

The Santa Claus Town Council met in regular session on August 10, 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, Michael Johannes and Brian Warran

Absent: Jason Little

Also Present: Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey; Town Attorney, Kevin Patmore; Police Chief, Chris King; Parks Director, Zach Tischendorf; Fire Chief, Max Meyer and Building Inspector, Todd Hayes.

MINUTES

Michael Johannes made a motion to approve July 13, 2026, minutes and Jason Little seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve July 22, 2026, minutes and Jason Little seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

Michael Johannes made a motion to approve July 23, 2026, minutes and Brian Warran seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Patricia Vaal spoke on the necessity of reaching out to the County regarding the MUST committee meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Jane Lindsey stated that she has prepared a letter to send asking for a meeting with the county council. Lindsey stated that this letter would be from all surrounding Clerk-Treasurers that would be interested. Patricia Vaal also spoke on the need for a consistent policy for sign removal. Vaal expressed concern that some companies are having their signs delivered to the place of business and other are being placed behind the Town Hall building and the business owners are expected to pick them up. The Council agreed on the necessity of drafting a clear process for sign management. Vaal requested a special meeting be set for this topic. The Council decided on September 9th at 5:00 pm.

Kevin Burke reminded the community that school will be starting, and we need to watch buses and officers directing traffic.

Michael Johannes stated that he supports enforcing golf cart registrations and only licensed drivers to operate the golf carts. Allowing children to drive golf carts is a safety hazard and the ordinance should be enforced.

REPORTS

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT MAX MEYER

Max Meyer reported that the department has been busy with 37 runs. Meyer thanked the police department for their help during a recent fire and Meyer also thanked the Coop family for providing water to all the workers and volunteers.

PARK & RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER ZACH TISCHENDORF

Zach Tischendorf reported that he submitted the DNR grant and received confirmation that the DNR received it. Tischendorf said they were painting doors and goal posts at Yellig Park.

Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey stated that originally the Council had approved purchasing a robot lawn mower and had discussed doing an additional appropriation out of fund 2211. Lindsey suggested that the Council pay for the mower from the already appropriated CEDIT fund and then budget more money from the 2211 fund for 2027 to utilize toward the park plan. Michael Johannes made the motion to approve the purchase of the robot lawn mower from CEDIT. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR TODD HAYS

— Nothing to report

POLICE DEPARTMENT CHRIS KING

Chris King informed the Council that Officer Logan Helming has completed SRO training classes. King also reported that officers Ryan Greibelbaur and Robert Bone would be attending field training classes in Warrick County. This training is a State recognized program and would include a custom-made training program for our town. Officer Robert Bone would also be participating in a train the trainer class to be able to train the current and future officers.

King gave an update on potential trading in one of the RAM trucks for a Durango. King revealed there was a \$16,700 discrepancy between the appraiser and salesman values leading King to retain the truck at this time. King also informed the Council that the insurance attorney would be glad to meet with them to answer any questions regarding the ongoing lawsuit. The Council decided to decline a special meeting for this purpose. The department continues to deal with underage drivers of golf carts within the town. The department will continue to enforce the ordinance

King is receiving quotes for new handheld radios and plans to apply for a grant from Community Foundation.

TRAILS

— Significant progress was reported on the trail project with subgrade nearly complete and paving expected to begin in next couple weeks. The project is on track for completion. Praise was given to the contractor Knies construction. The Council addressed community concerns that the trail was not within the town limits. This trail

project was part of the master trail plan put in place several years ago. The trail project is being completed and connected depending on grants that are available.

Russ Luthy presented Pay App #4 for Knies Construction in the amount of \$56,351.51. This invoice would be part of the grant with the Town match being paid by TIF A & C. Michael Johannes made the motion to approve Pay App #4 for Knies Construction in the amount of \$56,351.51. Jason Little seconded the motion.

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

STREET DEPARTMENT

Sealed bids were opened by the attorney for a tractor purchase. Bid tabulation is as follows:

Vendor	Bid(s)	Alternates (Mowers)					Trade-In	Iran Inves	Everify	W-9	Prop Form
		Mid-Mount	3-Point	3-Point	3-Point	3-Point					
Wright	6M-95	\$98,195.80	\$66,055.80	\$21,600.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wright	5095M	\$76,218.25	\$66,544.94	\$21,600.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wright	6105E	\$73,670.60	\$66,055.80	\$21,600.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hopf	F110C	\$89,500.00	\$85,650.00	\$37,000.00	\$17,500.00	\$17,500.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hutson	5100E	\$69,873.00	\$34,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hutson	5095M	\$78,432.90	\$34,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hutson	5095M	\$78,883.27	\$34,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The bids were taken under advisement, and decision will be awarded in September.

Patricia Vaal made the motion for Russ Luthy to review the bids and make decisions on award after review.

Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

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

INDUSTRIAL PARK

Brian Warran spoke on an easement on property owned by the Town located in the Industrial park on the parcel that his son, Dylan Warran of Warran Properties is purchasing. This parcel contains an easement for a driveway giving the Hannings access to their home. Warran stated that per the survey the easement was dividing a corner of the property. Warran stated that this easement was making the corner of the property that Warran Properties was purchasing unusable and asked the Council to consider moving the driveway onto the adjoining property the Town owns. The Council stated they would review the survey results and Attorney, Kevin Patmore offered to have a conversation with the Hannings to see if they would be in agreement with the change. No decision was made during this meeting.

Michael Johannes spoke on Bough Road and confirmed that the Town owns the entire road all the way to Donder in Christmas Lake Village. Johannes said the Town allowed a gate to be placed across the road but that could be removed to proceed with road improvement.

WASTEWATER

A sealed bid opening was led by Attorney, Kevin Patmore for a lift station repair. There was only one bid submitted.

Triple T in the amount of \$9,387.00

Patricia Vaal made the motion to allow Russ Luthy to award the bid to Triple T if it meets all specifications.

— Michal Johannes seconded the motion.

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

Russ Luthy presented CHA Invoice 108086-21 in the amount of \$3,203.75 to be paid from the Contractual Engineering Fund.

Michael Johannes made the motion to approve Invoice 108086-21 in the amount of \$3,203.75. Jason Little seconded the motion.

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

WATER

Nothing to report

TOWN ATTORNEY KEVIN PATMORE

Kevin Patmore presented Ordinance 2026-07 Authorizing Denial of Records Requests for the first reading. Patmore explained that authority allowing the Clerk-Treasurer to deny mass records requests if they are for commercial purposes, data scraping, phishing, could jeopardize the security of Town's electronic systems or any records withing any of the classes enumerated in IC 5-14-3-4-(b). The Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey stated that this will not affect normal records requests by the community members. Lindsey also stated that this ordinance does comply with the Indiana Access to Public Records Act.

Michael Johannes made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-07 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING DENIAL OF RECORDS REQUESTS. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

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

CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey requested the Council's consideration to move \$25,000 from the General 2027 Budget to fund the budget the Park and Recreation submitted. Lindsey stated that she has informed the Council for the past several years that the Park and Recreation was cutting into reserves and that 2026 would be the last year they would be able to fund their entire budget without increasing revenue or changing the amount of funds provided from the General Fund. Lindsey stated that the Park and Recreation was short of \$25,000 to fully fund the 2027 budget. Lindsey suggested that the Council fund the short fall this year however next year the funds that will be needed to fund the budget would be approximately \$67,000 if no changes were made as the reserves were completely depleted with the 2027 budget.

Michael Johannes made the motion to allow the Clerk-Treasurer to fund the Park and Recreation 2027 budget by moving \$25,000 from the General budget to the Park and Recreation budget. Brian Warran seconded the motion. Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

MISC

— VOUCHERS

Michael Johannes made a motion to approve General vouchers in the amount of \$156,571.04 and Brian Warran seconded the motion.

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

Jason Little made a motion to approve Wastewater vouchers in the amount of \$35,708.68 and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

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

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$149,001.68 and Jason Little seconded the motion.

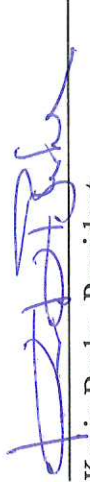
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

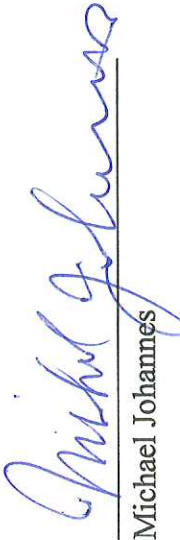
Michael Johannes made a motion to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 7:09 pm and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

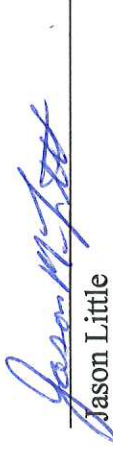
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

The next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting will be September 14, 2026, at 5:30pm.


Kevin Burke, President


Patricia Vaal, Vice President


Michael Johannes


Jason Little


Brian Warran

ATTEST:

Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer