

City of Santa Claus, Georgia  
Regular Monthly Council Meeting

July 15, 2025

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held July 15, 2025. Those present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Monte Powell, Matt Lynn, and Brenda Sells, Secretary Sue Grisham, Vince & Charlotte Meadows and Lance Sikes. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of June 17, 2025, meeting was read. Renee made a motion second by Monte to accept the minutes. Council agreed unanimously to accept the minutes as read.

**Old Business:** The financial reports were reviewed by the Council and discussed. The Gardens: The lights on the walkway are out. Will get this checked out. Park: There are no new issues. Community Center: No issues at the facility except to replace the battery in the fire alarm. Roads: There have been complaints that the shoulders on the streets are too high for cutting grass. This was discussed with council agreeing this will correct in time.

The fence around the generator at the Park has been installed by Greg Goff without privacy slats. After inspecting it, Donita contacted Greg and he has made the proper adjustments to the fence and Gate. All signs have been installed in the city in the proper places as needed.

The mayor has begun entering contact information of residents in the new messaging system. She is also getting instructions on entering reports through QuickBooks automatically which she will share with Shea.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The mayor submitted the information for the culvert project at Salem ST to GEMA /FEMA for payment. FEMA should pay 75% (\$30,000) GEMA 10% (\$4,000) leaving the balance of 15% (\$6,000) for the city to pay. She also submitted forms to GEMA to complete the process for payments on all city claims. We have received the funds for the generator, etc.

Donita submitted the paperwork to Harris Local Government to begin the process of preparing the 2025 property taxes on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Fernando has picked up the Helene damaged bench from the Gardens and will repair it. The issue of sewage backup at the Kathy Joyner residence was discussed with the mayor stating she has contacted Karen Anderson of the Toombs County Health Dept. concerning regulations for a septic tank. After this discussion and Donita talking with Ms. Joyner, this is resolved for the city.

**July 15, 2025 -page 2-** Donita informed the Council that she has purchased a new computer for the office as old one had run out of space. She has completed the setup of the computer and moved data to the new computer and also purchased Microsoft Office Home & Business 2024 for \$249.99 which is the latest version. The council agreed to gift the old computer to Sue as it is not needed in office. Renee made a motion second by Brenda.

Donita met with city attorney Tina Maddox on July 11 to discuss the city contract with Lyons concerning the sewer system. She presented copies of Tina's assessment of the legal standing of the contract for the Council to review. Tina also recommended the city present a "firm" purchase offer to Cliff Duerfeldt for the neglected property on U.S. # 1 and Reindeer ST. Council discussed this again.

Brenda presented the Council with some information she received from Eddie Wright on options for work and/or items possibly needed for the lift station for review. This was discussed requesting that the Council take the data home and review them.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor 