

City of Santa Claus, Georgia
Regular Monthly Council Meeting

October 21, 2025

The regular meeting of the Santa Claus City Council was held October 21, 2025. Those present were Mayor Donita Bowen, Councilmembers Renee Wright, Monte Powell, and Matt Lynn, Secretary Sue Grisham, Vince Meadows, Lance Sikes and Eddie and Elaine Wright. Brenda Sells was absent. The meeting began with the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes of September 16, 2025, meeting were read. Renee made a motion second by Matt 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: Sue stated that a light has been destroyed by the sidewalk going into the Chapel. Donita said she will ask WADE to repair it. Park: Donita said the tarp has been placed over the pump at the lift station and locks are in place on the gates. The old security lights have been removed from the pavilion. Community Center: The facility is O.K. Roads: No issue with the roads.

Council discussed the trash pickup service presently serviced by Republic Services. Donita will contact AllGreen Services for their rates. The mayor added that Lesley Taylor of Gilbert Jones & Assoc. met with her to answer questions on W-9's & 1099's. Sue will be sending out the forms to the appropriate parties.

NEW BUSINESS: On October 9, Donita signed the remaining item for our state representative, Sharve' Tankersley for the Cat Z completing the FEMA projects. Following our receipt of the payment, she will contact ER Assist requesting copies of all documents. The city is required to keep all documents for three (3) years for FEMA and five (5) years for the state.

The Tillery Firm has been obtained to act on behalf of the city in the Cliff Duerfeldt issues. After reviewing the city ordinances, the Tillery Firm stated that it was legal for the city to proceed in the cleanup of the Duerfeldt property of yard trash and grass. Council discussed this agreeing to hire Luis Nino to clean up the property. This is for safety preparation of the Christmas Eve luminary lighting.

Luis has pressure washed the white fences around the city properties and the front of the Community Center. Clarence Pittman has pressure washed the roof at the Gift Shop and repaired and painted the porch area and the roof. The mayor stated that, while he was preparing for the train ride trail for Trick or Treat, Eddie Wright informed her that the foot bridge at the Park needed repairs. Clarence has repaired the bridge also.

After discussion, Renee made a motion second by Monte to repair or replace the ceiling fans and lights as needed at the Gift Shop.

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On October 12, there was an incident where the north entry gate on Reindeer ST was knocked down. The damaging party, Heath, contacted Donita. Eddie contacted WADE and Donita contacted Luis and the repairs were completed. Since the lamp posts had been wired for electric lights, the solar lights were replaced with electric lights. The city paid for all repairs and will be reimbursed by the Heaths. Vince Meadows inquired as to what the city planned to do with the old solar lights and council agreed he could have them.

The mayor received information from Carol (Southard) Stone with GA Dept. of Community Affairs concerning the needs to proceed with the application for the CDBG grant in April, 2026. Sue and Donita have made proper notifications for the Request for Proposals to both Engineers and Grant Writers from a list Carol provided. Carol will assist in the next steps to request the grant.

The annual Tree Lighting is approaching on November 20. Donita stated that the new banners need to be hung on the lamp posts on December DR asking if Edge Tree Service could be hired to assist in this with his bucket truck. Shea and Donita have successfully submitted the Quarterly Reports electronically.

Donita has submitted estimates to ER Assist from Chad Edge and Darel Corley to clear trees behind the Park and also in the process of obtaining a grant for a generator for the water pump. The mayor added that she has attended the 2 Toombs County Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates, August 28 and September 24 and will attend the last one on October 23. She explained the city status concerning the plan.

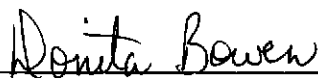
Donita said she is working on the new notification system to notify city residents of any emergency or citywide interest by text or email. She and Sue are inquiring with residents asking permission for their preference to receiving the notification. She explained her plan on this.

The city has received the Water System Permit from Georgia EPD which is good from 10/09/25 till 08/14/27. A copy was sent to Findall. The city has received the funds for the 2026 LMIG grant in the amount of \$5,013.02. According to the representative, Jeremy Barwick, we could apply for this again in the next 2-3 years as we have recently resurfaced the streets. The city property taxes notices are in the process of being mailed out by Harris. Council agreed to table any replacement of the gates at the Gardens.

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

Respectfully Submitted, Sue Grisham

Donita Bowen, Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donita Bowen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.