

City of Santa Claus, Georgia  
Regular Monthly Council Meeting

August 19, 2025

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held August 19, 2025. Those present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Monte Powell, and Matt Lynn, Secretary Sue Grisham, Vince Meadows, Eddie and Elaine Wright. Brenda Sells was absent due to illness. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of July 15, 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 bulbs in the lights on the walkway have all been replaced as the bulbs were blown due to lightning. Park: There are no new issues. Community Center: The south door at the handicap ramp had a new doorknob installed. Roads: No issue with the roads.

Donita stated she has completed required data to submit the quarterly reports electronically through QuickBooks. She has informed Shea Hullender of the procedures for future reports. She also has made a Training Manual for anyone to refer to if needed and placed the Manual on the filing cabinet in the meeting room. The new computer for the office has been installed and Norton 360 antivirus software has been purchased for it, Donita added.

The mayor replaced the handle in the toilet at the Gift Shop but noticed other repairs were needed. Sue called John Edge and he came out and completed the needed repairs to both toilets including switching the faucet handles and tightened them.

After discussing the matter with Luis Nino, the city grounds keeper, Donita stated they agreed to trim the crepe myrtles at the park so they will not block the sign and train them to grow up so they will not block the sign as it has been a consistent issue. Fernando picked up the Garden bench damaged during Hurricane Helene. Donita will check with him on the status of him returning it. Also, since the fence has been replaced at the lift station, Donita will get locks for the gates and put the tarp over the spare pump.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The mayor informed the council of a couple of reimbursement checks received from FEMA/GEMA for claims on damages by Hurricane Helene for the SPLOST and General Accounts.

**August 19, 2025 -page 2-** Solid waste pickup for the city was discussed. Republic Services serves the city at this time. The city of Lyons has changed their service to Allgreen Services, the mayor stated.

The GMA District 9 Fall meeting will be in Metter on Thursday, 9/25/25 at 5:30 PM till 7:30 PM. It will be at the Georgia Grown Center at 25 S. Terrell ST in Metter. A meal will be provided and anyone interested in attending needs to notify Donita for reservations.

The mayor stated that she met with Attorney Tina Maddox concerning the contract with Lyons. In her view, the contract with Lyons is being followed, stated Tina. Also, Donita requested recommendations for the next step in dealing with the Cliff Duerfeldt's neglected property issue. The city has contacted Mr. Duerfeldt numerous times. He stated several times he plans to improve the property with nothing being improved as of this date. This was discussed with the mayor agreeing to consult another attorney on this issue, possibly Dwayne Cowart of Reidsville or Charles Andrews of Vidalia

The quote from Pump Services was presented by Brenda and the Council discussed this. It is a possible second source for maintenance on the pump for the sewage pump station.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor 