

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting May 17, 2022

The regular meeting of the City Council was held May 19, 2022. Present were Mayor Amy Lawler, Council members Donita Bowen, Monte Powell, and Brenda Sells, also Sue Grisham, Vince Meadows, Eddie and Elaine Wright. Councilman David Evans was out of town. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag to open the meeting. Sue read the minutes for the April 19, 2022 meeting. Amy stated a correction was needed to say that she had not said T Lake of Dublin was out of business but they would not come to Santa Claus for work needed in the Gardens. A motion was made by Brenda, second by Donita to accept the minutes after the correction. All council voted to approve the minutes with the correction.

OLD BUSINESS: City Financial report was reviewed by the council for all accounts. Donita asked and Amy explained the LOST and SPLOST accounts as Donita and Brenda needed clarification on the accounts usage. Amy presented Donita with the book to explain the legal terms of use of the SPLOST account. Amy added that, due to the change in the Budget for the Garden from replacing to repairing the lights and watering system, a Correction to the Approved Budget must be implemented. This was discussed at length. She said since the Chapel and Gardens construction began, the city has been paying back \$25,000.00 per year for the construction of the Gardens which is now paid and the \$25,000.00 may be used for other projects. Money Market may be used for major projects such as replacing the generator at the sump pump if it stops. Lark Builders is working on issues for replacing the shed at the water tank. Too, the City will connect to the City of Lyons while the building is being swapped out.

The Gardens: Brenda stated that T Lake is waiting for a part to arrive for the repairs agreed on for the Garden lights. LED light bulbs will replace the old ones and the water system will be repaired where needed. Also, a new gate will replace the current gate at the south entrance that is constantly coming off the post.

The Park: Monte reported the bubble on the new playground equipment has been replaced. Brenda stated the grass on the Walking Trail needs to be cut off the asphalt.

Community Center: Donita said the ice maker has been a little out of the normal and suggested it needs to be serviced. Sue agreed to contact T.J. Sager to come check it.

Roads: The south parking lot at the City Hall needs repairing. Sue suggested getting Danny Florez to repair it with concrete as all the work he has done for the City in the past has held up. Also suggested the whole parking lot be redone with concrete which would last for many years. Donita made a motion second by Brenda to request a bid from Danny Florez on a repair on the spaces and another bid for replacing the parking lot. Council agreed unanimously.

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NEW BUSINESS: Due to the resignation of Amanda Moore who was cleaning the community center after event, Connie Odom has been hired for this position for \$100.00 per cleaning. Connie cleans the facilities at Partin Park for Lyons. She already cleaned the Community Center including the windows. She was not asked to clean the windows. Council agreed that she should be paid \$150.00 when she cleans windows.

The cost for the City of Lyons to process sewage from Santa Claus has increased Amy stated. Now that the City is in compliance with the State of Georgia, we may request grants from T-SPLOST. Future needs of the city were discussed. The City of Santa Claus presently charges each resident \$1.00 for trash pickup monthly. Republic charges the city \$12.22 per can per month for the weekly pickup. Amy suggested the city increase the pickup for each resident to \$10.00, an increase of \$9.00, to help with monthly payment to Republic. Council discussed this. Monte agreed to contact the company picking up trash in Statesboro for a quote on their service to the City of Santa Claus.

The city is EPD compliant receiving a Fresh Water annual report stating each water user must be

presented a statement informing them of the water report may be reviewed by coming by the City Hall.

Vince stated there are tree limbs hanging over Candy Cane Street and need to be trimmed. This was discussed. Eddie added that when counting, he found 78 driveway culverts to be dug out for rain water flow. Council discussed the strip of land beside the Park on the north. The owner, Russ Bell gave the property to the City but, at this time, it is unclear if the deed to the land has been received. This will be addressed.

At this time due to personal issues, Mayor Amy Lawler presented her resignation as Mayor of Santa Claus, GA, effective May 31, 2022. She presented Mayor Pro-tern Donita Bowen with books to explain many areas she will need as mayor. Vince stated that the City Charter states the mayor pro-tern will be sworn as mayor for the remainder of the resigning mayor's term. Council discussed this, Amy will be greatly missed but assured Donita and the council she is still available to assist in any way she can.