

## City of Santa Claus, Geo

### Regular Monthly Council Meeting

February 20, 2024

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held February 20, 2024. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Monte Powell, and Brenda Sells, Sue Grisham, Vince Meadows, Eddie and Elaine Wright, Bobby Beckum and Mike Heath. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of January 16, 2024, meetings were read. Renee made a motion second by Monte to accept the minutes as read. Mike Heath was sworn in by Mayor Bowen as a new councilman to replace David Evans who chose to not qualify for his seat due to family obligations.

**Old Business:** The financial reports were reviewed by the Council. Gardens: Still no word from T-Lake concerning the Gardens lights and repair of them. Park: Monte stated he changed the locks on the doors at the Pavilion as they had been damaged. Community Center: Renee continues to monitor the facility for parties. Roads: Darrel Corley will complete the patching where the sewer was repaired on Reindeer ST when he gets the dye for the concrete.

Donita suggested ways to use the Safety Grant such as door mats at the City Hall and/or Gift Shop, fire extinguishers, additional security cameras, and mulch for any new playground equipment to be purchased or any safety issues for the safety of the citizens. She also had a conference call on February 16 with CGI Digital concerning the banner designs for December DR and showed the Council sample pictures of banners to choose from. She added that a new city official in 2024, is required to attend a training session on March 20 thru March 22 in Tifton to be conducted by GMA as the Athens class has been closed due to full occupancy. She informed the Council that the LMIC grant was received and she transferred \$4,363.02 from the grant and our 10% of \$436.30 to the General Account on February 16, 2024. This will be used to resurface a section of Noel ST.

Eddie presented bids to build a new building to store the Christmas decorations to be erected at the Noel ST storage lot. Council reviewed the sketch and discussed this. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to accept the lowest bid of \$27,000.00 from Pittman Consulting & Design, Inc. Council agreed unanimously.

As 2023 has ended, Donita has emailed GIRMA (city insurance provider) a copy of the budget. GIRMA informed her that the premium will increase by %15, \$772.35, for this year going from \$5,149.00 to approximately \$5921.35 for 2024.

A 25% credit has been received for the "pole Santa" from Universal Concepts for the damages it suffered in the winds plus an additional 5% for the troubles. George Powell has reimbursed the city for the decorations erected at the Chapel of Santa Claus. Other decorations were discussed.

**New Business:**

**February 20, 2024 meeting -page 2-** The city C.D. at Altamaha Bank & Trust at a current rate of \$0.35% will mature on 2/23/24 and the going rate is now 3.50% for 18 months. Donita will contact Ms. Miranda Johnson at the bank on 2/23/24 to insure this has been done properly.

On January 31, Donita received an email with the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) & CCR Certification Form from Tindall along with their notification of their submission to the EPD. Sue will mail a notification to all water users stating the 2023 Water Quality Report is available to all for review at the City Hall. A letter from GDOT was received in December concerning the Americans with Disabilities Requirements Act. It stated the city had a month deadline to submit our information concerning our status. The contact person is Mr. Henry Johnson who requested a response on city letterhead. Non-compliance would result in the city disqualification of Federal grants such as LMIG. Council discussed this.

EPD Representation Michael Derrick came on January 29, 2024. Mike Thompson, our weekly water tester, of Tindall assisted him. We were informed the city needs to submit a Water Procedure and Map of Direction. Mr. Derreck will report back to us in a few weeks with more details.

Donita stated she has modified the Business License Ordinance to reflect any new businesses requesting a license within the city. Monte made a motion second by Brenda to accept the modification. Council agreed unanimously. This was the first reading of the modification of the business licenses. Donita has picked up all Christmas inflatables, etc., and will have repairs done as needed. She has contacted Cliff Duerfeldt, owner of the property at the corner of Reindeer ST and Holly ST, stating the unsafe conditions at his property. Cliff agreed to come out and address the issues with a cleanup and cover the windows in the old building. Increased water and sewage rates will begin on March 1, 2024. Donita requested the purchase of a \$125.00 durable bookcase for the proposed library which was discussed. Renee made a motion second by Brenda to purchase the bookcase with Council agreeing unanimously.

Eddie stated the storage building construction will begin as soon as trees are cleared at the lot on Noel ST and dirt hauled in. Council agreed to proceed in this project. He also stated that he is resigning as the Manager of the City of Santa Claus effective immediately. Walter Wright has agreed to fill those duties. The ditch at the Park needs to be straightened and another tree removed for drainage. Sue will mail letters to residents to remind them that kids 16 and under must be accompanied by a 17 year or older to play at the Park for safety. Bobby Beckum stated he was not aware of the city officials having such a big job. He requested that the city contact Regina Leverty, the owner of the lot beside his house on Sleigh ST, asking her to clean up the property of overgrown trees and grass. Vince recommended Donita check with the City of Lyons to insure we are being billed the same amount for services as their citizens are paying as was the agreement.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor 