

City of Santa Claus, Georgia  
Regular Monthly Council Meeting

June 18, 2024

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held June 18, 2024. Present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Monte Powell, Mike Heath, and Brenda Sells, Vince Meadows, and Sue Grisham. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of April 16, 2024, meeting were read. There was no meeting on May 21 due to illness. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to accept the April minutes as read and council agreed. There was no July meeting.

**Old Business:** The financial reports were reviewed by the Council. Gardens: Brenda stated that there are no issues in the Garden. Park: Monte stated the timer on the light nearest the Pavilion at the Park needs to be reset for the summer hours. Community Center: Renee stated the ice maker at the Community Center was clogged up but she and her brother, Lauren Hutto, cleared the line. T.J. Sager of Hutcheson H & AC has serviced the unit along with all air conditioner units at all city buildings. Too, some ceiling panels on the porch at the Community Center were blown down during the recent tornado and need to be replaced. Donita asked if Mike and Walter Wright could replace the panels. Roads: A large tree has blown down during recent winds blocking the south end of Salem ST going to Dasher RD. Council agreed to leave this natural blockage so as to possibly alleviate some traffic in the area.

Brenda will be inquiring with Carrie Alligood, Toombs County Elections Supervisor, on what is required so the city will be up to date for the election in November. Donita stated that word from C.G.I. Digitals concerning the banners Council agreed on is in the works with C.G.I inquiring in the area for advertisements to be displayed on the banners. The new storage building on Noel ST has been completed but still needs electrical service and insulation. Rod Harden agreed to do the electrical for the city and 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. Donita is contacting Wayne Ward to request his help in refinishing the bookcase purchased for the use as a Little Library and Dara Dennis to paint it using a Christmas theme. She also submitted the ARPA report that ended on April 30, 2024.

Donita stated she has submitted the application for the LRA (Local Road Assistance) grant on May 22 before June 15, 2024, deadline. This is to resurface North Noel ST. The LRA funds allocated to the city in the amount of \$5,403.55 has been received. The LMIG grant for 2025 will open in July, 2024, and does not require the city to match a percentage of the funds. The LRA is to help with the roads and requires the city to match a % of the funds.

**New Business: June 18, 2024 meeting -page 2-** As is required by E.P.A., Mobley Well Drilling will be cleaning the water tank on June 25, 2024, at a cost of \$695.00. Sue has mailed letters to all water users of this coming up. Rusti Wright will flush the water line that hooks up with Lyons on 6/24 and connect the city system to Lyons the morning of 6/25 to insure no interruption to the residents in their water use.

QuickBooks notified the city in April that the support service had expired. Donita contacted QuickBooks and learned that a 1 year renewal would cost \$1,000.00, 2 years renewal would be \$1,500.00 and 3 years would cost \$1,950.00. To save money for the city, she renewed the QuickBooks service for 3 years at \$1,950.00. (Product # 401228, Product support # 953332.)

Donita has submitted the application for the Safety Grant. A copy of the items submitted was presented to the Council. LGRMS will review the application and send an email of item(s) approved. After the approval, items will be purchased by the city and a proof of purchase document sent to LGRMS. Check should be received in 2 to 4 weeks following this process. The mayor will inquire later in the week of the status of the grant.

After an inspection of the Cliff Duerfeldt property on the corner of Holly ST and Reindeer ST by Mr. Johnny Parham of Dublin at a cost of \$250.00, Donita compiled a package containing a copy of Mr. Parmah's report, a letter from the city stating his unpaid taxes, a copy of the city ordinance. This was sent to Cliff Duerfeldt via certified mail at his Vidalia address. Due to the poor service of USPS at this time, this package has not been picked up by Cliff nor returned to us as of this date. Donita has spoken with Cliff and is waiting for the mail service to return the package to notify him.

Thanks to Mike for cutting up the small trees blown over at the Community Center during a tornado in the area on May 9. Mike reported that Russ Bell of Handy Andy donated a chain saw for this tree clearing. Donita stated that she will send a proper thank you to Russ for his assistance. Due to the storm, the city was without electrical power for a time. There was an issue with the sump pump as the generator did not start up and operate the sump pump to pump the sewer. Thanks to Darel Corley and Monte for their time working on this problem of a failed battery. This was discussed by the Council. During the next Preventative Maintenance visit, a new 4D battery will be installed with an A08G603 Charger. The battery at the generator was purchased in February, 2022. This trip cost the city \$1,699.49, \$392.90 for labor and \$654.84 for travel time from Savannah.

**New Business- June 18, 2024 -page 3-** Donita reported that, On 6/02/24, she transferred funds from the SPLOST Account to the Water and Sewage Account. This was needed because of excessive sewage bills from the City of Lyons. This was discussed at length. This has been an ongoing problem when there is a lot of rain. She has searched means of solving this including talking with Kelvin Seagraves who made several suggestive answers and agreed to make a visit here to discuss it further. Also, Donita discussed the city fire protection with Helen Harris, Toombs County Clerk, as we are currently paying the city of Lyons monthly for coverage. Helen spoke with John Jones, Toombs County Manager, on behalf of the city and he recommended this be left as is. Council discussed this further.

During the annual inspection of the fire extinguishers by Southland Fire Protection, Sue was informed that next year three extinguishers will need to be replaced as they will be out of date. This will cost approximately \$115.00. The following year, the remaining 2 extinguishers will be replaced. There is a 6 year maintenance plus the standard maintenance agreement of \$80.00 per year.

The mayor had a phone conversation with Anna Weaver of HOGARC on Friday, May 22 to discuss our CWP (Comprehensive Work Program) pertaining to the Toombs County Comprehensive Plan.

Brenda stated that the grading and preparations for the parking lot at the park has been completed and is ready for paving. She presented a bid from Sikes Paving for \$35,000.00. This includes \$25,000 for paving, \$7,000 for crush & run, and \$3,000 for fine grading, for the complete job. This will be for approximately 20 spaces for parking. Renee made a motion second by Mike to pay Sikes Paving \$35,000.00 for the paving of the parking lot at the Park. All council signed off on the agreement. Vince suggested that signs be placed at the Park with rules and the hours the Park is open due to a lot of late night activities there.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor 