

CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING

Apr 21, 2026

AGENDA

7:00 – PM – CALL MEETING TO ORDER ROLL CALL

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- READING OF MINUTES/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
- COMMENTS/PUBLIC ISSUES
- FINANCIAL REPORT (Hand out)

1. COUNCIL AGENDA /ISSUES/WORK UPDATES:

GARDEN - Marcie - Updates?

PARK - Monte - Updates? Squirrels?

COMMUNITY CENTER - Walter - Update?

ROADS AND APPEARANCE - Matt - Update?

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- I rearranged items in the closet and got a small table to put the security camera, etc. on.
- We're still waiting on the last check from FEMA/GEMA concerning our reimbursement for ER Assist fees. Still waiting on copies of the documents from ER Assist also. ER Assist continues to reach out to GEMA concerning our remaining project. On February 19th I was cc'd on an email ER Assist sent to Blake Tillery checking to see if he could assist us. I haven't received any follow up from Mr. Tillery. However, I believe it is still PENDING FEMA closeout (government shutdown). Awaiting information -
- Wade has gotten the lights and bases installed on the memorial wall. I got some estimates on replacing the signs on the wall. I went to Sign & Stamp Solutions and I also contacted Clark & Shaw Monument Co. on Wednesday, April 15th. to see what they might have that we can use. I was informed that I'd get a call back but haven't heard back from them yet. I will follow up with them.
- We're still waiting on Lesley Taylor to send her final bill for assisting us with getting our 2025 1099s sent out and the documents back to file. She asked for a reminder to be sent to her after April 15th due to her currently being very busy working on customer's taxes and the deadline.
- Akin has cleared the right ways on Salem, etc. He will contact us back concerning spraying in hopes to keep from having to keep clearing the right ways as we've been doing. He's waiting for them to begin sprouting before he sprays. We should also have him remove the dead tree in the garden.
- I went to the attorney Massie McIntyre's office March 24th to purchase the property at the corner of Reindeer St & Salem from Barry Toole. We paid \$3000 for the property and the closing fees due to us getting the property at a significant reduction from the current value. Awaiting deed - Also need to contact [Anna Holcomb](#) to see about updating the property information as on Qpublic it's showing 0.69 AC-Rudolph Way Lots 1-4 Santa Claus.
- Since February I have continued to send emails to DCA to submit their reports and surveys for 2026. As of April 1st, Lynn AshCraft with DCA responded 'I am forwarding your email to our research folks in Atlanta. They will be able to assist!' The city received an email to submit - Submitted GOMI survey (2025?) April 16, 2026 - Wage & Salary Survey (response back was - already completed)

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- Feb 17, 2026 I signed our agreement for the SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Sales Tax) agreement with Toombs County, Lyons and Vidalia. at .80% for 2027-2032, currently it's .65% ... if it passes in November's election.
- Wednesday, February 18th, Eddie and myself met with Hayes Hofstadter to go over his first initial assessment of our needs, costs, etc. To stay within our proposed \$1 million grant we determined that we will need to wait on doing the section of water lines for Candy Cane from US Hwy #1 to the corner of Noel St.
- I contacted Jessica Conant about commissioning her to do maybe 3 or 4 more of the wood carved decorations. After playing 'tag' with her, she sent me some pictures of some of the things she's done in the past. She had a reindeer and penguin that I liked and inquired if she could possibly do a couple toy soldiers? I thought we could put them by the front doors of the community center. I asked if she could maybe make them about 4 ft. ... realizing that they are made of wood and anything real big will be HEAVY. She responded she'll try to start one within the next couple of weeks. She can send pictures as she's doing it so I can tell her what I think. I can forward the pictures to any of you also if you'd like to provide feedback.
- Sue, have you had a chance to try accessing and using the messaging system? Do you need to help?

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- On Mar 30, 2026 I had to revise the January 2026 Minutes to reflect Carol's Consulting & Grant Management had been selected for handling our Grant writing and submission. I also had to change the project for the upcoming water system rather than the sewer. Lance Sikes was changed instead of Vince asking for the possibility of water bill rate reductions. This had to be done before Carol could submit our application for the grant. It was also uploaded to our city website as Revised Minutes.
- We were able to successfully collect enough surveys to meet the necessary threshold for submission for the grant. I'd like to thank [Marcie Rogers](#) for her help in getting those in her area.
- On Thursday April 09, 2026 I received notification from Carol that she had successfully submitted our CDBG Application for 2026. Now we have to wait to see if we qualify and receive it. Praying and crossing fingers.
- GMA sent an invitation March 10th for us to attend their District 9 Spring Listening Session. I sent a reply that we wouldn't be able to attend due to it conflicting with our monthly council meeting, which is tonight April 21, 2026 @ 5:30pm - 7:30pm.
- Contacted Jansen Killian (The Tillery Firm) to inform her the Duerfeldt property (Lots 1-4) located at the corner of US Hwy #1 & Reindeer St has been purchased. Mr. Duerfeldt has gotten his city property taxes paid so there will be no further action that we will need to pursue at this time.
- I received notification from GDOT (Georgia Dept of Transportation) that they are opening the submission for an additional LRA (LMIG Supplemental) grant for 2026. The amount allowed for the city is \$5,422.76. Friday Apr 10, 2026 I submitted our application and emailed our completed Expenditures Statement. Thursday, Apr 16, 2026 I received an email asking me to resubmit as I forgot to apply our city seal. Resubmitted that day.

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- We received the Payment Terms from GIRMA (our insurance company) for 2026. The amount is for \$7,830. Do you approve of renewing the insurance?
- Walter & Marcie attended the required Newly Elected Officials training last month. I have received Declaration of Intention forms, Affidavit of Candidate's Intent not to Exceed \$2,500, and Personal Financial Disclosure Statements from all members of the council. I did this to ensure everyone will be compliant with the state for 2026. I reached out to the State Ethics Commission Friday April 10th to determine the best way to submit the forms. They didn't have preference, so in light of everyone submitting their information next year online I contacted [Carey Alligood](#) to see if she'd be kind enough to submit the forms for us this year since she's submitted them for us in the past. She said she'd submit them for us. However, the State had to contact their lawyer to find out how to handle our Affidavit election years. They will contact me back once they have been able to determine what needs to be done, if anything, to ensure we're compliant. With the city being so small and not holding elections will probably be some of the determining factors. I had Sue deposit the election fee funds from Walter & Marcie for the city. I spoke with the state's Ethics Commission attorney (Ms. Kristen Judd) Wednesday, April 16th. concerning our city elections. She said that we only need to have Carey submit the Personal Financial Disclosure Statements for us. Then going forward next year when everyone has to submit the forms themselves, that is the only one that they need to submit since we don't have any elections or campaign funds to disclose. I inquired if it is a requirement for us to collect election fees from the elected officials ... especially since we aren't actively doing elections. She said that I will need to talk to the Secretary of State office to inquire about it as they don't collect funds. I contacted the state office and they said that we don't have to collect the election fees. Since we're not required to collect the fees do you want to forgo the election fees going forward?
- Apr 10, 2026 I submitted our Quarterly Returns.
- Ms. [Artiffany Stanley](#) (our GMA district representative) sent an email Mar 31, 2026 notifying us that as our Member Services Consultant, she's available to support us in any way she can. With many cities welcoming new council members, this is a great time to consider a "GMA 101" session to provide an overview of roles, responsibilities, and best practices for effective governance. She can also provide a customized orientation to help City Clerk to their role and available resources. The sessions can be tailored for council members to ensure everyone is aligned and set up for success. Her goal is to visit each of her cities at some point this year, so she'd like to encourage us to take advantage of the services. As she begins coordinating visits, her schedule fills quickly, so we should reach out as soon as possible to secure a time that works for us. She's available to meet in person, attend a council meeting, or connect through a one-on-one meeting ... whatever format is most beneficial for us. Do you think any of us could benefit from her operational assistance, guidance on human resources, or general support?
- Recently our state government has been convening to determine how to handle the proposed Homestead Exemption Taxes. GMA has been intervening on its members behalf. In GMA's April 9th This Week at GMA newsletter they provided a recent update. I've provided everyone with a copy of their update. I will try to keep everyone updated as I hear anything.

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- Apr 10, 2026I emailed [Artiffany Stanley](#) to see if she could provide me with information about submitting this year's Safety Grant. Since LGRMS has turned things over to them I'm not sure when and how to submit the application. I've provided you with a copy of the items that have been pre-approved that we can submit. If you will look at and see if there are any that you believe we should apply for or if you can think of anything else that might qualify that may not be on the list. Tuesday, Apr 14, 2026I received an email from our Risk Control rep Weston Cox. He sent me some information on the new safety grant process. He also informed me our new Senior Manager of Loss Control and Prevention Services is Dennis Watts. I'll look over the new process and if needed reach out to Mr. Watts as in the past a lot of the requirements didn't apply to us.
- Apr 15, 2026I attended a webinar meeting for the State of Georgia to host a public hearing and webinar to present the 2026 Annual Action Plan. In conjunction with the Annual Action Plan, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) presented and solicited public input on potential updates and revisions to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Method of Distribution (MOD). The proposed changes may impact program structure, funding allocations, and implementation across CDBG programs and are subject to review, public comment, and approval by HUD, consistent with federal requirements. There was some discussion that the match may be reduced later from the current \$49,500 match to \$39,500. Not sure when or if this will occur. I reached out to [Carol Southard](#) Wednesday, April 15th to see if she had heard anything concerning the changes. She responded that she hadn't but will keep her ears open and let me know if she hears anything.
- I saw in a GMA Quick Reminders notification (March 2, 2026) of an ADA Compliance Deadline. Under new DOJ Title II regulations, cities must make their web content ADA accessible by April 24, 2026 (population over 50,000) or April 24, 2027 (all others). I don't know exactly how or if this will impact us as we don't manage our website ourselves. I will continue to watch out for any updates.
- Apr 16, 2026I received an email from the Georgia Department of Labor. They are preparing to launch UI Inspire at the end of 2026 - the largest modernization of Georgia's unemployment system in state history. They're committed to keeping us informed and supported every step of the way so we are ready on day one. Each month, we will receive a notice prompting us to check our Employer Portal for important updates. We're encouraged to stay engaged and review these communications regularly for key information, as well as upcoming tutorials and training webinars designed to help us navigate the new system with confidence. The April UI Inspire newsletter is now available in our Employer Portal. They also asked us to fill out a survey.
- Lastly, I've taken the Employee Policy Manual that I had created (tweaked using Lyons as a basis of reference) and provided the council with portions of it for review and/or modification. I'll split it into 3 or 4 sections and give you a section at the following month's council meetings so you can read and make any recommendations and revisions that you believe need to be changed. Sue, you should also read and review the sections along with the council so you'll be aware of what's there currently and/or any changes they recommend. You can use the actual policy manual in the office.