

CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING
September 16, 2025
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 - Brenda Sells - Updates?

PARK - Monte Powell - Updates? Wasps?

COMMUNITY CENTER - Update?

ROADS AND APPEARANCE - Update?

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- I talked to Fernando on Tuesday, August 26th to find out the status of our garden bench. He contacted me Friday, September 12th and said he had completed it. I called Luis Monday, September 15th and asked if he would see about getting the bench that is located in front of the garden (on the concrete) and move it to the location where the broken bench had been. I mentioned that Fernando left screws to put the bench together and holes to allow it to be attached to the concrete. Luis said he'd take care of it.
- Now that the fence has been done at the lift station, I've gotten the locks to go on the gates. I've still got to put them and the new tarp over the spare pump. I've got to get the keys to Darel first since he goes there in the mornings to check things.
- I still haven't gotten a call from anyone with Allgreen Services. Do you want me to contact them? We should also check whether we have a contract with Republic Services and if so, when it expires.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- We've received notice that our Square device needs replacing as of Sept. 1, 2025. We'll still be able to take payments. Square will support critical security updates & bug fixes so we can still process payments with the current software version. However, the software functionality will remain as-is but we will not receive any new features or enhancements. Customer Support will be available to help troubleshoot, when possible, but issues caused by the device age or software bugs will require a hardware replacement. In light of this information and the limited usage of our current device do you recommend that we maintain using our current device until it needs to be replaced or do you recommend that we go ahead and replace?
- I contacted Gilbert Jones & Associates to check into the requirements for filing the 1099 forms. It was suggested that we provide the vendors a W9 for which we can download from the [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) website. Using the information from the W9 we can then enter it for the 1099 forms. Anyone that does work for us over \$600 needs to be provided with a 1099. The W9 form also helps determine whether a business that is a LLC is exempt from or should be submitted a 1099. I was also informed that they can assist us with getting these established and filed if we would like. Do you recommend that we get their assistance at least to get things established and then determine if we need any further assistance?

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- Wednesday, Aug 27, 2025 I had a conference call with our FEMA representatives Orlando Teel and Diane Moss concerning our RTM (Recovery Transition Meeting). The call consisted of me having to submit a signed form that acknowledged any remaining work to be done concerning Hurricane Helene has been formally transferred over to our state representative (Sharve' Tankersley). It was mentioned that we had to retain all documents for 3 yrs. for FEMA and 5 yrs. for the state. These documents can be either digital or hard copy and it appears that we have 3 projects that appear to have 'estimated cost' rather than finalized. After the call I contacted our ER Assist rep. (Brenda Gattis) and informed her of the phone call and she said she will contact Sharve' to ensure everything is received and provide us with a digital copy of all the documents they submitted on our behalf. As of September 15th, we have only 2 outstanding projects that we need to have to receive funds for. The Cat Z (management/administrative cost) and the one for the culvert.
- We've received a couple more checks from FEMA/GEMA for hurricane Helene. We received reimbursement for the SPLOST account to cover the Push 'n Pull that had been paid to Luis Nino & Chad Edge for clearing trees & debris. And we also received a check for the General account for the Garden & Park.
- I've registered Sue to attend the GMA District 9 Fall meeting that will be held Thursday, September 25th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in Metter at the Georgia Grown Center located at 25 S. Terrell Street Metter, GA 30439. Anyone else interested?
- Wednesday, September 10th I contacted Daniel O'Connor with Bryant & O'Connor after I tried reaching Andrew & Threlkeld and found out they had retired and kind of turned their things over to them. I talked with Mr. O'Connor and explained our situation with Mr. Duerfeldt's property and see if he thought they could assist us. He suggested getting in touch with the magistrate court office (Jack McMillan). I called the magistrate court's office and talked to Hunter and explained things to her and she suggested getting in touch with the county Tax Commissioner (Anna Holcolmbe). I called Anna and she suggested contacting their attorney, Blake Tillery. She also mentioned that they will be putting the property up the first of December. After talking with Mr. Tillery, he said that he would be willing to pursue helping us with the matter but wanted us to understand that they do charge \$250 per hr. which is a discounted fee for us but that it could end up being \$10,000 or more. What is your motion? Do we ask him to proceed or not?
- Monday, September 15th I reached out to Hayes Hofstader with Hofstader and Associates to see if he has any suggestions or help for our current sewer system problem. He believes that our best solution would be to pursue getting a CDBG grant. He thinks we can get a grant to assist us with getting the sewer lines rehabbed and fixed. He contacted Jay Matthews with Georgia Rural Water Assoc. to see about getting any information/data they might have and can provide from our smoke test. He also asked Carol {Southard} Stone to contact me. She is with DCA (Georgia Department Community Affairs) and she gave me a call Monday also to discuss our options. If we can procure a \$1,000,000 grant, we will have to come up with \$47,500 to go along with it. She said she can assist us in submitting and trying to obtain the grant. I inquired if it might be possible to also include looking at our water lines during the process and see whether we could maybe do both. She sent me some information concerning our next steps if you believe we should go ahead with it.
- It's getting close to our Annual Tree Lighting. Do you agree that we should reach out to Clarence Pittman and see if he will pressure wash the Gift Shop and repaint the rails and possibly the concrete?

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- We also need to get bids for pressure washing the fences around the garden and over behind the store. We need to align a time for this to be completed so it doesn't impact us getting our decorations done. When I talked to Luis yesterday, I asked him to submit a bid to Sue for him to do it as well. We just need to ensure also that we have everyone submitting their bids in the same manner and for the same areas.
- August 28th, I attended the first meeting for the Toombs County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. There are 3 meetings in all. The next meetings are scheduled for September 24th and October 23rd. The purpose is to assess the risk from natural and man-made hazards and to identify actions that may be taken in advance to reduce long-term risk to people and property. Federal law dictates that the Plan is updated every five years and must be approved by both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA/HS) for the county and its municipalities to receive certain federal and state grants, as well as certain types of federal disaster assistance. So, try to think of any items or issues that might fall within this realm for us. I believe our next meeting will provide us with our last submitted Plan so I will be able to provide more information on what we need to look for.