

CITY OF SANTA CLAUS COUNCIL MEETING
February 18, 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?

COMMUNITY CENTER - Update?

ROADS AND APPEARANCE - Update?

2. OLD BUSINESS:

- The electrician (W.A.D.E) has repaired the chandelier in the community center ...it was determined the electrical wattage was too low in the panel box. He also added 3 electrical outlets in the storage room so we can remove the long extension cord that was being run from the meeting room to provide electricity to the security system. Has he completed the outlet to the area at flag poles for lighting Santa and any other light? I ordered the bulbs for the garden lights and they should be here this week. As soon as I receive them, I will contact Wade so he can install them and ensure everything is okay and completed.
- I contacted our attorney Tina Maddox concerning Cliff Duerfeldt. She said she had someone that does locating people, etc. for her and asked if we wanted her to ask if he would assist us. I did have him go ahead (Michael Evans). He was going to initially charge us \$250 for locating and then \$75 per day afterwards, if needed. He ended up only charging us \$150. The information we had him deliver to Mr. Duerfeldt included a waiver for the volunteer group Rubicon doing tree removal, yard services. Mr. Duerfeldt did sign the waiver and I met with Rubicon to have them look at the property. They said that if they have time to get the trees in his backyard removed before they have to leave, they will but with the property being vacant it will be on the list of the last projects. I'll try to schedule a meeting with our attorney Tina, to see what we can do to get this matter resolved. Now that he has been delivered notice of his delinquent taxes, pictures and notice of the condemned building, a copy of the ordinance concerning keeping the grass cut, etc. and the waiver I would like to proceed. I've also got copies of the text messages where I have tried to work with him, which I will provide to Tina also.
- I still need to make Matt's reservations for his room for the 2025 Newly Elected Officials Institute training - on March 19-21.
- We passed this year's budget and have increased the water/sewage and trash rates. It appears that I adjusted the water/sewage rates incorrectly.
- Waiting on Zac Moore (Parlor) to get back with me concerning the texting/email notification system.
- I set up an account for us with the Georgia Department of Labor to submit our Quarterly Tax and Wage Reports electronically. I went ahead and set up the Quarterly Report for the Georgia Dept of Revenue to be done electronically. And I've requested the one for the IRS to be submitted electronically also. I'm waiting on the information from the IRS to complete it. Once they're complete I will get with Shea to inform her how to file them.

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3. NEW BUSINESS:

- Artiffany Stanley (GMA) was here today to present us with our Safety Grant check. We went ahead and met earlier to allow her to get back home at a decent time.
- Michael Carroll (Triton Fire & Security) is supposed to meet with me this Friday so that he can give us an estimate on finishing up the security installation at the community center. I'll then submit it for this year's Safety Grant.
- We received a letter from Governor Brian Kemp and Commissioner Christopher Nunn congratulating us on completing our new comprehensive plan 'One Toombs - Building one Collaboration'.
- I had to follow up on our Homestead Tax Relief Grant. I was informed that it had been sent out but was returned as Undeliverable. I was shown a picture of the notice and it appears that the problem was for some reason they sent it to a post office box ... one that I believe we had used years ago. I sent the correct address so hopefully we'll be receiving it any day now. The grant approval amount is for \$1,916.67. Once we receive the check, I'll contact them back informing them that it was received and ask them to ensure that our address information has been updated ... to prevent any further issues in the future.
- We've submitted all the estimates, and invoices that we've received so far to ER Assist. I believe they have uploaded everything with the exception of the estimate for the sprinkler and possible electrical (speakers) over in the garden. And we still need the estimate for replacing the bench in the garden area since that arm piece can't be ordered due to it being discontinued. I have informed them that we will pass that along as soon as I receive it.
- Update on Helene progress ... Fences at the garden and behind minit mart have been replaced. The path lights in the garden have been installed just waiting on the bulbs to be installed. The stumps in the garden and the 2 in the park (one close to the lift station & the one that had caused damage to the trail) have been ground. The sign at the community center and the ceiling pieces have been repaired. Clarence has finished rebuilding the fence in between the two smaller storage buildings. Clarence has still got to replace the window at the community center. He's waiting on the window. Darel has gotten permission to go ahead and start replacing the signs in the city. Clarence has to repair the bench and swing in the park. Larry has said he will repair the section of walking trail that was damaged at no cost to us. We still have to have the fence at the lift station replaced... waiting on GIRMA to send the okay. GIRMA did okay the replacement of the storage building using Robin's bid. I went ahead and asked Robin to go ahead and fix the door on the smaller storage building and see if we can get some keys. The estimated cost is \$75. Sikes Civil has completed the culvert at the corner of Salem and Rudolph. We have gotten the signed waivers from the residents that have the creek running through their property and I have given them to Looks Great. They will be clearing 100ft from the road intersections. They are to also clear an easement through the area below the park for the water line running through there. I had Rubicon look at the pecan tree that is leaning down in the storage buildings area. With it leaning so close to the power lines they won't be able to clear it. We're going to see if we can get Looks Great to cut it down.
- We received this year's pledge for our city to Practice and Promote Civility in the City of Santa Claus. This is promoted through GMA (Georgia Municipal Association). You will need to sign if you agree to follow.

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- HB 581 was passed during the 2024 legislative session and will bring changes to Georgia's property and local sales tax systems. I know we decided to Opt-Out of the new "floating" homestead exemption. It was extended to May 1st to make a decision and allow the governments to notify residents. I suggest that we have 2 of those public hearings during our council meetings March 18th and April 15th. When would you like to hold the 3rd public hearing? We also have to advertise these meetings beforehand.
- We have received 3 bids for bringing in topsoil and applying grass seed along the walking trail. Do you approve of getting this project done? I believe it would be wise so it can help with the erosion since we seem to be having a lot of rain anymore.
- Larry Sikes (Sikes Civil.) has begun paving the roads. Once they have been completed, I will close out the Roads Account and also finalize the LMIG grant.
- Larry (Sikes Civil) has also given us an estimate for redoing the walkway over to the gift shop. He suggested that the old one be removed and a new one be put down. If we simply build over the one that is there currently it will possibly cause people to trip as it'll be higher than ground level. He will provide us with an estimate later. It's probably best that we go ahead and have this done while he's here doing the other projects. These type projects are usually cheaper if they don't have to keep bringing equipment. Should we go ahead and have it redone?