

CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 18, 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? Walk-around?

PARK - Monte Powell - Updates?

COMMUNITY CENTER - Renee Wright - Update? Ice Machine - Renee's brother (Lauren) fixed clogged drain; Possibly get Walter & Mike to repair the ceiling on the porch?

ROADS AND APPEARANCE - Update? Place post w/chains across both ends for the moment?

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- Any update on addressing the election process? Have discussed with Shea her handling if needed
- Sent email Wednesday, May 15th inquiring on the status of the banners for us from CGI Digital. Received notice on May 22nd they're about to start their big sales push later this week. I'll try to stay in contact with them for status updates. If anyone knows a business that might be interested in advertising please let me know so I can pass along.
- Storage building has been completed and we're still waiting on getting the electricity connected for the lights and a few outlets. At this time the insulation hasn't been blown in the top therefore we haven't been able to have the decorations put inside either. As soon as we get the clearance and sign off that everything is complete, we will issue their check and have things moved inside. Since the electrician used was contracted through Pittman, we will still need to contact someone to have them update/install circuit breaker/box over at the gift shop. This is to keep the circuits from overloading during our tree lighting festival. Do you have some suggestions of ones to inquire with to get bids? We can place it on the website also ... just not sure how many people will notice.
- I haven't been able to get in touch with Wayne concerning the bookcase/filing cabinet and him converting it into a 'Little Library' for us. I'll check and see if I can get someone else that might volunteer to help us. I was able to get in touch with Dara Dennis also about her painting it for us. But she can't do anything until I have the alterations done.
- I've submitted our ARPA report that ended on April 30, 2024.
- Have we been able to get any kind of estimates for resurfacing/repairing the roads? I went ahead and submitted our application for the LRA (Local Road Assistance) grant May 22nd. The electronic applications had to be submitted by June 15, 2024. We were approved and received the LRA funds that had been allocated to Santa Claus which is \$5,403.55. The LMIG grant for 2025 will open in July. The LRA supplemental grant was passed to help with our roads and it does require a percentage match. I've checked and the funds have been deposited and transferred to our ROADS account.

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- Vyve has updated our internet service and I did a test to ensure that we are running at the faster speeds for the download/uploads.
- I submitted our agreement to participate in the NLC (National League of Cities) designating May as National Cities, Towns and Villages Month. I also sent the notifications to Parlor to post on our city website.
- We honored our city clerk as brought to our attention by GMA concerning the 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week which was held May 5-11, 2024. Parlor posted the notification for it on our city website as well.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- Mobley has been contacted about doing the cleanout of our water tank. The cost will be \$695.00 and tentatively scheduled the last week in June (24-28). This will need to be coordinated with Rusty to ensure that he flushes the line to Lyons before to ensure that while we are on Lyons water that the residents don't get the 'settled dirty line water'. Unless you object I believe we should go ahead and also connect to the Lyons backup water line just in case it takes longer than predicted.
- The end of April we received a notification from QuickBooks that our support service had expired. I contacted them to determine how much it would cost to renew the subscription. I was informed that for 1 year it would cost \$1000, for 2 yrs. it would be \$1500 and 3 yrs. it would be \$1950. I went ahead and renewed and extended our support for 3 more years due to getting the cheaper rates. Last year we renewed the software with a 3 yr. contract - Product # - 401228 and the Product # for support is 953332.
- I submitted our application for the Safety Grant. The grant process time (average payment processed in 3 to 4 months) LGRMS receives your grant application, identifies any issues with your documentation, and sends the member an acknowledgement e-mail with any needed documentation. This will usually take 2 to 6 weeks. LGRMS will review your application with the GMS Grant Board. This Board will either approve or decline the items you have requested. This will usually take an additional 2 to 6 weeks. LGRMS will then send the member an email indicating the items approved for the grant. The member will then purchase the items requested and send LGRMS the proof of purchase documentation. Once received, it will usually take 2 to 6 weeks to deliver your check. I have provided you with a copy of the items that I submitted for approval. I haven't received any response back yet. I will try to inquire later in the week or next.
- I contacted the building inspector Eddie gave me the contact information. Mr. Johnny Parham (Dublin) was able to come and access the property May 8th. His fee for the inspection was \$250. I received his report and pictures. I compiled those, along with a letter Sue was kind enough to do for us concerning his unpaid taxes, a copy of our city property ordinance and sent those via certified mail to Mr. Duerfeldt's Vidalia address. I texted him that we sent him a certified letter and he should receive it on June 8th. I received a call from Mr. Duerfeldt that he hadn't received anything from us when he came into town to get it Tuesday, June 11th. Unfortunately after checking with the Lyons & Vidalia post offices it appears that I had sent it to the wrong address. So I am waiting to see whenever the post office will return the letter back to us. I will try to send it again to Mr. Duerfeldt and notify him.

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- We had some minor damage done from the bad weather we experienced on May 9th. I believe we can all agree we were blessed to have not suffered any more damage than we did. Mike was kind enough to cut up some of the fallen tree limbs for us. We greatly appreciated him helping us try to save as much money as possible. He was also kind enough to talk to Mr. Russ Bell about purchasing a chainsaw from him if they had any. Mr. Bell informed him that if we needed one that we could get it and he would take care of the bill. I intend to fix him a cake and if Sue will get him a Thank You card we can see if Mike would be kind enough to give it to him for us.
- Due to the storm we were without electricity. It was noticed later that the sump pump at the Lift Station didn't kick on during this time. We also ran out of water in the tank due to us not connecting to Lyons as our backup. Darel Corley and Monte tried to get it to start manually but ended up having to contact Cummins to come and look at it. It ended up being due to Battery Failed. That actually worked out since we hadn't connected to Lyons. When the battery for the sump pump failed, it at least wasn't getting any more sewage. Unfortunately, we had to pay Cummins to come and reset the fault and start the unit in manual run and then it started fine. The battery was installed in February of 2022. It has been recommended that on the next Preventive Maintenance visit, we have the 4D battery replaced and install an A08G602 Charger. This trip cost us \$392.90 for labor and \$654.84 for travel for a total of \$1699.49.
- On 06/02/24 I transferred funds from our SPLOST account to our Water & Sewage account in the interim to help supplement it until we're able to get the problem resolved. I've asked Darel to check the meter and to get maps of the old & new sewer lines along with the water lines from Hofstadter. I happened to run across some old emails between Amy Lawler and Kelvin Seagraves (Hofstadter) from 2021 concerning the problem. He had also drafted a letter for her to give to Lyons addressing the situation. I talked June 7th with Kelvin Seagraves concerning our sewer issues. He is going to come and/or get some of their men to look at our system. I thought they were to come last week but I haven't heard anything from him or Darel. Mr. Seagraves did mention that some of the problem is probably due to inflow and infiltration which happens in all systems. There is no system that is airtight. He also mentioned that with our system being about 20 years old we may or should be eligible for a CDBG grant. Mr. Seagraves also mentioned they haven't done any work concerning our water system therefore they don't have any maps pertaining to it. He also questioned if our current lines may be as old as from the 60's. In this case we might need to look at the feasibility of obtaining a CDBG grant for it also.
- I talked with Helen Harris (Toombs County) a few weeks ago about the possibility of us moving our fire protection over to them. I contacted her Monday, June 17th if she had discussed it with John Jones. She said she had talked to him about it and he said he thought we'd be better off leaving it as it is. She said he didn't give any explanation. I asked Vince to check with his insurance agent to see if there would be any kind of change in the premium if we had a pay as you go method set up with the Fire Dept. and if that fee would be included in the pay out reimbursement. I'm wondering if we should adjust our payment method to let the individuals pay if they have an incident rather than everyone paying monthly. However, the residents are currently only paying \$4 per month which is \$48 per year. We also need to decide what we need to do concerning the apartment owners not paying the monthly fire fee whenever there is a vacant apartment. Maybe notify them that we're going to drop them from our coverage with Lyons and let them get coverage themselves? Which could possibly raise their premiums?

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- Sue was informed by Southland Fire Protection that next year we will need to replace 3 fire extinguishers costing approximately \$115. Then later we will need to have the remaining 2 replaced also. They have 6 years maintenance plus our standard service agreement which is currently \$80 per year.
- I had a phone call with Anna Weaver (HOGARC) Friday May 22nd to go over and discuss our CWP (Community Work Program. This is pertaining to our Toombs County Comprehensive Plan.