

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting, October 20, 2020

Mayor Amy Lawler is in California with her ill mother but present on speaker phone. Mayor Pro-tem Tad Bryant called the meeting to order. Present were Council members Donita Bowen, Monte Powell and David Evans and Sue Grisham, Santa Claus (Woody Smith), Jerry Hodges, and former mayor, Vince Meadows. Tad led group in the Pledge Allegiance to the flag to open the meeting. Sue read the minutes for the September 15, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Tad second by Monte to accept minutes as read with a showing of hands that it was unanimous.

The mayor e-mailed the meeting agenda with a copy of balances for all bank accounts for the City of Santa Claus for review by council. These were discussed.

OLD BUSINESS: There have been speakers damaged in the Gardens and David agreed to order and install the new speakers. Amy stated there may be speakers in the city storage building and asked David to check there before placing an order. Tad agreed to go to Altamaha B & T and close the Special Projects account there as there has been no activity in the account for some time but, the bank is charging \$10.00 per month thus the account balance is dwindling down. Council voted unanimously at the August meeting to close the account and deposit the balance to the Mayor Account at People's Bank as it has a debit card for small purchases when needed. Tad was asked to get a cashier's check in the amount of the account balance and deposit it into the Mayor Account at People's Bank.

Amy stated as voted on by the Council, she has ordered the playground equipment for the park. The equipment costs \$14,997.00 plus the mulch needed with a total purchase of \$22,485.00. Monte stated the swing beside the Pavilion at the Park is tearing apart and he will purchase necessary parts and repair that swing.

Donita stated that the ice machine at the Community Center is frequently tripping off. This was discussed and Council asked Sue to call T.J. Sager, electrician, who has worked on the machine in the past and ask him to check it. Donita added that the rod to hang the tablecloths has not been installed. Sue stated the crew would be coming on Wednesday, 11/18/20, to clean the building.

Sue stated that there has been a complaint again about the basketball goal in the street on Noel ST. David agreed to check with the resident and move the goal out of the street if needed. He added that he has inquired about getting limbs hanging over the street trimmed. Chris Kilgore Tree Serv. has been too busy to serve us.

Amy stated she has been inquiring to contact the proper party to have the tall weeds removed around the retention pond at the Dollar General Store as agreed during the construction of the store.

Sue informed the Council that Clay Cumbie, as in the past, would begin decorating the city facilities on November 7 & 8. Amy added that decorations the Council put up are in the storage shed.

NEW BUSINESS: Santa Claus, Woody, addressed the Council at this time. His schedule is booked up but he will try to come by for the Tree Lighting, no definite commitment to that night. However, he is definitely scheduled to be with us on Thursday, December 10, 2020, for the Christmas supper for all families. He asked if the city wanted to contract him to be with us each year in the future for the Tree Lighting. After discussion, Council agreed that we want Santa Claus, Woody, to be with us every year for the Tree Lighting on the Thursday prior to Thanksgiving and the 2nd Thursday of December for the Christmas supper for all residents.

Jerry Hodges asked Council to sell him C41A 033F, a 25' X 150' strip of land bordering on the north side of Gail Lewis' property on Rudolph Way he purchased from Mrs. Lewis as the building on that property is on that part of the city land. Council asked for \$1,200.00 for the land requested and Jerry replied, since he is paying for surveying and attorney fees, he offered \$800.00. This was discussed. Donita made a motion to sell the 25' X 150' strip of land to Jerry for \$1,000.00 second by Monte with Council voting unanimously in favor of the sale with all hands up. Jerry agreed on this purchase price. This land is listed in Plat Book 33 page 616 in the Toombs County Clerk's Office.

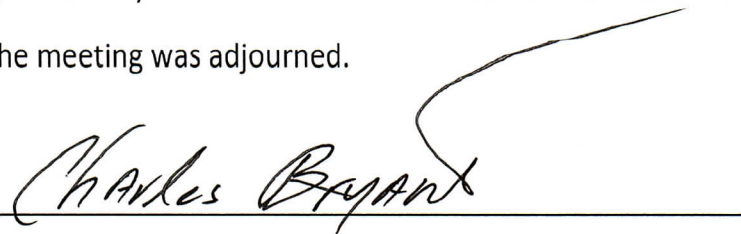
David agreed to recheck the wash under Reindeer ST to decide if it needs immediate repair. Amy stated that property taxes notices have been ordered with a due date of December 31, 2020. Sue stated that only one solar light on the rails entering City Hall are burning. Amy suggested that new lights need to be purchased. New batteries will not correct the problem as she has tried this in the past. Tad agreed to take care of the solar lights at City Hall. Amy stated that the city is in the computer system at Lowe's with tax free purchases and there may be a discount by using the city's phone number, 526-6949.

Amy reminded the Council that \$9,000.00 was allocated for the replacement of the porch at City Hall. This has not been done. Santa Claus, Woody, stated that lumber for building is very high at this time. Amy asked Council to vote for \$30,000.00 be allocated for future repairs of City Hall as it needs a new roof, front porch, etc. Tad made a motion second by David with Council agreeing unanimously that the City allocate \$30,000.00 for future repairs at City Hall with a unanimous decision from Council.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Charles (Tad) Bryant, Mayor Pro-tem

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charles Bryant", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.