

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting February 21, 2023

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held February 21, 2023. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Monte Powell, Brenda Sells, and Renee Wright, Sue Grisham, Vince Meadows and Colt Silvers. David Evans was not present but was on phone call for participation. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of January 17, 2023, meeting were read. Renee made a motion second by Brenda to accept the minutes as read. Council voted unanimously to accept.

Donita inquired with Colt if he had business to present to the Council. He stated that he grew up in Santa Claus and is planning to construct a house on his property on Dancer ST. He was inquiring on the regulations including footage required by the city. This was discussed with Donita stating the city will investigate this and inform Colt of the findings.

OLD BUSINESS: City Financial report was reviewed by Council.

The Gardens: Brenda said T Lake is getting lights to replace the burned out or damaged ones at the Gardens. Eddie Wright will contact them on the status. **The Park:** Monte stated there are no issues at the Park but added the street light on Candy Cane ST between Sleigh ST and Noel St is burned out. Sue stated she will contact Altamaha E.M.C. to replace it. Vince stated he will meet Monte at the Park to check the timer on the security light at the Pavilion. **Community Center:** Renee stated there are no issues at the building. **Roads:** David had no issues to report with the streets.

Council discussed the sewer service with the city of Lyons agreeing there must be some changes due to the excessive bills.

Donita, Brenda, Renee and David are scheduled to attend required GMA training for new city officers with the University of GA Center for Continuing Ed in Athens on March 1, 2023 thru March 3, 2023. Brenda has agreed to furnish transportation for the group leaving February 28 afternoon and return March 3 afternoon.

During a rainstorm on the night of February 11, 2023, a truck enplaned in front of the Chapel on U.S .Hwy. # 1 , left the road, and turned over in the ditch damaging the fence at the Chapel. Eddie Wright contacted Luis Nino who gave us an estimate for the repairs including damaged fence and pressure washing the fence for \$1,200.00. Luis also presented a bid to clean the outside areas at the Dollar General, \$500.00 for the initial cleaning/clearing and \$175.00 per month to maintain it. Vince suggested the City contacting Attorney Tina Maddox on the legality of the City performing the cleaning on the Dollar General property. Council tabled this for now.

February 21, 2023, -page 2- Donita stated she has submitted the 2023 budget along with the renewal information for the GIRMA Liability Insurance application removing the old chemical storage shed and added the new building installed in 2022. Also added to the insurance is a second storage shed which is located on the city lot on Noel ST. Also, she has received confirmation on the approval of the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant which may roll over for 3 years.

A laminated poster from e verify showing all Georgia & Federal Labor Laws for public access has been placed on the wall in the meeting room as is required by the state.

Donita said parking at the apartments is O.K. on the side of the street and behind the apartment. She added that the City of Lyons is still working on the fire protection agreement for our city. They meet on February 28, 2023, and will discuss our contract as they will be discussing their city's coverage.

The attic at City Hall has been cleaned out and the insulation was installed on February 20, 2023, by Bryant Insulation. David Stewart resides on Dancer ST. His grandson contacted Donita about beavers building a dam at county road Dasher RD with water backing up on the Stewart property. Donita has contacted Toombs County Manager John Jones and Clint Jarriel for input. Vince stated this has come up in past years when he was mayor. The land is deemed a "wet lands" area by E.P.D. Council discussed at length.

The city received from G.M.A. a resolution pledging to practice a "Promote Civility" within the City of Santa Claus. Council agreed to the practice and G.M.A. will be notified of such. G.M.A. also emailed the city inviting all City Council to attend a meeting in Hazlehurst on April 11, 20223 at 7:30 P.M. There is also state legislature discussing increasing the truck weight on the highways to 90,000 lbs. which Donita is inquiring on.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor 