

The Santa Claus Town Council met in regular session on April 13, 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: Jason Little, Patricia Vaal, Kevin Burke, Michael Johannes and Brian Warran

Absent: None

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

MINUTES

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve March 3, 2026, minutes and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve March 9, 2026, minutes and Brian Warran seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve the special meeting on March 30th, 2026, minutes and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve the executive meeting minutes on April 2nd, 2026, minutes and Jason Little seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve the executive meeting minutes on April 9th, 2026, minutes and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.
Ayes: 5 Nays: None Motion carried: 5-0

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Christy Powell from RJL spoke on the recommendation from RJL to appoint Grayson Goodness as the Town of Santa Claus representative to the SCEDA board. Powell referred to a letter she sent to the Council, and this letter was included in the packet highlighting Grayson’s background. Attorney Kevin Patmore inquired about SCEDA’s by-laws and if they had changed since the last appointment. Powell stated the by-laws have not changed. Patmore referred to the by-laws and that the appointment should be “from” the Town Council not “by”

the Town Council and if following the SCEDA by-laws the appointment should be one of the Council members unless none of them are able to serve. Powell disagreed with Patmore's interpretation of the by-laws and said their Attorney, Josh Clayborn, would be reaching out to him. President, Kevin Burke asked the Council members to check their availability for meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday each month. The Council tabled this appointment until the May meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Kevin Burke spoke on the recommendation of Chris King to serve as the new Town Marshal. The vacancy is open due to the resignation of James Faulkenburg. Faulkenburg's last day will be May 22, 2026.

Jason Little made the motion to appoint Chris King as the new Town Marshal. Several police officers were in attendance. Officer Nate Jazyk spoke in opposition of the hiring and questioned the Council on the hiring process. After answering several questions from Jazyk and other officers, President, Kevin Burke stated that the employment files were requested for all candidates interviewed and that credentials would be verified and background checks would be completed. Jason Little commented that this decision was made after reviewing multiple candidates' applications. Little stated that a candidate who came with strong recommendations who Little thought should be considered was not even interviewed due to lack of consensus of the Council. Little said lots of time and effort was given to make sure the Council hired the best candidate for the position. With the motion on the table by Jason Little, Brian Warran seconded the motion to appoint Chris King for the position of Town Marshal.

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

Patricia Vaal made the motion to change the Town Marshal pay to \$65,000/year. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

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

The Council asked current Town Marshal James Faulkenburg if he plans to fulfill his notice and assist Chris King with the transition. Faulkenburg stated that he would. The Council discussed creating a temporary Deputy Town Marshal position to be able to pay both Faulkenburg and King during the transition.

Brian Warran stated he felt that Faulkenburg should also benefit from the pay increase for the duration of his employment. The Council agreed.

Patricia Vaal made the motion to create a temporary Deputy Marshal position for training purposes and pay for this position to be \$65,000/year. This position would end on May 23, 2026. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

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

The Council asked Clerk-Treasurer to reach out to Chris King with the job offer and update the salary ordinance for the salary changes. Lindsey stated they would need to set up a special meeting for the second reading of the amended salary ordinance. Lindsey stated that the first reading had previously occurred to update the OSHA

pay and therefore only a second reading was needed for this additional change. Attorney, Kevin Patmore agreed. Special Town Council meeting date was set for 4-20-26 at 5:00 pm.

REPORTS

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT MAX MEYER

Max Meyer stated the Medicine Cabinet Cleanout will be taking place on April 25th, 2026, from 8 am – noon at the fire station. Public Safety Day will be on 5-16-26 from 10 am – 1 pm at Yellig Park. Meyer reported that the fire department received a grant from Southern Indiana Power in the amount of \$1,999 for a helicopter warning light installation. This grant addresses safety concern from pilots regarding unlit towers by installing a red flashing light with on/off control.

Meyer stated that the previous buyer of the old fire truck has backed out and Meyer has received a new offer from Bridgerland Technical College in the amount of \$15,000. After fees Meyer stated the Town would receive \$13,500. Jason Little recommended that the Town consider donating the truck to a community in need if the sale falls through again. Kevin Patmore said that a donation could be made. Meyer inquired if funds were received where would they be receipted in. Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey stated the funds should be receipted into the same funds the new truck was paid from. The Council agreed that the funds should be returned to the original funding sources used to purchase the new truck. Council did not accept the lower offer at this time and to wait for additional offers to be made.

Meyer update the Council on the repair of the HVAC unit at the fire station. Meyer expected repairs to be started this week by Gudorf.

PARK & RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER ZACH TISCHENDORF

Zach Tishendorf reported that the Spring Fling and Easter things was well attended despite the rainy weather. Tishendorf shared the Mental Awareness Walk would be held on April 25th and Danielle Dash on May 9th both events to be held at Yellig Park. Tischendorf reported that the new water fountain has been installed. The park received a grant from the Spencer County Parks Department in the amount of \$5000. This grant will be used to purchase grip strips for the wooden bridges on the trails for additional safety. Tischendorf presented a change order from Universal Design in the amount of \$1620. This change order is for conduit that was hit when digging out the concrete. No way of knowing it was there. This change order will change the project cost to \$28,383.60. Tischendorf reported that he signed the contract for the park project today.

BUILDING INSPECTOR TODD HAYS

Todd Hays reported Kerstiens submitted their address request for the apartments and Hays sent to the County for approval. Hays stated that Kerstiens has not submitted plans yet.

POLICE DEPARTMENT JAMES FAULKENBURG

Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey stated that she has not received any applications for the open deputy position and Lindsey suggested the Council expand the posting beyond the police job site previously used and include Facebook and Indeed to reach a wider audience.

Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey asked for clarification on payment of hours for an employee who is taking EMR classes. Lindsey stated that in the 3-30-26 meeting the Council decided that they would pay for the class but not the employee's time to attend an EMT class. Lindsey stated that there needs to be consistent rules and policies for paying employees for training time and overtime. Lindsey stated she feels all employees should be paid for their time to attend training. Lindsey focused on inconsistency causing confusion and opening the door for audit issues. Lindsey stated that there needs to be clear written policy requiring documentation for mandatory training and signed waivers if employees choose to waive payment of their time. The Council agreed to develop a standard operation procedure for training attendance. The Council stated all paid training must be pre-approved to avoid unauthorized overtime claims. The Council asked Attorney Kevin Patmore to write the documents needed and instructed Clerk-Treasurer to pay out the time that was on the employee's time sheet.

TRAILS

Utility Superintendent, Russ Luthy reported that the Lincoln Discovery Trail is under construction with 920 feet of subgrade treatment completed and plans for bridge installation near the old tennis courts, with school cooperation ensuring safety and no disruption to sports activities. Russ Luthy presented Midwestern Engineering invoice #202407900-03 in the amount of \$9,901.25. Michael Johannes made the motion to approve Invoice #202407900-03 in the amount of \$9,901.25. Jason Little seconded the motion.

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

STREET DEPARTMENT

Nothing to report

INDUSTRIAL PARK

Patricia Vaal inquired why the surveying on the land that Dylan Warran bought has not been completed. Patmore stated that he is having trouble getting a surveyor to complete the work. Vall also wanted clarification on the zoning of the Industrial Park property. Patmore stated that the property is zoned commercial/industrial. Vaal asked about owner occupied or employee occupied residential use. Patmore stated that residential use, including full-time quarters, is not permitted within commercial zones unless reclassification occurs through

public hearings and advisory planning commission approval. Unlike other towns, the Town does not allow owner occupied or employee occupied housing within the commercial building. Airbnb type short term lodging is allowed under commercial zoning.

WASTEWATER

Luthy reported an emergency repair would be needed on the main lift station with expected expense of \$50,000. Luthy will notify the Council of any updates. Luthy spoke on the importance of a wastewater rate increase to fund infrastructure.

Clerk-Treasurer reported that she has reached out to Baker Tilly for rate study quote.

WATER

The Mariah Hill water main has been hydrostatic and bacteria tested and passed. The extension of an additional 1,500 feet is almost completed. The Water Board is hoping to have a bid opening in November for Phase 2 of the project.

TOWN ATTORNEY KEVIN PATMORE

Attorney, Kevin Patmore presented Resolution 2026-03 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ALTERNATIVE PURCHASING METHOD for approval. Patmore stated this resolution would allow the Parks and Recreation Board to utilize the BOT program for the renovation of the playground and other improvements to Yellig Park.

Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-03 A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA AUTHORIZING ALTERNATIVE PURCHASING METHOD. Jason Little seconded the motion.

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

Patmore presented three CF1 compliance with statement of benefits from Kimball Furniture Group. Patmore stated that each one would have to be approved independently. Patmore stated he has reviewed them and found that they are in compliance. The Council was given the opportunity to review the statements prior to the meeting.

Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve the CF1 for new kitting equipment showing Kimball is in compliance. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None Abstain: 1(Kevin Burke)

Motion carried: 4-0-1

Michael Johannes made the motion to approve the CF1 for flat pack product packaging equipment showing Kimball is in compliance. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None Abstain: 1(Kevin Burke)

Motion carried: 4-0-1

Michael Johannes made the motion to approve the CF1 for new FFT CNC and panel saw showing Kimball is in compliance. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None Abstain: 1(Kevin Burke)

Motion carried: 4-0-1

CLERK-TREASURER

Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey presented a quote from Universal Design to complete a preliminary design of expanding the Town Hall. The quote is \$6200 plus hourly rates beyond that. Lindsey stated that this has been discussed several times. Lindsey stated that she does not foresee having the funds anytime in the near future to build a new building. I am asking the Council to approve the quote from Universal Design to complete a rendering of adding onto the Town Hall towards the campground. Kevin Patmore stated that this has been brought up by several previous clerks and Patmore himself has been suggesting this for the past 20 years. Lindsey stated that there is no room for future needs and storage of files is a concern.

Jason Little made the motion to allow the Clerk-Treasurer to move forward with the design quote from Universal Design to be paid from CCD. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

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

VOUCHERS

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve General vouchers in the amount of \$70,789.22 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 \$65,060.11 and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

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

Jason Little made a motion to approve Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$98,983.87 and Brian Warran seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

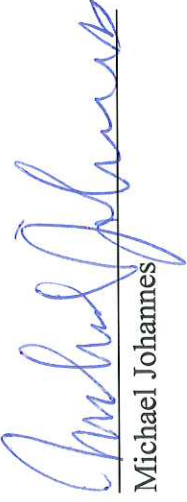
Patricia Vaal made a motion to adjourn the town council meeting at 7:27pm and Jason Little seconded the motion.

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

The next Town Council meeting will be May 11, 2026, at 5:30pm.



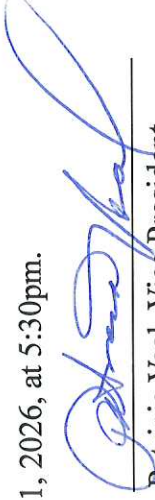
Kevin Burke, President



Michael Johannes




Brian Warran



Patricia Vaal, Vice President

Jason Little

ATTEST:


~~Abigail Glenn, Deputy Clerk~~
Abigail Lindsey, Clerk Treasurer

Santa Claus Park & Recreation Department

March 2026 Report

SCCC Memberships, Daily Admittance, Room Rentals

	Senior (62+)	Youth (14-17)	Adult	Daily	Big Room Hour Rental
March	15	18	102	9	12

Completed Projects

- Park Water Fountain Installed
- Community Center Siding Repaired
- Spring Flings and Easter Things

New/Ongoing Projects

- Community Center Foyer Restroom, in progress
- Trail Maintenance, plastic grip strips for bridges (Park bridge strips have been received; Spencer County Parks Board Grant submitted for strips to cover 3 trail bridges outside the park)

Items for Town Council/Redevelopment Commission

- Build Operate Transfer as a procurement method, specifically for playground project (Indiana Code 5-23, Resolution for April Meeting)
- Community Center Foyer Restroom Change Order - \$1,620 for repair to conduit in floor

SANTA CLAUS UTILITY REPORT

PLANT INFORMATION

Treatment

March	2026	23.72	MG
March	2025	29.26	MG

Precipitation

March	2026	5.93	INCHES
March	2025	6.5	INCHES

OPEN ACTION ITEMS

Plant O&M, Process control testing. Work continues with the AMP project. Spring sludge hauls complete- 340k. gals.

COLLECTION SYSTEM

SSO(s)/ By-pass	0
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OPEN ACTION ITEMS

Routine station and maintenance checks. Pipe repair work began on LS 28. Pump failure at Plant Lift Station, may need to consider emergency spending for replacement +/- \$50,000.00

LATERAL INSPECTIONS

REVOLVING TOTAL LATERAL INSPECTIONS	11
NEW IN: March --	4
COC'S	
COC'S COMPLETED	3
REQUIRING REPAIRS	2
NO REPAIRS	2
EXEMPT LATERALS	0
YEAR TO DATE	
REQUIRING REPAIRS	2
NO REPAIRS	7
EXEMPT	0
Safety	
As of March 31, 2026, no Lost Time injuries	
2 field assessment(s) completed	
safety coordinator appointed- Aaron Amburn	

STREETS

MOWING		no
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. CCG Paving project 98% complete. Begin spring road/ditch work. Prepping for Ashburn, CR 1450, and CR 750 road and ditch rehab. **Trail Project:** Q1 report sent to and certified by IDNR. Approx. 300 l.f. of ditching and 650 l.f. of subgrade work completed to date.

WATER AND WORK ORDERS

WORK ORDERS- TOTAL RECEIVED	#	18
WORK ORDERS- COMPLETED	#	18
WORK ORDERS- PENDING	#	0

OPEN ACTION ITEMS –Water

MH, Ph I water line project- all main line installed, reconnecting customer services to new main. Hydrostat and Bac-T tests are complete.

SANTA CLAUS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S

ACTIVITY REPORT

March 1st – 31st, 2026

First Responder (EMR) – 18

Fire Field – 2

20 - Total Runs

APRIL 25TH 8AM – 12PM MEDICINE CABINET CLEANOUT DAY

MAY 16TH PUBLIC SAFETY DAY AT YELLIG PARK

**SANTA CLAUS INSPECTION REPORT
MARCH 2026**

TOTAL PERMITS

2 Improvement Location
2 Building Permit
0 911 Addresses
1 Electrical

TOTAL INSPECTIONS

0 Temporary Electric
1 Footers
1 Foundations
1 Underground plumbing
1 Framing
0 Concrete
0 R.I. Electric
1 R.I. Plumbing
0 R.I. HVAC
7 General
0 Gas
0 Electric Meter
1 Final
1 Certificate of Occupancy

Reporting: March 1 – April 1, 2026

Misc. : No APC meeting

Santa Claus Police Department Activity for March,2026

**Off-Duty Call Outs – 2
Citations for the Town of Santa Claus - 4**

Warnings for Town of Santa Claus – 30

Crash reports for the Month - 3

Vehicle Inspections - 16

Domestic Disturbances- 1

Assist another Dept.- 9 See Attached

Medical Emergencies- 7

Disturbances - 42

Theft Reports - 4

Verbal Warnings - 0

Case reports/ Investigations- 6 / 42

Warrant Service- 2

Gun Permits- 0

Arrests- 3

Assist Motorist- 5

Christmas Lake Village Activity For March 2026

Melchior Dr – Vin Check
Melchior Dr – Domestic
Ornament Cir – Medical
Melchior Dr – Investigation
Pine Drive – Speak to Officer
Balthazar – Domestic
Sled Run – Vin Check
Sled Run – Scam Complaint

Reserve Hours Worked March 2026

47-6 - Jazyk – 8
47-8 – Kennedy – 16
47- 7 – Goffinet - 8
47-9 – Griebelbauer – 24

Agency Assists: March 2026.

County - Domestic
County - PI Crash
County - Domestic
County - Crash
County - PI Crash
Dale - PI Crash
ISP - Warrant
ISP - Warrant
Dale - Dpmestic

Resolution 2026-03
Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana
Authorizing Alternative Purchasing Method

WHEREAS, Chapter 1.06 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Santa Claus prescribes the methods by which purchases are to be made by Town officials; and,

WHEREAS, the Town's Parks and Recreation Board currently is contemplating the renovation of the playground and other improvements to Yellig Park, and believes that the best use and value of the Town's funding may result from utilization of the provisions of Indiana Law authorizing the use of BOT Agreements, as set forth in I.C. §5-23-3-1 et seq.;

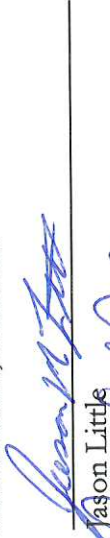
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana that the Santa Claus Park and Recreation Board is hereby authorized to consider and utilize the provision of Indiana Law concerning BOT Agreements set forth in I.C. §5-23-3-1 et seq. on its current project for expansion and improvements to the playground and Yellig Park.

SO RESOLVED, this 13th day of April, 2026.

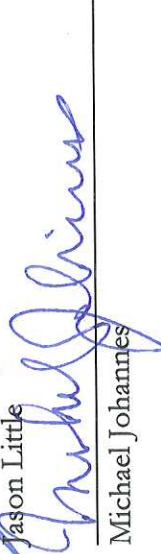
SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL



Kevin Burke, President



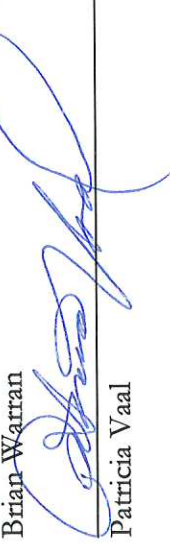
Jason Little



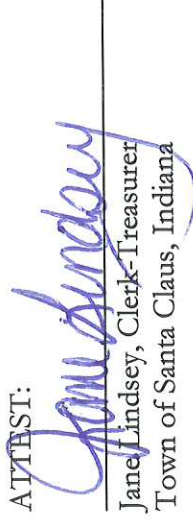
Michael Johannes



Brian Warran



Patricia Vaal

ATTEST:


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