

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting April 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held April 18, 2023. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Monte Powell, Brenda Sells and Renee Wright, and Sue Grisham. David Evans was working out of town. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of March 21, 2023 ,meeting were read. Renee made a motion second by Brenda to accept the minutes as read. Council voted unanimously to accept.

Old Business: The financial reports were reviewed by the Council.

The Garden: Brenda showed a photo of the eyeglasses cleaning cloth. Council approved the emblem and asked Brenda to order the eyeglasses cleaner. **The Park:** Monte still plans to meet with Vince Meadows to check out the light outside the Pavilion. **Community Center:** Renee stated there are no issues at the building. **Roads:** There are no issues with the streets at this time.

Sue was asked to contact Clarence Pittman to install the handrails for the handicapped at the Gift Shop and the Pavilion in the restrooms as instructed by G.I.R.M.A. at the annual safety inspection.

Donita reported she has inquired with Tom Peterson about becoming the city attorney. Mr. Peterson declined the offer as he represents the City of Lyons and, in the future, there could be issues to come up involving both cities. She will contact Attorney Tina Maddox for advice. The \$25.00 has been paid for the damaged STOP sign on Salem and Reindeer.

New Business: Donita is checking into the millage rate for the City of Santa Claus to insure the present rate will sustain the city operations. As voted on in the March meeting, the bank accounts have been brought up to date with transferring and closing the accounts agreed upon. A "Roads Account" has been opened for deposits to build for the future needs of the streets. Donita spoke with Attorney Tina Maddox presenting her with data for the grounds problems at Dollar General and the problem of dogs running loose in the city. Tina is checking into the legalities of the Dollar General grounds issue.

Donita stated she is working on an ordinance for the specifications of a residence to be built in the city. Also, she mentioned again that all residences need house numbers on the front of the house for 911 calls to assure each house can easily be located. She added that the Quick Books program was updated as the current program was running out and that she was able to purchase 3 years for the price of 2 years saving costs for the city.

April 18, 2023 meeting -page 2 – Donita informed the Council that she has balanced the bank statements for all Peoples Bank accounts. Council discussed the accounts. G.I.R.M.A. renewal has been increased. Premium for 2022 was \$4,840.00 and 2023 is \$5,149.00 for an increase of \$351.00. Renee made a motion second by Monte to pay the increased premium for G.I.R.M.A. for the city liability coverage. Council voted unanimously to pay the premium.

The National Day of Prayer is May 4, 2023 at the Toombs County Court House. Coordinator Vickie Tillery contacted Donita requesting that she represent the City of Santa Claus at the meeting by presenting up to God a key to the city on behalf of the citizens of the city and speak about 10 minutes. Donita agreed to represent the city at the prayer service adding that Brenda would pray a prayer for the city and citizens.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor 