

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting January 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held January 17, 2023. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Monte Powell, Brenda Sells, David Evans and Renee Wright, Eddie and Elaine Wright, and Vince Meadows. Sue Grisham was absent due to illness. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of November 15, 2022 were read. Brenda made a motion second by Renee to accept the minutes as read. Council voted unanimously to accept.

OLD BUSINESS: City Financial report was reviewed by Council.

The Gardens: Brenda has called T Lake to request repairs on the lights burned out or damaged at the Gardens. Donita stated that, although the company sent replacement lights for the Nativity Scene, the replaced part did not light. **The Park:** Monte stated there are no issues at the Park. Vince stated the timer on the security light at the Pavilion needs to be adjusted to come on at sundown. **Community Center:** Renee stated all is good at the building. Murray Plumbing replaced the leaking toilet last month. **Roads:** David had no issues to report with the streets.

Council agreed all the Christmas activities were a great success. Donita stated she feels lights and a new topper on the Christmas Tree need to be replaced for next Christmas. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to purchase all new lights for the tree for 2023. Sue informed Donita that she had spoken to the owner of the old Jones house and he had Luis clean all the property of overgrowth. There was discussion about dogs running around without a leash although the city has an ordinance stating that all dogs must be on a leash if they are not contained on the property.

Donita stated she met with GMA Liability Ins. inspector Weston Cox, on December 20, 2022, for the scheduled inspection. He informed her the city needs to erect handicap bars in the restrooms at the Gift Shop and Pavilion. She added election for 2 council posts and mayor will be in November. Notice will be posted in the Advance. Qualifying fees are \$18.00 for council post each and \$35.00 for mayor seat. Carey Allgood, Toombs County Election Supervisor, is assisting us in this.

New Business: Due to the extreme cold weather on Christmas Eve morning, the city water froze for a few hours. Thanks to all who got the water service restored to the residents. Since then, Eddie has had Luis to wrap all the pipes with insulation at the water tank. A complaint that no candles were placed at 15 Rudolph Way on Christmas Eve, as is customary, and there had never been any placed there although the owner is a taxpayer to the city with discussion.

GMA sent a notice that all newly elected city officials are required to attend training . This will be March 1-3 in Athens, GA at the University of Georgia's Center for Continuing Education. GA General Assembly passed legislation (O.C.G.A. 36-45-1) that all persons elected after July 1, 1990, must attend the training .Donita has registered the required council members at \$440.00 each and, due to the travel distance and times of early classes, has reserved lodging for February 28 thur morning of March 3.

January 17, 2023, -page 2- Donita has received notice that the City of Santa Claus and the City of Lyons need an annual Fire Protection contract for Lyons to furnish fire protection to Santa Claus. Darrel Corley will contact Jason Hall on 1/17/23 and have the contract sent to Santa Claus. Following the Council approving the 2023 budget, Donita will renew the GIRMA Liability Insurance and include a copy of the approved budget.

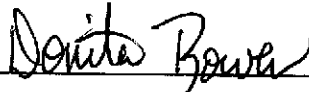
The attic space at the City Hall needs to be completely cleared out so that insulation may be installed. Eddie will contact Luis to clear the debris out for us. Donita has received emails concerning our submitting the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) by the deadline of February 1, 2023. Our formula amount for the Fiscal Year 2023 is \$3,813.69 and our local match is 10% which will be \$381.37. Donita plans to start working on submitting the grant on January 18.

The 2023 Budget was submitted to the Council for review and approval. After discussion by the Council, a motion was made by Brenda second by Monte to accept the 2023 Budget as presented. Council voted unanimously to accept the 2023 Budget. All data for the budget will be on file with the meeting notes for review by anyone by request.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black 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.