

City of Santa Claus, Georgia  
Regular Monthly Council Meeting

March 19, 2024

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held March 19, 2024. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Monte Powell, Mike Heath, and Brenda Sells and Sue Grisham. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of February 20, 2024, meetings were read. Brenda stated a correction should be made as Walter Wright was not resuming the duties of City Manager. Renee made a motion second by Monte to accept the minutes as read after correction.

**Old Business:** The financial reports were reviewed by the Council. Gardens: Council discussed possibilities for replacing the lights as there still was no response from T-Lake. Donita agreed to walk through the Gardens with Brenda to mark lights for repair and possibly replace with solar lights. Park: Monte stated there were no issues with the Park. Community Center: Renee stated the chairs had not been put back under the tables when her party arrived for their function. Sue will remind Connie, the cleaning lady, to address this in the future. Roads: The roads at the corner of Salem ST and Reindeer ST are eroding and need to be monitored.

Donita stated she is working with Dan Beck on ways and eligibilities for the city to use the Safety Grant adding that the city has been granted some exceptions for the uses. Some possibilities for this is to add security cameras in areas such as the Community Center and add to the existing system at the Park, the annual inspections of all fire extinguishers, a Lifevac (used for choking), etc. She presented a list of things to be done before the grant is submitted. The city is eligible to receive \$2,600.00 this year. Also, the new councilman, Mike Heath, will attend the GMA training in 2025 due to work restrictions for this year.

Donita stated that she is waiting for word from C.G.I. Digitals concerning the banners Council agreed on. This was discussed. Also, Vince has assisted the mayor in getting the credit card machine working at the Gift Shop. Donita stated that Eddie Wright has reported that the new storage building to be erected on Noel ST is in progress. She also thanked Eddie and Walter Wright for picking up the bookcase and placing it on the porch in front of the Gift Shop. The C.D. at Altamaha Bank and Trust was renewed at 3.50% per Ms. Miranda Johnson and is valid through August, 2025.

The E.P.D. report from Michael Derrick has been received and was discussed by Council. Mr. Derrick has contacted Tindall who has responded to E.P.D. issues. Donita has returned the permit to Mr. Derreck. Sue has phoned Mobley's Well Drilling to schedule the annual water tank cleanout due in the summer and is waiting for this to be set up.

**New Business: March 19, 2024 meeting -page 2-** The Spring Listening Session, 2024, GMA will be held in Baxley on April 16, 2024, at the Coastal Pines Technical College and is free to members, Donita stated. Reservations need to be made for the meal provided.

The ARPA funds must be spent or at least allocated between April 1 and April 30, 2024. Donita suggested a work shop for Council to discuss the options open for the city. Donita stated that Cliff Duerfeldt has been working on the cleanup of his property on the corner of Reindeer ST and Holly ST. Vince has provided Cliff with the name of someone who might assist him with the demolition and hauling off of the old building. The cleanup hasn't been completed and she messaged Cliff on March 17<sup>th</sup> with no response as to when this will be completed.

The resurfacing and repairs on Noel Street were discussed. Donita stated that GDOT will begin accepting requests for Local Road Assistance (LRA) on March 15, 2024, and must be submitted by June 15, 2024. This may be an asset to the city. This is the same as the LMIG with the exception of the city having to provide the 10% matching funds. The LMIG grant will begin for 2025 in July and the city may be able to submit the application and be allowed 3 years to complete the project. The city funds from LRA is \$5,403.55 determined by the size of the city and the total population of the city.

Brenda informed the council that she has contacted Ben with the Altamaha E.M.C. right-of-way crew and he said he can spray and kill the weeds on Rudolph Way. Monte made a motion second by Brenda to hire this to be done with Council agreeing unanimously. Donita stated she will contact Cliff Duerfeldt again to inquire on his plans to complete the cleanup of his property. Council discussed issues with the sump pump on Dancer ST and the possible replacement estimate costs for the future. Eddie is working on an estimate for the repaving of all streets. Monte made a motion with Mike second the motion for Eddie to work on an estimate for future repaving of all streets in the city.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor 