

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting, November 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the City Council was held November 16, 2021. Present were Council members David Evans, Donita Bowen, Monte Powell, and Brenda Sells, also Sue Grisham, Eddie and Elaine Wright, Zac and Amanda Moore. Mayor Amy Lawler was on speaker phone to participate in the meeting and had emailed the agenda for the meeting. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag to open the meeting. Sue read the minutes for the October 19, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Brenda, second by David 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: Christmas lights are going up and will be completed up as soon as possible.

The Walking Trail, Playground, Pavilion: Monte has measured the playground equipment for Amy to order the replacement part that has been broken. This was discussed. Amy stated the Sump Pump needs to be cleaned. Sue said that Darrel is keeping a watch on it and will call when it is needed. Amy added that it may need to be cleaned every 2 years to be in compliance.

Community Center: The south door at the handicap ramp needs repair at the bottom. Discussed deciding a kick plate may correct the problem. Also, the other exterior the doors need to be re-stained. Sue said she will call Clarence Pittman to check on this as he has done work for the city in the past.

Roads: David reported that Rudolph Way has been paved on the south end. Also, crush and run has been placed on the south end of Salem ST making it more accessible to traffic. The hole on reindeer ST has been repaired. The parking lot at the City Hall needs to be re-striped and sealed with Johnny's Paving agreeing on about \$3,000.00 for this. The new street signs and poles are still in the process of completion.

With sadness, the Council discussed the sudden death of Clay Cumbee, the decorator for all the Christmas decorations. Clay has done an excellent for the city for some 12 years. Zac Moore is putting the lights on the Christmas Tree at City Hall for party on Thursday, November 18. Council discussed what needs to be done to prepare the city for the Christmas season. Sue called Ellis Collins of Ellis's Florist and he is coming out on Wednesday to discuss and begin the work normally done by Clay.

Property tax notices have been received by property owners. Sue stated some payments have already been made.

Amy informed the Council that the 2014 thru 2019 taxes data has been completed and filed with the State of Georgia Dept. of Community Affairs. Linda Bishop is working to complete 2020 so that this too may be filed with the state. Year 2021 will be completed by January, 2022.

**November 16, 2021 – page 2-** As of this date, Amy still has not received response from EPD on the approval of a replacement shed over the pump at the well. She added that the web site posted for bids on replacing the roof on the City Hall. Donita asked if the web page is accessible for anyone to review which it is. DBM Construction of Lyons and Rush Roofing of Glennville gave bids. Deadline for bids has expired. DBM bid \$1,100 more than Rush and but offered a 50 years materials and 25 years labor warranty and included gutters. After discussion, a motion was made by Brenda second by David to accept the bid from DBM Construction with Council voting unanimously in favor by raising of hands for McDonald to replace the City Hall roof for \$8,650.00.

The yard trash pick up bid will be open until January, 2022, as it will have been on the website for a month. Price for security cameras at City Hall is \$2,175.00 for 6 cameras although 2 more may be needed. This will be 4 on the corners, at the front door and 1 inside. The current system, Blink is not reliable and may be moved to the Gift Shop. A motion was made by David second by Donita to install the new security cameras with all agreeing unanimously.

Chatters will cater the Christmas supper on December 9, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Community Center for all residents. This was discussed with Council agreeing that the meal will be a sit-down affair with notices to all residents that take-out meals will be available if they do not want to eat in. Motion was made by Monte second by Donita to have the Christmas supper for 2021 an inside affair and all Council agreed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Monte stated the EPD Water Samples have been turned in to Tindall report shows out of 5 samples, 1 had elevated levels of lead. A second sample was taken from that residence and turned in to Tindall. All residents are required to be notified of the results.

Council agreed that, due to the busy schedule, there will be no meeting of the Council in December. The January 2022, meeting will have the Budget discussed and acceptance. Some topics for discussion are street striping, utilities for the city lot, lights for the Gardens, and new playground equipment. Zac has agreed to remove the old swing set that is dangerous due to decay. Also, the Walking Trail needs to be repaved. GMA is having free seminars for elected officials on February 23 thru 25 in Athens and March 16 thru 18 in Tifton and is open to all cities of 1,000 or less.

The Tree Lighting is on Thursday, two days away. The parades are coming up, Lyons on Friday, December 3 at 6:00 P.M. and Vidalia, Saturday, December 4 at 11:00 A.M. The Mayor agreed to represent the City in both parades. Donita stated Darrel Corley of the City of Lyons helped clean out the city storage building by taking things Lyons could use.

The purchase of new Christmas decorations was discussed noting that commercial decorations are very costly. Amy stated that the package of the lights must be marked to insure an Ever Light- lifetime bulbs. Eddie suggested that Council tour neighboring towns to look at their Christmas lights and decorations.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor Protem \_\_\_\_\_