

Minutes of a Public Hearing  
Held at the City Center  
November 3, 1993

Mayor Crook called the meeting to order at 7PM. Councilmembers present: David Hathaway, Hottt Carter, Max Holman and Calvin Wall. Keith was excused due to illness. Paul Bean, Councilman elect was also present.

County representatives: David Bateman, Jerry Scott and Alex Hunt.

Those who signed the register: Archie Johnson, ElRay Davis, Merelda Davis, Forrest Smith, Joseph Davis, Dennis Howard, Art Adcock, Everett Kester, Everett Kester Jr, David Rusmussen, Jenene Barker, Conway Barker, Paul Jeppsen, Katrina Jeppsen, Oran Wall, Shawna Wall, Ann Wall, Carla Carter, Janet Hathaway, B.K. Bird, Leola Farnsworth, Karalee Austin, Tom Austin, Barb Kester, Tracy Hurst, Shayne Bott, Ryan Ursulich, Michael Tischner, Sara Brereton, John Brereton, Carter Strebel, Roger Porter, Shirley Porter, James Crook, Linda Brinkerhoff, Adele Thomas, Debby Hullinger, Lauren Allphin, Mary Smith, Cleil Smith, Rose Cope, Brent Cope, Sgt. Clay Jensen, Cathy Jensen, Ned Thomas, Farine Thomas, Kaye Higginson, Doug Rowley, Keith Richards, Marge Richards, Marty Wilkey, Lisi Wilkey, Jeff, Lee Kelley, Gene Kelley, Sara Brereton, Jayne Jacobeson, Avanelle McKeand, John, Mike Montague, Karen Montague, Janalee Cary, Clara Goudy, Leslie Broadhead, Val Broadhead, Pat Ursulich, Denise Windley, Edith Jarvis, Harriet Hallett, Lisa Howard, Dale Bascom, Jane Churchtown, Bob Westover, Sherrie Westover, Elden Greenhalgh, Sherron Davis, Ray Shepherd, Beckie Shepherd, Kurt Stringham, Kathie Stringham, Rohoda Brown, John DeGrafferried. Leann Moody (Daily Herald), Farrell Bott, Jolene Alexander, Blanche Water, Bill Cooley, Lynn Smith, David Smith, Christina Cruz, Mike Cruz, Rheatone Cruz plus many who did not sign.

Mayor Crook gave a summary of the proposal the County presented to Council regarding County police protection for Santaquin. He stated the cost was not a factor, the cost of a local department versus County protection was almost identical. The on duty and on call hours for each was compared. Wages and benefits were reviewed. He stated the County provides other agencies such as the DARE Program, the Drug Force and etc. Handouts of the proposal were provided. Mayor Crook read the agreements and stated the budget would only allow Santaquin to consider proposal #3. The County would use Santaquin's police station as their substation. That Santaquin would have to provide their own animal control. MayoryCrook then ask for citizen input.

Question - Why did the County make the offer.

David Bateman, Utah Co. Sheriff - the County had done a study at President Clinton's request regarding communities not able to provide 24 hr. coverage and considered the consolidation. Plus

Santaquin's police chief had resigned and they were ask to prepare a proposal.

Mayor Crook stated Dennis Howard, Utah County Officer ask to submit a proposal for police protection.

Question - Did Alpine accept the County offer.

Sheriff Bateman - Alpine and Highland, like Santaquin, were waiting untill after the election to hold a Public Hearing before making a decision.

Question - If we are not happy with the County would we be stuck and would it be the same deputies working the area. She felt it important for the children to have good relations with the officers.

Sheriff Bateman - The agreement could be void upon thirty days notice. The officers working would depend on the contract. They would pickup two of Santaquin's Officers if they applied and qualified.

Question - Did you need the Santaquin office.

Sheriff Bateman - It would be convenient and provide more coverage for Santaquin with officers there doing reports. But we use lap top computers and don't need another office.

Comment from P.T.A. representative - appreciate Santaquin Officers, they have been right there and even responded on their days off.

Question to Council - If the County offer is declined how would they restaff the police department and are salaries a problem.

Mayor Crook - If the citizens don't want County protection they will advertise for a new chief. Santaquin salaries are the lowest in the area but the benefits are good and Santaquin is a nice place to live. Three applicants have applied for the chief position and it has not yet been advertised.

Comment - The problem in Santaquin has been the leadership, why change something that works and give our freedom away. Applause

Question - What services are now available from the County at no charge.

Sheriff Bateman - All programs, but the police chief would not request them.

Question - Instead of hiring chief why not promote existing officers.

Mayor Crook discussed law suits and services.

Sheriff Bateman discussed the Constitutional law of services provided, law suits, training and Fair Labor Standards.

Comment regarding response time.

Comment from applicant for Chief position - The Fair Labor Standards referred to by Sheriff Bateman does not apply to cities with five officers or less. A good police administrator is aware of all POST classes available and keeps his officers trained and informed.

Comment - If this is true why did Sheriff Bateman bring it up. Are they trying to use scare tactics.

Sheriff Bateman - my error, I got the impression Santaquin City was not in compliance, it was misleading.

Dennis Howard, County Officer - I approached the County after the Police Chief resigned. Santaquin hires and trains more Chiefs and Officers than anywhere else.

Mike Tischner - I work part time for the County and part time for Santaquin City. I am POST certified and taking classes on administration. The problem with Santaquin for the last three years was no leadership. It is a young department, not afraid to learn and look up to the County for assistance. I respect the officers in town and no we can do a good job. Applause

County Sheriff - If county hired local officers they would receive a wage increase of \$7,000. No guarantee the local officers would be hired.

Response time discussed.

Val Broadhead, Fire Chief and E.M.T. - Our response time is four minutes and the local officer is always there. You can't beat that.

Boundries for County Officers and response time discussed. County Officers boundry included 2,000 square miles.

Complaint from Goshen resident regarding repetitious patrolling by the County and response time.

County Sheriff replied Goshen does not have a contract for preventative protection.

Jr. Kester - I work with the County and the local officers. I would like to see qualified local officers and cooperation between the two agencies.

Question regarding animal control / Answer the City would have to provide an ACO at an additional cost.

Question regarding growth and how long before Santaquin would need more than three officers.

Mayor Crook - reviewed budget problems, stated they were trying to get the most for the money. Santaquin was a growing community but not with industry. The General Fund budget had not increased in six years. There was a problem with tax collection which he was trying to resolve. Low wages did not only apply to police officers but all City employees.

Councilman Hathaway - there is money in the budget for training. The Fire Department, Ambulance Association and Police Department have adopted the blood born passage regulations. The problem with the Police Department has been the leadership. Its a win win situation to keep the local officers in the community as the County is required to respond on call. Applause

Question - how much have you used the County in the past.

Sheriff Bateman - sometimes there is a jealousy situation with the police chief and the County is not called. They are willing to backup each other with a good relationship.

Councilman Hathaway - the Fire Department, Ambulance Association and County does work together, do a good job and gets the job done. Do to the leadership in the City the County has not been contacted.

Comment from County Dispatcher regarding response time when local officer is on call.

Comment from another County Dispatcher - the major issue here is liability.

Comment & Question - If you hire a new Chief Mike Tischner will be dropped. If you go with the County proposal Mike Tischner will be dropped. When will you make your decision.

Mayor Crook - possibility Monday night at the special meeting.

Comment - It's not that we don't want the County, we just have Home Town Pride and want to keep a home town department. Applause

Question - Do we now have a drug enforcement program or access to one.

Mayor Crook - explained a grant in Utah County for drug enforcement and stated Santaquin was a member and this program was available to us.

Comment - The problem has been leadership. The problem is gone. Let's get on with it and have the best of both worlds (local department and County backup).

Meeting adjourned at 9PM.

Approved this 16th day of November, 1993.

*D. Lynn Crook*  
Mayor D. Lynn Crook

*Elaine Tasker*  
Elaine Tasker, Recorder

