

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting, March 17, 2020

Mayor Amy Lawler called the meeting to order. Present were Council members, Donita Bowen, Tad Bryant, Monte Powell and David Evans who will be sworn in at the meeting to fill the 4th council post. Also present were Eddie and Elaine Wright, Chris Rustin, Lyons City Manager Jason Hall and Sue Grisham. Sue read the minutes for the February 18, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Monte second by Donita to accept minutes as read with a showing of hands that it was unanimous.

Amy first recognized Jason Hall to address the Council. Jason reminded the Council that the Lyons Fire Department (L.F.D.) has furnished fire protection for the city for many years at no annual fee. Due to the L.F.D. purchasing new equipment including a new fire truck, Lyons City Council has voted on February 25, 2020, to charge a fee, same amount charged to Lyons residents, of \$4.00 per household per month with additional fees for other structures in the city. There will be no "per call" charge unless it is an excessive fire requiring assistance from other fire departments Jason added. After his presentation to the Council, Jason left.

At this time Amy swore in David Evans to fill the council seat vacated by her when she became mayor as was decided by a unanimous vote by the Council on February 17, 2020.

Amy stated that, due to excess rain, Danny Florez has not started the concrete work at the Gardens. She added that the rain has caused major flooding in the yard at 11 Holly ST and in the north end of the Gardens. She has a bid from Luis Nino for \$900.00 for a French drain. Amy also obtained a bid from Sikes Const. for \$500.00 to grade the ditch and approximately \$1,550.00 to build up the shoulder at that location to alleviate this problem. The double gates on the east side of the Gardens catch on the concrete walkway which needs to be corrected. Eddie stated the gates do not open on city property and suggested the gates be moved to the south side of the fence to open on city property. Amy said she will contact Danny and explain the location of the gates to him before his work begins.

Monte checked on prices for two replacement fans to go under the ceiling of the Pavilion. One price was \$79.98 and one \$99.00 with the \$99.00 being heavy duty. Eddie suggested the electrician used for the construction of the structure be used for installation. Also needed installing are "EXIT" signs at the Community Center with possibly using the same electrician for this. Amy added that a piece of equipment at the playground has a dangerous broken part and needs to be removed from the area as it is a danger to kids. She added that Zac Moore would take down and remove the equipment for \$300.00. Amy suggested the purchase of a new swing set standing alone from the slide and monkey bars as required be purchased to come out of the SPLOST Fund. Tad made a motion second by Monte to hire Zac Moore to remove the broken equipment from the playground for \$300.00, council agreeing

Donita reported she has inquired about skid proof tiles for the entrance at the Community Center with no success. She suggested waterproof floor mats on the porch at the entrance as a safety precaution and council discussed. Amy stated the south end of Rudolph Way has been closed as the road is washing out. Eddie has spoken with Toombs County Roads Supervisor requesting repairs at this site. When the county installed the black drainpipe, it was not buried below the street thus causing the water to run over the pipe and wash away the road.

Council addressed the L.F.D. proposal for the fire coverage as presented by Jason Hall with much discussion. A motion was made by Donita second by Tad to accept the proposal as presented including \$4.00 per household per month and additional fees for other structures as quoted. With a show of hands, all were in favor of the proposal for fire coverage from L.F.D.

Amy is waiting for Russ Bell to finalize the necessary paperwork for his gift to the city of the land beside the park's north side entrance. Amy said she will contact Russ again. She added that trash pickup service contract has expired and we will be receiving bids from the three companies eligible to bid on our pickup service.

Amy asked all city personnel to come at 6:00 P.M. dressed in their red city official shirts and dress slacks for a photograph for the April 21, 2020, meeting

The annual Cummins service agreement for the generator at the sewer sump pump is due. Annual fee is \$716.29 but 6 months only is \$462.64 which would total \$1,178.93 if not paid annually. A single service to repair a loose wire was \$1,000.00. Council discussed with David stating he would inquire on other price options A.S.A.P. However, as of this date, the service contract has expired and immediate action is needed to cover the sump pump. A motion was made by David second by Monte to renew the contract with Cummins with unanimous show of hands in favor of the renewal.

NEW BUSINESS:

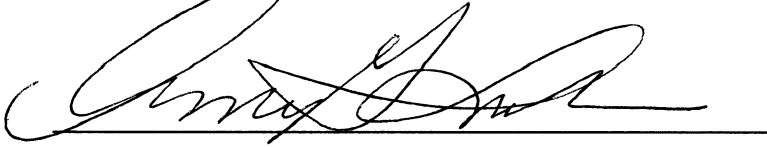
Amy informed that she recently read that the state of Georgia has ruled that deposits for water service to residence within a city cannot exceed \$175.00. City of Santa Claus is currently \$250.00. A motion was made by Tad second by Donita to lower the city's water deposit to \$175.00 with a unanimous vote in favor by Council.

The rental agreement for the Community Center was discussed. Amy stated she has had complaints that prospective renters decided not to rent the facility due to the rule that no Christmas decorations could be removed for an event. Eddie suggested that maybe some decorations be removed but that, the reason for the ruling of leaving them up year round was due to the fact that it is within the City of Santa Claus. The subject was tabled as no decision was agreed on.

Donita suggested a Community Center website be created for notices of interest to residents and maybe a post of a "Meet and Greet" in the near future. This was discussed as the "Shelter at home" order has been socially hard on residents.

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", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Amy Lawler, Mayor