The Santa Claus Town Council met in regular session on February 9,2026, 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, Clerk-Treasurer & Media

Town Council Members Present: Patricia Vaal, Kevin Burke, Jason Little, Michael Johannes and Brian Warran
Absent: None
Also, Present: Clerk-Treasurer Jane Lindsey, Town Attorney; Kevin Patmore, and all department heads except James Faulkengburg, Police Chief

MINUTES

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve January 12th minutes as presented and Jason Little seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None
Motion carried: 5-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve the special meeting on February 2nd minutes as presented and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None
Motion carried: 5-0

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

President, Kevin Burke thanked all employees who helped during the winter weather. The Council all stated they were pleased with the work of the road crew keeping the roads clear.

JANUARY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Department reports were given to the Council prior to the meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MAX MEYER

The Fire Department managed 13 runs in January, including structure and field fires, and participated in pipeline safety training to maintain certification. This training counted toward continuing education credits. Max Meyer emphasized the urgent need to replace the failing geothermal heating system at the fire station due to a compressor failure and refrigerant leak. Meyer sent out specs on Friday to 5 companies. The deadline for bids will be on March 18th up to start of special meeting at 5:00 pm for the bid opening. Gudorf who has been maintaining the system since November to make sure it continues to keep the fire house above freezing, spoke

on the current condition of the system and emphasized that a decision needs to be made sooner than the March meeting.

PARKS & RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER ZACH TISCHENDORF

Zach Tischendorf reported that he is working with Brian Pund to install a fob reader on the double doors. Tischendorf also stated he is replacing the AEDs at the community center. The new AEDs will use universal pads to minimize human error. Tischendorf asked the Council for permission to use Sourcewell to purchase a SCAG Turf Tiger II mower. Tischendorf stated that through Sourcewell the price is set and will allow him to bypass the quote process. Michael Johannes said he wanted to continue with the current process and requested that Tischendorf get at least 3 quotes. Tischendorf informed the Council that the Park Board had a special meeting on Friday, February 6th to go over the revised park plan. Tischendorf would like to hold a special meeting with the Park Board and the Town Council to review the findings and recommendations. Tischendorf asked permission from the Council to install a freestanding drop box outside the community center for the Community Foundation. The Council had no objections and Tischendorf will move forward with the installation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT JAMES FAULKENBURG

James Faulkenburg was absent but sent his report prior to the meeting.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Todd Hays stated there were no new updates from Kiersteins or Back 9.

UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT RUSS LUTHY

Russ Luthy spoke on his support for utilizing Sourcewell. Luthy stated that the town will not get a better price through the quote process. Luthy stated that writing specs is complicated when putting together specs on what you need but also protecting the taxpayer funds. Kevin Patmore spoke on this and suggested the town update the quoting process to include Sourcewell as an option.

TRAILS

Russ Luthy reported that the Lincoln Discovery Trail construction will begin soon. The weather has set everything back a few weeks.

STREET DEPARTMENT
Nothing new to report

WASTEWATER

Nothing to report

WATER

Kevin Burke opened the public hearing for the water rate to increase 6 %. No public was in attendance and there was no public comment.

Patricia Vaal made the motion to close the public hearing. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 5 Nays: None
Motion carried: 5-0

Kevin Patmore, attorney, presented Ordinance 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.04 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS CONCERNING WATER RATES AND CHARGES for the second reading. Jason Little made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.04 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS CONCERNING WATER RATES AND CHARGES. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None
Motion carried: 5-0

INDUSTRIAL PARK

Kevin Patmore inquired if the Council wants to move forward with the sale of the six acres at the Industrial Park or reject all bids. Clerk-Treasurer presented the Notice of Sale that was referred to at the previous meeting for the Council to review again. Previously, Councilman Brian Warran accused the Council of not following the deadline posted in the Notice of Sale. Patmore read the Notice of Sale and clarified that the deadline of 12-31-2025 was for the Council to entertain higher offers not a deadline for the Council to decide on the bids. In July, the second highest bidder, Shannon Gehelhausen contacted Patmore to increase his bid which is allowable per the Notice of Sale and Patmore brought that possibility to the Council at the July meeting, but the Council declined entertaining the higher offer as they did not want to get into a bidding war. The Notice of Sale also required the bidder to provide a description of intended use. As of this date the highest bidder Warran Properties has not provided the description of intended use. At the bid opening in June, the 2nd highest bidder, Shannon Gehelhausen provided all required information including the intent of putting in a winery/retail store. Patmore stated that the Council is under no obligation to accept any offers however he recommended that the Council should either reject all bids, move forward with the sale or move forward with the mountain bike park as this has been put off for several meetings. Russ Luthy stated that if the Council moves forward with the sale of the land that further development of the adjacent 50-acre parcel is cost-prohibitive due to required road construction estimated at $250,000. Michael Johannes stated that he wanted to sell the land so it would be placed back on the tax roll. Patmore indicated at the previous meeting that the tax revenue would be very minimal if any due to the tax levy being at the max rate. Concerns were shared about losing the recreational opportunity of the mountain bike park and that the Council had already verbally committed the land to Brad Scales and wrote a letter of support for the grant for the mountain bike park. The grant has already been submitted, and the town is waiting for the grant decision. Despite risking the loss of the grant and limiting further development as access to the remaining 50 acres would be cost prohibitive Jason Little made the motion to sell the six-acre parcel to the highest bidder Warran Properties. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.
Ayes: 3 Nayes: 1 Abstain: 1 (Brian Warran)
Motion carried 3-1-1

The Council asked Zach Tischendorf to contact the mountain bike developer and grant writer Brad Scales and inform him of the Council's decision.

TOWN ATTORNEY KEVIN PATMORE

Patmore presented 2026-04 AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 1.98 TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA CONDCERNING CLAIM PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ALLOWANCE for the first reading. Patmore stated this will allow emergency claim payments in advance of council approval, granting the town council president or vice president authority to authorize urgent expenditures with notification requirements and subsequent council ratification, enhancing the town's ability to respond to emergencies like snow events utility failures. Patmore stated this is allowed per state code. Jason Little made the motion to approve the first reading of 2026-04 AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 1.98 TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA CONDCERNING CLAIM PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ALLOWANCE. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None
Motion carried: 5-0

Patmore presented Ordinance 2026-03 AN ORDINANCE RE-ADOPTING EMPLOYEE POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA for the first reading. Patmore stated that this began in 2025 but gave the ordinance a 2026 number since it had not passed yet in 2025. The previous changes discussed were included in this version. The updated manual was provided to the council prior to the meeting for review. Michael Johannes made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-03 AN ORDINANCE RE-ADOPTING EMPLOYEE POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 5 Nays: None
Motion carried: 5-0

Patmore presented Resolution 2026-01 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA CONCERNING CLUBHOUSE ROAD. Patmore stated if passed this resolution would be presented to the county for consideration in changing the name of Clubhouse Road/CR 1450 N/ CR 1475 N to be only Clubhouse Road. Michael Johannes made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA CONCERNING CLUBHOUSE ROAD. Jason Little seconded the motion.
Ayes: 4 Nayes: 1
Motion carried 4-1

MISCELLANEOUS

Michael Johannes informed the community that there would be a primary election on May 5th. There are two council seats open and there are 6 Republicans hoping to fill these two seats.

CLERK-TREASURER JANE LINDSEY

January Fund Balances:

General: $6,487,765.36
Wastewater: $1,055,774.81
TIF: $1,158,661.71

VOUCHERS

Jason Little made a motion to approve General vouchers in the amount of $262,785.06 and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 5-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve Payroll vouchers in the amount of $159,010.89 and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 5-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve Wastewater vouchers in the amount of $73,914.42 and Brian Warran seconded the motion.
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

Jason Little made a motion to adjourn the town council meeting at 7:03 P.M. and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 5-0

The next Town Council meeting will be March 9th, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Kevin Burke, President

Patricia Vaal, Vice President

Michael Johannes

Jason Little

Brian Warran

ATTEST:
Jane Lindsey, Santa Claus Clerk-Treasurer

ORDINANCE 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.04 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS CONCERNING WATER RATES AND CHARGES

WHEREAS, the Town of Santa Claus operates a water utility by and through its Waterworks Board; and,

WHEREAS, the Town recently was notified that the supplier of a part of its potable water, Patoka Lake Regional Water & Sewer District, has determined to alter its rate structure to increase the cost of water purchased by the Town; and,

WHEREAS, the Town is required by I.C. §8-1.5-3-8 to charge "rates and charges that produce sufficient revenue to:

(1) pay all the legal and other necessary expenses incident to the operation of the utility, including:

(A) maintenance costs;

(B) operating charges;

(C) upkeep;

(D) repairs;

(E) depreciation;

(F) interest charges on bonds or other obligations, including leases; and

(G) costs associated with the acquisition of utility property under IC 8-1.5-2;

(2) provide a sinking fund for the liquidation of bonds or other obligations, including leases;

(3) provide a debt service reserve for bonds or other obligations, including leases, in an amount established by the municipality, not to exceed the maximum annual debt service on the bonds or obligations or the maximum annual lease rentals;

(4) provide adequate money for working capital;

(5) provide adequate money for making extensions and replacements to the extent not provided for through depreciation in subdivision (1); and

(6) provide money for the payment of any taxes that may be assessed against the utility;" and,

WHEREAS, the Town had a study of the rates and charges necessary to meet the Town's statutory obligations conducted by London Witte Group in 2022 which recommended a 20.86% increase in rates and charges, and the Town instead implemented an 18% increase at such time; and,

WHEREAS, the Town's Waterworks Board has recommended that the Town Council implement a 6% increase in its charges for water used by the Town's water utility to meet the requirements of I.C. §8-1.5-3-8; and,

WHEREAS, the Town has published and mailed all notices required by I.C. §8-1.5-3-8.1, and conducted a public hearing on this Ordinance as required by such section on February _____, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana, that:

Section 10.04.050 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Santa Claus is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following Section 10.04.050:

"10.04.050 Water Rates and Charges. There shall be and there is hereby established the following rates and charges for the production, storage, transmission, sale and delivery, and furnishing of water delivered by the water utility of the Town of Santa Claus to retail customers, excepting Koch Development Corporation, or its successors and/or assigns, for water delivered to Holiday World and Splashing Safari Theme Park:

MONTHLY RETAIL CUSTOMER CHARGES

5/8 inch meter	$5.64
3/4 inch meter	8.46
1 inch meter	14.10
1 1/2 inch meter	31.48
2 inch meter	56.40
3 inch meter	84.59
4 inch meter	141.00
6 inch meter	264.08

RETAIL USAGE CHARGES

Monthly Metered Usage - Rate Per 1,000 Gallons

First	5,000 Gallons	$ 9.16
Next	15,000 Gallons	8.64
Next	25,000 Gallons	7.80
Over	45,000 Gallons	7.35"

"10.04.075 Theme/Water Park. There shall be and there is hereby established the following rates and charges for the production, storage, transmission, sale and delivery, and furnishing of water delivered by the water utility of the Town of Santa Claus to Koch Development Corporation, d/b/a Holiday World and Splashin' Safari, its successors and/or assigns, through Meter Number 218991, and such additional or replacement meters as may be installed hereafter which provide water to the Holiday World and Splashin' Safari theme Park:

Monthly Customer Charge	$11,340.80
Usage Charge (Per 1,000 gallons)	$ 7.27"

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That Section 10.04.080 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Santa Claus is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following Section 10.04.080:

"10.04.080 Wholesale Customers. There shall be and there is hereby established the following rates and charges for the production, storage, transmission, sale and delivery, and furnishing of water delivered by the water utility of the Town of Santa Claus to the Town's wholesale customers:

Customer	Monthly Metered Rates(per 1,000 gallons)
Town of Gentryville	$ 6.54
Town of Chrisney	6.54

All wholesale customers are subject to the specific terms of their Water Purchase Contract."

This Ordinance shall be effective for water supplied on and after June 1, 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana on the 4th day of February, 2026.

SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL

Kevin Burke, President

Michael Johannes

Jason Little

Patricia Vaal

Brian Warran

Attest:

Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer

Resolution 2026-01
Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana
Concerning Clubhouse Road

WHEREAS, Clubhouse Road, a/k/a CR 1450N, a/k/a 1475 N (the "Road), runs between the new alignment of IN 245 and CR 600 E; and,

WHEREAS, the Town recently assumed jurisdiction of the old alignment of IN 245 abandoned by the State of Indiana; and,

WHEREAS, the Road is entirely within the Town's territorial jurisdiction in some locations, entirely within the County's territorial jurisdiction in some locations, and bifurcated in some areas, with one lane being in the Town and one lane being in the County due to prior annexation laws requiring annexation to the center of boundary roads; and,

WHEREAS, the Town currently maintains all of the Road pursuant to the County and Town's Interlocal Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, The Town's law enforcement officers, fire department and first responders are the primary response for emergencies along the Road, and the Town maintains utilities along the Road; and,

WHEREAS, the Town is of the information and belief that the trifurcated naming of the Road, and inconsistent numbering of houses and businesses along the Road cause confusion, and may result in delayed emergency response along the Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana that the Town hereby requests the Spencer County Commissioners to rename all portions of CR 1450 N and CR 1475 N within the County's jurisdiction between IN 245 and CR 600 E to be named "Clubhouse Road;" and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council requests the Spencer County Commissioners to instruct all necessary County personnel to take measures to correct the Spencer County GIS mapping system, E911 system and all other records to reflect the houses, businesses and properties along the Road to be located on "Clubhouse Road."

SO RESOLVED, this 9th day of February, 2026.

SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL

Kevin Burke, President

Brian Warran

Jason Little

Patricia Vaal

Michael Johannes

ATTEST:

Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Santa Claus, Indiana