

City of Santa Claus, Georgia
Regular Monthly Council Meeting

September 19, 2023

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held September 19, 2023. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Monte Powell, and Brenda Sells, Artiffany Stanley of GMA, Eddie and Elaine Wright, Vince Meadows and Sue Grisham. David Evans was not present. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Due to no quorum in June and July at the regular meetings, minutes of June 20, July 18 and August 15, 2023, meetings were read. Renee made a motion second by Brenda to accept the minutes as read. All voted in favor of the minutes as read. Donita inquired with Artiffany of the business she had for the council. Artiffany presented the City of Santa Claus a plaque from GMA designating us as a "City of Civility" date May, 2023. With no further business, she left the meeting for her long trip home.

Old Business: The financial reports were reviewed by the Council. Gardens: Brenda stated she has not heard from T Lake concerning burned out lights in the Garden. Council discussed this issue. Park: Monte said there are no issues with the Park. Community Center: Renee had reported the microware does not work. Donita has ordered a new mcrowave for the facility. Also the plastic tables ordered for the facility have arrived.

During the recent storm, Idalia, a tree blew over in the city lot on Candy Cane ST and has been cleared away by Luis Nino. There were signs blown off and other minor damage during the storm which have been repaired.

Eddie asked about new voters registering for the City of Santa Claus elections. This will be verified with Toombs County Elections Supervisor Carey Alligood. Council agreed that, in the future, if there is no quorum at the time of a regular meeting, the meeting will be cancelled for that month. Herndon Farms & Forestry Serv. has repaired the manhole at the end of December DR and Dancer ST. Hopefully, this will alleviate the huge bills from the City of Lyons for the sewage pump station. However, City Manager Eddie Wright was the overseer for the repair stated that, due to the initial installation of the sewer lines, there could be problems in future at that location.

Donita reminded the Council that all residents still do not have numbers on the houses and that she is purchasing the needed numbers for them. She added that she has received approval and information from CGI Digital concerning the banners for the lamp posts at City Hall parking lot and December DR entrance. She explained the procedure for them to supply 2 banners per pole and the details. This was discussed. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to go with their program for banners. Council agreed unanimously.

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Eddie informed the Council that the trees have been cleared from the North side of the Park to build a parking area. Dirt will be hauled in and the rough grading will be done. He suggested postponing paving the area until spring to allow the area to settle. The removal work was \$6,000.00. Too, Danny Florez will repair the concrete at the curb that was removed for access to the area by the heavy equipment for clearing the area. Eddie asked that the security pole be removed that sits in the area. Sue will call and request it be taken down. The right-of-way on Reindeer, Salem and Rudolph was discussed with Council agreeing to postpone the cutting until early spring next year.

New Business:.. Donita stated the Toombs County Sheriff Dept. will have a deputy patrol for the city for Trick or Treat. Also, candles for the Christmas Eve street lighting have arrived. The worn Georgia state flag has been replaced.

The GMA Fall District meeting will be held Wednesday, November 1, 2023 From 5:30 PM till 7:30 PM at Durden Cabin at Parting Park in Lyons at no cost to council members and city staff. Everyone planning to attend must pre-register for the event. Donita received an email from Jason Hall, Lyons City Manager, stating they are holding a workshop on September 26, 2023 to discuss the fire fees for the City of Santa Claus. Due to his interest as the owner of the V & C Meadows Rentals in town, Vince stated he was interested in attending with Donita.

Donita received a notification from GMA of the Newly Elected Officials Training in Athens to be held February 28, 2024 thru March 1, 2024. Also a session will be held at the UGA Campus in Tifton on March 20 thru March 22, 2024. Registration opens in October, 2023. Also, we received the application for the LMIG grant for the Fiscal Year 2024 to resurface a section Noel ST. which must be returned by February 1, 2024. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to table the playground project until 2024 with a unanimous agreement. Donita has removed old lights from all trees and shrubs. Council discussed lights needed for 2023 Christmas season. Beverly Youmans, the decorator, will inventory the lights for us. And she and Renee will look at more lights and a star for the Christmas tree topper. Donita has been in contact with Dara of Designs by Dara Dennis requesting a price for Dara painting some wood characters for Christmas and possibly the two Santa Clauses standing at each city limit sign on the north and south ends of the city. Total estimated price from Dara is \$1,000.00.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor 