



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 7th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers at City Hall and Online

MINUTES

Mayor Olson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present included Art Adcock, Travis Keel, Brian Del Rosario and Jeff Siddoway
Electronic Attendance Lynn Mecham

Others present included City Manager Norm Beagley, Assistant City Manager Jason Bond, City Recorder Stephanie Christensen, City Legal Counsel Brett Rich, Digital Content Specialist Molly Warnick and Community Services Director Kami Ellsworth, Rhett and Ann Peterson, Jake Kester

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ann Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION/INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

Councilor Art Adcock offered an inspiration thought

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Just Serve

Mrs. Ann Peterson introduced Just Serve as a volunteer coordination platform sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She stressed that the platform is not intended for missionary or religious outreach purposes, but is designed exclusively to connect volunteers with service opportunities offered by government agencies, schools, and qualified nonprofit organizations. Mrs. Peterson explained that Just Serve coordinates approximately 500,000 service projects worldwide each year. Through the website and mobile application, organizations can post volunteer opportunities while residents can search for projects based on their interests, skills, availability, and location.

They acknowledged that Santaquin organizations are already utilizing the platform through existing community efforts, including the City's "My Hometown" initiative and activities organized by the Payson/Santaquin Chamber of Commerce. Examples of volunteer opportunities include assisting at community events, helping with parking and concessions during celebrations, participating in cleanup projects, and supporting charitable organizations. Mrs. Peterson also highlighted virtual volunteer opportunities available through organizations such as Lifting Hands International, which utilizes volunteers to assemble hygiene kits, blankets, baby kits, and other humanitarian supplies.

Mayor Olson asked how Just Serve integrates with the City's existing "My Hometown" service initiative. Mr. Rhett Peterson explained that volunteer requests can be submitted through Just Serve to increase visibility and broaden participation. He noted that all projects undergo review to ensure they comply with

Just Serve standards and guidelines. He explained that fundraising activities are not permitted on the platform. However, organizations may request volunteers, donated labor, or donated goods for approved community projects.

Mayor Olson asked about costs, Mr. Peterson confirmed that there is no financial obligation for the City. Becoming a "Just Serve City" requires only a proclamation affirming the City's support of volunteerism and community service.

The Petersons outlined several potential benefits of participation, including:

- Increased visibility for local volunteer opportunities.
- Greater community engagement and social connectedness.
- Access to promotional materials, banners, and project support.
- Volunteer recognition programs, including "Hero Awards."
- Recognition through organizations such as the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the National League of Cities.

Councilor Brian Del Rosario expressed reservations about the need for a formal City designation. He stated he feels this is more like a sponsorship or advertisement using the official City. We already do all of this. He noted that government entities and nonprofit organizations already have access to the platform and questioned whether a municipal proclamation could be viewed as endorsing a specific organization. Councilor Brian Del Rosario doesn't see the value in Santaquin becoming a Just Serve City. He pointed out that the City already recognizes volunteers through its newsletter and other programs.

Mayor Olson and several council members indicated that becoming a Just Serve City would simply provide another avenue for residents to learn about volunteer opportunities and engage in community service. Councilor Art Adcock agreed that while the My Hometown program is generally organized around monthly group projects, Just Serve offers more flexibility for individuals wishing to volunteer independently on their own schedules. He stated he really liked the idea. Councilor Travis Keel expressed support for the proposal, stating that programs which encourage service and bring people together have significant value, particularly in an increasingly divided society. Councilor Lynn Mechem agreed that promoting community service and volunteerism is beneficial and indicated his support for moving forward.

Mayor Olson asked staff to prepare a draft proclamation for review and consideration at an upcoming City Council meeting.

2. Museum Discussion

Mayor Olson introduced Jake Kester and opened a discussion regarding the future of the historic museum building. Mayor Olson provided background on previous conversations regarding the building's condition and acknowledged the Kester family's longstanding support of preservation efforts. He referenced a prior meeting in which Jake Kester offered assistance with funding a new roof and explained that City officials have been attempting to balance preservation goals with competing budget priorities.

The Mayor reviewed several ongoing concerns affecting the facility, including:

- Roof deterioration.
- Boiler and heating system deficiencies.
- Aging piping and infrastructure.
- Needed fire escape improvements.
- Persistent bat infestations.
- Long-term structural and seismic concerns.

Mayor Olson noted that the City previously spent tens of thousands of dollars removing significant accumulations of bat guano from the building and that the bats have returned. Additional mitigation efforts are estimated to cost approximately \$18,000 to \$20,000.

Mr. Jake Kester proposed expanding the effort beyond private donations and creating a community-wide fundraising campaign dedicated to preserving the building. Mr. Kester stated that a large percentage of Santaquin residents either attended school in the building or have family connections to it and therefore maintain a strong emotional attachment to the structure. He expressed confidence that community members, local businesses, and philanthropic donors would contribute if they were presented with a clear plan and funding goal.

Mr. Kester suggested that fundraising efforts be managed by a civic organization rather than by the City itself. The American Legion was mentioned as a possible sponsor or fiscal agent. Councilor Art Adcock reported that the American Legion Monument at the cemetery was constructed from volunteer work and volunteer donations. Mr. Kester volunteered to assist in organizing a committee and suggested incorporating fundraising awareness into community events, including parade participation, banners, and donation stations.

Councilor Brian Del Rosario discussed whether the City's Historic Preservation Committee could assist with preservation and fundraising efforts. Community Services Director Kami Ellsworth explained that the committee currently lacks sufficient membership to establish a quorum and conduct official business. However, she indicated that informal discussions have continued with the committee chair and other committee members. She suggested that the committee could provide recommendations and volunteer support while a separate citizen-led organization might be better positioned to conduct fundraising campaigns and receive donations. Councilor Brian Del Rosario stated he would be happy to help or donate as a citizen of Santaquin.

City Manager Norm Beagley reviewed estimated repair costs and emphasized the scope of the challenge facing the community. He estimated that immediate repairs and improvements could range between approximately \$500,000 and \$750,000, including:

- \$250,000–\$350,000 for roof replacement.
- More than \$100,000 for boiler and piping upgrades.
- Approximately \$20,000 for bat mitigation.
- Approximately \$35,000 for the fire escape project.

City Manager Beagley also referenced a structural and seismic analysis completed approximately ten years ago. The study estimated that bringing the building into compliance with modern seismic standards

would cost between \$6.5 million and \$7 million in 2016–2017 dollars. He explained that inflation and construction cost increases would likely result in substantially higher costs today. Given those figures, he cautioned that preserving the building would require significant private and community support. Councilor Art Adcock suggested we put a dollar amount on the fundraiser, so people knew what the City needs in order to repair the building.

Councilor Lynn Mecham emphasized concerns regarding public safety and structural integrity. He recalled previous discussions with contractors who expressed serious reservations about people occupying the building because of its masonry construction and lack of seismic reinforcement. Councilor Mecham stated that one of his primary concerns involves the safety of visitors, particularly school groups and children. He noted that in the event of a significant earthquake, the building could experience catastrophic failure. He also expressed concern that historical artifacts could be permanently lost if the structure was damaged. As a possible alternative, he suggested temporarily relocating museum collections to the former library building after library operations move to the new facility.

Councilor Jeff Siddoway acknowledged the safety concerns, but said that removing the museum exhibits could effectively result in the loss of community interest and support for preserving the building. He stated that once a historic structure becomes vacant, it often becomes increasingly difficult to justify maintaining or restoring it, eventually leading to demolition.

Councilor Brian Del Rosario commented that a community fundraising effort could serve as a practical measure of public support. If residents and donors contribute sufficient resources, it would demonstrate a desire to preserve the building; if funding support does not materialize, it may provide clarity regarding the community's priorities.

Mayor Olson asked staff to work with the Historic Preservation Committee and interested community members, including the Kester family, to locate the previous structural study, update cost estimates to current values, evaluate safety concerns, and develop more accurate project totals. Future discussion will be scheduled for a subsequent City Council meeting.

3. Upcoming Agenda Items

City Manager Norm Beagley previewed the following items on the regular session agenda. The meeting minutes will be reviewed and the City expenditure report. There will also be a few resolutions that will be reviewed. City Manager Beagley stated the first resolution will be reviewing the annual agreement with the Mountainland Association of Governments for Senior congregate meal services provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He reported the funding levels remain similar to those received during the previous year, with only a minor reduction. However, increases in food and labor costs continue to place pressure on the program budget. Councilor Brian Del Rosario noted that the gradual reduction of federal COVID-related assistance funding has also contributed to operating challenges, resulting in previous increases to meal pricing. Councilor Art Adcock stated that the fee for the Senior Citizens had also increased.

City Manager Norm Beagley stated the next two resolutions to be reviewed are the annual recreation agreements for cheerleading and martial arts programs. The proposed agreements include updates to reflect use of both sides of the new recreation facility once operations begin in that location. He reported that a discrepancy between document versions had been identified earlier in the day. A correction will be

made to the martial arts agreement by motion to ensure that revenue-sharing provisions, including a 75/25 split and credit card fee language, match the cheer agreement.

Councilor Jeff Siddoway asked if the City's recreation service agreements are subject to public bidding requirements. City Manager Norm Beagley explained that these programs are specialized services and that no other local providers have requested consideration to offer equivalent programs. As a result, a competitive procurement process has not been utilized for these services.

City Manager Norm Beagley stated the last resolution will be a resolution Councilor Brian Del Rosario proposed establishing a formal process for Councilors to request records and information from City staff.

Councilor Brian Del Rosario stated that the proposal arose from several previous situations in which requests were delayed or inconsistently handled. He cited examples including prior inquiries regarding the proposed data center and challenges obtaining meeting audio recordings. Councilor Del Rosario stated that the resolution formalizes practices that are already used successfully in many situations. Under the proposal, Councilors would submit written requests identifying the specific information being sought and the purpose for which it is needed. The resolution establishes a target response time of two business days while allowing staff to provide written notice if additional time is necessary due to workload, scheduling conflicts, or absence from the office.

The proposal also encourages records to be provided in their native electronic formats whenever possible, such as Excel or CSV files rather than PDF documents, allowing council members to conduct meaningful analysis. Councilor Del Rosario noted that access to searchable data had previously helped identify approximately \$10,000 in potential budget savings.

4. Other Business

Nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

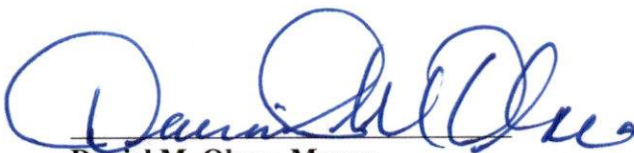
Councilor Lynn Mecham made a motion to adjourn the City Council Work Session. Councilor Jeff Siddoway seconded the motion.

Councilor Art Adcock	Yes	
Councilor Brian Del Rosario	Yes	
Councilor Travis Keel	Yes	
Councilor Lynn Mecham	Yes	
Councilor Jeff Siddoway		Yes

The motion passed.

The City Council Work Session Meeting adjourned 6:46 p.m.

ATTEST:



Daniel M. Olson, Mayor



Stephanie Christensen, City Recorder