

## City of Santa Claus, Georgia

### Regular Monthly Council Meeting August 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held August 16, 2022. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Monte Powell and Renee Wright, also Sue Grisham and resident Marcie Rogers. Council member Brenda Sells was out of state and Councilman David Evans had Covid. However, both were in on the meeting by phone for some discussions. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag to open the meeting. Sue read the minutes for the July 19, 2022 meeting. No corrections were advised for the minutes.

Donita asked Marcie if she had an issue to discuss with Council. Marcie stated that she was concerned about the \$10.00 per month increase in the trash pickup. Council explained this was necessary to cover the cost to the City from Republic Industries who services the city. Residents have been charged only \$1.00 per month which is far less than the \$12.22 the city is charged.

**OLD BUSINESS:** City Financial report was reviewed by the council for all accounts. The second A.R.P.A. check has arrived from the state in the amount of \$29,688.00.

The Gardens: Brenda reports that T Lake is still waiting on materials to arrive to repair and replace the lights. Eddie Wright has stated he will try to repair the double gates. The new gate installed at the front entrance cost \$1,000.00.

The Park: Monte reported everything is O.K. at the Park. He continues to monitor the area and prepare the restrooms when a party is scheduled.

Community Center: Renee is now responsible for overseeing the Community Center. Donita explained some of the routine duties which includes the ice maker reminding her that it needs to be cleaned and only turned on when the building is scheduled for use. Roads: Due to David's absence, there was no road issues to discuss.

Sue has mailed all residents a letter informing them of the increase of \$10.00 for the trash pickup to defray the fee making the monthly fee for trash pickup \$11.00 per month. Nothing has been received from Lyons Main Street on the library box they requested to place in the city at no cost to the city. This would be for books available to borrow by anyone. Donita stated that she has been told that Tony Meadows has complained about someone using his mailbox. When Sue came to work with the city, she asked then mayor Vince Meadows if it would be O.K. for her to use Tony's mailbox for outgoing mail as Tony is Vince's brother. Vince stated that would be no problem. However, Sue will not use Tony's mailbox for outgoing mail in the future. The VYVE contract has been paid and cancelled the credit card service for the Gift Shop. New U.S.A. and Georgia flags arrived and were erected by Vince Meadows. Eddie Wright has ordered a new pole for the city flag & will erect it.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Donita stated that there has never been a business license purchased from the city of the 18 apartments in the City rented out monthly. She is presently inquiring on this with neighboring towns. Donita has received a letter from France requesting a Georgia state flag and Sue agreed to mail one out as requested.

**Meeting, August 16, 2022 – page 2** As in the past, the issue of the overgrown areas at the Dollar General Store including the retention pond was discussed. Donita has spoken to the manager, district manager and building owner, Mr. Sfassie. Mr. Sfassie stated the grounds is the responsibility of local store. Donita was instructed to hand deliver a letter stating the need for the weeds being cut to the store manager to be passed up the chain of command. Sue was asked to draw a letter stating the same and add the city attorney, Tina Maddox, will be contacting them if the matter is not resolved. Also, she is to add the need to clean the white fence dividing the city and store properties owned by Dollar General.

The cleaning of the white fences in the city were discussed with Donita stating Eddie had suggested waiting until October to clean them. The drainage issue at the Gardens and Holly ST property was discussed. Donita informed Council the candles for the Christmas Eve Street project have arrived. Sue will be ordering the white bags and the sand for the project. The 36 new STOP signs and 4 "Keep Right" signs cost \$1,734.48. Darrel Corley has agreed to install the signs to charge according to the time involved. Also, Donald Kight may be contacted to paint arrows on the streets for the "right way". Zac Moore of Parlor is working on the city web site. There were other Christmas ideas discussed with Donita suggesting maybe the Norad Christmas Eve tracking of Santa Clause himself on the website. The bid for Christmas decorating will be placed on the city website. Last year's decorations are stored in the attic at the Community Center and need to be taken down and moved to the city storage shed o Noel ST.

Marcie asked if a message could be put on the office answering machine with current city news such as when the water is turned off.

Upcoming dates for city activities were discussed with council agreeing on Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 P.M. for the Tree lighting party and Thursday, December 8, at 6:00 P.M. for the annual resident's family Christmas supper at the Community Center. Santa Clause will be present at both events for the pictures and wish lists from all the kids.

Water meter lids and/or boxes need to be replaced per Rustin Wright who is reading the meters. Sue has already contacted Darrel Corley who is ordering the replacements. Donita has contacted Radar Kennedy and he is working on the photo board to be installed in front of the Gift Shop for visitors to take photos while in town. This was discussed with Donita informing Council aluminum would last longer and will cost about \$1,256.00 not including installation. Donita contacted David and Brenda by phone during the meeting with both agreeing in favor of Radar proceeding with the photo board.

The small STOP signs that do not meet state regulations will be placed in the Gift Shop for sale for \$15.00 each to get part of the costs of their purchase. Donita stated she has received a letter from John's Creek, GA, from a group stating they were available to do landscaping for the city. She is researching this further.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor

