

# CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING

April 18, 2023

## AGENDA

7:00 – PM – CALL MEETING TO ORDER ROLL CALL

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- READING OF MINUTES/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
- COMMENTS/PUBLIC ISSUES
- FINANCIAL REPORT (Hand out)

### 1. COUNCIL AGENDA /ISSUES/WORK UPDATES:

**GARDEN** - Brenda Sells - Updates.. TLake?

**PARK** - Monte Powell - Updates? Lights?

**COMMUNITY CENTER** - Renee Wright - Update?

**ROADS AND APPEARANCE** - David Evans - Update?

### 2. OLD BUSINESS:

- Proof eyeglass wipes for selling in gift the shop...
- Still need to review the amount paid every year to Lyons due to Lyons Sewer prices increasing. Is what we are collecting covering all the cost increases? Or do we need to charge more for sewage? Currently LOST funds do help us pay for emergencies but is this going to be sufficient for future usage? Finally try to determine what is causing the drastic increase and see what needs to be done to fix.
- We still need to get the 4 handicap rails installed in the Men's & Women's restrooms at the Park and Gift Shop. I'm still in the process of revising the copy of Lyons Employee Handbook to make it more applicable to us.
- I contacted Tom Peterson to see if he would be interested in representing us in any legal matters that we may have. I was informed that he was going to have to decline the offer as he had 2 reasons. One was that he knew who we currently had representing us and she was a friend of his therefore he didn't want to 'step on her toes', but foremost as he is already representing Lyons and us being in the same county he didn't think it was best that he do it as to, even though it might never happen, there could be an incident whether him representing them and us could be a conflict of interest.
- We received \$25 for the reindeer sign replacement.
- We're still needing David to sign GMA's Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the City of Santa Claus, if he's in agreement, so I can email it back to them.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS:

- Due to our Newly Elected Officials classes we have rescinded the mayor and council raises. We also need to check into the millage rate as to whether it needs to be adjusted. I requested some information from Artiffany Stanley, with GMA, concerning the millage rate and I still need to go over the information that she emailed me
- I got in touch with Selena (Peoples Bank) and asked her to transfer the funds from our LOST account over to the General account. There shouldn't be any issues combining those accounts ... the only thing is we need to ensure that the deposit is tagged/noted as it being LOST funds. After she moved the funds another deposit came in. So she informed me that she made that transfer also but that I need to address changing the account for the future deposits to go in the correct account. I'm still trying to get in touch

## CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING

April 18, 2023

### AGENDA

with someone to change the account information. She also removed\closed the LOST account.

- In addition, I've also asked Selena to move the ARPA funds over to the Water & Sewage account and close it also. I also have to submit the report for our ARPA funds as the deadline is April 30th. We have to submit the report whether we had used any of the funds or not. I'm trying to make an update concerning the chemical building. And I'm also trying to find out how we need to address the remaining funds. If we can leave it open or if we have to go ahead and assign the funds to a project. I'm not sure how long they allow the funds to remain undetermined. I've got a Webinar meeting this Friday morning at 9:00 and I hope it's able to clarify some of the issues for me. And lastly, I requested her to make another account for us - ROADS (it is maintaining our LMIG grant funds and the 10% deposited match from us).
- I went to see our attorney, Tina Maddox, Tuesday, April 12th concerning the Dollar General store not maintaining their retention ditches and about the dogs in the neighborhood being loose. She asked which we wanted her to address 1st and I recommended the Dollar store. My thoughts were so that we could assist Luis if it's determined that he's the one to maintain them, as it's getting higher and thicker the longer that it's being neglected and also it's beginning to get warmer. I got copies of the correspondence with the Dollar store & the Sfassie family and delivered them to Tina the afternoon of Friday, April 14th .
- I'm currently still working on typing up the 'drafted' Zone Ordinance that was being prepared for the city with the assistance from the Heart of Georgia Altamaha. Once I get it done we should probably have a workshop meeting to determine if it's the way that we want it before implementing. We really need to have this completed as Colt Silvers has mentioned that he is going to be building a house on his property. It has also been brought to my attention that Dan Rustin is inquiring about getting small/tiny houses added behind his mother's.
- We still need to ensure that ALL RESIDENTS have their house numbers on their home.
- What is the status of changing our Water & Sewage policy? Has notifications been sent out? Has the ordinance\policy been reviewed? Adopt an Arrangement Agreement - Ms. Rose had a busted pipe that she wasn't aware of ...
- We were informed that Toombs County no longer has an Animal Control department. They have a contract with Lyons. I contacted Jason Hall, Lyons City Manager, and he informed me that Toombs County does have a contract with them but it is only to handle vicious dogs not dogs that are being a nuisance. He also noted that they did not have a contract or agreement with Santa Claus. Therefore, we need to determine how we want/need to handle our current problems with some dogs roaming free and causing issues. I believe Eddie has a solution that he would like to suggest.
- This past week when Shea went to do Sue's check she ran into a problem with Quickbooks. We had already received a notice that we were going to have to upgrade Quickbooks by May 31st anyway. The problem was telling her that we had exceeded our Customer level. She contacted them and in light of us needing to do the upgrade next month she went ahead and inquired about us continuing the contract. I told her to go ahead since we haven't discussed changing software. She mentioned that if we go ahead with an opt for 3 years then we could get the cost for 2 years. Therefore she has renewed our contract and worked with Quickbooks tech support Thursday & Friday to get everything working correctly again.

## CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING

April 18, 2023

### AGENDA

- Luckily I had also the week prior, went through our bank statements and Quickbooks and got all the accounts up to date, including the transfers, etc. I've also asked that Shea make sure the statements are reconciled monthly. I also checked our budget to ensure that we had listed enough funds to cover the renewal. It was okay as under the Computer Upgrade we had allowed for \$6000 and the renewal was \$3553, leaving a balance of \$2447. So hopefully this will cover the cost of a new laptop\software and any other purchases\renewals. If not, then we'll need to make the adjustments at that time.
- We received the Renewal Terms for our GIRMA insurance for our coming 2023-2024 coverage. The renewal has gone up from \$4840 from last year to **\$5149**. Ironically, with me adding an additional storage building that I didn't see mentioned before and replacing the old chemicals building with the new one, the rate for the Property - Buildings & Contents only increased from \$3990 to \$4086. But the General Liability and the Public Officials Liability both increased some. I checked our Budget concerning this fee and we're good on it also as we proposed \$5,500 for the insurance so there's a difference of \$351. So may I get a motion to renew our GIRMA insurance at this rate?
- I was contacted by Senator Blake Tillery's mother about Santa Claus participating in the National Day of Prayer Ceremony that's Thursday, May 4th at 6:30pm. at the Toombs County Courthouse. I informed her that we would be glad to participate ... The Mayors for Lyons and Vidalia are also planning on participating. I've gotten a small message/blessing that I plan on doing along with presenting a "key from our city". I've also asked Brenda to say a prayer on our behalf, in which she has so graciously said she'd do.