

City of Santa Claus, Georgia
Regular Monthly Council Meeting
April 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held April 16, 2024. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Monte Powell, and Brenda Sells, Eddie and Elaine Wright, and Sue Grisham. Mike Heath was absent due to illness. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of March 19, 2024, meeting were read. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to accept the minutes as read and council agreed.

Old Business: The financial reports were reviewed by the Council. Gardens: Donita agreed to walk through the Gardens with Brenda to mark lights for repair and possibly replace with solar lights. Luis Nino, our landscaper, has planted new sod in the areas where the grass has died near the south entrance. Park: Monte stated there were no issues with the Park. Community Center: Renee stated there were no issues in the Community Center. Roads: Brenda suggested the closing of South Salem ST beyond Reindeer ST. This was discussed.

Donita stated that she is still waiting for word from C.G.I. Digitals concerning the banners Council agreed on. The new storage building on Noel ST has been complete and Christmas decorations will be stored there. Electricity will need to be installed with lights and outlets. Sue called Brandon Coursey twice with no response and then called Rod Harden who agreed to do the electrical for the city. Also, need to update the circuit breaker at the Gift Shop to add more electrical power to the building to alleviate power failure during a function at the site. The spot lights at the flag poles also needs to be repaired so this will be added to the electrical work. Donita is contacting Wayne Ward to request his help in refinishing the bookcase purchased for the use of a Little Library and asked Dara Dennis to submit an estimate to paint it using a Christmas theme.

The resurfacing project of north Noel St was discussed with suggestion of an engineer to come in to work on the project. Donita stated she will need to submit the application for the LRA (Local Road Assistance) grant before June 15, 2024. The LRA funds allocated to the city is \$5,403.55. The LMIG grant for 2025 will open in July, 2024, and does not require the city to match a percentage of the funds.

An invoice from GIRMA was received and has increased to \$6,570.00. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to accept this coverage for the city and pay the invoice in full. Council agreed unanimously. Donita requested Sue and Renee to inquire on options for phone and internet service for the office as the current contract with VYVE ran out and the monthly service fee increased. After checking with other providers, VYVE is still the best rate for the city service. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to renew the contract with VYVE for the office service.

The National League of Cities is designating May as National Cities, Towns and Villages Month to commemorate the NLC 100th anniversary & celebrate the contributions of municipalities to America's local government. They also request that cities participate in National Bell Festival in ringing bells on May 22 across the country. Brenda made a motion second by Monte for the city to participate in this.

New Business: April 16, 2024 meeting -page 2- GMA has designated May 5-11, 2024 as the 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Donita suggested May 8, 2024, be proclaimed to honor the city's clerk. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to accept this with all agreeing.

Donita stated she has completed the checklist for the city to qualify to submit the request for the Safety Grant. This was discussed with her explaining the process stating that she is now the official Crisis Coordinator for the City of Santa Claus and will submit everything required for the grant.

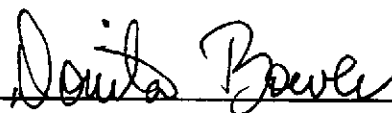
Donita stated that she has tried several times to contact Cliff Duerfeldt on the status of his property and decaying building at the corner of Reindeer ST and Holly ST. She will be contacting Attorney Tina Maddox for advice on the city's next steps to address this ongoing issue. She is also inquiring on an inspector for the property.

The APRA portal is open now through April 30th, per Donita. This was discussed at length. Donita has discussed with Artiffany Stanley of GMA the possibilities and learned that the excessive sewer bills from Lyons may be included. The city has \$13,561.17 in the account for use. Darel Corley has his crew working with cameras on locating the sewer lines for any indication of a possible ground water or sewer leakage adding to the bills. Council agreed to accept Donita's recommendation with Brenda making a motion and Monte second the motion.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donita Bowen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends across the page.