

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting, October 19, 2021

The regular meeting of the City Council was held September 21, 2021. Present were Council members David Evans, Donita Bowen and Monte Powell, Sue Grisham, Eddie and Elaine Wright. New Council member Brenda Sells was out of town. 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 September 21, 2021 meetings. A motion was made by David, second by Donita 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. These were reviewed by Council. Sue stated the landscaper, Luis Nino, has removed a dead tree in the Garden and all trees in the Garden have been trimmed.

Eddie and Elaine have cleaned all the weeds and shrubs out of the large concrete culvert at the east end of the Walking Trail so that flowers may be planted in it for beautification. Amy stated the plastic bubble on the small playground equipment has been broken and needs to be removed. Monte agreed to measure it for a replacement bubble. Amy added that she has been informed the old swings are showing wear and need to be removed from the playground and be replaced. We will need a catalog to shop for a replacement swing. The security cameras have been installed at the Pavilion. One camera is high up under the inside of the shelter and one is on the NE eve showing the playground area.

Donita stated that T.J. Sager came out to the Community Center and instructed her in the cleaning of the new ice maker as she has not done it in the past. T.J. gave her good instruction for future care of the ice maker. Donita agreed to inspect the outside door at the handicap ramp as it is deteriorating from age.

David reported the posts for the new street signs are being painted. He ordered the brackets for the posts and they arrived on 10/18. He has delivered the drill and other tools needed to Mr. Anders for the assembly of the posts. He will check with Raider Kennedy on getting the stripes on the posts. David added that the street at the corner of Reindeer ST and Rudolph Way is washing out again. He agreed to take care of this problem. The rights of way on Reindeer ST and Salem ST have been cut back. David picked up several garbage bags full of trash from the shoulders of those streets.

October 19, 2021 – page 2- Amy agreed to contact McLendon Enterprises and obtain prices for the road work needed on Rudolph Way. She added that the property tax notices are in process and should be mailed out by the end of the month. The accountant has informed the city that, due to the amount of money spent in 2015, an audit will be required by the state. Hopefully, 2015 thru 2020 will be completed by the close of 2021 and that 2021 may be completed by June, 2022, putting the city in compliance with the state. When the city is in compliance with the state, we will be able to request grants for large projects.

Amy still has not received response from EPD on the approval of a replacement shed over the pump at the well. Dollar General Store weeds at the retention pond still have not been cut. The delinquent property taxes have been paid in full by Cliff Duerfeldt.

NEW BUSINESS: Amy has requested bids on the website for the replacement roof with rain gutters on the city hall. Brad McDonald has come out, inspected the city hall roof and will give us a price to reroof the building and install gutters to help alleviate the runoff on the walkway. Other names suggested to request prices from were Rush Roofing, AAA Roofing. Amy added that the insulation in the attic at city hall needs to be replaced. Bryant Insulation was suggested for a price. This was discussed. Covers on the gutters would be needed also.

Sue stated that the walkway into the gift shop gets wet and moss grows on it asking if the limbs hanging over could be cut off. Council agreed and Sue will contact Luis asking him to trim the limbs off. Amy said she will ask for bids on the website for the yard trash curb site pick up. Sue spoke with Lance Sikes about him doing this but he has not given a final answer on the matter.

Security cameras are needed at the City Hall for safety. A camera is needed to show a direct line to the back on the Santa Claus Minit Mart due to recent crime there. A motion was made by Donita and second by David to add cameras to be installed at the city hall. All voted in favor of the purchase of security cameras at city hall showing the back of the store.

The upcoming Christmas Supper for residents on December 9, 2021, was discussed. Council will need to make a decision on having a "sit down meal" or a "to go meal" served by the council. This decision will be decided at the November 16 meeting according to the recommendations for Covid safety guidelines.

Sue said she has called the Toombs County Sheriff Dept. and requested deputy patrols in the city for the Trick or Treat night on October 30, 2021. Donita inquired on the idea of a cut out Christmas themed poster for visitors to take pictures placed in front of the Gift Shop. This was discussed with Donita agreeing to try to make one for review. Elaine informed Council that she has no word from Brenda Sells in reference to the purchase of new outdoor Christmas decorations but will inquire with Brenda when she returns back home.

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

Donita Bowen, Mayor Protem