

## City of Santa Claus, Georgia

### Regular Monthly Council Meeting July 19, 2022

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held July 19, 2022. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Monte Powell, David Evans and Brenda Sells, also Sue Grisham, Chris Rustin, Renee Wright, Eddie and Elaine Wright. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag to open the meeting. Sue read the minutes for the June 21, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Brenda, second by Monte to accept the minutes. All council voted to approve the minutes as read. The first business addressed was the fact there is a vacant council seat due to the resignation of Mayor Amy Lawler effective May 31, 2022, and Mayor Protem Donita Bowen being sworn in as mayor on June 1, 2022. Council discussed at the June 21 meeting to appoint Renee Wright to fill the 4<sup>th</sup> council seat. On July 19, Council voted to appoint Renee to Seat 4. Mayor Bowen swore in Renee Wright to fill the council seat. Council voted unanimously to appoint Brenda Sells as the new Mayor Protem.

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

The Gardens: Brenda stated that T Lake is waiting on materials to arrive to repair and replace the lights. The double gates were discussed. A new gate has been installed at the front entrance.

The Park: Monte reported everything is O.K. at the Park

Community Center: Donita said she turned off the ice machine as instructed by T.J. Sager, service man.

Roads: Replacing the STOP signs on the city street was discussed. Council agreed the 24" X 24" is the size needed with a total of 36 signs required. Donita agreed to check with Darrel Corley before placing an order. Also, signs are needed for the 1-way drive around the City Hall. Council agreed there was no need to order safety cones for emergency needs as there are safety drums in the storage fence at the storage units on Noel ST.

The replacement building to house the chlorine pump at the city well as been installed by Lark Builders with Mobley Well Drilling providing the electrical and Mike of Tindell proving the support needed to remove and then re-install the chlorine pump for the process. The invoice for the building from Lark Builders was \$9650.00 which includes the foam insulation. Mobley Well Drilling invoice was \$668.20. Both are to be paid from the ARPA Account as voted on by Council. Donita stated there is another check from the governor's office to be received for the ARPA account in the near future.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The city trash pickup by Republic is \$818.74 per month. The city only charges residents \$1.00 per month with a total of about \$80.00 received for this service monthly. With the increase in prices for everything, Council voted unanimously to increase the trash pickup by \$10.00 per month per resident increasing each household to \$11.00 per month. This is still \$1.22 short of the amount paid by the city. Sue agreed to mail out a letter to residents informing them of the increase.

**July, 2022 meeting -page 2-** The monthly charge from Lyons for service of pumping the sewer to their waste station is higher some months than others. Council discussed this agreeing it appears rain water infiltrates the sewer lines thus pumping to Lyons. Council discussed this and the rate charged by the city to residents noting that a neighboring town minimum rate per household is \$80.00 per month.

There has never been reimbursement for city employees for gas mileage when performing duties for the city. Donita stated that her research states that IRS approves \$0.625 per mile for reimbursement which was discussed. A motion was made by Monte second by Brenda to reimburse city employees \$0.0625 per mile when traveling outside the city for city business. Council agreed with all in favor.

The credit card account with VYVE for the Gift Shop is \$72.49 per month but usually does not work. VYVE 4-year contract has 20 months left at \$1,441.80. Contract may be broken by paying ½. This was discussed. Vince Meadows had stated there was a WiFi receiver available for about \$300.00 to purchase that should provide the service needed for the gift shop. Renee made a motion second by Monte to pay VYVE the amount to cancel the contract for the credit card machine. Council agreed unanimously. Council also agreed to table the purchase of WiFi receiver for the gift shop at this time.

Bids from Danny Florez have been received for the parking lot at the Gift Shop. To repair the spots is \$4,100.00 and to replace the whole parking area with concrete is \$15,000.00. This was discussed with Eddie agreeing to get other bids using asphalt for this project.

Donita reported that Steve Lashley had trimmed all the trees hanging over the city streets and did a great job. However, Eddie had only discussed the project with Steve asking him for a bid to present to the Council. Steve was not given the O.K. to proceed with the tree trimming. This was discussed with Council agreeing that Steve would be paid the reasonable charge of \$750.00 with the stipulation that Sue present him with a letter to sign stating that he did not have Council agreement to do the project and was aware that all work done for the city needs Council approval. Also, anyone doing projects for the city must present a copy of their liability insurance coverage to proceed. Monte made a motion second by Renee that anyone doing work for the city must have Council's approval and present their liability insurance. All agreed in favor.

Donita reported on several points that have been completed or inquired on: 2<sup>nd</sup> ARPA check has not been received. Stacie Avery has filed the audit reports to the state. Harris has received all information to process the 2022 property taxes. Others are on file for review if needed. Lyons Mainstreet Committee is offering the city a library box of free books for anyone to access. Council approved the box being placed in the city. The city flag already purchased is too big for the pole on top of City Hall. Renee made a motion second by Monte to purchase and erect a new flagpole with Council voting unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor

