

City of Santa Claus, Georgia  
Regular Monthly Council Meeting

April 15, 2025

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held April 15, 2025. Those present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Monte Powell, and Brenda Sells, Secretary Sue Grisham, and Eddie and Elaine Wright. Matt Lynn had another commitment and was not present. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of February 18, 2025, meeting were read. Brenda made a motion second by Monte to accept the minutes. Council agreed unanimously to accept the minutes. There was no meeting in March, 2025.

**Old Business:** The financial reports were reviewed by the Council and discussed. The Gardens: All lights around The Gardens have been replaced. Park: Signs are on order to be erected at the entrances of the rules and hours for the area. A notice of "No Motorized Vehicles in the park" will be added. Council agreed that, at Halloween, the train will be allowed to run around the track for the kids' rides as it is an organized event. Community Center: No issues. Roads: The STOP signs have been replaced throughout the city streets.

Matt attended the training required by the state as a new councilmember at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center on March 19-21, 2025. No word from Cliff Durefeldt. Zac Moore is still waiting for clearance to begin the city texting/email notifications. No information has been received from I.R.S. on the electronic payments for the city account.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Donita stated that she is still working with FEMA and GIRMA on the city properties damaged during Hurricane Helene. Michael Carroll of Triton Fire & Safety continues to work on the security systems to be paid out of the safety grant. The mayor added that it appears she will be required to attend another class with Dan Beck of LGRMS later this year. The required notices for the meetings for the citizens on the Homestead Exemption were placed in the Advance with meetings scheduled for March 25, April 15, and April 22 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall. Also, a check was received by the city for the Homestead Grant in the amount of \$1,916.67.

Larry Sikes and Sikes Civil have resurfaced the city streets with McLendon Enterprises stepping in to assist on the project. Per Larry, shoulders will be filled in with dirt and grass seeds and the striping will be done in a few days. He will also proceed on the topsoil and grass seeds at the Park and replace the walkway at the Gift Shop. Speed Bumps to slow down traffic on Dancer ST at the Park and on Rudolph Way will be installed using mounds of asphalt painted yellow while Sikes Civil is still working in the city.

**April 15, 2025 -page 2-** Due to scheduling conflicts, no one will attend the District 9 Spring Meeting to be held on April 22 at 5:30 at the Reidsville Garden Club.

Donita explained the upcoming National Primary Drinking Water Regulation tests which will be performed by Tindall as they monitor all situations concerning our drinking water. Donita also informed the council of an onsite visit/inspection with FEMA on March 29, 2025. The ARPA Grant will be closed out at the end of April.

Donita stated she has sent a zip file from CGI Digital to Universal Concepts concerning the banners for the 10 lamp posts on December DR. This was discussed by the council. Donita also suggested we purchase another design T-shirt for sale at the Gift Shop. Sue will check on this.

Debbie and Barry Toole have reached out to the city about selling their lot on Reindeer ST. This was discussed as someone is interested in planting Christmas trees there. Donita stated that the land is zoned for residential/agriculture so she feels this would be within the zoning adding that no livestock or poultry are allowed.

The GIRMA invoice has been received for 2025 in the amount of \$7,035.00, up \$465.00 from 2024. Also, National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has approved the application from the city allowing us participation. After discussion, council agreed to leave the water and sewage deposit at \$175.00 per meter. Donita is concerned that sometimes an account is left owing a large balance when it is vacated. Donita said that she has worked on the RVS software and cleaned up accounts.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor 