

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting, June 15, 2021

The regular meeting of the City Council was held June 15, 2021. Present were Mayor Pro tem, Tad Bryant, Council members David Evans, Donita Bowen and Monte Powell, Sue Grisham, Eddie and Elaine Wright, Kathy Joyner, John Fulford, Mary and Colan Galbreath, Chris Rustin, Wayne Ward and Vince and Charlotte Meadows. Mayor Amy Lawler was on speaker phone to participate in the meeting and had emailed the agenda for the meeting. Tad lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag to open the meeting. Sue read the minutes for the April 20, and the May 18, 2021 meetings. All council voted to approve both minutes unanimously.

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

Amy stated she has yet to receive an answer from Lark Builders on the price of a replacement building for the pump house at the water tank. She has called numerous times without obtaining a price. Tad has gotten the coins tossed into the fountain out and the total of \$5.00 has been deposited into the bank. Also, Eddie Wright has cleaned the fountain at the Gardens. Amy added that the replacement lights for the Gardens is on hold as they are not available at this time. The lights on the memorial wall in front of the Gift Shop have been replaced as some were broken.

Monte reported that he has supervised the young boys who broke the fence at the Gardens in cleaning up trash and emptying the trash cans as partial payment for the damages to replace the fence. Luis will install the borders on the ground around the new tire swing at the playground so the mulch may be delivered as it was omitted in the initial installation of the equipment but paid for. Donita stated that the Community Center is in good order except a toilet tank needs repair and she will do the repair. Also, the door latches have been repaired by Zac Moore.

David stated he has located a manhole cover off at the old Tea Room property on the corner of Holly ST and Reindeer ST. Too, the grass has been cut animously. He added that he will pick up the poles for the installation of the new street signs as soon as possible.

We are still waiting to hear from the auditor on the city audit. Sue spoke with Linda Bishop on this matter. Mobley Well Drilling has completed the water tank cleanout and the report has been sent to the GA EPD as required by Michael Derrick, Environmental Specialist at a recent inspection. Council agreed that the city's ordinance on bulldogs and any other aggressive dogs will continue to follow along with the City of Lyons.

Altamaha E.M.C. will need to be called and reminded about the installation of the new security light at the Walking Trail and replacing the other lights there. Zac is still working on installing security cameras at the Pavilion. The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the city is on hold for now.

The repairs at the City Hall exterior have been completed by Clarence Pittman and looks very good. Amy has learned that the E.P.D. has to approve the replacement of the new building over the pump house area behind the City Hall.

Luis Nino, the landscaper, has been out of work due to surgery and has not addressed the French drain at the north end of the Gardens and Reindeer ST. Also, Darrel Corley will clean out the ditches and drainpipes to help with the flooded areas. There has been a lot of rain in the past weeks, also slowing this project's completion.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mary Galbreath addressed the council complaining about low water pressure at her Noel ST residence. This was discussed at length with Vince Meadows suggesting the line at the residence be tested for pressure at the meter. Although he has been out numerous times, Tad agreed to call Darrel Corley back out to correct the problem for the Galbreaths.

Kathy Joyner asked if there was any action the city could take to stop four wheelers, golf carts and other recreational vehicles on city streets as they have become a nuisance and are being operated by young drivers appearing to be under the age for driver's license. This was discussed by all.

The tall weeds at the retaining pond and ditch at the Dollar General Store was discussed. This has been an ongoing eye sore. Sue has spoken to the lawn care contractor who stated the store manager must send a "work order request" before they are allowed to cut the weeds. Their contract is for grass only. Sue agreed to contact the store owner requesting that he assist us in getting the weeds cut. The neglected Cliff Duerfeldt property on the corner of Holly ST and Reindeer ST was discussed with a suggestion that the health department be contacted as this is a safety hazard to the city. Also, Brenda Williams, Toombs County Tax Commissioner needs to be contacted in reference to Duerfeldt's delinquent taxes.

At this time, Charles Bryant, Tad, announced that he is resigning from his council seat and as the mayor pro-tem effective June 30, 2021 to pursue other interests. He will turn in all city keys and the credit card at that time. Amy stated that council will need to appoint a person to fill Tad's seat for the remainder of his term. She suggested her son-in-law, Zac Moore, for this position. Vince stated there may be an ethics clause in the city charter not allowing 2 persons from the same address sit on the council at the same time. Sue agreed to contact Tina Maddox, city attorney, to address this. A new appointment will be voted on at the regular July meeting.

Any further city business will be addressed if it should come up for discussion and be handled by Tad with a sign-off sheet for the Council Members.

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