



CITY COUNCIL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, August 1 at 7:00 PM
Court Room/Council Chambers (2nd floor) and Online

MINUTES

Mayor Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present included Councilors Adcock, Hathaway, Mecham, and Siddoway.

Councilor Montoya joined via phone call.

Others present included City Recorder Amalie Ottley, City Manager Norm Beagley, Assistant City Manager Jason Bond, Legal Counsel Brett Rich, Finance Director Shannon Hoffman, Fire Chief Ryan Lind, Police Chief Rodney Hurst, Police Officer Mike Wall.

Various members of the public attended the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mike Romero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION/INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Councilor Adcock offered an invocation.

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No members of the City Council expressed any conflict of interest.

1. FORMAL PUBLIC HEARING

Councilor Mecham made a motion to open a formal public hearing to address the proposed property tax increase. Councilor Hathaway seconded the motion.

Councilor Adcock	Yes
Councilor Hathaway	Yes
Councilor Mecham	Yes
Councilor Montoya	Yes
Councilor Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

The public hearing began at 7:04 p.m.

Various members of the public attended the hearing to express both their concerns over and support of the proposed property tax increase.

Martin Pace inquired why the proposed tax increase is so high. He also asked why the town has grown so much. He asked where the culinary water comes from to support the growth in the city. He asked if part of the tax increase had to do with providing water to the residents as the city grows. Mr. Pace also expressed his support of the Police, Fire, & EMS Departments.

Mayor Olson explained that questions and concerns will be addressed after the conclusion of the public hearing.

Pam Norton, a resident of Santaquin for 46 years, expressed her support for the Police, Fire, & EMS Department. She conveyed the importance of emergency workers having comparable salaries to other communities in order to keep quality employees in Santaquin. She explained that constant turnover is not conducive to training and in the long run costs more to the City. She expressed her frustration with the growing taxes as well as gas prices and other increasing costs to everyone and especially those on a fixed income. She advocated keeping the community safe by supporting the proposed property tax increase.

Linda Kenison, a resident of Santaquin since 1979, expressed her frustration with the proposed property tax increase. She discussed the hardship she endured when the sewer system was put into Santaquin resulting in larger bills. She noticed on the City budget that money is moved and transferred to different areas of the City. She expressed her support for the Police Department and added that they should have larger incomes. However, she thought that the money to support the Police, Fire, & EMS departments should come from a different area of the City's budget rather than from imposing a tax increase on the citizens, especially senior citizens. She believes that the City is large enough to pay it's own way without raising taxes.

Dale Summerhays, a resident since 2018, conveyed to the Mayor and City Council that the decision has already been made and the opinions of the residents don't matter. He referred to the public hearing as a "dog and pony show." He indicated that the meeting won't make any difference to the outcome of the tax increase. He pointed out that the City should have specified purchasing two police vehicles "every year forever" rather than two police vehicles period. He added that the City used dishonest tactics to mislead tax payors. He stated that the City continues to receive sustainable revenue. He opined that tax payors have a softspot for emergency responders and were threatened by the Mayor and the City by suggesting that delays in emergency response will occur if the proposed property tax increase is not passed. He believes that the City had a plan to fund the police department raises by increasing taxes all along adding that the Mayor has demeaned City residents in the process. Lastly, he expressed his belief that the decision had already been made prior to the full Truth in Taxation process being completed. Mr. Summerhays left the meeting immediately after addressing the City Council.

LeRoy Kinder expressed his support for the proposed property tax increase. He advised the City Council, in the future, that any City wage increases be advertised to residents as soon as possible. He added that all members of the City Council and the Mayor have done their due diligence in support of City employees and for the community. He added that being a council member is a thankless job that many

community members take for granted. Lastly, he hoped that the City Council would pass the proposed tax increase in order to support the “fine gentlemen” of the Police, Fire, & EMS Departments.

Dick Wells, a resident of Santaquin since 2018, expressed his frustration with the City stating that he understands budgets and allocating money in his experience owning a small business. He discussed his belief that the money from the proposed property tax increase would go directly to the City’s General Fund and used however the City sees fit and not be used for emergency services as represented by the Mayor and Council. He thought that the City was being “deceitful” in the way the property tax increase has been “hinge pointed” on the Police, Fire, & EMS departments. He asked that the City be honest with residents on how the budget works and where money can be transferred between departments. He expressed his support for the Police and Emergency Services as well as small government. He expressed that the City was being manipulative in the way they were portraying budget issues in the City.

Lynn Adams, a resident of Santaquin for 29 years, expressed his support of the City and the Council. He spoke of how funds are allocated when shortfalls happen in any business. He believes that the City does make cuts and moves funds as necessary and in an appropriate manner. He does not believe that the City preyed upon the emotions of the residents or used the Police, Fire, & EMS department as a ploy to raise taxes. He expressed his appreciation to the City for holding off on raising taxes for the last ten years. He went on to say that the City went about the tax increase much better than Nebo School District. He thanked the first responders for their hard work. He expressed his gratitude for living in a City where opinions and feelings can be expressed in open meetings and on multiple occasions.

Brendan Bowen, a resident of Santaquin for more than 20 years, expressed his appreciation to all those who attended the meeting to share their thoughts on the proposed property tax increase. He discussed his disapproval of property taxes across the State of Utah stating that property taxes “attack the basis for foundational government.” He added that because the City has to follow State requirements for tax increases that it is the lot the City has been dealt. He wished that Utah had a consumption tax rather than a property tax. He extended his appreciation to the City Council and to the Mayor for their work this year and the past 10 years with regard to taxes and supporting the community. As much as he and others don’t like having taxes increased, he believes it necessary to support the police in Santaquin, especially with what is happening to police forces across the country.

Councilor Siddoway made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilor Mecham seconded the motion.

Councilor Adcock	Yes
Councilor Hathaway	Yes
Councilor Mecham	Yes
Councilor Montoya	Yes
Councilor Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

The public hearing ended at 7:29 p.m.

Councilor Siddoway stated that the decision to vote for or against the proposed property tax increase was not predetermined. He stated that he still was not 100% decided on how he would vote. He had many of the same concerns as the residents expressed in the public hearing. He was insulted that individuals would claim that all decisions are predetermined, and the public hearing didn't matter. He said that he, along with other City Council members, have thought long and hard about the proposed tax increase and at no time took it lightly.

Councilor Hathaway expressed his appreciation to all the individuals who showed up to the meeting in person to state their opinions, both negative and positive. He took offense to those who accused him and other Council members of being dishonest. He stated that he and the other Council members are always open to discussion and are always honest in their dealings with the City adding that there has never been a hidden agenda or backroom discussions. He argued that the City was losing emergency employees to other cities due to low wages and not issuing an increase in wages would have been detrimental to the City. He himself lives on a fixed income and does not want to pay more taxes, but he feels it necessary to look at what's most important in the community.

Councilor Adcock stated that he could not see how Mayor Olson or the City could have been more transparent in the Truth in Taxation process. He discussed the multiple meetings that the City has had in which a total of 7 residents attended. He spoke of the property tax increase 10 years ago that was dedicated to roads and the money in that tax increase is still allocated solely to roads. In comparison, the proposed property tax increase will be allocated solely to emergency services now and in the future and cannot be transferred to any other department as confirmed by annual audits within the City and by the State of Utah. He expressed his frustration with residents who accuse the Council members of being corrupt and dishonest. He also thanked those who attended the meeting in person and is glad that individuals have stepped forward to run for election this coming year. Lastly, he expressed his appreciation to Mayor Olson for the many hours he has put into supporting the City and the community.

Councilor Mecham added that nobody on the City Council enjoys raising taxes or paying more taxes because they too live in the City. He pointed out that the council raised the wages of the Police, Fire, & EMS Departments because they were losing good employees to other cities, and it has never been predetermined that taxes would be raised. He pointed out that many discussions have taken place in open meetings about budgets, funding, and allocating money to all departments in the City. He articulated that the City grows because individuals have property rights and the Council does not have the authority to say "no" to anyone who wishes to subdivide or sell their property.

Councilor Montoya did not wish to add anything.

Mayor Olson began by expressing that the integrity of the Council is not in question. He personally worked on the proposed tax increase with City staff and Council members for well over a year and in multiple public meetings. He added that strategic cuts have been made in the City's budget and many employees have not been replaced when they have left. The City has also made cuts in much-needed equipment purchases. He discussed how "rainy day" funds have been used to get the City through the year when building has slowed. He said the tax increase has not been taken lightly and it has been hard as he too lives in the City. He discussed the process that both the Fire and Police Departments went through to determine their needs to keep employees. He clarified what percentages and costs are included in the tax increase. He addressed comments made by those in the public hearing saying that

the City uses emergency responders as a shield and argued that the City and the Council has been nothing but transparent. He pointed out that tax increases are audited annually by the City and by the State of Utah. Mayor Olson spoke about how monies in the City are designated to projects like the clock tower that come from impact fees and donations and not taxpayer dollars. He expressed his love for the City and for City employees. He spoke of cuts made by not purchasing needed equipment and the need for the City to get through the years' flood season.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 08-01-2023 Adoption of the Certified Tax Rate for Santaquin City 2023

Councilor Siddoway stated that he does not support property taxes in the State of Utah and felt that his duty was to represent the majority of residents who have considered the tax increase logically. He pointed out that of those who appeared at the meeting to express their feelings to the Council, the majority were in support of the tax increase. He also spoke to individuals at the recent Public Open House in which many expressed their support as well. He added that nobody wishes to raise taxes or pay more taxes but expressed his appreciation of the process the City went through to inform residents of the proposed increase.

Resident Linda Kenison inquired if, from this point moving forward if the tax increase passes, if the portion of taxes would be dedicated solely to the Police, Fire, & EMS Departments. Mayor Olson and members of the Council confirmed that the portion of taxes proposed to be increased would be allocated only to those departments and ensured annually by City and State audits.

Councilor Adcock indicated that he too lives on a fixed income and inflation affects everyone and is especially difficult for seniors in the community.

Mayor Olson, in order to answer Mr. Pace's question, added that the City has plenty of water to support its residents.

Councilor Hathaway discussed the number of bills the State passes each year to legislate how municipalities operate. He added that he is against property tax increases if it weren't for the City's current situation in which employees are leaving the Police & Fire departments to go work for other City's and Santaquin hasn't been able to get applicants to replace them.

Councilor Mecham made a motion to approve and accept Resolution 08-01-2023 Adoption of the Certified Tax Rate for Santaquin City 2023. Councilor Adcock seconded the motion.

Councilor Adcock	Yes
Councilor Hathaway	Yes
Councilor Mecham	Yes
Councilor Montoya	Yes
Councilor Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

Councilor Montoya left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

3. Resolution 08-02-2023 Adoption of the Final FY 2023-2024 Budget

Manager Beagley presented the Final FY 2023-2024 Budget. Councilor Adcock pointed out that State law requires the City to have a balanced budget each year. Mayor Olson asked that scrivener's errors be closely looked at.

Councilor Adcock made a motion to approve Resolution 08-02-2023 Adoption of the Final FY 2023-2024 Budget. Councilor Siddoway seconded the motion.

Councilor Adcock	Yes
Councilor Hathaway	Yes
Councilor Mecham	Yes
Councilor Montoya	Absent
Councilor Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

CONVENE OF THE SANTAQUIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL AGENCY (CDRA) BOARD MEETING

Mayor Olson described the purpose of the CDRA and other boards in Santaquin City and what work has gone into the new Santaquin Peaks Industrial Zone this past year.

Councilor Mecham made a motion to enter into a Community Development and Renewal Agency Board Meeting. Councilor Siddoway seconded the motion.

Councilor Adcock	Yes
Councilor Hathaway	Yes
Councilor Mecham	Yes
Councilor Montoya	Absent
Councilor Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

The CDRA Board Meeting began at 8:15 p.m.

4. Resolution 08-01-2023 CDA – Adoption of the Final FY 2023-2024 Budget

Manager Beagley presented the 2023-2024 FY Budget for the Community Development and Renewal Agency.

Board Member Mecham made a motion to approve Resolution 08-01-2023 CDA – Adoption of the Final FY 2023-2024 Budget. Board Member Siddoway seconded the motion.

Board Member Adcock	Yes
Board Member Hathaway	Yes
Board Member Mecham	Yes
Board Member Montoya	Absent
Board Member Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

Board Member Siddoway made a motion to end the CDRA Board Meeting and reconvene to a Regular City Council meeting. Board Member Hathaway seconded the motion.

Board Member Adcock	Yes
Board Member Hathaway	Yes
Board Member Mecham	Yes
Board Member Montoya	Absent
Board Member Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

The Community Development and Renewal Agency of Santaquin City Board meeting ended at 8:18 p.m.

The Regular City Council meeting reconvened at 8:18 p.m.

CONVENE OF THE SANTAQUIN LOCAL BUILDING AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING (LBA)

Councilor Mecham made a motion to enter into a board meeting for the Santaquin Local Building Authority. Councilor Siddoway seconded the motion.

Councilor Adcock	Yes
Councilor Hathaway	Yes
Councilor Mecham	Yes
Councilor Montoya	Absent
Councilor Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

The Santaquin Local Building Authority Board meeting began at 8:19 p.m.

5. Resolution 08-01-2023 LBA – Adoption of the Final FY 2023-2024 Budget

Manager Beagley presented the 2023-2024 FY Budget for the Santaquin Local Building Authority.

Board Member Siddoway made a motion to approve Resolution 08-01-2023 LBA – Adoption of the Final FY 2023-2024 Budget. Board Member Adcock seconded the motion.

Board Member Adcock	Yes
Board Member Hathaway	Yes
Board Member Mecham	Yes
Board Member Montoya	Absent
Board Member Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

Board Member Siddoway made a motion to end the LBA Board Meeting and reconvene to a Regular City Council meeting. Board Member Mecham seconded the motion.

Board Member Adcock	Yes
Board Member Hathaway	Yes
Board Member Mecham	Yes
Board Member Montoya	Absent
Board Member Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

The Santaquin Local Building Authority Board meeting ended at 8:19 p.m.

The Regular City Council meeting reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

CONVENE OF THE SANTAQUIN SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (WATER DISTRICT/SWD/SSD)

Councilor Mecham made a motion to enter into a board meeting for the Santaquin Special Service District. Councilor Hathaway seconded the motion.

Councilor Adcock	Yes
Councilor Hathaway	Yes
Councilor Mecham	Yes
Councilor Montoya	Absent
Councilor Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

The Santaquin Local Building Authority Board meeting began at 8:20p.m.

6. Resolution 08-01-2023 SWD– Adoption of the Final FY 2023-2024 Budget

Manager Beagley presented the 2023-2024 FY Budget for the Santaquin Special Service District (Water District).

Board Member Mecham made a motion to approve Resolution 08-01-2023 SWD– Adoption of the Final FY 2023-2024 Budget. Board Member Siddoway seconded the motion.

Board Member Adcock	Yes
Board Member Hathaway	Yes
Board Member Mecham	Yes
Board Member Montoya	Absent
Board Member Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

Board Member Mecham made a motion to end the Santaquin Special Service District Board Meeting and reconvene to a Regular City Council meeting. Board Member Hathaway seconded the motion.

Board Member Adcock	Yes
Board Member Hathaway	Yes
Board Member Mecham	Yes
Board Member Montoya	Absent
Board Member Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

The Santaquin Local Building Authority Board meeting ended at 8:21 p.m.

The Regular City Council meeting reconvened at 8:21 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Olson thanked all those who attended the meeting and expressed his love for the City of Santaquin and its people.

Councilor Siddoway made a motion to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting. Councilor Mecham seconded the motion.


Councilor Adcock	Yes
Councilor Hathaway	Yes
Councilor Mecham	Yes
Councilor Montoya	Absent
Councilor Siddoway	Yes

The vote was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

ATTEST:


Lynn Mecham, Mayor Pro Tem


Amalie R. Ottley, City Recorder