

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING &
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 3:50 PM
Alta Community Center, 10351 E. Highway 210, Alta, Utah

PUBLIC HEARING – 3:50 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Roger Bourke
Councilmember Elise Morgan
Councilmember Dan Schilling

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Cawley, Town Manager
Mike Morey, Town Marshal
Jen Clancy, Town Clerk
Molly Austin, Deputy Town Clerk
Chris Otto, Assistant Town Manager
Craig Heimark, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT: Cameron Platt, Legal Counsel

NOT PRESENT: Councilmember Carolyn Anctil
Councilmember John Byrne

1. CALL THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

00:00:00

Mayor Bourke called the public hearing of April 10, 2024 to order.

2. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENT ON PROPOSED APRIL AMENDMENTS FOR THE FY 2024 BUDGETS

00:00:00

Mayor Bourke asked for comments on the proposed April Amendments to the FY 2024 Budgets.

There was no public comment.

3. MOTION TO ADJOURN

00:06:25

MOTION: Dan Schilling motioned to adjourn the public hearing, and Elise Morgan seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor. The public hearing was adjourned unanimously.

RESULT: APPROVED

ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Roger Bourke
Councilmember Carolyn Ancil
Councilmember John Byrne
Councilmember Elise Morgan
Councilmember Dan Schilling

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Cawley, Town Manager
Mike Morey, Town Marshal
Jen Clancy, Town Clerk
Molly Austin, Deputy Town Clerk
Chris Otto, Assistant Town Manager
Craig Heimark, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT: Cameron Platt, Legal Counsel

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

00:10:30

Mayor Bourke called the April 10, 2024 Alta Town Council meeting to order.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

00:10:05

Paul Huber, owner of the Powder House Ski Shop, addressed the council, expressing concerns about the economic challenges facing their business, which has been operating for 70 years and is the oldest ski shop in Utah. Huber highlighted the loss of parking spaces due to property ownership and the impacts on their business. They discussed the historical contributions of businesses like theirs to the town, emphasizing the need for support in the face of changing zoning regulations. Huber said they came today to give the council advanced notice of application to the town for a remodel and expansion of the business, including the approval to build 25 feet up from the highway and relocate the ski shop to the first floor alongside the ski rental/demo space for improved accessibility. They advocated for maintaining rental-based operations to align with the town's interests in hot beds and address concerns raised by the ski lift company.

Margaret Bourke suggested that the town take advantage of CPR training offered by the UFA (Unified Fire Authority) to benefit both residents and employees, enhancing emergency response capabilities within the community. Secondly, Bourke expressed support for exploring new solutions to address

traffic congestion in the canyon and that they supported the town signing onto the community letter being drafted for Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT). They advocated for restoring bus services to levels seen in 1996 and implementing metering for equitable down-canyon flows between Alta and Snowbird.

3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – SHELLEY TEUSCHER

00:21:10

Shelley Teuscher provided a comprehensive overview of recent legislative sessions and bills pertinent to the town's interests. They noted the assertive presence of the new speaker, Mike Schultz, and the strategy of prioritizing controversial bills early in the session. Teuscher highlighted key legislative changes, including House Bill 488, which did not include funding for the gondola as feared, and Senate Bill 91, which introduced new procedures for increasing compensation for executive municipal officers. They also discussed Senate Bill 185, which addressed residential building inspection procedures, and House Bill 330, which addressed incorporation of unincorporated islands in Salt Lake County. Teuscher emphasized the importance of community involvement and vigilance in navigating legislative changes affecting the town.

Mike Morey raised a question regarding armed personnel in schools. Teuscher mentioned that teachers are allowed to carry guns in schools if properly trained. Morey indicated that the issue goes deeper and expressed the intention to provide further information to the council. Teuscher agreed to follow up with additional details via email.

Dan Schilling inquired about House Bill 488 and if its allocation of funds for traction control was intended for both Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon. Teuscher clarified that the \$20 million mentioned was not specifically for traction control but rather a subset of that amount, approximately \$400,000, and was designated for both canyons. Teuscher then extended an offer for assistance to the council, mentioning previous support provided to them regarding public safety personnel retirement and sales tax distribution formula. Teuscher emphasized the importance of early communication for any potential assistance needed and highlighted the political influence of Alta in securing support from legislators like Senator Kurt Cullimore.

4. ALTA SKI AREA UPDATE, MIKE MAUGHAN

00:38:00

Mike Maughan said there were 11 days of operations remaining in the ski season, noting it had been a strong year with favorable snowfall levels and improved revenue compared to the previous season. Maughan mentioned collaborating with Mike Morey to manage the final day of the season effectively, including strategies for crowd control and emergency preparedness. Maughan said they would start plowing the summer road up to Sugarloaf a week after the ski area closes.

5. QUESTIONS REGARDING DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

00:40:60

Schilling inquired about the status of the shuttle service, and the possibility of running two shuttles until the end of the season. Chris Cawley provided an update, mentioning adjustments made due to funding shortages and the potential need for additional funds to keep a shuttle running during the final week of the season. John Byrne expressed concern about peak-time overcrowding on the shuttle and suggested increasing service during high-demand periods. Cawley acknowledged Byrne's observation and noted the possibility of adjusting the Request for Proposal (RFP) for shuttle service to see if service could be increased during peak times. Mayor Bourke also noted the need for increased service during peak times and mentioned waiting for a plan from UTA regarding bus service for the next year.

6. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: MARCH 5, 2024 SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 13, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, STAFF AND FINANCE REPORTS**

00:46:00

MOTION: Mayor Bourke motioned to approve the consent agenda including the March 5, 2024 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes, the March 13, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes, and staff and finance reports. Dan Schilling seconded.

VOTE: All were in favor. The March 5, 2024 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes, the March 13, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes, and staff and finance reports were unanimously approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

7. **MAYORS REPORT**

00:48:00

Mayor Bourke began the report by discussing the ancient practice of predicting eclipses, noting the Babylonian, Chinese, and Mayan contributions to these recordings and predictions. Mayor Bourke highlighted the upcoming solar eclipse on August 12, 2045, visible in Northern Utah. He then commended the effectiveness of the last road meeting, emphasizing the group's success in multi-agency coordination. Mayor Bourke also mentioned he has been in discussion with Carolyn Ancitl about representation on the UFA board. Mayor Bourke said he would be attending the Utah League of Cities and Towns Mid-Year Conference with Chris Cawley. Mayor Bourke praised the town shuttle's value to the community despite challenges. He referenced an LA Times article citing a 50% increase in skier injuries due to recklessness on the slopes, possibly exacerbated by selfie-taking. Mayor Bourke concluded by mentioning the Budget Committee's meeting to draft a tentative budget for FY 24-25 and that the next Town Council meeting would be held on May 8 at 4pm.

8. **BUDGET COOMMITTEE UPDATE**

00:56:00

Cawley provided an overview of the FY 25 budget process, starting with revenue projections, wages, capital projects, and outlook for the water and sewer fund budgets. He noted that revenue projections

don't foresee significant increases and highlighted the importance of not urgently needing to raise property taxes. However, he noted that there is a policy questions about saving for future capital improvements. Cawley discussed the phased implementation of wage adjustments based on last year's wage study, emphasizing the significance of wages in the town budget. He offered that the budget includes a 3.2% cost-of-living increase.

In the Capital Projects Plan, Cawley outlined plans for a facilities master plan, including a historical structure report and mentioned a new website project. He also mentioned funding for a water and sewer master plan and a few other potential capital projects in the coming years.

Cawley discussed rate increases projected for the water and sewer funds, noting a 13% increase in water rates and a 24% increase in sewer rates. The goal is to add to the water fund reserve and potentially consider increasing reserves for the sewer fund once a utility master plan study is completed.

Cawley highlighted key decisions and policy considerations for the council, including savings for future capital improvements, maintenance of depreciated buildings, and the structure of future wage increases. He also mentioned the importance of evaluating the town manager's performance and compensation. Cawley mentioned the upcoming budget committee meetings on April 16 and 29 to further discuss these matters, and lastly, he reminded the Council that they would need to adopt a tentative budget in May and then a budget the third week of June.

Byrne raised a concern about pushing for more revenue without a clear plan for spending it. He emphasized the importance of tangible plans and spending the existing reserve before seeking additional revenue. Schilling advocated for executing the plans already in place and making the best use of the funds collected. Craig Heimark added that the town's capacity to spend effectively is also a factor, noting the importance of both financial resources and staff to execute projects. Cawley appreciated the comments and acknowledged the need for the council to consider these factors in their discussions.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-10 TO ADOPT THE APRIL AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2024 BUDGETS

01:29:30

Clancy provided highlights of the proposed amendments to the budget, including creating a specific revenue code for the shuttle, adjusting expenses for wage corrections in the marshal's department, and making adjustments in the capital projects fund to account for equipment changes and project timelines. She mentioned that Mayor Bourke had a change to propose for the budget amendment.

MOTION: Mayor Bourke motioned to approve Resolution 2024-R-10 including an additional \$2,450 in expense and a \$1,225 contribution from the Alta Ski Area to support the Town Shuttle for the last week of the season. John Byrne seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Schilling – yes, Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, and Councilmember Morgan – yes. Resolution 2024-R-10 was unanimously approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-11 TO ADOPT AN UPDATED PROJECTS PLAN FOR FY 2024 BUDGETS

01:36:50

Clancy explained that adopting a new budget is accompanied by a corresponding project plan to keep things organized and aligned. This document reflects the same numbers approved in the budget and ensures consistency across both documents.

MOTION: Dan Schilling motioned to approve Resolution 2024-R-11 and adopt an updated projects plan for the FY 2024 budgets. John Byrne seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, and Councilmember Schilling – yes. Resolution 2024-R-11 was unanimously adopted.

RESULT: APPROVED

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-12 APPOINTING DAVE ABRAHAM TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

01:39:10

Mayor Bourke introduced the resolution regarding the reappointment of Dave Abraham to the Alta Planning Commission. Mayor Bourke said that he had spoken with Dave Abraham who had expressed his interest in continuing his service on the commission. Mayor Bourke highlighted Dave's experience and dedication to the role. Cawley also commended Dave for his expertise and contributions to the commission over the years, noting his valuable insights as an architect into land use and planning matters. Byrne echoed these sentiments, emphasizing Dave's wisdom and reasoned approach to discussions.

MOTION: Carolyn Anctil motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-R-12 appointing Dave Abraham to the Planning Commission. John Byrne seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Schilling – yes, and Mayor Bourke – yes. Resolution 2024-R-12 was unanimously approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

12. TRI-CANYON TRAILS DRAFT PLAN – CHELSEA PHILLIPPE USFS

01:43:35

Chelsea Phillippe provided an overview of the Tri-Canyon trails plan, focusing on Little Cottonwood, Big Cottonwood, and Millcreek canyons. The plan involves collecting data, holding stakeholder meetings, and drafting proposals to balance environmental conservation with recreational opportunities.

Phillippe discussed three focus areas: trailheads, trail networks, and recreation strategies. Phillippe emphasized the need for public input via interactive maps on the Forest Service's website. Mayor Bourke inquired about specific plans for Alta, and Phillippe highlighted efforts to formalize trails, make them sustainable, and improve navigation. Schilling asked about budget allocation and the distribution of trails among the canyons, to which Phillippe explained that it's based on factors like visitation rates and landscape suitability. Phillippe asked the Town to share citizen input opportunities and said the Forest Service is really excited to hear from everyone.

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2024-R-13 FIREWORKS

01:59:15

Elise Morgan noted that the council has been adopting a fireworks resolution every year and wanted to double check if that was necessary. Mayor responded it was if the council wished to restrict fireworks. The resolution aims to regulate fireworks, particularly Class C fireworks available for retail purchase by private citizens, excluding larger commercial fireworks events. The discussion clarified the definition of fireworks and noted exemptions for certain types of commercial fireworks displays, such as those by the lift company.

MOTION: Dan Schilling motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-R-13 regarding fireworks. John Byrne seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Schilling – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Ancil – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes. Resolution 2024-R-13 was unanimously approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO JOIN A LETTER TO UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (UDOT) ABOUT SR 210 FROM BUSINESSES AND OTHER ENTITIES IN THE ALTA COMMUNITY

02:03:40

Mike Maughan outlined the contents of a letter addressed to UDOT regarding traffic congestion referred to as the "red snake" letter and that all the major businesses in Alta had signed on. Maughan highlighted concerns about traffic congestion, closures of the mainline, and traction laws. Maughan said the letter also proposed potential solutions and aims to initiate a dialogue with UDOT to address these issues. Members of the council expressed support for the letter and discussed whether the Town of Alta logo should be accompanied by the mayor's signature or simply labeled as "Alta Town

Council." Ultimately, it was decided to include the logo with the label "Alta Town Council" underneath, rather than the mayor's signature, to signify council support for the letter.

MOTION: Mayor Bourke motioned to join the letter to UDOT and have Mike Maughan incorporate the Town of Alta logo with the words Alta Town Council. Dan Schilling seconded.

VOTE: All in favor. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESULT: APPROVED

15. NEW BUSINESS

02:17:50

Molly Austin reminded everyone that John Cahill was tomorrow – April 11, 2024.

16. MOTION TO ADJOURN

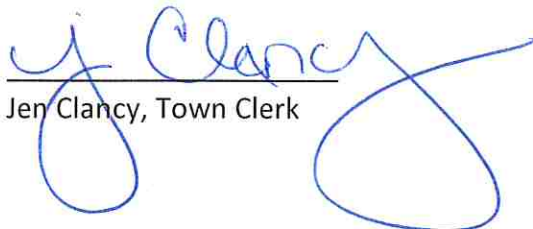
02:19:45

MOTION: Dan Schilling motioned to adjourn, and Mayor Bourke seconded.

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

RESULT: APPROVED

Passed this 8th day of May, 2024


Jen Clancy, Town Clerk