

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting, January 18, 2022

The first regular meeting of the City Council for 2022 was held January 18, 2022. Present were Council members David Evans, Donita Bowen, and Brenda Sells, Chris Rustin, and Sue Grisham. Monte Powell was not present due to illness. Mayor Amy Lawler was on Skype to participate in the meeting and had emailed the agenda for the meeting. As agreed, there was no December meeting due to the busy Christmas schedule. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag to open the meeting. Sue read the minutes for the November 16, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by David, second by Donita to accept the minutes as read. All council voted to approve the minutes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: City Financial report was reviewed by the council for all accounts.

The Gardens: Donita agreed to get a key for the red donation box in the Gardens and commented on lights out in the area. Amy stated we will get 2 bids on the lights and the project would be covered under the Lost account as it is a safety issue. Lights may be added in the trees and paths to give more lighting.

The Walking Trail, Playground, Pavilion: Monte was not present but Amy stated there have been bottles broken on the Walking Trail at the Park.

Community Center: The kick plate has been added to the south door going to the handicap ramp and all exterior doors have been refinished.

Roads: David reported that the poles for the new street signs have been picked up and the process is moving forward to have the new signs installed on all streets. Amy pointed out that the south side of the parking area in front of the Gift Shop need to be repaired from damage by large vehicles. David agreed to talk with Johnny's Paving as agreed in an earlier meeting to get this repaired.

Stacy Avery, CPA, has completed and filed with the State of Georgia the 2020 City of Santa Claus taxes and financial reports making the city compliant with the state allowing the city to apply for grants.

Amy informed the Council that the E.P.D. has approved the replacement of the shed at the city well. She added that Lark Builders will need to adjust the construction of our building to cover our needs to pass the E.P.D. David met with the Moore brothers of Lark to discuss the building the month before. There has been no response to the web site request for a yard track pick up. Brenda suggested it be run in the local paper and Sue agreed to call and put an ad in the Advance for 4 weeks requesting bids to serve the City of Santa Claus in this matter. Amy added that the security cameras at City Hall will be replaced in the next few weeks.

January 16, 2022 – page 2- The Council agreed that all city activities and decorations for Christmas was a big success. The Christmas Eve candle lighting of all streets was spectacular as the weather was perfect although some bags were missing and Zac Moore contacted Shannon Bryant of Pineland Paper the morning of the 24th and Shannon got the necessary bags to complete the project. Everyone worked together for the betterment of the city making Santa Claus the place to be at Christmas.

NEW BUSINESS: Amy stated there had been a house fire on Rudolph Way on December and that, as volunteer fire fighters, Zac Moore and Larry Monroe responded to the call and extinguished the fire before the Lyons Fire Dept. arrived. David added that he too was at the fire location.

The City of Santa Claus Budget for 2022 was presented for discussion and approval. Council had reviewed the Budget prior to the meeting. A motion was made by David second by Donita with the Council agreeing unanimously to keep the millage rate for city taxes at 4%. The Council discussed the proposed budget at length reviewing each account. A motion was made by Brenda second by Donita with David agreeing for a unanimous vote in favor to accept the 2022 budget as read.

Amy informed the Council that in the mayors' web meeting by the C.D.C. she participates in weekly has informed the cities that there will be 4 free Covid tests per home handed out and available by going to covidtesting.gov.

Sue informed Council that she has had an inquiry about someone interested in running for the mayor's seat and she explained the qualifications with the first being you must be a resident of the city. The party interested does not presently live in Santa Claus.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor Protem Donita Bowen