



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at 6:00 PM
Online Participation Only

Minutes

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Mayor Kirk Hunsaker
Council Member Nick Miller
Council Member Betsy Montoya
Council Member David Hathaway

ABSENT

Council Member Lynn Mecham
Council Member Jennifer Bowman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Norm Beagley.

INVOCATION / INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Offered by Council Member Montoya.

DECLARATION OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

EnterTextHere

Name: Hilary Fitzsimmons

Comment: Dear Mayor Hunsaker and City Council Members,

It may feel like the citizens of Santaquin are against multi family housing units in our city but I don't think that is the case. I think we are frustrated by what appears to be a lack of planning and foresight. I know that growth for our city is inevitable and welcome responsible growth, and yes that includes high density housing where it makes sense and benefits our city long term. What I personally (as well as many neighbors and friends I have spoken to) would like to see is more thought, planning and infrastructure before allowing zoning changes etc. That would include making changes to our current city code to protect our city for the future.

For example, I have spoken with city council members from Elk Ridge about parking for multi family housing. Their city code requires 3 parking spaces per unit, 2 covered and 1 open. I have heard that Santaquin City currently only requires 1 and a half parking spaces per unit. I don't know of any household with only one car, it doesn't make sense for our city. From a citizen this seems like a simple fix that could make a big impact. Could this be something changed in our city code?

Changes like this seem like they could benefit our community and infrastructure in the long run.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Name: Amanda Baker

Comment: Mayor Hunsaker,

I am writing to let you know that I am appalled and frustrated that you, City Manager Reeves, and the City Council are even considering the proposal from Republic Services and to cancel the interlocal agreement between Payson City Landfill and Santaquin City. Although on paper, it may appear to save \$28,000 in YOUR budget. You are looking at this very one-sidedly as this creates a significant increase and burden for the residents of Santaquin City. I urge you, DO NOT sign this agreement. Please look out for the residents of Santaquin City, the residents you were elected to represent. Signing this agreement with Republic Service and canceling the interlocal agreement with Payson would be to the detriment of your citizens.

Name: Linda Kenison

Comment: I am a bit unsettled about thinking that saving \$28k is a great thing when in reality I will be paying so much more for my trips to the dump. we keep our property clean by making regular trips to the dump, mowing weekly for 6 months out of the year requires about 2 trips per month to the dump, garden cleanup, fall leaves, old water heaters all require trips to the dump, this great savings will cost my family what easily \$100 extra each year.... how many more families will also end up with extra costs... there is no savings, just a transfer of who is paying for garbage service. Not a good plan... don't do it...

Name: Matt & Andrea Urban

Comment: Mayor and Council members,

We've lived in Santaquin for almost 14 years. During that time, we've taken loads to the city dump and Payson landfill on a regular basis, depending on the time of year and which various home, garden and yard projects might be underway. I'd estimate that we dump our small dump trailer about every 4-8 weeks on average.

I don't claim to know all the ins and outs of the proposal before you, but when I look at the bottom line...on the surface, it seems like basically "a wash"...the money saved vs. extra money spent is pretty much the same.

HOWEVER, when you say that something is "a wash" it means that the money coming and going is from the same pockets.

In this case, the city would essentially be pocketing 28+ thousand dollars and in return, residents get to pay 330% more for the privilege of using the Payson landfill.

If even a 1/3 of the households (3500/3=1667) went to the landfill 4 times per year and paid the extra \$7 each time, that adds up to an additional \$32,667 spent by residents.

For residents like us who use the landfill on a regular basis, adding another clean up won't help me with our 6-12 trailer loads per year.

Council Members and Mayor, Please do not vote to cancel the current agreement which benefits Santaquin residents in favor of benefitting Saratoga Springs, our contracted garbage vendor, Republic Services and the city budget.

Please look at the other side of this coin.

Thank you for your time.

Name: Jeff Siddoway

Comment: Esteemed City Council Members:

Yesterday a fellow resident of Santaquin posted on Facebook that there would be a Special City Council Meeting this week concerning a new proposed deal with Republic Services. The only info I have on this deal is a Memo from the City Manager, so I might not have all of the nuances or an understanding of the deal completely. Nevertheless, I wanted to throw in my 2 cents, and a few questions.

First of all, I'm glad to see the City finding ways to save some money. I'm sure this is not an exclusive situation, and I appreciate every time the City can save money. However, one thing that needs to be considered when the City saves money, is how much will it directly cost the residents of the City. The memo specifies that terminating the contract with Payson City will cause individual trips to the dump to cost \$10, instead of the current \$3.

If the City is saving \$28,000 a year, we should ensure that is not costing residents more than \$28,000. If there are approximately 3,600 households in the city, then \$28,000 is about a \$7 savings per house. Coincidentally, that equals the cost increase of a single trip to the dump. If there is any way to know if the Payson dump receives about 3,600 loads from Santaquin residents annually, then this deal will ultimately hurt city residents. If that is information that we can get, I think it would be integral in this decision.

Also, will the new deal with Republic Services ensure that the annual price will not vary? The new deal will cause the garbage trucks to drive further to drop their loads. Fuel costs have risen something like 50% in the past 5 months, and are predicted to continue to rise in the coming months. Are we certain that there will not be any fuel surcharges that will eat into that \$28,000 savings, or completely wipe it out?

Finally, as the City saves this \$28,000, we should know where that money will be transferred in the budget. How, exactly, is this windfall going to be used to benefit the community as a whole? Personally, I believe that should be invested into our infrastructure. We are growing and need to ensure we are ready to handle the influx of residents. If a plan for that money cannot be settled in this meeting, then it should be prepared, discussed, and the best option approved in the next City Council meeting. There will be many who outright oppose this new deal, and if you can show the direct or indirect benefits to the residents and community, they will be more open to accepting this deal, if you pass it.

Name: Jody Reid

Comment: Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Thank you for all your hard work for the citizens of Santaquin.

I understand that Councilmember Montoya thoughtfully responded to a citizen regarding the change in trash services that the city is contemplating. Thank you, Councilmember Montoya. In this response, she alluded to potential future liabilities, saying that the "Payson facility is not lined and the facility proposed is lined. That makes a difference in environmental protection and will make a difference when the Federal EPA makes cities using an unlined landfill pay for the environmental reparations."

Since Santaquin does not own the Payson facility, I am curious how that will work, and what has been proposed. This is an interesting element in the discussion, which was not mentioned in Ben Reeves' memo. It would be helpful for residents to have more information about this concern.

Councilmember Montoya also mentioned that construction loads would rise in price from \$3 to \$21, which was another element I did not see in the materials provided for the meeting. How much other information was made available to councilmembers that citizens did not have access to? And why?

Another troubling aspect of this current topic is the lack of statistics regarding citizen usage of the Payson landfill, as well as the impact that raising fees will certainly have on illegal dumping, which is already a problem for those of us who live on the margins of the city. Affordable landfill fees would reasonably contribute to efforts by residents to keep our city looking nice and preventing hazards. What will the actual cost of the proposed change ultimately be? For now, however, how will the money saved by the city be used? Will it be credited to homeowners on their utility bills?

I am also troubled by the crisis driven, last-minute approach increasingly taken to address city affairs. This approach makes it nearly impossible for knowledgeable and concerned citizens to provide commentary and a wider perspective on issues. The city is fundamentally an organization created to benefit the overall wellbeing of those who live here, and it is baffling to me why their opinions and desires would not matter to city officials.

In the future, my hope is that you will respond to our long-term concerns by providing more complete information further in advance of meetings.

Thanks again for your hard work on behalf of all of us.

Name: Amanda Baker

Comment: Mayor Hunsaker, and Santaquin Council Members,

I am writing to let you know that I am appalled and frustrated that you are even considering the proposal from Republic Services and to cancel the interlocal agreement between Payson City Landfill and Santaquin City. Although on paper, it may appear to save \$25,000 - \$28,000 in YOUR budget. You are looking at this very one-sidedly as this creates a **significant** increase and burden for the residents of Santaquin City.

I would also like to know why this is your only option? Are there any other providers that could bid on this contract? Have you approached Payson City to renegotiate the interlocal agreement for garbage disposal rates while maintaining the ability to use the dump at the resident rate? What happens after the 5-year contract? What will Santaquin do when Republic Services comes to them with an increase in fees due to rising fuel prices? We will be paying more for service and paying more at the dump. A double whammy!

Why rush this decision? Just because an answer has to be given to Payson City by April 1st, doesn't mean we need to rush into it. If this is such a great deal with republic services, it can be pushed off another year while more thought, negotiations, and fact-checking can be completed.

I urge you, DO NOT sign this agreement. Please look out for the residents of Santaquin City, the residents you were elected to represent. Signing this agreement with Republic Service and canceling the interlocal agreement with Payson would be to the detriment of your citizens.

I look forward to hearing the answers to my questions and hope you will do the right thing by listening to your constituents.

Name: Chris Hess

Comment: Hi there, I am just commenting that I am in favor of the change in fees for the Payson landfill. I'm glad the city is looking for ways to save money.

Name: Pamela Colson

Comment: Hello Santaquin City

I am confused by the memorandum sent by the City Manager to The City Council on March 30th regarding the request from Republic Services to change the service pattern of their contract with Santaquin City for waste disposal.

I am wondering if you could explain in more detail the actual savings to Santaquin City as described in this memorandum. The \$16,000+ savings annually for the reduced tipping fee seems clear but the \$11,700 savings for the 3% annual increase for 2021 seems to be a one-time savings. In order for this change in contract to bring an annual savings to Santaquin City of \$28,000, wouldn't the deferred annual 3% increase have to be yearly for the length of the contract I know you are not able to answer directly but if you would include this question in your discussion prior to making a final decision to move forward with this change I would appreciate it.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

1. **Resolution 03-11-2021, "A Resolution Approving Addendum #3 to Santaquin City's Solid Waste and Recycling Collection and Disposal Agreement with Republic Services"**

A discussion was had between Mayor and Council after City Manager Reeves gave an introduction of the issue and Reese Demille from Republic Services was given time to speak.

Motion made by Council Member Hathaway to table Resolution 03-11-2021.

Seconded by Council Member Mecham.

Voting Yea: Council Member Miller, Council Member Montoya, Council Member Mecham, Council Member Hathaway

2. **Resolution 03-12-2021, "A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Provide Official Notice to Payson City of the Termination of its Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for Waste Disposal Services Dated November 17, 2010"**

Motion made by Council Member Montoya to approve Resolution 03-12-2021 with a caveat that it is only being provided to ensure that we do not miss any technicalities in the contract and to allow for Santaquin City staff to negotiate with Payson City.

Seconded by Council Member Hathaway.

Voting Yea: Council Member Miller, Council Member Montoya, Council Member Mecham, Council Member Hathaway

ADJOURNMENT

ATTEST:



Kirk Hunsaker, Mayor



K. Aaron Shirley, City Recorder