

## City of Santa Claus, Georgia

### Regular Monthly Council Meeting May 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held May 16, 2023. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Monte Powell, Brenda Sells, David Evans and Renee Wright, Eddie and Elaine Wright and Sue Grisham. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of April 18, 2023, meeting were read. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to accept the minutes as read. Council voted unanimously to accept.

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

**The Garden:** The gazebo has been pressure washed and Luis Nino is scheduled to re-stain it as soon as weather allows. Brenda agreed to check the donation box in the Garden for possible donations. **The Park:** Monte stated there is still an issue with squirrels in the ceiling of the bathroom and he plans to meet with Vince Meadows to check the security light on the east side of the Pavilion on the walking trail. Donita stated it seems there is a problem with the security system which she will check on. **Community Center:** Renee stated there are no issues at the building. **Roads:** Eddie said the shoulders on the east end of Reindeer ST and Salem ST both need the bushes and grass cut to control the overgrowth.

Donita stated the eyeglasses cleaners have been ordered for the Gift Shop. Clarence Pittman has installed the handicap rails in the restrooms at the Gift Shop and David has installed the handicap rails in the restrooms at the Pavilion. She presented the Employee Handbook required she has designed. She added that she has spoken to Attorney Tina Maddox who suggested sending Dollar General a letter with intent to close the store if they do not comply to the request about the weeds and bushes growing at the store which was discussed at length. Eddie suggested we contact another attorney for advise on this matter.

The National Day of Prayer at the Toombs County Courthouse on May 4, 2023 went well, Donita Stated. Vickie Tillery asked her to speak about the City of Santa Claus and offer up a prayer for the city and our citizens. Donita was presented a key for the city and asked her pastor, Rickey Wilson to pray God's blessings on our city and citizens. Mrs. Tillery is having the key framed for Donita to display in the museum at the Gift Shop. Sue stated that Donita did a great job representing the city at the event.

Donita stated she will contact Toombs County Tax Commissioner Brenda Williams concerning the millage rate for the city requesting a meeting with her. She added that she has submitted the report concerning the ARPA funds and has started a spread sheet to track money used from the Water and Sewer account showing the usage. She is also working on a draft for the city zoning for new housing. She and Brenda scouted the residents for the house number, too.

**May 16, 2023 meeting -page 2**

**New Business:** Council discussed the connection fees for new hookups for water and for sewer. Donita stated she will check with the city of Lyons on the fees charged by them. Donita suggested the city adopt an emergency agreement for use when a resident has an unusual circumstance and cannot pay their account on time. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to adopt the Emergency Agreement. Council voted in favor unanimously. Donita will also contact the attorney concerning the ongoing dog problem.

Donita informed the Council she has purchased and installed a new lap top computer for her office.

Eddie contacted Kyle Wiggins of Wiggins Backhoe Services. Kyle came out and cleaned out all the culverts at all houses so that water will drain properly. The estimate was \$6,000.00 but the actual invoice was \$2,500.00. The dirt removed from the culverts has been placed at the city storage lot to be used in the future at the new parking lot to be built at the playground. A motion was made by David second by Brenda to pay the \$2,500.00 invoice to Wiggins Backhoe Services for the work completed. Council voted unanimously to pay the invoice.

Beverly Youmans who decorated for the Christmas season will be going to Atlanta for the annual trade show this summer and will act as the buyer for the City of Santa Claus. Funds have already been budgeted for new Christmas decorations. Beverly, Renee and Donita will attend the trade show on behalf of the city.

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.