

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting, September 21, 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, Chris Rustin, Zac Moore and Charlotte & Vince Meadows. 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, with the assistance of Zac, read the minutes for the July 15, 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. Amy informed the Council the \$29,688.00 from ARPA has been placed in a new account for easier distribution and tracking of the expenditures for the funds. This was discussed with Council agreeing unanimously.

Amy stated she has been in contact with BYO and the mulch for the new playground equipment will be delivered soon. She added that Michael Carroll is to check and give us a price for the Pavilion and Playground to install security cameras to record any activity in those areas as we continue to have vandalizing there. J.B. Dykes will come out and install switches with timers for the lights and fans at the Pavilion as they are frequently left on.

Donita stated there are no problems at the Community Center at present adding she needs the cleaning solution for the ice maker as we will have several bookings there in the next few months. Sue agreed to contact T.J. Sager to deliver the solution.

David has picked up the poles for the installation of the new street signs and that project is progressing.

As stated in July, Charles Bryant resigned as councilman. He was also the Mayor Protem. A motion was made by Monte second by David to appoint Donita Bowen as Mayor Protem and all agreed unanimously. Mr. Bryant's departure left an open council seat for the remaining 22 months of his term. A motion was made by Donita second by Monte to appoint Brenda F. Sells to fill this seat. All voted in favor for Brenda F. Sells to complete the 22 months replacing Charles Bryant. At this time, Donita swore Brenda in as the new City of Santa Claus Council Member.

Amy has called the EPD for approval on the Lark Building to replace the old building over the well pump behind the city hall but hasn't received a conformation. The retention pond weeds at Dollar General Store was addressed again with no action to cut the weeds. The city has called and sent letters to DG and the owner of the building but still no action.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Council signed the resolution to accept the ARPF, a formality with all four council members.

Brenda Williams, Toombs County Tax Collector has notified the city that the property of Clifford Duerfeldt will go to public auction for nonpayment of taxes on October 12 and informed the city we can include the past due taxes for his property in the city at this time. Her public notice includes all taxes owed by Mr. Duerfeldt. All taxes must be paid by closing time on that date. She added that, a new buyer of such property cannot legally do anything to the property for 1 year and 1 day following purchase if there is a sale.

Amy stated she has posted a notice on the website for bids on the new street sign poles installation with no response. David has a bid and explained the agreement he received for completion. Raider Kennedy (912-585-2686) will stripe the poles. Council discussed. Poles will be painted, pin stripes on them, assemble signs, install with concrete at base to secure posts in ground for about \$3,100.00. Neil Anderson will be assembling the signs and posts. The STOP signs leaving the city on U.S. Hwy. # 1 will regulated size as required by DOT. A motion was made by Donita second by David with council agreeing unanimously.

There was no August, 2021, meeting due to a Covid upsurge. The millage rate had to be approved in August. Sue contacted each council member and all agreed to continue the millage rate at 4%. At the meeting of September 21, Council signed the form and a motion was made by Monte second by Donita with all 4 council members agreeing to keep the millage rate for 2022 at 4%.

The subject of yard trash was brought before the council. This has been a service to the residents in the past. Amy stated she will put a request for bids to do this on the website. This was discussed. A motion was made by Monte second by Dointa with all council agreeing unanimously to start a yard trash pickup for the residents.

Amy has requested that Brad McDonald come out, inspect the city hall roof and 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.

Clay Cumbee has been informed that the Christmas decorations need to be put up before the tree lighting on November 18. He is to purchase some new decorations as agreed on last Christmas. Donita suggested the city storage shed on Noel ST be cleared out of the large inflatables, sled, etc. Elaine suggested the city purchase commercial grade decorations as they are more durable, even adding 1 or 2 pieces each year because of the higher price. Christmas decorations were discussed. Brenda agreed to head up the purchase of new items with Elaine agreeing to assist her. Elaine requested the council set a budget for the purchase. Council agreed to a \$3,500.00 budget for 2021 purchases. Clay added \$1,500.00 last season. Brenda will research prices and report back at the October meeting. Eddie suggested that old blowups be used the upcoming season & replaced as new purchases are available.



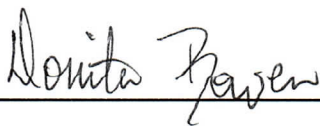
The right-of-way on Reindeer St and Salem ST need to be cut back off the shoulders. Sikes Construction gave a bid of \$8,500.00. Steve Lashley gave a price of \$6,500.00. Eddie has contacted Junior's Mowing who came out and gave a bid of \$1,200.00. He has a cutting mower to cut upright along the woods. Motion was made by Monte second by David to hire Junior's Mowing to cut the right-of-way with a unanimous vote. It was stated that some trees on Sleigh ST and Candy Cane St also need to be cut with council agreeing to add this to the job paying the additional cost. Amy added that she will contact McLendon Enterprises for a price to scrape the dirt sections of Salem ST and Rudolph Way. Hopefully these can be paved in the near future. Vince suggested getting a bid from Sikes Construction as they have done work for the city in the past.

Trick or Treat will be October 30, 2021, same night as Lyons, at 6:00 P.M. till 8:00 P.M. Sue will call the Toombs County Sheriff's office and request that deputies patrol our streets at that time. It is decided by each resident if they participate in handing out candy at their home. Sue will mail out letters of upcoming events to all residents. Upcoming is Trick or Treat, October 30, Christmas Tree Lighting November 18, Christmas Supper, December 10 and Candle Lighting preparations on December 24.

David agreed to contact the resident of 11 Holly ST to move the old bread truck off the right-of-way on Reindeer ST as it is on city property.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donita Bowen", is written over a horizontal line.

Donita Bowen, Mayor Protem