

City of Santa Claus, Georgia

Regular Monthly Council Meeting June 20, 2023

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held June 20, 2023. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Monte Powell and Brenda Sells, Eddie and Elaine Wright and Sue Grisham. David Evans was out of town working and Renee Wright had a family obligation. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of May 16, 2023, meeting were read. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to accept the minutes as read. Due to there being no quota for the meeting, Council did not vote.

Old Business: The financial reports were reviewed by the Council. Donita stated the new Roads Account has not been printed out by the bank. Selena at Peoples Bank assured her this in the process and will be correct soon.

The Garden: Brenda agreed to check with T-Lake on the work needed on Gardens trail. There are some lights out at this time. She added that there was no donation in the red box in the Garden. **The Park:** Monte stated there is still an issue with squirrels in the ceiling of the bathroom. Sue called Brandon Coleman and he came and repaired the security light at the back of the Pavilion. Donita met with Logan and he has repaired the security cameras at the Pavilion and they are working again. She asked Monte to check the camera every few days to verify it is still recording activity. **Community Center:** Renee was not present but there has been no problem reported at the building. **Roads:** Nothing to report.

Donita stated that all issues suggested by GMA Weston Cox at the annual insurance inspection have been completed and she has emailed Mr. Cox to inform him of this. T.J. Sager has serviced all air condition units in all buildings and the ice machine at the Community Center. The eyeglasses cleaner sheets have arrived and are in the Gift Shop. Donita also said she has emailed Artiffany with GMA to discuss our qualifications for grants on projects for the city.

The Dollar General brush/weeds problem was discussed. Donita has inquired about this with city attorney Tina Maddox. She suggested a letter be sent to all parties involved stating possible actions by the city to alleviate this. Plaques have been erected in the meeting room for the GMA classes attended by Donita, Brenda and Renee in March. GMA also stated the city has earned a plaque for participating in the Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the City of Santa Claus. This would be handed out at the annual meeting in Savannah but no one from Santa Claus plans to attend the meeting. It may possibly be mailed to us.

Donita said she has not spoken with Toombs County Tax Commissioner, Brenda Williams, concerning the city millage rate but she plans to speak with her.

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Donita is still working on the zoning for housing in the city. This was discussed with her stating her findings show all dwellings must be at least 1,400 sq. ft. There are still problems with dogs running loose in town. Eddie stated he is having his pond dredged out and he will donate the dirt to the city for the parking lot at the Park if Council wants it.

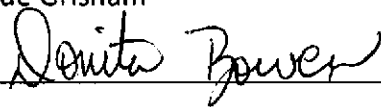
Donita informed the Council that the Christmas buying trip to the Atlanta trade show has been cancelled. Beverly Youmans, city decorator, said the expense for her to attend is too much due to price increases on everything. Any purchases needed for the Christmas season will be purchased locally or online. Donita also stated she is checking on a credit card system for the Gift Shop. Too, she watched a Cities Connect First Amendment Audit webinar which addressed how to handle auditors showing up and recording city business. She explained this as a scam.

New Business: Possibilities for new playground equipment was discussed. Donita suggested corn hole, horseshoes, volleyball, etc. to be rented out for use during any party at the Pavilion. Too, maybe purchasing swings for infants. The Gazebo in the Gardens has been pressure washed and stained and looks great. Stacey Avery is working on the 2022 city audit to complete before June 30, 2023..

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donita Bowen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that spans the width of the signature area.