's report: Claire Runge reported on the potential flooding near the power plant. The Forest Service has surveyed this location and contacted the county to address it. Claire will get an update from Steve Scheid from the Forest Service and will keep in touch with the Mayor and Mike on this situation.

Claire and Mike have submitted the Emergency Operation Plan to the consultant for final edits. As soon as it comes back from the consultant, Claire will forward it on to the Town Council for their review. She hopes to review it in the June Council meeting.

Claire reminded everyone that there will be an Earth Day celebration on April 22nd in the Town of Alta with events taking place throughout the Town. In the main parking lot there will be a site where people can recycling their electronic equipment..

On Saturday, April 16th there will be an event at the Albion Grill called the Bucket Brigade Barbeque. All the proceeds will be donated to the Town of Alta Emergency response efforts.

Claire reported that she will be attending the Canyon Transportation Technical Committee meeting today where they will discuss putting out an RFP to hire a consultant to address canyon transportation issues.

The next meeting of the Alta Planning Commission meeting will be April 22nd.

Alta Marshal's Report: Mike Morey wanted to remind the Council that there are times that the Marshal's department encounters people who need shelters and those folks have been taken to the Road Home and treated very well.

Mike read his monthly report which is attached to the minutes.

6. Minutes – March 10, 2011 Town Council meeting

There was a motion by Paul Moxley to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2011 Town Council meeting. There was a second by Dave Richards and the motion was carried with four members of the Town Council present. Steve Gilman was absent at this time.

7. Minutes – April 1, 2011 Town Council meeting

There was a motion by Cliff Curry to approve the minutes of the special Town Council meeting to address the server lease. There was a second by Tom Pollard and the motion was carried with four members of the Town Council present. Steve Gilman was absent at this time.

8. Minutes – April 7, 2011 Town Council meeting

There was a motion by Dave Richards to approve the minutes of the special Town Council meeting that addressed and approve the issuance of a purchase order for a new Toyota police vehicle. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried with four members of the Town Council present. Steve Gilman was absent at this time.

9. Update on the Alta Chamber and Visitors Bureau

Adrienne spoke to this item earlier in the meeting

10. Ordinance 2011-O-3 – An ordinance amending a certain provision of the Animal Control Chapter of the Alta Town Code.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the Council addressed the issue of the number of licenses for 2011 in the March Town Council meeting and recommended that it amend the Animal Control Ordinance to reflect a larger percentage in determining the number of dog licenses. The Mayor had recommended that the percentage be increased from 12% to 15%.

Dave Richards asked if Salt Lake City had commented on this issue. Kate explained that an email was received from Tracy Kirkham from Salt Lake City Watershed Department. That email stated that Salt Lake City had no comment on the proposed change to the ordinance (see attached email)

The Mayor reported that based on the current language of the Town's ordinance using 12% of the population, the Town would be allowed to issue 44 licenses. We currently have reissued 43 licenses in 2011. The Town's official 2010 census is 383.

The ordinance currently reads that the number may not exceed a certain percent of the population. That language would eliminate any rounding of the final number. Based on our population, if the Town increased the percentage to 15% the number of dog licenses that could be issued would be 57, making 14 available in the drawing.

The Mayor made a motion to approve Ordinance 2011-O-3, referencing 5-2-3 and increasing the percentage from 12% to 15% of the official census of the Town of Alta. There was a second by Dave Richards. A roll call vote was taken.

Dave Richards – aye
Cliff Curry – aye
Paul Moxley – nay
Tom Pollard – aye
Steve Gilman – absent

The motion carried with three members of the Council voting in the affirmative, one in the negative and one member absent.

11. Resolution 2011-R-1 – A resolution establishing the maximum number of dog licenses for 2011 and the fees to be charged.

The Mayor explained, that based on the new ordinance that was previously passed, the Town Council needs to set the maximum number of dog licenses that can be issued in 2011. The Mayor went on to opine that even though the Council has approved the increase in the number of potential licenses, the Council has to determine today whether or not they want to issue all 15 licenses.

Dave commented that if the licenses are requested by residents, then the Council should set the number at 57.

In referring to Section 1 of the resolution and on behalf of the Alta Ski Lifts, Dave Richards asked that the total number of rescue dogs owned by the Ski Lifts be increased from five to six because they may need to bring on more rescue dogs in the future.

There was a motion by Dave Richards to approve Resolution 2011-R-1 filling in the blanks as follows: In Section 1: “shall not exceed 57 licenses for 2011” and “14 for new applicants and in Section 2: “14 new licenses” to be issued. In Section 4 “Class E licenses shall be charged a fee of -0- per dog”. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried with three members voting in the affirmative, Paul Moxley voting in the negative and Steve Gilman absent at this time.

12. Use of 2011/2012 CDBG Program Year Funds

Kate Black read the Town of Alta proposal of the use of these funds which is attached to the minutes. Kate explained that the soft cost purchases will include additional audio visual equipment along with the new computers for the Alta Reading room. She went on to explain that money for the park is generally used for annual upgrades to that facility. Our new insurance company is requiring that we address safety concerns around the park. The Town will address some minor improvements to the Alta Central housing units with a portion of CDBG funds this summer. Finally Kate explained that funds will be set aside to address two long range planning studies: continuation and completion of the Waste Management Study and the update to the General Plan.

Kate opined that she understands the reason behind keeping all the soft cost funds in the Town but would encourage the Council to send a small amount of the Town's soft money to the Road Home.

The Mayor recognizes our past commitment to agencies downtown but would like to see the Town keep its soft money here in Alta. He recommended that the Town Council try to find other funds in the general fund to send to the Road Home and other agencies in the valley.

The Mayor reminded the Council that the County has not received its final number on our allocation and will not for a few weeks. The Town will amend the final project allocations once it receives that final number from Karen Wiley from Salt Lake County.

Cliff Curry recommended that the Town take half of the soft cost money and allocate it the Road Home. The problems of our community are ones of affluence and if we look at the problems of the people that use the Road Home services, our problems pale in comparison. Cliff believes we can find the money in our budget to make up the difference in the purchase for the new computers.

Dave Richards appreciates the comments of Cliff but feels that the Town is difficult to balance the budget and every cent counts. The Town should keep all the soft money in Alta and feels that the Town can contribute many other items like winter clothing to the shelter.

Paul asked how much we have given in past years to the Road Home. Kate estimated that the Town has given any where from \$400 to a \$600 a year. Paul went on to opine that he would like to support it to at least to that level.

Steve Gilman arrived at the Council meeting and was asked if he had any opinions on this matter. He had no thoughts at this time.

Dave Richards made a motion to approve the CDBG allocation for the 2011/2012 as prepared by Town staff. Tom Pollard seconded this motion. A vote was taken with Tom Pollard and Dave Richards voting in favor, Steve Gilman abstaining and Paul Moxley and Cliff Curry opposing the motion. The motion failed.

Cliff recommended that the Council come up with a compromise number on the allocations. Claire recommended that the Town have a staff and Town volunteer day at the Road Home and she volunteered to look into ways that the community could get involved.

Cliff Curry made a motion to approve the allocations as recommended by staff with the following change: \$1,400 of the soft costs to the Community Center Equipment and \$500 to the Road Home. Paul Moxley seconded this motion. After some discussion, Cliff withdrew this motion.

Cliff Curry made a motion to approve the allocations as recommended by staff with the following change: \$1,475 of the soft costs to the Community Center Equipment and \$425 to the Road Home. We will also ask Claire to follow through with the volunteer day. There was a second by Tom Pollard and the motion was carried with Steve Gilman abstaining.

13. Resolution 2011-R-2 – A resolution amending the Town of Alta Cafeteria Plan

Kate Black explained that there are federal mandates that need to be incorporated into the Town of Alta Cafeteria Plan with National Benefit Services. She went over those amendments.

There was a motion by Paul Moxley to approve Resolution 2011-R-2 amending the Town's Cafeteria Plan. There was a second by Steve Gilman and the motion was carried.

14. Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Salt Lake County and the Town of Alta to have the County assist the Town in conducting the Town's 2011 primary and general municipal elections.

The Mayor mentioned that the Council discussed this issue at last month's Town Council meeting. The Mayor went on to explain that this interlocal agreement allow the County to take over the actual execution of both the Town's primary and municipal general elections this fall. The Town looked at the cost and found that the County's cost was slightly less expensive: \$2,500.

Hearing no further questions, there was a motion by Dave Richards to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Salt Lake County and the Town of Alta to have the County assist in conducting the 2011 municipal elections. There was a second by Steve Gilman and the motion was carried.

15. Request for funding for the Alta Resort Shuttle for the 2011-2012 winter season – Dan Ketner

The Mayor announced that the Town would try to initiate a conversation with UTA to provide the inter-resort UTA service for next winter. The Town would also like to include the Ski Lifts in the effort, as they work closely ever year with UTA in setting the inter bus schedules.

Onno felt that the Town of Alta should take the lead on this effort but the Ski Lifts will certainly assist in this effort. He recognizes that there are gaps in the UTA service between the two resorts and the Alta Resort Shuttle filled in those gaps at times. Onno also recognized that the Alta Resort Shuttle did run into problems trying to accommodate all the skiers that wanted to use this shuttle and having UTA available to provide a continual shuttle during the day would enhance this service between the two resorts.

The Mayor would be willing to initiate this conversation but would need assistance from the Ski Lift Company and would request that Dan Ketner provide him with some of their ridership numbers.

Dan Ketner stated that the shuttle partnerships are willing to continue their financial support to keep the shuttle in place for next winter. Dan requested that the Town continue their support as well with a \$4,000 contribution to the operational costs of this service. He reported that a new vehicle was purchased for this year and they kept the shuttle running all day long: 8-5. The price per hour was \$40.00 and he anticipates that the cost per hour will remain the same for next winter.

Steve asked if the shuttle would be needed if UTA started their shuttle service. Dan explained that UTA only stops at the bottom of the Blackjack road and the Alta Resort Shuttle winds its way through the Blackjack and picks up guests that stay at all the condos and homes. Hellgate would also like service to their condos..

Karen Travis commented that she has been working for 35 years to get her guests not to rent a car and this shuttle service makes it a lot easier for her guests.

Steve Goldsmith from Canyon Services would like to see more rental cars stay out of the canyon but the reality is that many families need cars to go to and from the two resorts for supplies. He would encourage the Town to approach this situation from two fronts: getting UTA to provide service between the two resorts and also maintain the Alta Resort Shuttle.

Dan mentioned that the Alta Resort Shuttle has nine stops on the Bypass Road.

Mark Haik opined that the public does utilize going back and forth between the two resorts because of the transportation issues. Mark encouraged the Town to look at ways to make the “getting around” more palatable.

Creighton Hart was wondering if this could be addressed in the long term transportation study that Claire had mentioned earlier in this meeting.

Tom Pollard made a motion to fund the Alta Resort Shuttle at the \$4,000 level. There was a second by Paul Moxley. Tom Pollard commented that because the Town is providing public money to help fund this service, he encouraged Dan Ketner to pick up the general public. Hearing no further discussion and a vote was taken and the motion was carried.

16. Discussion on a proposal to create a Special Service District (SSD) to provide or enable winter transportation and/or transportation services to existing Albion Basin cabins.

The Mayor explained that this item has been on the agenda for several meeting and asked if Scott Martin would speak to this issue.

Scott thanked the Council for keeping this subject on their agenda. He has been working with Jim Burr on this matter, who could not attend this meeting.

Scott commented that they have revisited the resolution that was put before the Council a few months back and handed out a resolution that they feel would be more palatable to the Council. Scott went on to state that they are asking the Town to make a policy decision at this time about creating a winter transportation SSD. The new resolution only states that the Town is willing to consider this as an option. The Forest Service has opined that they would like the cabins owners to take control of this situation and in Scott's opinion the SSD is the best methodology to address this situation.

Scott went on to opine that the enforcement mechanism, the fund raising mechanism and insurance situation is much better handled through an SSD. Scott mentioned that the Town Council had made some recommendations on changes to the resolution and Scott stated that they had addressed all those recommendations in this new draft. Scott emphasized that they only want to facilitate reasonable access to the cabins. In this new proposed resolution it specifically describes the purposes of the district which would be solely limited to facilitating and improving winter access to existing improved properties. The SSD has no power and authority to have anything to do with summer access, summer road and RS2477.

Scott opined the current resolution before the Council is scaled back quite a bit from previous resolutions that have been presented to the Council. He asked that the Council hold a public hearing so everyone can voice their opinions and then the Town Council can make the call whether or not they want proceed with the SSD. Scott asked that the Town Council make this an action item on the May agenda so, if necessary, the cabins owners can start the petition process to create an SSD.

Mark Haik opined that the Town should provide Mr. Guldner 1997-1998 files on the Salt Lake county committee that addressed issues on the road ownership transfer. The Town should also request that Salt Lake County provide any information on this matter as well.

Peter Waldo, a cabin owner in the Albion Basin, asked what objections the Town Council has to the formation of an SSD. Mr. Waldo believes that the SSD would provide uniformity in negotiations with the Forest Service and the Alta Ski Lift Company. Mr. Waldo also provided a copy of a letter between the property owners and the Ski Lift company from many years back.

The Mayor responded by opining that Scott has provided clarification on a lot of the Town's issues with the SSD, such as the true intent of the district and how the district would affect the Forest Service and the Ski Lift Company.

Cliff Curry opined that the Town Council is not opposed to the SSD but listening to whether there is a compelling reason for the Council to go forward.

Dan Gates, a homeowner in the Basin, opined that he is in full support of an SSD for a means to provide the cabin owners a means to get together as one group and provide funding to help with this issue. With the SSD, Dan feels that this would be a proficient way to provide access to their cabins.

Steve Gilman does not feel that another level of government is the way to go and feels that the cabins owners should look at a homeowners association because there are so many restrictions that come with being a governmental entity.

Mark Haik asked for the Town to give their opinion on the ownership of the road and urged the Council to write a report on the road.

Scott Martin wanted to make it very clear that the proponents of the SSD have no interest in summer road and highway 210 issues. It is a winter issue only and is only for reasonable access under Forest Service regulations. Scott went on to state they are not in the RS2477 business nor are the cabin owners in the summer road business.

Paul responded to Mr. Waldo's concerns by opining that the Council has discussed this issue at two or three meetings and he believes that the Town is supportive of the owners in the Basin. Paul went on to express that he feels that this is a Pandora's box and but encouraged the Council to continue to study the issue.

Dave Richards asked Scott that if the Council were to move forward to consider the SSD, would that mean that Scott and Jim could no longer move forward with the petitioning process until this is resolved: could the cabin owners proceed on a parallel track while the Council is considering this issue.

Scott opined that the cabin owners would prefer that the Town move forward with adopting the intent resolution. Scott is not sure if both avenues open to the cabin owners can proceed on a parallel basis.

Cliff asked for clarification from Scott on the following: from the materials that the Town Council was provided in prior meetings, the Council understood that the intent resolution had language in it that public health, convenience and necessity require the creation of the SSD. Cliff went on to state that it appears, the draft before the Council today states that the Council is willing only to consider whether those things exist.

Scott opined that they were sensitive to the original language in the proposed resolution and as a result Jim Burr pulled that language out of the current draft.

Cliff asked that regardless of whether the SSD was initiated by resolution or a petition of homeowners, would the decision be the same decision process made by the Town Council. Scott responded that it would.

17. Closed door meeting to discuss litigations matter.

The Mayor announced that there would be no closed door meeting.

18. Citizen Input

Karen Travis wanted to clarify what Mark Haik said about the fact that the Town was subsidizing the Alta Resort Shuttle. Karen explained that all the homeowners and condos owners along the bypass road are helping pay for the operation of this shuttle as well as the Town. It is not a free service to the homeowners.

Karen also wanted the Mayor and Onno to know that she has many friends that ride the UTA buses on a regular basis and they have said that there are major problems with the level of service they currently provide.

Creighton Hart recommended the Albion Basin trail head near the Snowpine parking lot be worked on to reduce the grade of that section of the trail.

Dave Richards mentioned that he is researching the Tom Moore issue for Creighton.

Onno Wieringa reported that there will be a temporary road closure at 12:30 today.

Onno wanted to thank the UDOT for their efforts this winter and asked that the Town write a letter to that affect. He also thanked the Alta Marshal's office for their tireless effort during the winter and for partnering with the Ski Lifts on the early morning person who helped with patrolling.

Alan Engen is retiring at the end of this season.

Onno also will be visiting various people and business asking for their financial support for the Cottonwood Canyon Foundation. They are having a fundraiser on August 12, 2011. Snowbird ends up contributing between \$60,000 and \$80,000 a year through their programs to this foundation.

19. Motion to adjourn.

There was a motion by Dave Richards to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Steve Gilman and the motion was passed

Passed and approved this 12th day of May, 2011

Piper Lever, Assistant Town Clerk / S

TREASURER'S REPORT

14-Apr-11

MAJOR BILLS PAID

Payroll	\$33,616.86
Payroll Taxes	\$13,517.25
Attorneys	\$5,728.87
Health, Dental and Life Insurance	\$10,891.63
URS Payments	\$7,299.90
Membership	
Dues/ULCT/COG/ICMA/UBLA	\$1,647.11
Surety Bonds	\$286.00
Traffic Metering Payroll	\$5,405.00
Waste Management Study	\$2,623.00
Energy Audit	\$1,340.00
Building Official/Inspections	\$1,857.20
Recycling/County	\$1,400.00
Telephones	\$1,927.03
Energy Bills	\$2,677.93
OntheSnow Promotions	\$1,979.99
Other Town Bills	\$10,864.66
Total	\$103,062.43

MAJOR REVENUES RECEIVED

Resort Sales Tax - January Collections	\$111,201.27
Uniform Sales Tax - January Collections	\$39,302.98
Property Taxes	\$18,285.51
Telephone Taxes	\$353.22
Grant Reimbursement	\$2,284.26
Post Office Contract	\$1,166.67
Dog Licenses	\$650.00
Court fines	\$945.00
Energy Taxes	\$6,410.69
Total	\$180,599.60
General Fund Checking	\$13,672.85
General Fund Savings	\$304,346.46