

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 2:45 PM

Alta Community Center, 10351 E. Highway 210, Alta, Utah

PRESENT: Mayor Roger Bourke
Councilmember Carolyn Anctil
Councilmember John Byrne
Councilmember Sheridan Davis
Councilmember Elise Morgan

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

ALSO PRESENT: Cameron Platt, Legal Counsel (virtual)

PUBLIC HEARING

1. CALL THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

00:00:00

Mayor Bourke called the public hearing of December 13, 2023 to order to receive comments on the proposed December budget amendment for fiscal year 2024. The purpose of the amendment was to review and make necessary adjustments to the budget passed six months earlier. Mayor Bourke emphasized that this process was more of a tuning than a revision, aiming to align the budget with the current realities, given the uncertainties involved in forecasting six months ahead.

2. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED DECEMBER BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FY 2024

00:00:10

Mayor Bourke asked for comments from the public or anybody else.

John Byrne expressed dissatisfaction with the Capital Projects Plan during the public hearing, stating that it was the third such plan that he considered ineffective. He emphasized the importance of effective communication and asserted that the \$4 million fund, with an additional million expected this year, lacked a proper expenditure plan. Byrne criticized the plan's brevity, stating it was half a page with blanks and expressed embarrassment in being associated with it. Mayor Bourke sought clarification on Byrne's concern, noting that the fiscal year 2024 spending was approved. Byrne emphasized the lack of out-year spending plans and proposed having a set of projects with associated

costs for the out years and questioned if clear direction had been given to prioritize spending the funds. Elise Morgan suggested discussing the matter in the town council meeting agenda item, considering the ongoing public hearing.

Joe Mattingly, expressed concerns about transportation, particularly during the winter. He suggested allocating a portion of the budget to purchase heavy-duty vans, which he believed would be more personable than buses. Mattingly estimated the cost of the vans to be around \$75,000 each, proposing the use of a million dollars for this purpose. He suggested using the remaining balance for the capital operating budget, possibly implementing a small fee but preferably opting for a free bus system similar to Park City. Mattingly expressed willingness to be a leader on the issue and pledged to follow if the town council took the lead.

Mayor Bourke acknowledged the desire for a detailed list of future projects, clarifying that they do have a wish list of projects not yet incorporated into the budget plan. John Byrne continued to expressed concern about the lack of out-year spending plans and urged the council to identify projects for the next summer, emphasizing the need for an ongoing expenditure plan. Elise Morgan mentioned the fiscal year 2024 column in the capital projects, pointing out that many projects for that year had been completed. Byrne expressed uncertainty about future plans and urged the council to distinguish between the current fiscal year and future years.

Elise Morgan defended the efforts of the staff, stating that the current capital projects plan was the most robust she had seen in her eight years on the Budget Committee. She acknowledged the need for better earmarking of projects but commended the progress made. Byrne agreed with Morgan's assessment of the current year (FY 2024) but stressed the importance of having a plan for FY 2025 and beyond the current accounting period.

Chris Cawley, responding to the discussion, explained the need for technical input to develop plans for multi-year projects. He emphasized the purpose of the budget amendment to allocate funds for hiring engineers for water and sewer system master planning and facilities master planning. Byrne expressed concern about lapses in planning and questioned why certain projects, like replacing windows at Alta Central, couldn't be included in next year's plan. Cawley clarified that the process historically involved starting the budget for the next fiscal year and deciding projects for that year. Byrne argued for a more forward-looking approach and called for an ongoing plan. Mayor Bourke expressed agreement with Byrne, stating that they could populate future years with various projects.

3. MOTION TO ADJOURN

00:12:05

MOTION: Elise Morgan motioned to adjourn, and Sheridan Davis seconded.

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

ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

00:15:05

Mayor Bourke called the November 8, 2023 Alta Town Council meeting to order.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

00:15:45

Margaret Bourke remotely addressed the council, inquiring about seeking reimbursement from the Bureau of Reclamation for the ongoing Grizzly Gulch water line project. She also expressed gratitude to Councilwoman Sheridan Davis for her six years of service, commending her for taking courageous positions. Additionally, Bourke highlighted her concern about the Little Cottonwood Canyon gondola survey, suggesting more robust citizen involvement through open houses or extended dialogue in council meetings. She emphasized the significance of this issue and its importance compared to other town matters.

Sheridan Davis sought clarification and additional information from Margaret Bourke regarding a letter she had shared with the council regarding the water fund debt to the general fund. Bourke explained that her concerns stemmed from discussions with Keith Hanson, who had been supervisor of Salt Lake Service Area Number Three and John Guldner, the Town Administrator. She emphasized that town records did not identify the funds as a loan, and so we shouldn't assume repayment was expected. Bourke urged caution and suggested that the council should not automatically label it a loan without proper documentation. Responding to Davis's question about potential improvements, Bourke expressed her belief that any improvement to a public utility could benefit both water districts, arguing that the benefit was not solely for the town's water users but also for service area water users.

Mayor Bourke proposed addressing the topic further during agenda item number 11, where John Guldner could be invited to add to the discussion.

3. QUESTIONS REGARDING DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

00:22:30

Elise Morgan reminded everyone about the implementation of parking reservations starting Friday, December 15.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: NOVEMBER 8, 2023, MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 6, 2023 BOARD OF CANVASSERS MEETING MINUTES, STAFF AND FINANCE REPORTS

00:25:50

John Byrne suggested two edits to the November 8, 2023 minutes to better capture the tone of the comments made by Councilmember Morgan about the draft letter to UDOT and the council's overall discussion about the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (LCC EIS) and gondola. Elise Morgan confirmed that she had seen the edits and agreed with them, indicating that the edits as presented better captured the discussion.

MOTION: Elise Morgan motioned to approve the consent agenda including the November 8, 2023 town council meeting minutes with edits as presented in the meeting, the December 6, 2023 board of canvassers meeting minutes, and staff and finance reports. John Byrne seconded.

VOTE: All in favor. The November 8, 2023 meeting minutes, the December 6, 2023 board of canvassers meeting minutes, and staff and finance reports were approved.

5. ALTA SKI AREA UPDATE, MIKE MAUGHAN

00:29:00

Mike Maughan reported that all lifts at Alta were now operational, and the ski area had received more snow than any other ski area in North America. However, he acknowledged the potential for a dry spell in the future. He also discussed the overall positive feedback from visitors, who praised the ski product at Alta.

Maughan reminded the council that parking reservations would commence on Friday, affecting both the town and the ski area. He explained that reservations would be required for overnight and daytime parking during weekends and holidays, starting with the upcoming Friday. Additionally, he mentioned that the Christmas holiday period, beginning the following Friday and extending through January 1, would require parking permits every day. Maughan expressed confidence in the reservation system but noted that some days were weaker, especially Fridays.

He discussed challenges faced by the ski area, including delays due to avalanche activity and the need for extensive mitigation work. Despite these challenges, Maughan expressed optimism that the issues related to rotten snow were mostly behind them. He also provided an overview of the status of the Ikon pass program and shared information from a discussion with Interstate Parking, indicating that reservations were gradually gaining acceptance in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Maughan concluded his update and invited any specific questions from the council regarding the ski area.

Regarding "The Backside" terrain area of Alta Ski Area, Maughan explained that a significant avalanche had occurred, causing delays and search and rescue efforts. He expressed hope for potential openings but emphasized the need for daily evaluation based on weather conditions.

The council members shared their experiences skiing on the new run off of the Supreme Lift and commended the quality of the terrain. Mayor Bourke noted that The Backside was not yet open due to challenging conditions.

Sheridan Davis inquired about the possibility of bringing back the Wasatch bus line (UTA 953), to which Maughan responded that UTA would have to restore other routes in less privileged neighborhoods first. The discussion touched on the historical decline in bus service to Alta and potential future improvements. Carolyn Anttil raised questions about the impact of COVID on ridership, and Maughan acknowledged a reduction in bus service and ridership, even before the pandemic. He emphasized ongoing efforts to explore solutions for traffic and avalanche-related challenges.

Mayor Bourke commented on the upcoming busy week between Christmas and New Year's, and Maughan provided insights into the current weather forecast and potential wet conditions after a dry spell. The council members praised the successful opening of the mountain, and John Byrne commended Maughan for his efforts.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

00:38:45

Mayor Bourke announced of a group's lawsuit challenging elements of the UDOT LCC EIS and seeking traffic solutions. He added that Salt Lake City, Sandy City, and Save Our Canyons also filed similar legal actions.

The town certified the November election results, noting a high voter turnout. Elise Morgan was reelected and was currently serving in her 11th year, and Dan Schilling was newly elected. The new council members would be sworn in on January 2, 2024. Mayor Bourke expressed gratitude to outgoing council member Sheridan Davis, highlighting her six years of honorable service and valuable contributions to the community. The mayor also touched on Davis's insights into the evolution of mountain towns.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT THE TOWN MANAGER BY RESOLUTION 2023-R-22

00:43:00

Mayor Bourke introduced resolution 2023-R-22, citing the retirement of John Guldner six months prior and the interim appointment of Chris Cawley as the acting town manager. Mayor Bourke expressed his belief in Chris's professionalism and effectiveness during the interim period, proposing his permanent appointment.

MOTION: Elise Morgan motioned to approve Resolution 2023-R-22. Sheridan Davis seconded.

Carolyn Ancil and Elise Morgan praised Chris's contributions and community involvement, expressing enthusiasm for his appointment. John Byrne supported Chris's candidacy and suggested track changes to the resolution, clarifying the mayor's designation of Chris as interim and the need for formal consent by the town council at this time.

John Byrne presented an edit to delete language that stated "the Mayor and Town Council appointed Chris Cawley" and replace it with "the Mayor designated Chris Cawley".

John Byrne explained the necessity of getting the details right and ensuring the council's formal consent for the permanent appointment. Sheridan Davis expressed gratitude for Chris's service, highlighting his positive impact on the town. Mayor Bourke acknowledged the sentiment and playfully noted Cawley's reaction.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Davis – yes, Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Resolution 2023-R-22 was unanimously adopted and Chris Cawley was appointed Town Manager.

John Guldner expressed gratitude for the decision to appoint Chris Cawley as the town manager, emphasizing the perfect timing of the appointment. Chris Cawley thanked everyone for their support and brought up some housekeeping items related to the town manager ordinance.

Cawley explained that the town manager ordinance required him to furnish a fidelity bond, but that the Town's existing insurance policy already provided the required coverage. He mentioned that the Utah Local Governments Trust had informed them about this change and suggested a slight ordinance amendment to reflect the current situation. The proposed change would eliminate the need for a separate fidelity bond. Mayor Bourke supported the idea, finding it sensible. Elise Morgan and others discussed the historical context of the ordinance language and agreed to work on an amendment in January to align it with state code. John Byrne raised the point that the cost of a separate bond was relatively low (\$245), but he expressed flexibility on the decision. Jen Clancy clarified that the existing insurance coverage met the intent of the fidelity bond, and Cameron Platt added that, while it's nice to have the language match the state code, practically, the town was meeting the requirements. The discussion concluded with an understanding that an amendment would be pursued in January to reflect the current insurance coverage accurately.

Cawley also addressed the need for the council to set his compensation by ordinance or resolution, as required by the town manager ordinance. He also highlighted the requirement to pass a resolution establishing compensation levels for all elected and appointed officials of the town, including the clerk, marshal, treasurer, and members of the town council and planning commission.

The discussion then shifted, and John Byrne emphasized the need for the council's consent to the appointment of officers, including the town council, clerk, town manager, and marshal. Cawley clarified that the town manager ordinance did not explicitly state this requirement. They discussed the historical context of this requirement and whether a resolution for consent was necessary. Cameron Platt explained that the town code had been modified to delegate appointment authority to the town manager, and under the current organization, reappointment was not required.

John Byrne proposed that in January, after seating the new elected officials, Cawley could submit a list of all existing appointed officers for the council's consent. Cameron Platt agreed that there was nothing wrong with affirming their appointments through a resolution, although under state law, appointments carry forward until removal occurs. The council discussed the practicality of the consent process and it was suggested that a resolution for consent would be a tidier approach. The discussion concluded with John Byrne and Elise Morgan supporting the process of the town manager presenting a resolution to appoint officers for consent in January.

8. DISCUSSION ABOUT PROPOSED LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON GONDOLA SURVEY

01:00:05

Chris Cawley addressed the council's ongoing work on a resolution in response to the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (LCC EIS). He summarized three key takeaways from the November council meeting discussions:

1. The council aims to maintain positive relationships and a positive tone with UDOT and its personnel.
2. The council supports the common sense solutions approach outlined in the October 2022 letter from Salt Lake County Mayor Wilson.
3. Before adopting a resolution opposing or taking any other position on the gondola, the council wants to understand the community's positions on the proposed gondola.

Chris Cawley presented a proposed approach to gather community input efficiently, suggesting a simple survey that would be emailed and possibly posted online for a specified period. The results would be compiled and analyzed, with a report presented to the council in January, enabling the potential adoption of a resolution at that time. He acknowledged that some community members had suggested a more deliberative approach, such as hosting an open house with a panel discussion to hear different perspectives on the gondola proposal. Cawley sought input from the council on the preferred approach to resolving the matter and continuing the conversation with the community regarding their opinions on the gondola and other elements of the LCC EIS. He emphasized the importance of considering public input in the decision-making process. Cawley invited the council to share their preferences and thoughts on the proposed approaches.

Carolyn Anctil suggested exploring the possibility of partnering with A.C.E. (Alta Community Enrichment) for educational opportunities, particularly regarding a recent lawsuit related to environmental impact. She expressed interest in having the legal team from the lawsuit provide education to the council and the community. Jen Clancy clarified that ACE doesn't take positions on issues but asked if they could offer educational opportunities. Chris Cawley noted that ACE could potentially help publicize an event but mentioned that ACE is explicitly non-political.

Elise Morgan highlighted the challenges of capturing diverse opinions within the community, considering residents, employees, and recreational visitors. She expressed a preference for an email survey over an open house to reach a broader audience. John Byrne emphasized the importance of gathering input from businesses in addition to residents. He also suggested including a question in the survey about which of the proposed alternatives residents prefer. Chris Cawley discussed the potential challenges and limitations of taking public input without a clear plan on how to use that input.

Sheridan Davis pointed out that the context has changed with the Olympics pending. Elise Morgan mentioned the impact of lawsuits essentially stalling the implementation of Phase 1. She also emphasized that the town is dependent on its partners for various services and expressed concern about creating tension with those partners. John Byrne suggested that individuals could express their opinions in letters to the editor. Elise Morgan expressed her wariness of taking a harsh stance and emphasized the need for citizen backing if such a stance were to be taken. Sheridan Davis emphasized that the situation is evolving, and the town should continue to gather information.

John Byrne suggested waiting for more alternatives to develop before expressing a collective opinion. Mayor Bourke mentioned the importance of the enhanced bus service and the potential for a non-controversial resolution supporting it.

Carolyn Anttila inquired about the decline in bus availability and ridership in Big Cottonwood Canyon compared to Little Cottonwood Canyon. Mike Maughan, explained that Little Cottonwood Canyon experienced a more significant reduction in bus service, with a 75% cut, whereas Big Cottonwood Canyon had a 30% cut initially and a smaller reduction overall. The system-wide cut affected the overall service, and the removal of route 953 specifically impacted Little Cottonwood Canyon. Sheridan Davis shared anecdotal stories from people expressing difficulties in obtaining an Alta pass due to bus unavailability. Mike Maughan highlighted the challenges posed by COVID, making people reluctant to share rides and impacting the use of buses.

Carolyn Anttila suggested that positive data about the bus service could be a non-politically alienating and constructive focus for the council. Mayor Bourke agreed and proposed considering a letter supporting the restoration of bus services as a potential next step. Chris Cawley asked for clarification on whether the council intended to draft a new resolution or engage in more public feedback processes, such as holding an open house. Elise Morgan expressed a preference for a simpler approach, possibly revisiting the topic after the holidays. John Byrne suggested a constructive letter focusing on short-term benefits, like enhanced bus services and highlighting the importance of the evaluation period mentioned in Jenny Wilson's letter. The discussion concluded with an agreement to move forward with a letter supporting the restoration of bus services and possibly addressing the evaluation period in the future.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT AN UPDATED 2024 CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN

01:24:45

Mayor Bourke opened the discussion on adopting the 2024 capital projects plan highlighted the earlier discussion about the lack of a clear plan for capital projects post-2024. John Byrne shared his perspective on the success of capital improvements in 2024 but expressed dissatisfaction with the exhibit's title, emphasizing that all capital projects should be included. He questioned the inclusion of the shuttle as a capital project, suggesting it did not belong. Byrne advocated for additions to the plan, especially those marked in red, and expressed concern about the absence of spending beyond the current year.

Sheridan Davis inquired about the retreat to address the broader planning issues, which Chris Cawley confirmed, stating that progress would be made even in the absence of a retreat. Cawley stressed the importance of long-term planning for infrastructure and facilities. Elise Morgan noted the changes in the capital process format and suggested involving the planning commission in future planning. She emphasized the need for a long-term plan and offered support in resource allocation. Chris Cawley acknowledged the challenges in presenting information consistently and expressed a desire to find the right starting point for the capital projects plan. John Byrne echoed concerns about the process, mentioning too many conflicting opinions.

The discussion also touched upon the need for studies, potential projects for 2025, and the importance of prioritizing and earmarking projects realistically based on staff capacity and timelines.

Chris Cawley emphasized the importance of finding a presentation format for the capital projects plan that satisfies the council. He expressed the urgency of allocating funds, considering that the town is accumulating money that needs programming, and the needs likely surpass the present fund balances. Elise Morgan shared her perspective, stating her role as a town council member is to facilitate the functioning of the town. She expressed concern about the time spent on the document and emphasized the need for documents that the staff can use efficiently. Elise Morgan advocated for a realistic long-term plan that considers staff capacity and timelines.

John Byrne raised the issue of funding for a facilities study, pointing out its absence in the plan. He suggested earmarking certain projects for 2025, even if they don't require a facilities study. Byrne mentioned specific projects like the Trailhead public bathroom and Alta Central windows may not need extensive studies. Elise Morgan proposed a more realistic approach to planning, where staff identifies feasible timelines for projects and recommends them to the Town Council based on what the staff can handle. She suggested earmarking projects for future years based on staff capacity and envisioned timelines.

Jen Clancy sought feedback on the consistency of document presentation. Some council members expressed support for the summary page, color coding to highlight amendments, and the removal of the general fund project page from the capital improvement projects document. However, John Byrne reiterated the need for clarity regarding what qualifies as a capital project, distinguishing it from general fund projects.

The council also discussed the need for a facility study plan and agreed to consider it in future discussions, possibly during the 2025 budget discussions. Jen Clancy clarified the process of amending the plan, stating that the 2024 items in red are part of the actual fiscal year 2024 budget. Therefore, any changes or additions to the capital projects plan that involve spending in 2024 would also need to be reflected in the budget.

MOTION: Roger Bourke motioned to approve the 2024 capital projects plan with edits as discussed. Elise Morgan seconded.

VOTE: All in favor. The 2024 capital projects plan with edits was unanimously approved.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-R-23 TO ADOPT THE DECEMBER AMENDMENT FY 2024 BUDGETS

01:49:25

Jen Clancy provided a summary of modifications to various budget categories. The highlights in the general fund were related to interest calculations, and there was a slight increase in funding for John Guldner's contract. In the capital project fund budget, there was a \$44,000 increase in the transfer from the general fund. For the water fund budget, there was a staff request to add a new project: the

Grizzly Gulch system communication upgrade, with a corresponding revenue increase of \$10,000 and an equal expense increase in capital outlay. Clancy requested approval for this adjustment.

MOTION: John Byrne motioned to approve Resolution 2023-R-23 including the \$10,000 added to 51-39-200 and 51-40-740. Elise Morgan seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Davis – yes, Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes, Resolution 2023-R-23 was unanimously adopted and the December amendment to the FY 2024 budgets was approved.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-R-24 REGARDING THE DEBT REPAYMENT FROM THE WATER FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND

01:52:25

John Guldner provided his historical perspective, suggesting the issue that arose during the annexation of the blackjack area, leading to overlapping service areas. He highlights the challenge of determining the debt owed and the lack of clear documentation from the past. Guldner shared insights into the town's historical practices under Mayor Levitt, emphasizing that the use of general fund money for water projects was not an intentional loan but a result of historical decisions. He mentioned the difficulty in tracking the exact amount of the debt due to inadequate documentation and the complexity of overlapping service areas.

The discussion also touched on the term "due to and due from" and its accumulation over the years. John Byrne stresses the importance of repaying the debt to maintain credibility and avoid undermining financial practices. He proposes a resolution to repay a minimum of \$30,000 per year. The conversation involves various council members expressing their views on the historical practices, acknowledging the lack of clarity, and emphasizing the need to move forward. The idea of formalizing future financial dealings between the water fund and general fund is also discussed.

John Byrne emphasized the importance of not letting the debt be an accumulation of unresolved due-to and due-from balances. He discussed the need for clear documentation and terms in future financial dealings between the water fund and general fund. Jen Clancy provided insights into her analysis of the general ledger, highlighting the complexity of tracking the debt due to the nature of coding and independent bank accounts for water and sewer. The discussion included attempts to understand the reimbursement given during the annexation and concerns about the lack of clarity. Sheridan Davis acknowledged the weight of the argument made by John Byrne, indicating an understanding of the issues raised. Elise Morgan expressed a desire to move forward and focus on finding a resolution.

John Byrne reiterated the need to separate the funds and suggested that the current water rates are sufficient to accommodate the repayment of the debt over a 10 to 12 year period. Mayor Bourke acknowledged the complexity of documenting the past deal but stressed the importance of settling the issue now to prevent it from lingering. The focus shifted to approving the resolution with an edit to allow for the repayment of the debt sooner than 12 years if financial conditions allow in the future.

MOTION: John Byrne motioned to approve Resolution 2023-R-23 including the \$10,000 added to 51-39-200 and 51-40-740. Elise Morgan seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Councilmember Anctil – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Davis – yes, Resolution 2023-R-24 was unanimously adopted to approved the repayment of the water fund debt to the general fund.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023-R-25 REGARDING THE ALTA JUSTICE COURT RECERTIFICATION

02:13:10

Molly Austin explained that Alta Justice Court needs to recertify every four years to ensure compliance with rules, policies, and procedures. The council is required to pass a resolution expressing their continued support for the Justice Court, as the town handles the financial aspects, and financial support from the courts is dependent on the town's endorsement.

MOTION: Elise Morgan motioned to approve Resolution 2023-R-25 to recertify the Alta Justice Court. Sheridan Davis seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilmember Anctil – yes, Councilmember Byrne – yes, Councilmember Davis – yes, Mayor Bourke – yes, Councilmember Morgan – yes, Resolution 2023-R-25 was unanimously adopted.

13. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE JANUARY TOWN COUNCIL RETREAT

02:14:45

Chris Cawley provided an update on the retreat scheduled for January 11. He expressed gratitude to the council members for their open-mindedness about the extended meeting format. The retreat aims to facilitate a strategic planning conversation, bringing together the new town council and staff to discuss perceptions of strengths and weaknesses, identify priorities, and draft short-term strategies. Cawley mentioned they hired Pathway Associates and are working with Julie Delong. The timeline includes interviews, a survey, and the distribution of a packet before the council meeting. Cawley outlined the detailed agenda for the retreat, which includes a SWOT discussion, a conversation about the future vision of success, and sessions focusing on present-day priorities and core strategies.

John Byrne emphasized the importance of clarifying policy and priorities, suggesting that the staff needs a clear understanding of the Council's vision. Cawley agreed and mentioned the need to focus on long-term resilience, especially given the significant changes in staff roles. They discussed the potential inclusion of special guests, and Cawley noted that he considered inviting the Planning Commission but was leaning towards keeping it as a council and staff-focused event. Elise Morgan suggests that joint sessions with the Planning Commission could be considered in the future. The discussion touched on logistical details such as the public nature of the meeting, the possibility of hybrid participation, and the location at Our Lady of the Snows. The council members expressed agreement with the proposed plans for the retreat.

14. **NEW BUSINESS**

02:26:40

Sheridan Davis expressed congratulations to Elise and Dan on their election victories and took the opportunity to thank the Alta community for the opportunity to serve for the past six years. She expressed that it has been a true honor and one of the greatest experiences of her life. Davis wished the new council great success and thanked the community for the gift of serving them.

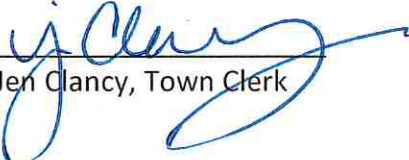
15. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

02:27:10

MOTION: John Byrne motioned to adjourn, and Elise Morgan seconded.

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

Passed this 10th day of January, 2024


Jen Clancy, Town Clerk