

The Santa Claus Town Council & Santa Claus Town Council met in regular session on September 11, 2023 at the Santa Claus Town Hall located at 90 N Holiday Blvd Santa Claus, In. The meeting was called to order by the President, Kevin Burke

Pledge of Allegiance

YouTube- Yes

Town Council Members Present: Kevin Burke, Jason Little, Patrica Vaal, Seth Windell and Brian Warran

Absent: None

Also, Present: Clerk-Treasurer; Jane Lindsey, Town Attorney; Kevin Patmore, Fire Chief; Max Meyer, Police Chief, James Faulkenburg, Park Superintendent; Zach Tischendorf and Russ Luthy

MINUTES

Jason Little made a motion to approve the August 14, 2023 meeting minutes and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Bob Duley from the Spencer County Ambulance Service recognized Officer Beau Anderson and presented him with an award for his heroic actions in an accident on 11/25/2022. Officer Anderson was off duty and acted providing a lifesaving tourniquet to a severely injured citizen.

Ryan Griebelbauer representing America Christmas Home Town asked the Council if the town could add the three weekend Christmas event to their liability insurance as was done in the past. Patricia Vaal commented that in the past the America Christmas Home Town would cover any additional expense the town would incur by adding this event. Griebelbauer agreed they could do that. Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey stated she would contact the Town’s insurance agent regarding the additional costs and pass that information on to Griebelbauer. Jason Little made the motion to add the America Christmas Home Town three weekend event to the Town’s liability insurance. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried 5-0

Brad Scales from Trailhead SW Indiana presented a plan to bring a mountain bike course to Santa Claus. Scales has been involved in several mountain bike projects in other areas. Scales said he chose Santa Claus as a potential site due to the fact that our high school has a mountain bike club and the town has other bike trails in the community. Kevin Burke said that the Industrial Park would be an option to consider. Patricia Vaal was concerned about the maintenance of the trail system and litter. Vaal asked who would be responsible for these types of ongoing needs. Scales said that there is a team of volunteers along with the kids’ clubs that maintain the trails and that would not fall onto the Town. Seth Windell asked how much land would be needed for a project like this. Scales said that any amount of land could be used. Scales they have completed projects of all sizes however to be able to provide a bigger trail systems they would need 50+ acres. Jason Little asked about the estimated costs to build these trails. Scales stated that for pump trails the cost was approx. \$4/foot and for more technical trails it costs between \$3-\$8/foot. The cost would be covered by private grants. Park Director, Zach Tischendorf volunteered to take Scales to a couple of possible sites within the town.

AUGUST REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Department reports were given to the Council prior to the meeting and are attached.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MAX MEYER

Max Meyer reported they would be doing cooking safety for fire prevention during October 8-14. Medicine Cabinet Clean Out Day would be on October 28th. Meyer also reported that there would not be a Fall chicken dinner fundraiser this year. Meyer asked the ambulance service to bring their Lucas CPR Striker device and give a demonstration on how the device works. The CPR Striker device would provide continuous even compressions for 30 minutes. Meyer wants to purchase this life saving device for the fire department to have on hand in case of community need. The Fire Department would like to purchase the same model as the ambulance service so there is no need to stop and remove our device when the ambulance arrives and both departments will be trained on the same brand and model for continuity of care. Meyer is getting the specs together to start the bidding process and possible bid opening for the next Town Council meeting. Meyer also reported they are looking at old items they might have needed to dispose of and considering a possible surplus auction if the town had enough items.

PARKS & RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER ZACH TISCHENDORF

Zach Tischendorf reported that memberships have declined but that is not unusual for this time of the year with school starting back up. Tischendorf also gave an update on increasing the community room rental and decreasing the monthly room rental from \$650/month to \$450/month. Tischendorf presented the timeline of a possible first reading at the November meeting and second at the December meeting with the new prices to take effect the first of January.

BUILDING INSPECTOR TODD HAYS

Todd Hays was absent from the meeting but had asked the Clerk-Treasurer Jane Lindsey to pass on his update regarding the Melchoir house. Lindsey reported that Hays had visited the house in question and that the house remains structurally sound. Per attorney Kevin Patmore at the August meeting that the town's only concern is that the structure of the house meets safety guidelines and per Hays the house meets these requirements. Patricia Vaal reported she had an appraiser reach out to Kevin Patmore regarding the house that the town owns. Patmore reported he has not received the information from the appraiser at this time.

POLICE DEPARTMENT JAMES FAULKENBURG

Police Chief, James Faulkenburg introduced Logan Helming as the new deputy for the town. Faulkenburg said that Helming would be starting the academy in January. The Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer welcomed Helming to the department. Faulkenburg brought up his ongoing concern about the deputies pay being under the current rate of pay in surrounding areas. Faulkenburg reported that the starting pay for our county's officers was \$50,400. Faulkenburg continues to be concerned about losing talented staff to other departments which offer higher pay.

TRAILS RUSS LUTHY

Nothing to report

STREET DEPARTMENT

Nothing to report

09-11-2023 TOWN COUNCIL MTG

WASTEWATER

Russ Luthy said they were working on a \$3 million project to rehabilitate the current sewer system. Luthy stated that there were 65 miles of gravity sewer lines and they have noted the 6 top offenders that need to be addressed. Luthy said they would be working on 1000-1500 feet per week. Seth Windell asked if this would affect service to customers. Luthy stated that is should not be an issue and that they would send out notices in advance asking the public to lower water usage during the time their area is being serviced.

OSHA

No lost time injuries

WATER RUSS LUTHY

Russ Luthy reported that the IDEM permit renewal will need to be signed by President, Kevin Burke. Burke should be receiving that in an e-mail. Luthy gave an update on the water tower and said the old water tower would be coming down around November.

INDUSTRIAL PARK

Nothing to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY KEVIN PATMORE

Kevin Patmore updated the Council regarding the Next Level grant. Patmore reported that the Spencer County Visitor's Bureau committed to contribute \$10,000 to the project if the town receives the Next Level Grant.

Patmore presented the second reading of ORDINANCE 2023-11 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Jason Little made the motion to approve the second reading of ORDINANCE 2023-11 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Seth Windell seconded the motion.
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 5-0

Patmore presented the first reading of ORDINANCE 2023-13 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1.11.010 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF SANTA CLAUS PERMITTING AND REGULATING THE USE OF CREDIT AND CHARGE CARDS BY TOWN EMPLOYEES. Patmore stated this was to increase the credit card limit from the currant \$1500 to \$5000. Jason Little made the motion to approve the first reading of ORDINANCE 2023-13 as read. Jason Little seconded the motion.
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion Carried 5-0

Jason Little made the motion to suspend the rules and allow for a second reading of ORDINANCE 2023-13 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1.11.010 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF SANTA CLAUS PERMITTING AND REGULATING THE USE OF CREDIT AND CHARGE CARDS BY TOWN EMPLOYEES. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays : None Motion carried 5-0

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09-11-2023 TOWN COUNCIL MTG

Ayes: All Nays : None Motion carried 5-0

Patmore presented an agreement from Koch Development for review. The agreement is a proposal for a sidewalk and light. Patmore said this would need Council approval since it connects to our trail system. Patmore said the Council would need to approve the agreement and allow President, Kevin Burke to sign the agreement. Seth Windell made the motion to permit Kevin Burke to sign the agreement as presented. Jason Little seconded the motion.

All Nays : None Motion carried 5-0Ayes:

CLERK TREASURER JANE LINDSEY

Unfinished Business: 2023 Water and Sewer bank accounts remain unreconciled for the months of Feb.-August. Lindsey has requested the assistance of Suzy Bass who the town has used in the prior year to assist in bank reconciliations.

August Fund Balances:

General-\$5,335,191.34

Water-\$2,267,645.20

Wastewater-\$4,793,679.33

TIF-\$750,819.53

Lindsey reported that she would be presenting the 2024 budget for the first reading however Lindsey wanted to point out that the budget was currently over budget by \$26,732.60 due to adding the estimated family insurance amount as requested by the Town Council. Lindsey stated she calculated the family insurance amounts using the estimated rate provided by the agent and budgeting for worst case scenario meaning that all members of each employee's family would be included as instructed by the Council. Lindsey commented that although she recognizes she does not have a vote regarding the budget she recommends that the Council remove the Town Manager from the 2024 budget to bring the proposed budget back into the black. Lindsey stated many facts that supported her opinion with the main focus being on giving the dedicated current employees the extra benefits that they desire instead of budgeting money toward a position that has not been created yet. There was lots of discussion regarding this proposal and many conversations regarding the budget happening at the same time and not all conversations involved the council members. Lindsey brought the meeting back to the basic fact that a decision needed to be made at tonight's meeting to either approve the budget as presented or to do away with the Town Manager for the 2024 budget year and revisit the Town Manager position next year after we see what the final expenses are for the family insurance.

Jason Little made the motion to remove the Town Manager position from the 2024 budget. Seth Windell seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays : None Motion carried 5-0

Jane Lindsey presented 2023-12 ORDINANCE 2024 TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS PROPOSED BUDGET for the first public reading. Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve the first reading as read. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays : None Motion carried 5-0

MISCELLANEOUS

Randy Boehm was nominated to the APC board.

VOUCHERS

Jason Little made a motion to approve general vouchers in the amount of \$174,021.95 and Seth Windell seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 5-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve payroll vouchers in the amount of \$78,800.52 for the month of July 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 \$118,031.11 and Brian Warran seconded the motion.


Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

Brian Warran made a motion to adjourn the town council meeting at 7:19 P.M. and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

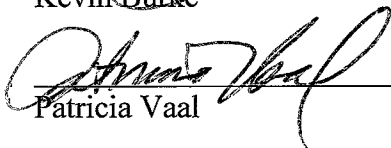
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 5-0

The next Town Council meeting will be October 9, 2023 at 5:30 pm

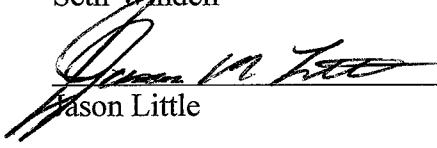


Kevin Burke

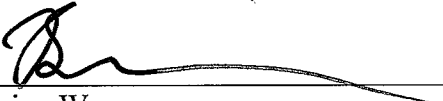
Seth Windell



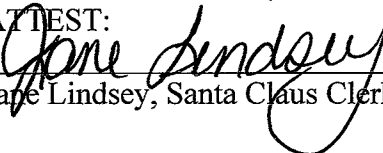
Patricia Vaal



Jason Little



Brian Warran

ATTEST:


Jane Lindsey, Santa Claus Clerk-Treasurer

SANTA CLAUS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S

ACTIVITY REPORT

August 1st – 31st, 2023

First Responder (EMR) – 15

Fires/Fire Alarm -3

Gas leak – 1

Runaway Child - 1

CO - 1

21 - Total Runs

THURSDAY AUGUST 31 BOTH ENGINES AND THE TANKER HAD THEIR YEARLY SERVICE NO MAJOR ISSUES. MINOR REPAIRS. LIGHTS BULBS ETC.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 8-14, THEME COOKING SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

OCTOBER 28 MEDICINE CABINET CLEAN OUT 7A – 12 NOON AT THE FIRE STATION

ISO AUDIT NOVEMBER 13 AT 12:30

Santa Claus Park & Recreation Department

August 2023 Report

SCCC Memberships, Daily Admittance, Room Rentals

	Active Members	New Members	Daily Admits	Big Room Day Rental	Big Room Hour Rental
August	123 (-3)	5 (-5)	33 (-12)	1	0

Completed Projects

New/Ongoing Projects

- Fall sports
- Basketball court resurfacing
- Security Camera Installation - Park
- Foyer window replacement
- Alarm Notification System - SCCC
- Reclique Connect Gym Membership System
- Trail maintenance

Items for Town Council/Redevelopment Commission

- Spencer County Bank Credit Card Limit – Request to increase (1st reading of ordinance)
- Community Center Small Room Rental Rate – Request to reduce monthly rental rate from \$660 to \$450 (Delay 1st reading until Park Board recommends Gym Membership rate changes)

SANTA CLAUS INSPECTION REPORT

August 2023

TOTAL PERMITS

- 6 Improvement Location
- 1 Building Permit
- 2 911 Addresses
- 1 Sign Permit

TOTAL INSPECTIONS

- 0 Temporary Electric
- 3 Footers
- 0 Post Hole
- 1 Foundations
- 1 Basement Walls
- 0 Waterproofing
- 0 Underground plumbing
- 1 Framing
- 4 Concrete
- 1 Pool
- 2 R.I. Electric
- 1 R.I. Plumbing
- 0 R.I. HVAC
- 6 General
- 1 Gas
- 1 Electric Meter
- 0 Solar
- 2 Final
- 1 Certificate of Occupancy

Reporting: August 1 – September 1, 2023

Misc. 8-15 visited complaint house on Melchoir. House is Secure. Tarp on the roof is approximately a 16"x36" in size.

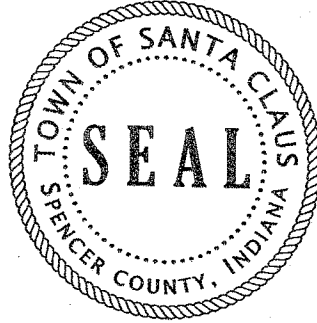
8-21 APC meeting

8-22 I addressed some signs around town that are in violation. I removed several and spoke to the owner of one business who took hers down.

8-30 I had a sit down meeting with Greg Majewski of Keller Development Inc. Keller is interested in possibly building some affordable housing units in Santa Claus and had a few questions and concerns. My advice to them was to make their presentation to town council.

Town of Santa Claus

TOWN COUNCIL AND
OFFICE OF THE CLERK-TREASURER



90 N. HOLIDAY BLVD.
P.O. BOX 92
SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA 47579
(812) 937-2551
FAX (812) 937-2630

Santa Claus Police Department Activity for August ,2023

**Off Duty Call Out's – 8
Citations for Town of Santa Claus - 9**

Warnings for Town of Santa Claus - 71

Crash reports for the Month - 8

Vehicle Inspections - 3

Domestic Disturbances- 7

Assist another Depts.- 9 See Attached

Medical Emergencies- 5

Disturbances - 48

Theft Reports - 1

Verbal Warnings - 2

Case reports/ Investigations- 18/49

Warrant Service- 2

Gun Permits- 2

Arrests- 3

Assist Motorist- 5

Christmas Lake Village Activity For August 2023

**Chimes Dr – Domestic
Donder – Paper service
Evergreen – Paper Service
Melchoir Dr – Welfare Check
Shephard Ln – Dog Complaint
Melchoir Dr – Sex offender Registration
Gate House - Trespass
Holly Drive - Medical
Pine Drive - Domestic
Melchoir Dr – Harassment
Evergreen – Protective Order
Pyracantha Cir - Immediate Detention
Kasper Dr – Reckless Driver
Melchior Dr – Animal Complaint
Balthazar Dr – Investigation
Comet – Scam
Pyracantha – Domestic**

Reserve Hours Worked August 2023

47-6 - Jazyk – 8

47-8 – Kennedy –16

47- 7 – Goffinet – 53.5

47-9 – Petter - 0

Agency Assists; August 2023.

County – Domestic

County – Domestic

County – Suspicious person

Dale – Medical

Dale – PI Crash

County – PI Crash

Dale – Warrant

County – Disturbance

County – Crash

Dale – Disturbance Dollar Store
County – PD Crash

PLANT INFORMATION

Treatment

Jul	2023	19.39	MG
Jul	2022	18.65	MG

Precipitation

Jul	2023	6.04	INCHES
Jul	2022	9.63	INCHES

OPEN ACTION ITEMS

Process control testing, plant O&M. Work continues on the AMP project. NPDES renewal application submitted to IDEM. WW Supervisor on sick leave. Ox. ditch rotor malfunction. Inlet distributor for O2 ditch ordered. '23 lab proficiency test complete and submitted. Note: Other items on file at WWTP.

COLLECTION SYSTEM

SSO(s)	0
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OPEN ACTION ITEMS

Routine station and maintenance checks. Sewer main and lateral rehab ongoing. Jet lines, monitor manhole on Evergreen. Lift Station rehab (capital) continues. Sewer rehab bid docs mailed and placed in newspapers.

LATERAL INSPECTIONS

Safety

REVOLVING TOTAL LATERAL INSPECTIONS		27	
NEW IN: Aug 2023	#	4	
COC'S			
COC'S COMPLETED	#	3	
REQUIRING REPAIRS	#	1	
NO REPAIRS	#	3	
EXEMPT LATERALS	#	0	
YEAR TO DATE			
REQUIRING REPAIRS	#	11	No Lost Time injuries
NO REPAIRS	#	14	
EXEMPT	#	2	

STREETS

MOWING		Yes
SIGN- REPLACE/REPAIR/INSTALL	#	Yes
COMPLAINTS	#	No
STREET REPAIRS		YES

OPEN ACTION ITEMS

Assist other depts. as needed. Culvert inspections, veh/equip maint and repair, road inspections. Install Street signs.

WATER AND WORK ORDERS

WORK ORDERS- TOTAL RECEIVED	#	23
WORK ORDERS- COMPLETED	#	23
WORK ORDERS- PENDING	#	0

OPEN ACTION ITEMS –Water
Capital Projects, Lead and Copper Rule