

CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING
November 21, 2023
AGENDA

7:00 – PM – CALL MEETING TO ORDER ROLL CALL

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- READING OF MINUTES/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
- COMMENTS/PUBLIC ISSUES
- FINANCIAL REPORT (Hand out)

1. COUNCIL AGENDA /ISSUES/WORK UPDATES:

GARDEN - Brenda Sells - Updates? Did Eddie ever get in touch with TLake?

PARK - Monte Powell - Updates? Rod Harden came and fixed the lights for the Pavilion - loose wire

COMMUNITY CENTER - Renee Wright - Update?

ROADS AND APPEARANCE - David Evans - Update?

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- Concerning the Safety Grant, it will be put on hold until next year due to time constraints.
- Concerning CGI Digital and doing the banners, we have postponed this until the beginning of next year. So be thinking about how or what you want them to look like.
- Reminder of the dates for the GMA Newly Elected Officials Training session for next year which will be held February 28th - March 1st, 2024 (leap year) at the UGA campus in Athens. There will also be another training session that will take place March 20th - March 22, 2023 at the UGA campus in Tifton if they can't make the one in February. Registration will be open October 2023.
- Just a reminder - I'm holding off filing the application for the LMIG grant for the Fiscal Year 2024 until next year. The application must be received no later than February 1, 2024. I'll resubmit it after we get through with the holidays. This is the grant that we applied for before to assist with redoing the road section of Noel St.
- Eddie has gotten Kyle Wiggins and he's finished the parking area at the park for now. He filled in the area at the park for parking (\$3000) and dug a ditch to divert water from the parking area (\$600).
- Dara with Designs completed the Island of Misfit Toys wood decorations and painted the 2 entrance Santa's for us. Wayne Ward was nice enough to cut them out for us and I sanded the edges and touched up the paint and put weather sealant on them. They have been put out in front of the community center.
- You may have noticed that we have gotten the waving Santa up and he is hard at work.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- Sue, if you will please contact those that have rental property within Santa Claus and inform them that when their rental areas are not occupied, they will be responsible for paying the fire fee for Lyons.
- Vince Meadows was able to install the device for remotely accessing the internet over at the gift shop. However, we need to see if there is a way to increase the access - seems the metal roof is interfering with the transactions going through.

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- Tindall has provided us with a quote to complete the Lead and Copper Service Line Inventory that we have been required to have done. The estimate is \$9,240.00. Unless anyone has an objection, I'm going to go ahead and sign and send it back to them to begin the process.
- I received an email from Republic concerning the contract with them including a 10% increase to begin January 1, 2024. I have already responded back with our approval.
- I recommend that next year we get estimates for the pressure washing of the fences, etc. We also need to have them to tell us specifically what they are cleaning with the estimates. There was a lot of confusion this year and things got delayed pushing our decorating behind schedule.
- I received another email, this one from Joe Watkins, inquiring if we would like to purchase a sleigh that he has for \$3800. He's located in Winder, Ga. about 3 hrs. 17 minutes away. What do you think? Main issue I see is place to store it -
- I received an estimate from Green Horne Lawn Service - Zach (912) 585-2211 to trim cedar trees and cleanup. Walter talked to him on how he thought they should be cut back. Tall Cedars \$150; small cedars \$50 ea.; wood cleanup \$80 (prices include landfill cost, etc.).
- I received a nice email from a former resident (Marcie Jones) with information on the history of our luminaries. I've responded back with her several times and have invited her to our Christmas dinner. She's hoping that she will be able to attend but not sure as she doesn't like to travel at night.
- Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission (HOGARC) has sent us information regarding the proposed development of a RaceTrac truck stop to be built in Metter, Georgia. The project has been determined to meet or exceed the required DRI (Development of Regional Impact) thresholds. They have asked for our review of any potential positive or negative impacts to our jurisdiction. They sent the project summary, 2 completed information forms, a site plan, existing and future land use, character area, and zoning maps for the City of Metter, and a list of jurisdictions and affected parties receiving the notice to assist in the review. They need the response back by 11/23/23 (Thursday).
- We are also "hosting" on December 5th at the community center the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Plan Listening Session #1 at 5:00 - 6:00 pm. This is for work to be done on the required Toombs County Comprehensive Plan Update 2024. (this is in accordance with the Georgia law). It is to include Toombs County, Lyons, Vidalia, and Santa Claus representatives. The Comprehensive Plan meetings will involve 5 meetings of the committee over the next few months. Each meeting will last about 1.5 hours. It is necessary to maintain local government eligibility for state grants, loans, and permits. It also is an important blueprint for addressing local concerns and establishing a guide for community growth and development. So be thinking of items that the City of Santa Claus Needs and any possible opportunities that we provide.

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- As Eddie mentioned in our last meeting his concern of how we were spending the SPLOST funds I contacted [Helen Harris](#) with Toombs County and obtained a copy of the SPLOST agreement and provided each of you with a copy so you're aware of how the funds can be appropriated. After reading I ran an Expenses list for the SPLOST account in QuickBooks to determine which items we needed to adjust. We only had 3 items that needed adjusting. Universal Concepts - Christmas decorations; Dara Designs - paintings; Wholesale Candles - candles for the luminaries. I have made adjustments by transferring funds from our General/LOST account to the SPLOST account.
- After reviewing and determining the adjustments to our budget and our agreement to hold off purchasing any playground equipment this year, I adjusted our budget to reflect the funds to be redistributed to the park areas. I have adjusted the budget and provided everyone with a copy.
- We need to decide when we are to work on next year's budget. A copy has to be made available to the public, upon request, and available to the news media. The public hearing for the proposed budget must be held at least one week prior to the council meeting proposing to adopt. So once we get finished we need to have an ad placed in the paper.
- Reminder - the ARPA funds that we transferred to the Water & Sewage account has to be spent or at least obligated by the end of next year. Failure to do so will result in us having to return the remaining funds. Therefore, we need to ensure that we look at those funds also.