

CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING
July 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?

COMMUNITY CENTER - Walter - Update? Thanks for repairing the fence on the porch. Recommend temp for the thermostat?

ROADS AND APPEARANCE - Matt - Update? Spray paint alongside the road for luminary placements. Thanks to Walter for putting up the stop sign at intersection of Reindeer & Salem

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- We finally received our last check from FEMA/GEMA on May 20th. May 25th, I closed out the P4 project for Sharve' (GEMA). I also sent an email to Laurel & Brenda (ER Assist) inquiring about copies of the documents that ER Assist submitted on our behalf to FEMA/GEMA. We are required to keep copies of everything for 3 yrs. for FEMA and 5 yrs. for the state. Monday, July 20th, I received an email from FEMA stating that some of the projects relating to Hurricane Helene have been federal cost share adjusted. Items that were 75% and 25% are now 90%. I forwarded the email to ER Assist to see if we qualify for any of the additional funds.
- We received the memorial plaques and have had Wade to install them.
- What's the status of Akin spraying the right aways that he cleared and removing the dead tree in the garden? Also, the tree limbs hanging over the road on Candy Cane?
- Walter was kind enough to pick up the soldier carvings from Jessica for the negotiated price of \$850. They'll still need to be placed at the community center.
- Tuesday, May 19th I returned our signed amicus support to the City of Milton concerning their Milton v. Chang case.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- C.J. Worden with ER Assist, has the Toombs County Hazard Mitigation Plan. He needs to present and for us to adopt.
- June 4th, I received notification from Rachel (Tindall) our CCR (Consumer Confidence Report and Certification Form have been submitted on our behalf to the EPD.
- June 12th, I received an email from DCA concerning the 2026 required surveys. These are the same surveys I previously reached out to them concerning the ones available on their website showing 2025. Saturday, June 13th I submitted the remaining surveys (GOMI and Wage and Salary).
- June 30th, I received an email notifying me acknowledging receipt of our Request for Release of funds and Certifications, CDBG application. Carol mentioned this is 5 bonus points for the application. So, if we get funded our funds are already cleared to use.

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- May 28th, I received notification that our application for this year's Safety Grant had been approved. However, instead of the expected \$3000 they approved only \$670. June 1st, I reached out to Dennis Watts explaining our need and explaining our current sewer infiltration problem and asked for reconsideration. I received word back that we are to receive the \$3000 as requested. For some reason the system had erroneously flagged it incorrectly. Even though we haven't received the grant funds yet I went ahead and contacted [Clay Herrin](#) @ Southeast Pipe on Thursday, June 4th. I explained to him our desire for him to run the CCTV camera in the sewer line on December Drive between Sleigh and Dancer. He said he thinks the estimate Hayes provided for us may be sufficient. He mentioned he knows that we are a small city probably with limited funds. He will look and see if he's able to help us with the cost. He's planning on looking at the section I provided him. I'm still awaiting information from him. If I don't hear back within the next week or so I'll reach back out to him. Are you okay with us going ahead with him starting even if we haven't received the grant funds yet? June 17th, I sent an email inquiring about the status of the grant and when we might receive it. Also sent an email to Artiffany Thursday, July 18th to see if she can assist finding out for us. Still awaiting a response....
- Friday, June 12th, I received an email from John Jones (Toombs County Manager) concerning the LHOST grant. It was stated an ad notice needs to be placed in that week's Wednesday's newspaper. It states Notice of Intention to Introduce Local Legislation. Notice is given that there will be introduced at the 2026 special session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill to provide homestead exemption from Toombs County ad valorem taxes for county purposes; and for other purposes. I asked Sue to check with the County Clerk (Helen Harris) if we need to submit the ad ourselves for Santa Claus or if we need to provide them our support to place the ad on our behalf. We did have the ad run but there was some confusion on our participation. I had to urgently contact our representative, Leesa Hagan, while she was actually in session. It appears that we were also supposed to inform him of our intent rather than just her having all our information. She informed me that she would try to get it done, but it may not be possible at that point. She texted me to tell me that she did file the bill, but not sure if it will be included in the bills they'd be voting on the next day or if it would come to the floor on that Monday. But it was filed. Then after everything was done on June 23, she texted me to inform me that the Democrats just voted our local legislation down. Which means the LHOST will not be on the ballot in November. They can try again in January.
- I've been receiving notices for registering to attend the CDBG Summit September 28th - October 1. We are required to attend at least Sept. 28th and 29th ... if we receive the grant. I tried emailing to see if we registered for the early bird discount, could I cancel if it falls through. The early bird is \$350 thru June 21st, \$425 thru August 31st, and last chance registration is \$500 begins September 1st. I also texted Lynn Ashcraft (our DCA rep) on June 22nd, to see if she could find something out for us. She mentioned she'd inquire. Unfortunately, I didn't receive a response before the early bird deadline therefore, we've missed it. We should probably have 2 people attend to ensure we don't miss anything since we haven't done this before and hope to be able to get another one for the sewer. Is anyone else interested in attending?
- June 8th, I started getting email notifications from GEMA and ER Assist concerning the Hazard Mitigation Program Grant. This grant is for our request to get a generator for our water system (pump, etc.) and city hall. I will continue providing necessary information to continue our application.

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- Monday, June 8th, I emailed Rachel (Tindall) to inform her we received a notice requiring us to submit our permit application to operate a public water system, which is due in 2027. I filled the application out using information from our previous application. I asked her to look it over and ensure everything was correct, especially the information concerning their operator, etc. might have changed. She informed me that she forwarded the email over to Trey Pearson for him to address. June 8th, Trey responded back to me informing me he will get it submitted to EPD and copy me on the submission. I will follow up if I don't get confirmation. As of July 16th, I hadn't received a confirmation so I emailed Trey to inquire on the status and check to see if it had been submitted. I received notification back that he is out of the office and won't be back until July 21st. Tuesday 21st, Trey emailed me to confirm that on June 8th, he submitted it and thought he copied me when he forwarded it.
- On July 8th our annual subscription for QuickBooks was renewed for \$2,210. However, for the past several months there have been complications with the payroll section. July 15th, I contacted support and was informed that we needed to get their Database Protection which was to resolve the corruption. Apparently because our database is so big, somehow it is about 60% corrupt. In order to resolve the problem, I had to pay a one-time fee for the Protection. The cost is \$1253. (\$1149.99 plus tax) The tech was able to connect and fix the problem.
- Wednesday, June 10th, I contacted the Juvenile Justice Department to see if we could possibly arrange to get some people needing to work out their community services time to assist us later in putting up our Christmas decorations. I talked with Peggy/Sammy and they are going to leave a message for Zeke Collins to give me a call. Zeke called me Monday, July 20th and stated that they should be able to provide some help for us. I'm to contact him back at the first of the month (October) to coordinate/schedule them getting assistance for us.
- June 22nd, Darel Corley notified me they had to pull the pump at the lift station for repairs. Haven't received the bill yet but he mentioned I believe \$4840. Everything has been repaired and with the spare being put back in place. On June 30th, he also had the lift station cleaned out also.
- We've received notification from GDOT (Georgia Dept of Transportation) that they are beginning to accept applications for the 2027 LMIG Grant Program. I'll work to get another submission filed. We'll possibly only have another time or two to be able to file using the previous road resurfacing as a project. I'm going to also try to reach out to our representative (Jeremy Barwick) to see what are the guidelines for putting up signs, etc. for the bypass.
- It's come to my attention that there is some question about our handling of short-term rentals such as Airbnb's. I reached out to both Josh Beck (City Manager, Vidalia) and Jason Hall (City Manager, Lyons). Both cities have some form of short-term rentals. Vidalia actually has an ordinance in place and was kind enough to send me a copy of the one they use. Lyons doesn't actually have an ordinance in place. How do you feel about proceeding with this item?
- We received some information from the Georgia Rural Water Association explaining services and training classes that they offer. I wanted to make sure you were aware of these services and also services available to us through the Circuit Rider program. NRWA (National Rural Water Association) provides a network of 132 rural water experts, called Circuit Riders, that are available to assist us.

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- July 16th & 17th received notification DISH DBS Corporation has filed a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy case. Just notifying you as we don't have any services with DISH.
- I submitted our Quarterly Taxes on July 15th.
- Following up on the Employee Policy Manual that I had created. Do you have any changes\recommendations for the sections that I provided you at last month's meeting? I'm also providing you with the next section for your review ...