

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting November 15, 2022

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held November 15, 2022. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Monte Powell, Brenda Sells and Renee Wright, Eddie and Elaine Wright, Chris Rustin, Sue Grisham and GMA District Representative, Artiffany Stanley. Councilman David Evans was out of town working. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of October 19, 2022 were read. Council voted unanimously to accept them as read.

OLD BUSINESS: City Financial report was reviewed by the council for all accounts.

Mrs. Stanley was present to inform the Council services G.M.A. has to offer the city as a member of G.M.A. Donita asked for advice on the direction the city may use moneys received by the city. Mrs. Stanley suggested River Service Consultant Advocacy holding training sessions at the state and national levels for city officials. These will be held in March in Athens, GA. SPLOST was discussed with Mrs. Stanley stating she is available to come to the city and hold an orientation for newly elected official. The state of Georgia the upcoming training for officials taking office since 1990. She also explained ARPA account. Brenda asked about an "occupancy tax/permit" she had been charged in another state and Mrs. Stanley agreed to inquire on this and report back to the city. Brenda stated this could be another way to bring revenue into the city.

The Gardens: Eddie has repaired the double gates at the Garden. Three lights need to be replaced or repaired on the trail. Donita contacted the company the nativity scene was purchased, and they will contact the vender to get a replacement for the stable or lights on it.

The Park: The Walking Trail looks good after the resurfacing. Luis Nino has added topsoil and graded it in the areas needed.

Community Center: Connie stated a toilet was leaking when she cleaned, and Murray Plumbing replaced the bad bolts and seal. Roads: No update as David is working out of town.

Renee's daughter, Quortney Jernigan, has agreed to attend the Tree Lighting ceremony and take pictures of all the events for the city.

Donita and Brenda informed the council they attended the District G.M.A. meeting in Vidalia recently.

Billy Ray Tanner has resurfaced the parking areas at the City Hall with asphalt, lined the parking spaces, installed the "Handicap" sign, and is painting the "Keep Right" signs on the streets at City Hall. He also completed the resurfacing including cutting out roots where needed.

LOST funds appropriations: City approval for the funds have been sent reflecting the 1% option. No word from Mainstreet Lyons on the "Book Box". The annual Tree Lighting is on schedule for Thursday, November 17. Decorations are nearing completion throughout the city. Donita has gotten Coca Cola & Little Debbie to donate some products for the night. She will place reminders on Facebook asking for assistance and remind residents of the door decoration contest. Sue will send out a letter to all residents reminding them of the Christmas supper on December 8 and the Christmas Eve street lighting project.

Meeting, November 15, 2022 – page 2 Donita stated the Council still needs to address the payments to the City of Lyons for sewer annually. She added the LOST funds cover emergencies for the system. Council discussed the matter.

Sue was asked to contact Curb Appeal to proceed with cleaning the fences, get an estimate from Clarence Pittman for repairs needed at the Pavilion, and remind Luis to trim the shrubs at the park. He stated the need for a drainage ditch at the south end of the Gardens parking lot as dirt builds up there. Donita gave him the O.K. to proceed with the drainage ditch to correct the problem. The fire hydrant is flushed each month probably causing the excess water in the area.

Donita said she cleaned up the space between the two storage buildings and took old STOP signs to Morris Salvage and sold them for \$91.50 for the city. She added that due to water running off in the center of City Hall porch, Clarence has repaired that area. Beverly Youmans informed Donita when she was decorating on the top balcony at the porch, the railing seemed weak. Clarence addressed this too. Weston Cox of GIRMA is scheduled to tour the city buildings on December 21, 2022, at 10:00 for a Safety Inspection for the city liability insurance.

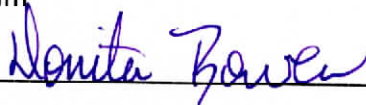
GMA sent a notice that newly elected officials have mandated training that needs to be completed. Training is scheduled for March 1-3, 2023, at the University of Georgia's Center for Continuing Education. Georgia General Assembly passed (O.C.G.A. 36-45-1) requiring the training. This includes city officials sworn into office after July 1, 1990. Registration is open for a fee of \$440.00. Council discussed. Costs for all city officials will be \$2,200.00. Donita stated John Jones, Toombs County Manager, assisted the city in cleaning the ditched at Dollar General. Too, Jimmy Warren cleaned the fence at the store and will give a separate invoice to be forwarded to Dollar General Headquarters. Demetrius Ford assisted in getting the ditches cleaned out ditches at the north on Reindeer and U.S.# 1 to eliminate a fire when luminaries are lit on Christmas Eve.

Zac Moore of Parlor has entered all data involved with the city. Council voted for Billy Ray Tanner to patch the asphalt at the apartments on Reindeer East. Rader Kennedy has completed the photo boards and they installed. A sheriff deputy has spoken to the parents of the kids who damaged the new street signs again as they have not contacted City Hall since the incident even though Sue mailed a letter to them about it. Council agreed the city needs to proceed in the subject collecting for the damages.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donita Bowen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends across the page.