

CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING
January 16, 2024
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? Replaced bulbs that were burned out - correct?

PARK - Monte Powell - Updates?

COMMUNITY CENTER - Renee Wright - Update? Get with Sue to determine when to turn off the ice machine.

ROADS AND APPEARANCE - Update? Darel is waiting on the ground to compact some to patch the section on Reindeer. His cost is \$450 for the sewer line fix and we're waiting on the cost of the cement patch. Originally, he said it would cost \$185 but we asked him to include color so he's got to get a new cost. Also contacted Tina Maddox (attorney)

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- We need to look at the Safety Grant to see what items we can obtain money for this year ... such as mats in front of the gift shop and city hall doors; etc.
- Concerning CGI Digital and doing the banners, we need to determine what we want the banners to look like and reach out to CGI so they can get started. We've got several of our current banners that have been blown down.
- 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. David isn't going to serve on the council now so we're short one seat member. So, unless we have someone to fill the seat, we don't have anyone to send to the training sessions.
- I'm currently working on filing the application for the LMIG grant for the Fiscal Year 2024. The application must be received no later than February 1, 2024. This is the grant that we applied for before to assist with redoing the road section of Noel St. We're entitled to run through 3 years filing before we have to spend the funds. This is the 2nd year and it covers 80% of the funds allowed to us and we have to match the remaining 20%.
- Update on the rental property owners concerning their covering the fire fees for Lyons?
- We were able to install the device for remotely accessing the internet over at the gift shop. However, it seems the metal roof is causing interference and the transactions aren't going through unless you stand outside. After I can get some of these other issues resolved/done I'll see if I can find a possible solution.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- I submitted our U.S. Census Bureau - Boundary and Annexation Survey - BAS.
- We've got to get our Christmas decorations taken up to be stored. We discussed building a storage building to allow for growth, etc. However, until we can get the plans and something built, we need to have the garland, bows, etc. stored in the interim. Vince has shown me a couple of units he has available in his storage facility. I believe one will allow us to get those stored until we can get something built. I need to check with Universal Concepts also to see if there are any conditions that need to be considered in storing these also ... such as ventilation. Vince has mentioned for the city he will give us a price break. Do you agree to use his facility until we have ours completed?
- Brenda and I met with [Carey Alligood](#) a couple weeks ago to discuss our election process. She gave us some information and Brenda has volunteered to take this project on with me serving as her backup. However, looking at our charter it appears that an elected official cannot serve as the election superintendent. So, we may be looking at either Sue or Shea needing to be our superintendent. We'll need to confirm all this. I found the forms that Carey mentioned that we need to file every year but I couldn't find any information concerning training or certification. I sent her an email asking for some information as it appeared that the website may have changed

from what she remembered. We need to determine what we need to do to fill David's open seat also as he's decided that he's not going to be able to serve after all. The new member has to have been a resident for at least 1 year prior to being able to serve. Carey mentioned that maybe we should consider going to maybe a 3-seat council but that's not feasible at this time as it would require us updating our charter, etc. Carey replied back to my email and suggested us calling Leigh Phillips @ SOS office & her phone # is (470) 867-7773 or email her at lphillips@sos.ga.gov.

- There are several scheduled meetings coming up concerning 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. Any ideas that I should submit - I thought of maybe getting a grant for redoing our water line system and adding fire hydrants. The Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission also has a proposed fee of \$5,000 for them to provide technical assistance in preparing the new joint comprehensive plan. The fee will then be divided among the county, Lyons, Vidalia and Santa Claus. The cost will be determined by the County and each municipality. Any of you are welcome to come to these meetings.
- Lastly, some of us met to decide on this 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. I've provided everyone with a copy of the budget with a couple of changes. I'll discuss those as we go over it. We need to have a special meeting after the ad has been run in the paper to accept the budget. We need to go ahead and get this done so that I can submit our application for GIRMA (insurance). Our budget has to be attached to the application.