

The Santa Claus Town Council met in special session on December 22, 2025, at the Santa Claus Town Hall located at 90 N Holiday Blvd Santa Claus, In. The meeting was called to order by President, Kevin Burke.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**YouTube-** YES- @townofsantaclaus7938

**Audio Recording-** Yes, Deputy Clerk & Media

**Town Council Members Present:** Patricia Vaal, Kevin Burke, Jason Little and Brian Warran

**Absent:** Michael Johannes

**Also, Present:** Clerk-Treasurer Jane Lindsey, Town Attorney; Kevin Patmore, Police Chief, James Faulkenburg, Utility Superintendent; Russ Luthy, Building Inspector; Todd Hays, Parks Director; Zach Tischendorf and Fire Department; Max Meyer

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Special guest Senator Daryl Schmitt spoke on Senate Enrolled Act 1. Schmitt provided handouts to the Council and Clerk-Treasurer to help navigate through the changes. The Council thanked Senator Schmitt for attending the meeting and look forward to working with him.

**COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL**

Kevin Burke stated that the Christmas weekend celebrations were successful. Patricia Vaal requested the Council make December 26<sup>th</sup> a holiday for town employees for the 2025 only to follow suit with President Trump’s declaration of December 26<sup>th</sup> being a federal holiday. Jane Lindsey presented Ordinance 2025-08 Amending the Salary Ordinance for 2025 to include December 26<sup>th</sup> as a holiday.

After a lengthy discussion, Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-08 An Ordinance Amending the Salary Ordinance for 2025. Jason Little seconded the motion. Brian Warran asked if he needed to abstain due to his son being an employee. Attorney, Kevin Patmore stated that he did not need to abstain.

Ayes: 3 Nays: 1 (Kevin Burke)

Motion carried: 3-1

Due to timely decision needed to be made Patricia Vaal made the motion that the Council suspend the rules to hear a second reading of Ordinance 2025-08. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Clerk Treasurer, Jane Lindsey presented Ordinance 2025-08 Amending the Salary Ordinance for 2025 for a second reading. Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve Ordinance 2025-08 An Ordinance Amending the Salary Ordinance for 2025. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 3 Nays: 1 (Kevin Burke)

Ordinance failed due to not having 4/5 of the legislative body vote yes. There were only 4 of 5 members present at the meeting.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT MAX MEYER**

Max Meyer presented the Clay Township contract and asked the Council for authorization to sign. Jason Little made the motion for Max Meyer to sign the Clay Township contract. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

**PARKS & RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER ZACH TISCHENDORF**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT JAMES FAULKENBURG**

Police Chief, James Faulkenburg spoke on his continued vehicle maintenance issues. Faulkenburg reported on a special Santa event held at the Town Hall. Faulkenburg stated despite the weather the event was well attended, and the department gave away 2 bikes. Faulkenburg stated that they will do the event again next year.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR**

**UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT RUSS LUTHY**

**TRAILS**

**STREET DEPARTMENT**

Jane Lindsey presented Resolution 2025-08 Additional Appropriations. Lindsey stated that the paving project was originally expected to be completed in 2026 and the funds were budgeted for the 2026 budget. Lindsey stated the project is ahead of schedule and is 99% completed. The additional appropriations are to move the funds into the 2025 budget to pay the invoices that Russ will be presenting tonight. Lindsey stated that it was important that the vendors get paid. The notice to the public was advertised timely. Jason Little made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-08 Additional Appropriation as presented. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Russ Luthy presented 3 invoices for E & B Paving. Invoice # 25250717-03 in the amount of \$498,501.08, #25250717-04 in the amount of \$38,284.43 and #25250717-05 in the amount of \$22,591.85. Luthy stated that the invoice for \$38,284.43 was for overage for subsurface remediation. Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey stated that the Community Crossing grant funds would be paying for majority of the invoice and the town's portion would be paid from the additional appropriations that were just approved using the INDOT money in the amount of \$250,000, MVH and LRS. Jason Little made the motion to approve payment to E & B Paving for Invoice # 25250717-03 in the amount of \$498,501.08, #25250717-04 in the amount of \$38,284.43 and #25250717-05 in the amount of \$22,591.85. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Lindsey stated that she has a second additional appropriation for the Community Crossing grant funds that were received at the next meeting on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Once Lindsey gets approval for that additional appropriation she

12-22-2025 TOWN COUNCIL MTG  
will pay these invoices.

Patricia Vaal discussed the name change for Clubhouse Road. Vaal stated she had met with Kay at the county and inquired about an interlocal agreement for CR 600 E. Attorney, Kevin Patmore stated that the interlocal agreement is already in place. Patmore stated that if a name change was to happen that it would be the county's responsibility. The Council asked Patmore to write a resolution recommending the county to rename the road.

## **WASTE WATER**

Russ Luthy presented the wastewater budget for 2026. Luthy stated the budget shows that expenditure will exceed the revenue. Luthy asked the Council to step back from the political side and look at the reality that the Town needs to have a rate study done. The last wastewater increase was in 2013. Luthy spoke on the aging wastewater plant and the need to upgrade. The Council said they would discuss a rate study at the January meeting. The wastewater budget includes revenue of \$1,261,434.00 and expenditures of \$1,466,919.50. Jason Little made the motion to approve the wastewater budget for 2026 as presented. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None  
Motion carried: 4-0

## **WATER**

Russ Luthy informed the Council that Patoka would be increasing their water rates in 2026. Luthy stated that the Water Board would be discussing a pass-through rate increase at their January meeting.

## **INDUSTRIAL PARK**

### **TOWN ATTORNEY KEVIN PATMORE**

Attorney, Kevin Patmore introduced Ordinance 2025-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING POLICIES FOR RECEIVING CASH PAYMENTS FOR UTILITY AND OTHER SERVICES for the first reading. Patmore stated that Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey requested he draft an ordinance for cash payments due to the penny shortage. Lindsey stated that her office has not been affected as of this date but other cities/towns in Indiana are already having issues. Lindsey stated that they cannot round up the bill due to laws that we can only bill for services used. Lindsey stated that she could not round down the payment or customers would be issued late penalties for outstanding balance of change. Lindsey stated that she discussed the options with Patmore and both feel that since we are a government entity we should not go cashless and continue to accept cash as it is a legal way to tender payment. Patmore stated that they are presenting this ordinance stating that customers have to provide exact change and if not able to provide the exact amount due then change will only be given in dollars and any overage in payment will be applied to the next months invoice as a credit.

Jason Little made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-09 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING POLICIES FOR RECEIVING CASH PAYMENTS FOR UTILITY AND OTHER SERVICES. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None  
Motion carried: 4-0

**CLERK-TREASURER JANE LINDSEY**

Lindsey presented Ordinance 2025-07 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA, WAGES AND SALARIES FOR 2026 for the second reading with changes made. Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2025-07 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA, WAGES AND SALARIES FOR 2026 and adopt. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None  
Motion carried: 4-0

**MISC**

**VOUCHERS**

Jason Little made a motion to approve General vouchers in the amount of \$61,323.92 and Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve Wastewater vouchers in the amount of \$74,100.66 and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

**ADJOURNMENT**

Patricia Vaal made a motion to adjourn the town council meeting at 7:04 P.M. and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

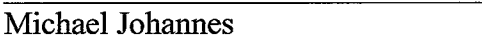
The next Town Council meeting will be December 29, 2025 at 5:00 pm.



Kevin Burke, President



Patricia Vaal, Vice President



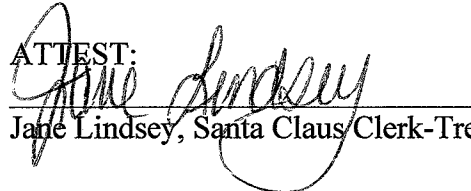
Michael Johannes



Jason Little



Brian Warran

ATTEST:  


Jane Lindsey, Santa Claus Clerk-Treasurer

**ORDINANCE 2025-07**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA, WAGES AND SALARIES FOR 2026**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana that the following shall be the salaries or wages of the respective elected officials and employees of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana for the Calendar year 2026, and/or until otherwise adopted or modified by ordinance.

<b>Position/Title</b>	<b>Rate or Range of Pay</b>
**Utilities & Street Superintendent meetings included bi-weekly	\$3,570.92
*Clerk-Treasurer meetings included bi-weekly	\$2,534.25
Town Marshall meetings included bi-weekly	\$2,405.88
****Park Superintendent meeting included bi-weekly	\$ 2,392.84
*Town Council President monthly	\$511.06
*Town Council Members monthly	\$453.18
Waterworks Board President monthly	\$350.00
Waterworks Board Members monthly	\$98.45
Park Board Members monthly	\$98.45
Supervisor hourly up to	\$30.00
Supervisor 2 hourly up to	\$35.00
Lead Person hourly up to	\$30.00
Licensed Technician hourly up to	\$27.00
Full-Time Deputy Marshal hourly up to	\$27.00
Technician hourly up to	\$25.00
*Deputy Clerk hourly up to	\$22.00
**Lead Utility Clerk up to	\$21.00
** Administration Assistant hourly up to	\$21.00
***Utility Clerk hourly up to	\$19.00
Part-Time Deputy Marshal hourly up to	\$18.00
***PT Utility Clerk up to	\$17.00
Community Center Clean-Up per incident	\$100.00
Part-time Employees hourly	\$7.75-22.00
Overtime hourly rate	1.5

\*Salary is paid 1/3 from General, Wastewater, & Water

\*\*Salary is paid 1/2 from Wastewater & Water

\*\*\*Salary is paid 20% General, 40% Water & 40% Wastewater

\*\*\*\*Salary is paid 70% Park & 30% SCCC

All hourly pay rates are listed at a maximum rate for such titles listed above, with the minimum wage to be not less than minimum wage under Indiana Law.

Utility personnel stand-by time may be paid at a rate not to exceed \$ 18.00 per day or \$ 126.00 per week.

Employees called in to work or work on an actual (not observed) holiday shall receive two (2) times their regular pay for all hours worked.

All full-time employees will receive the following paid Holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. If a holiday falls on a Saturday, it will be observed on the preceding Friday and if a holiday falls on a Sunday, it will be observed on the following Monday.

All salary and hourly employees will be paid bi-weekly. Town Council members shall be paid monthly. Waterworks and Park Board Members shall be paid on the last payroll of the month following their meeting and shall be entitled to the monthly pay provided in the ordinance only for the months in which the member attends the regular monthly meeting of such board.

Department Supervisors/Police Chief/Clerk-Treasurer shall be required to attend regular and special meetings as part of their compensation. Hourly employees shall receive the greater of \$45.00 per regular, special, or executive meeting, or one and one half (1 1/2) times such employee's regular hourly pay for time served at such meeting, when required to attend by such employee's supervisor, except for disciplinary meetings concerning the employee. Police Officers, who are required to attend regular, special, or executive meetings, shall be compensated if the officer is not on duty, except for disciplinary meetings concerning the employee.

Waterworks Board and Park Board members shall receive \$25.00 per additional special meeting above and beyond the regular monthly meeting, not to exceed \$ 200.00 per member per year only for the months in which the member attends the special meeting of such board.

Employees required by the Town Council to carry a cell phone for Town business, shall be paid \$ 45.00 per month. The employee must set up voice mail and keep the cell phone on while on duty/off duty and/or on call.

A \$.25-\$1.00 per hour raise may be given to personnel upon receiving specialized certification directly related to their job assignments, as authorized by the Town Council.

Employees required by the Town Council to be Certified OSHA Coordinator (s) shall receive a \$.75 per hour increase on the employee's base pay as long as the certification is current.

A \$.25-\$1.00 raise per hour may be given to new personnel at two and or six-month introductory periods if the budget permits and supervisors' approval.

All full-time employees and the Clerk-Treasurer may be eligible to receive a contribution to the Town's Section 125 plan in the amount of \$200.00 per month, as authorized by the Town Council. All full-time employees and the Clerk-Treasurer shall receive dental, health, vision, and life insurance coverage, with the Town paying all but 17.5% of the health insurance portion of the monthly insurance premium.

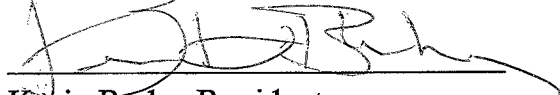
All full-time employees and the Clerk-Treasurer are eligible for deferred compensation. The Town will match retirement contributions made by the employee into the deferred compensation program (457-B Plan), which shall not exceed 5% of each plan participant's gross pay.

Year-end Holiday Merit pay may be awarded by the Town Council at the rate of \$250.00 per year for full-time employees and the Clerk-Treasurer as an employee benefit.

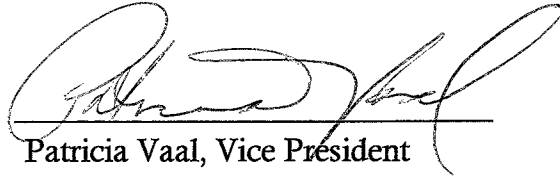
Year-end Safety Merit pay may be awarded by the Town Council at the rate of \$ 13.00 per month for full-time employees and the Clerk-Treasurer as an employee benefit.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this 22nd day of December 2025 by the Santa Claus Town Council Santa Claus, Indiana.

SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL

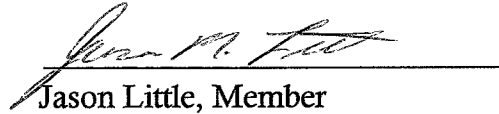


Kevin Burke, President



Patricia Vaal, Vice President

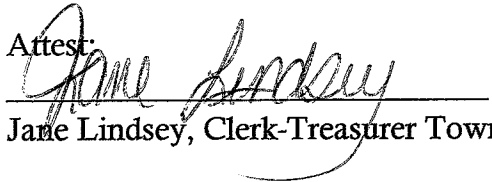
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Johannes, Member



Jason Little, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Warran, Member

Attest:



Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer Town of Santa Claus