

CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING
February 20, 2024
AGENDA

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

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- Swear in new council member (Michael Heath)
- READING OF MINUTES/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
- COMMENTS/PUBLIC ISSUES
- FINANCIAL REPORT (Hand out)

1. COUNCIL AGENDA /ISSUES/WORK UPDATES:

GARDEN - Brenda Sells - Updates? Gave Brenda some literature for light fixture replacement

PARK - Monte Powell - Updates? Replaced door knobs & deadbolt?

COMMUNITY CENTER - Renee Wright - Update?

ROADS AND APPEARANCE - Update? January 29th Darel informed me they should receive the dye Wednesday (01/31) and should patch it that afternoon. They have since filled the spot.

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, community center and city hall doors; etc. Other items that we might consider being able to apply are Annual Fire Ext Inspection/Tagging; Security Camera & Systems; and Playground Mulch. We can also submit for approval any other items if we provide a legitimate explanation of how it will assist us in reducing risk of injuries.
- We had a conference call with CGI Digital concerning replacing our current banners for the light poles on Friday, February 16th. I sent pictures of our current poles and was informed that we may not be able to use the one that uses the electrical pole. Nikki is going to check to see if there is any issue with us using it and get back with us. She said that it shouldn't impact us being able to still utilize the program. They will work up the proposal banners and send them to us for approval.
- The only available date for the GMA Newly Elected Officials Training session for this year will be March 20th - March 22, 2023 at the UGA campus in Tifton the one in Athens had been booked up. If Michael will be able to attend, I'll need to go ahead and get him registered.
- I submitted our request for the LMIG grant. This year the amount that we qualified for was \$4,363.02. We are required to match with 10%. I received an email on Friday, February 2nd stating that our grant was approved and we should receive the payment within 10 business days. We received the funds on February 5th and on February 16th I transferred both our matching funds and the deposited funds in the General Account to the roads account in the amount of \$436.30.
- Any update on addressing the election process?
- I still need to get with Vince to see if we can resolve the connectivity issue with accessing the internet over at the gift shop.
- Since we've completed this year's budget, I filled out the application and attached a copy of our budget for GIRMA (insurance company and emailed it to them. We also received an email from them informing us there will be a 15% increase this year. Our last payment for 2023 was \$5,149. With the 15% increase of \$772.35 it will bring it to approx. \$5,921.35 for the year.

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- Anyone come up with any suggestions concerning the Toombs County Comprehensive Plan Update 2024?
- We received a credit of 25% on the 'pole Santa' that we purchased from Universal Concepts. They also issued us an additional 5% credit for our trouble. I applied the credit to the last invoice that we received from them. We also received a check from Mr. Powell for the purchase of some of the garland that we had. Beverly informed him that we'll store it for him and use it to decorate the chapel in the future. We are looking at using this money to assist in purchasing more of the colored lights and 'white' wire to put in the 'main entrance' area along with some more ends. If we go ahead and purchase within February we can get them with a clearance price. Sunday, February 11th I sent an email requesting an estimate for the additional 'white' wire, bulbs, and ends. Without the reduction the cost should be approx. \$1028.50. I also asked them if they sell ribbon as I noticed several of the bows will need to be replaced. We were informed that they do not sell the ribbon so we'll have to purchase somewhere else. Beverly also stated that we should probably purchase the ribbon before July to ensure we're able to get it as other businesses start purchasing for the upcoming seasonal decorations. Friday, February 16th I received the estimate for additional decorations. The estimate is \$863.50 that is excluding tax and shipping. That's a savings of \$165.00.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- I reached out to Ms. Miranda Johnson at the Altamaha Bank & Trust to find out the information concerning our current CD. She informed me that it is due to mature on 02/23/24, It was last renewed 08/23/2022. The current rate on the CD is 0.35% and the going rate now is 3.50% for 18 months. I'm to contact her Friday, February 23rd to ensure the new rate is posted correctly. On 02/16/24 we received a letter from the bank that the annual percentage yield has not been determined. They will be available on 02/23/24 and we need to call to learn the interest rate and annual percentage yield for our account.
- On January 31st I received an email of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) & CCR Certification Form from Tindall along with their notification of their submission to EPD. Sue will send out a notification with the water bills that the 2023 Water Quality Report is now available to review if anyone is interested.
- We received a letter in the first part of December from the GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) concerning the Americans with Disabilities Requirements Act. It had a one month deadline for submitting information concerning our status. I checked out the website they provided (didn't give out a checklist as too long) to see what we may need to address. It was like 15 pages long. After making a list of things that we didn't have I contacted their contact person to discuss, Mr. Henry Johnson. After discussing who we were and our size he informed me that we didn't really qualify, that it was mainly intended for municipalities that had a staff of about 50 or more. He asked me to submit a letter (on city letterhead) and explain our situation and we would be exempt from having to comply. I've emailed the letter to him. Not having this resolved would have resulted in us not being able to receive Federal grants/funding, such as the LMIG grant I was working on.
- We had a visit from EPD on Monday, January 29th. We were informed that we need to have a Water Procedure and Map of Direction. They will contact us back later with more details.

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- I've modified our Business License Ordinance to reflect any new businesses requesting to be allowed within the city limits must first be approved by the City Council.
- I picked up and stored the inflatable and wood carved decorations and have stored them in the storage building. We can move them once we get the new storage building built. I didn't want to leave them out any longer as I felt they might continue to get damaged. I also rewired the angels that had lights that were burnt out and still need to do the sleight w\reindeer. There are also a couple that we need to get Landon to weld as the bases have broken.
- I've also amended our business license ordinance. It reflects that any new business wishing to be within the city limits of Santa Claus will need to have the city council's approval before being allowed to proceed.
- I contacted Mr. Cliff Duerfeldt Sunday, February 18th concerning his property (corner of Hwy #1 and Reindeer St). I informed him that the building really needs to be demolished as it appears to be condemned, there is a fallen pecan tree and the grass needs to be mowed. I informed him that it is an eyesore with it being right on the main highway. I also told him that it has been brought to my attention that there have been children going in\around the building. I notified him that there could be a possible lawsuit if any of the children get hurt or something worse. He assured me that he would come within the next few days and look at the property and see about getting things taken care of.