

CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING

May 19, 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?

ROADS AND APPEARANCE - Matt - Update? Spray paint alongside the road for luminary placements.

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- 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 May 9th I sent an email to Sharve' (GEMA) requesting information so I can close the project. Her email wasn't clear pertaining to who received final payment. Wanted to ensure she understands that we HAVEN'T received funds. We've paid ER Assist but are waiting on GEMA to reimburse us. Sent follow-up email on May 17th as I hadn't received a response. I called Sharve' May 19th inquiring on the status and how I needed to proceed. She stated that she's showing that the check has been sent. I informed her that we haven't received anything. She's going to check with the Accounting Dept and get back with me. In the meantime, I'm going to hold off on closing the project. Awaiting information -
- I got an estimate for replacing the signs on our memorial wall from Metal Designs. They gave us an estimate of \$1392 plus s/h for each one. It's for 18" x 14" raised bronze plaques. I inquired about the lifetime of the plaques. He informed me that we should be able to leave them alone and never have to clean them and that they last within 10-20 years and should always be readable. I also sent a request for an estimate from Lettersandsigns.com and they're supposed to get back to me within 1-2 business days. I also looked at some other sites but Metal Designs so far has been the cheapest. Do you think we should go with the more expensive ones and hopefully be done with them or should we get the cheaper ones that will need to keep being replaced and cleaned?
- Has Akin contacted us back concerning spraying the right aways that he cleared - to keep from having to keep clearing them. He said he was waiting for them to begin sprouting before he sprays? We should also have him remove the dead tree in the garden. Probably look at tree limbs hanging over the road on Candy Cane. Appear to be getting close to automobiles driving under them.
- I contacted Bradley Williamson (Toombs County Tax Assessors office) and informed him of the erroneous property information on the county's Qpublic website. He stated will look into it and the property owner information is only updated once a year, so it will be January before it is updated to reflect that we own the property.

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- I contacted Jessica Conant about the cost of the soldier carvings for the community center. She responded that she reached out to others for their feedback on pricing. She sent me a copy of the pricing worksheet and the cost comes to approximately \$640 each. That said, she understands that we didn't establish a price beforehand. She's willing to accept \$375 for the one that she has completed and will accept \$500 for the second one. She said the carving was made from solid oak. She's asking for a BASE price going forward of \$500 as they require labor, materials and a significant amount of time to make. I did some research looking at other carvings and these do seem to be a fair price. Do you agree to have her do the 2nd soldier to complete the set? Should we do any others or should we maybe do them like maybe one or two a year?

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- April 29th, I received notification from GDOT (Georgia Dept of Transportation) that our application for the LRA (LMIG Supplemental) grant for 2026 was approved and we should be receiving the funds within 10 business days. I confirmed we received the funds on May 1st for \$5422.76.
- FYI - Notification received from GMA (newsletter) the HR 1243 bill passed. The bill relates to the Georgia Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund. It authorizes the General Assembly to create a non-lapsing Georgia Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund and dedicate specified revenues to it. The funds would be used exclusively for the expansion, maintenance, operation, and transition to NG911 systems statewide. The amendment would be submitted to voters for approval. NG911 is digital, Internet Protocol-based emergency communication system that allows voice, text, video, and data to flow seamlessly to 911 centers, enhancing public safety and system resilience.
- May 8th, I submitted our application for this year's Safety Grant. Our new Senior Manager of Loss Control and Prevention Services Dennis Watts responded to questions that I had. This year for the grant we do not need to provide any documentation on the items I mentioned, the city instead affirms that we meet their requirements. We will also not need to provide receipts, only that we list what you want in application and price. If approved then GMA will send us a grant check based on premiums and approved amounts/items. We will also agree to be available for an audit potentially for next three years where we would verify the items we affirmed and documentation on the purchases. I requested our grant application for Sewer/Wastewater Line Inspection/Tagging and our Annual Fire Ext Inspection. The sewer/wastewater inspection wasn't on their new itemized list but had been on previous years lists. So I went ahead and included it under the OTHER category in hopes that it'll be accepted. I asked [Hayes Hofstadter](#) to provide me with an estimation of the CCTV inspection for the road area of December Dr. between Sleigh and Dancer. His estimate, I believe, is within the grant amount that we qualify for. He also provided Clay Herrin with SouthEast Pipe as someone to contact to provide the service, if it's approved. If we receive the approval I will reach out to Mr. Herrin.
- May 12th, we received notice from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. They are requesting our cooperation with preparing for the 2026 Health Insurance Cost Study (the Insurance Component of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. They are to send the information in June on how to access the 2026 Health Insurance Cost Study. Even though our government does not offer health insurance, we still need to respond. May 17th, I submitted the pre-canvass information for the upcoming survey.

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- I've provided you with the latest information from GMA concerning the Senate Bill 33 (Homestead Exemption). I'm going to contact the county to see if I can get some clarification on how this will affect us. As you will see on the handout apparently there will be two options, FLOST (Floating Local Option Sales Tax) & LHOST (Local Homestead Option Sales Tax). I'm assuming this will be offered to us as how we currently do the LOST & SPLOST.
- We received an invitation from Hofstadter & Associates to attend Dinner & Cocktails June 27th @ 6:00pm at The Westin, 1 Resort Drive, Savannah. Would any of you like to attend? I have to RSVP by June 12th.
- April 24th, I received an email from the City of Milton's mayor (Peter Jamison). He's reaching out again asking for our continued partnership concerning our amicus support in litigation involving sovereign immunity and roadway maintenance. Previously we offered our support and with the Supreme Court's March 12, 2026 decision in City of Milton v. Chang, where the Court clarified that a city's duty related to roadway safety applies only to ordinary travel on the parts of the road intended for that purpose. Apparently that same case is now back before the Court of Appeals, and it presents another important challenge. This time involving the "nuisance" exception for personal injury claims. In simple terms, there's an old court-created doctrine (going back to a 1968 case) that allows cities - but not counties - to be sued more broadly under a nuisance theory. Over time, that doctrine has expanded well beyond its original footing and is not grounded in the Constitution or general law. If this doctrine remains in place, cities across Georgia could face expanded and unpredictable liability, which ultimately impacts operations, budgets, and taxpayers. On the other hand, a clear ruling that reins this in would provide much-needed clarity and protection for municipalities. They are asking for a strong unified show of support from us in hopes it will reinforce how important this issue is for cities statewide. The timing is critical as they need the adopted resolution returned within 30 days. Do you support joining the City of Milton in their appeal process?
- I received an email April 17th from Daniel Gaddis (DCA) concerning PlanFirst applications. After looking into the PlanFirst benefits and/or incentives one was for applying the annually funded CDBG (Community Development Block Grant). However, the majority of the items it appears to pertain to we don't have... such as housing, redevelopment, employment or downtown programs. One May 8th I sent an email to our representative (Lynn Ashcraft) inquiring if we should or need to send an application for PlanFirst also to coincide with the CDBG grant. I informed her that we have applied for the CDBG grant to start replacing our current water lines as they're over 60 years old. However, we don't believe we have any further use for that plan. Ms. Ashcraft responded back informing me that she's reached out to both the regional commission and their folks in Atlanta who review the PlanFirst applications. The PlanFirst designation would allow us to apply for CDBG every year instead of every other year. She asked if this is our first CDBG application for water lines? She spoke with Mr. Gaddis and he said other small communities have successfully applied for PlanFirst (such as Woodbury), but if this is our first CDBG application for water lines she mentioned that she thought we might should wait to see how it goes and if it's not successful pay attention to the comments that are given. If we receive the CDBG grant, do you want me to pursue doing the application for PlanFirst also, since it would allow us to apply every year for CDBG rather than every other year?
- Lastly, follow 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 ...