

City of Santa Claus, GA

Council Meeting, February 18, 2020

Mayor Amy Lawler called meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. followed by a roll call. Council members Donita Bowen and Monte Powell were present but Tad Bryant was absent due to a work issue out of town. Agenda was presented to council. Monte made a motion second by Donita to accept with hands raised in favor. Amy led the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by Amy reading the Rules of Decorum. The Rules of Decorum will be placed on the wall of the meeting room for public display.

Amy asked for any comments or public issues and there were none.

Donita read the minutes of the January 21, 2020, meeting. It was noted that two corrections need to be made on the minutes. Monte made a motion second by Donita to accept the January minutes after corrections.

Amy stated the printer was malfunctioning so she could not print a financial report but added that there had been no funds spent from any city account since the last report.

Amy suggested that David Evans of 21 Reindeer ST be appointed as the 4th council member to fill the seat vacated when she became the mayor. David meets all criteria required for this position. Monte made a motion second by Donita for David's appointment to the council seat. Tad approved by text for a unanimous vote in favor of David Evans filling the 4th council seat for the city. He will be sworn at the March, 2020, meeting.

Tad received a bid from L & L Cleaners and Pressure Wash for the Gardens walkways and gazebo in the amount of \$400.00. Amy gave Monte the phone number for Altamaha E.M.C. employee, Michael, to set up a time to meet at the Park to erect a new pole and light at the east end of the walking trail. Monte was asked to price new upgraded ceiling fans for the Pavilion at the Park. A bid from L & L Cleaners to pressure wash the 2 city limit signs is \$300.00. The lot on the north side of the parking area at the Park donated by Russ Bell requires an updated deed exchange to finalize the transaction.

The expired fire extinguishers have been replaced at the Community Center with one new extinguisher added to the facility. Extinguishers have been installed at the Gift Shop and at City Hall. Bids from L & L Cleaners for the Community Center are: \$2.00 per chair for approx. 100 chairs @ \$200.00, deep clean the Tile Floors \$400.00, Pressure wash the outside \$500.00. Eddie Wright stated he has requested a bid for the same cleaning from Pristine Car Wash. He added that Pristine may be higher but would be able to clean the roofs, also.

The L & L Cleaners bid to pressure wash the City Hall building and roof is \$300. Both Welcome signs pressure washed bid is \$100.00 and the Welcome Center roof, sidewalk and stone area is \$350.

Amy informed council that she had an informal meeting with Jason Hall, Lyons City Manager, and Mayor Willis NeSmith concerning the fire protection of the City of Santa Claus by the Lyons Fire Department. She gave them our proposal of \$2.00 Fire Fee per household and \$250.00 per Fire Response trip to the city and is waiting for a response.

Property tax notices have been mailed out and we have begun to receive tax payments, Amy stated. There still has been no correspondence from Charters of Freedom and council is waiting for information from George Powell. Eddie stated that George is out of town at meeting time.

The CPI, Commercial Pricing Index, for trash pickup is going up by 2%, The city will receive bids from all three companies serving this area, Republic, Ryland, and Sullivan. Council will be kept informed as this project progresses.

After discussion, council agreed not to host an Easter Party this year as there are too many projects at this time but a party for 2021 will be addressed at the appropriate time. Luis will be trimming the trees in the Garden and Amy will request that he trim the tree back on the north side of town. Council discussed the Santa Claus figures at the two city limit signs. No one is sure who painted them last time. Amy has requested bids from two parties to paint them after they are pressure washed. Amy spoke with the owner of the truck that is parking on city property on the south end of town informing him he is not supposed to park there which the owner was not aware of.

A new internet has been installed for the city with the phone changing over next Monday, Amy stated. The phone number will stay the same and city has received the domain of CityofSantaClaus.org. The website has a basic design and is currently a work in progress.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Amy informed council that she has applied for the LMIG grant but, due to the city audits that Gilbert and Jones are currently correcting being past due, this request is on hold. She has a bid from Sikes Brothers for repairs on Noel and December ST corners to be completed after the grant is approved.

Due to the excessive amounts of rain water in the lines, the sewer bill from the City of Lyons was \$4,500.00 this month. Amy will contact the engineers who installed the existing sewer lines to ask they evaluate capping of the old system. Eddie stated he had capped old lines reverting the one by the park. Council agreed other old lines need to be capped. Danny Florez has presented a bid for repairs on Rudolph Way for \$2,400. Monte made a motion second by Donita for Mr. Florez to repair Rudolph Way for \$2,400. before the road washes away.

Council discussed a community wide cleanup before the GA Cities Week and the Onion Festival both in April. Eddie suggested cooking hot dogs for a free lunch to get residents out to help with the cleanup. Once all city areas are cleaned, all should be painted. David Evans stated that the city needs to ensure all painters are "real" painters with references. Eddie said that Sherman Williams Paints in Vidalia will refer painters for city projects if asked. He added the wood at the pavilion and around the city should be stained and not painted.

Amy is getting bids on upgraded metal street signs stating the signs would remain white with reflective red. This was discussed by the council. Hopefully bids will be ready by the next council meeting. Amy also suggested lowering the rental prices for the Community Center with everyone agreeing they need to be lower. She will present new prices to the next meeting for review. Eddie suggested a larger refundable deposit be required in case of damages.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Lawler", written over a horizontal line.

Amy Lawler, Mayor