

The Santa Claus Town Council met in regular session on May 11, 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, 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 April 13, 2026, minutes and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.
Ayes: 4 Nays: None Motion carried: 4-0

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Kevin Burke wanted to remind everyone to be watching for children crossing streets and riding bikes as more people are coming to our community utilizing the parks and trails.

REPORTS

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT MAX MEYER

Max Meyer stated Public Safety Day will be held on Saturday, May 16th from 10 am- 1 pm at Yellig Park and June 27th will be the annual BBQ dinner. Meyer reported there was a house fire resulting in a total loss with electrical cause under state investigation. Meyer stated that mutual aid was activated automatically, involving neighboring departments. Fire hydrant issues were noted, specifically difficulty removing a cap on a 5-inch hydrant, requiring use of a small 2.5 “ line. Meyer presented the bill of sale for the retired fire truck to the Clerk-Treasurer. Kevin Burke will sign the title of the fire truck and Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey will hold the title until funds reach the bank account. Meyer reported that Gudorf started on the HVAC repairs and should be completed at the end of the week.

PARK & RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER ZACH TISCHENDORF

Zach Tischendorf reported that he was applying for a Land and Water Conservation grant. Tischendorf has completed the pre-application this morning and the deadline for submission is August 1st. Tischendorf feels the park plan will place the Town as a strong applicant. Tischendorf stated that he has been auditing the Centerpoint invoices and reported that 60% of park electrical costs are demand charges, primarily due to 20–30-year-old Halogen bulbs. Tischendorf is considering replacing them with LED lighting and estimated annual savings of \$5,000- \$10,000. Rebates are also available through Centerpoint.

Tischendorf said the Parks Board has reviewed quotes for grip strips to be installed on the bridges on the trails. The least expensive strips were plastic and cost \$5909.00. Tischendorf has a grant of \$5,000 and request approval from the Council to fund the remaining \$909. Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve payment in the amount of \$909 for grip strips for the trail system with payment coming from the trail equipment fund. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

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

BUILDING INSPECTOR TODD HAYS

Nothing to report

POLICE DEPARTMENT CHRIS KING

Chris King informed the Council that James Faulkenburg wanted to purchase his police firearm a Glock 17. The Council stated that they allowed the other officers to purchase their old firearms when the Town replaced them recently. Only Todd Dunsworth purchased his at the cost of \$200. The Council said they would set the same price for James despite it being brand new. Michael Johannes made the motion to all James Faulkenburg to purchase his Glock 17 for \$200. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

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

Applications closed for the vacancy left by the resignation of Beau Anderson. The agility test for current applicants will be held this weekend.

TRAILS

Russ Luthy submitted pay request #1 for Knies Construction in the amount of \$109,743.14. Luthy stated that this payment will be paid out of the Next Level Trail Grant. Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey stated that the Next Level Trail Grant is a reimbursement grant and that she will pay the approved invoice and then submit a claim for payment from the grant.

Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve Knies Construction's pay request #1 in the amount of \$109,743.14 to be paid from the Next Level Grant. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

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

Luthy reported that the contract was for 280 days and that it should be completed by July.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Russ Luthy announced a new hire for the street department. Luthy wanted to give a warm welcome to Jaylen Simmons. Luthy stated that Simmons was off to a great start and doing a good job. A hole in front of Key Associates was reported. INDOT partially filled the hole, however it is still a hazard and Luthy has re-reported it. Luthy attended the Safety Summit, and the topic of discussion was to reduce fatal crashes to zero. It was a well-attended event. Kevin Burke asked Luthy to contact INDOT regarding reducing the speed down to 35 mph from Kaspar to past the Holiday World employee housing crossing and to add lights at the Kaspar Crossing due to pedestrian safety. Luthy is researching grant opportunities. Luthy presented the Annual Crash Report, and reported there were 123 crashes in Spencer County in 2025. This number is 1% less than previous year. The report is broken down by types of crashes. The Council requested that Luthy send out a copy to all Council members.

INDUSTRIAL PARK

Cash Wagner will be completing the survey by next meeting. They are setting the pins this week.

WASTEWATER

Luthy presented the final pay application for PPI in the amount of \$103,168.37. Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve PPI Pay Request #16 in the amount of \$103,168.37. Brian Warran seconded the motion.
Ayes: 4 Nays: None Motion carried: 4-0
Luthy presented Invoice # 108086.000-19 from CHA (Midwestern Engineering) in the amount of \$3,052.50. Michael Johannes made the motion to approve CHA Invoice # 108086.000-19 in the amount of \$3,052.50. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.
Ayes: 4 Nays: None Motion carried: 4-0
Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey presented a quote from London Witte for the wastewater rate study. Lindsey stated she had tried unsuccessfully to obtain a quote from Baker Tilly and this one from London Witte was lower than the estimate that Baker Tilly had previously given. Lindsey stated that the Town had worked with London Witte in the past and was happy with the services they provided. The London Witte quote was not to exceed \$6,750.00. Lindsey presented a hard copy of the quote to the Council for review. Michael Johannes made the motion to approve the quote from London Witte and allow the Clerk-Treasurer to move forward with the rate study. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.
Ayes: 4 Nays: None Motion carried: 4-0

WATER

Cindy Morrison, a community member, brought a concern to the Council regarding the language of annexation and zoning that is currently in the out-of-town water service application and agreement. Morrison asked the Council to specifically refer to section D & E. Morrison is thankful to have access to tap water, however, does not agree that her family should have to agree to future annexations. Adrian Morrison also spoke on this concern stating that these restrictions were not conveyed to the property owner at the time of the request for an easement. Morrison stated that he laid 2200 feet of pipe himself in preparation for the tap. Allen Pund also spoke on his disagreement regarding the language. Scot Elliott, President of the Water Board spoke and stated the Water Board was recommending the Council remove the language as Elliott feels the language is outdated. Elliott stated that the water project was intended to build something the people can use and the language would be preventing that as the water district expands. Michael Johannes is in favor of removing the language. Council President, Kevin Burke tabled the decision until the June meeting to allow the Council time to review the documents.

TOWN ATTORNEY KEVIN PATMORE

Nothing to report

CLERK-TREASURER

Jane Lindsey asked the Council to consider replacing the sign in front of the Town Hall to an updated electric sign that would allow better visibility to get information out to the community. Lindsey stated that the current scrolling sign is facing a road where there is no stop sign and therefore does not allow the community members and visitors to remain long enough in front of the sign to be able to read all the information. Lindsey also stated that the sign is having operational issues and that Brian Pund has investigated repairing the internal board. Parts are hard to find due to technology advancing. Lindsey stated that the current sign was given to the Town through a health department grant. Lindsey stated that we could relocate the sign to another Town property or contact the Health Department and see if they would be interested in us returning the sign to them. Lindsey said she has applied for a grant to cover the cost of the new sign and is waiting to see if approved. Lindsey gave a quote from Husk Signs to the Council for review. Lindsey will update the Council on the grant.

Lindsey reminded the Council that they needed to move forward with an appointment to the SCEDA board to represent the Town. After discussion, the Council decided to appoint Attorney, Kevin Patmore, as the Town's representative. Patmore agreed to accept the nomination, however informed the Council that per the SCEDA by-laws the nomination would have to be approved by the County Commissioners. Patricia Vaal made the motion to appoint Kevin Patmore as the Town of Santa Claus representative on the SCEDA board. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

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

MISC

Russ Luthy announced that Red Alert is no longer available and a new alert system has replaced it. The new alert system is titled RAVE Alert/Smart 911. Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey, stated that she has copies of the instructions on how to sign up located in the information kiosk and on the counter to assist with community awareness.

VOUCHERS

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve General vouchers in the amount of \$110,098.16 and Brian Warran seconded the motion.

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

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve Wastewater vouchers in the amount of \$172,899.82 and Brian Warran seconded the motion.

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

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$101,807.46 and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

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

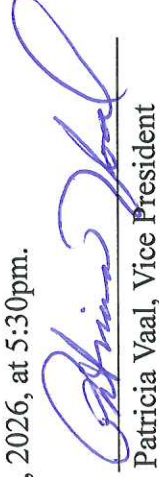
ADJOURNMENT

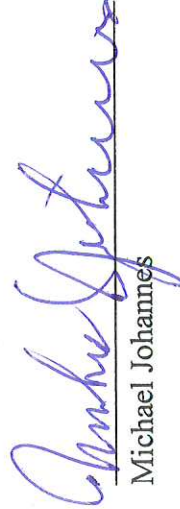
Brian Warran made a motion to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 7:13 pm and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

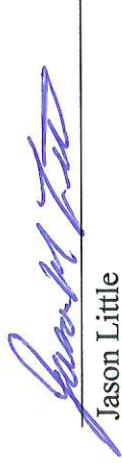
Ayes: 4 Nays: None Motion carried: 4-0

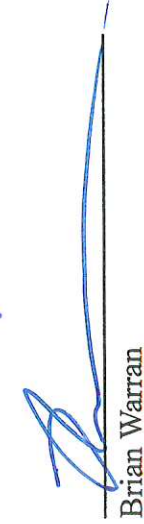
The next Town Council meeting will be June 8, 2026, at 5:30pm.


Kevin Burke, President


Patricia Vaal, Vice President


Michael Johannes


Jason Little


Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer

ATTEST

Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer

Brian Warran

SANTA CLAUS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S

ACTIVITY REPORT

April 1st – 30st, 2026

First Responder (EMR) – 17

Fire - Microwave Short (Smoke) In Dale -1

Fire Smoke Alarms Going Off – 1

Investigate Gas odor - 1

20 - Total Runs

MAY 16TH PUBLIC SAFETY DAY AT YELDIG PARK 10 AM – 1PM

BBQ – JUNE 27TH

Santa Claus Park & Recreation Department

April 2026 Report

SCCC Memberships, Daily Admittance, Room Rentals

	Senior (62+)	Youth (14-17)	Adult	Daily	Big Room Hour Rental
April	19	14	70	9	14

Upcoming Events

- Danielle's Dash, Friday, May 8th, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
- Touch-A-Truck, Saturday, May 16th, 10 AM – 1 PM

Completed Projects

- Spencer County Parks Board Grant (Received \$5,000)

New/Ongoing Projects

- Community Center Foyer Restroom, in progress
- Spring Sports
- Bridge Grip Strips (Procuring Trail Strips, Volunteer Dates TBD)
- Grass plantings in Trail/Community Center Landscape Beds
- Electric Utility Analysis for Park, waiting on Sports Lighting Estimates from Weyer Electric

Items for Town Council/Redevelopment Commission

- Quote for Trail Bridge Grip Strips, Park Board recommends CGS GripStrip Products Ltd in the amount of \$5,909.00; using \$5,000 grant award with the balance of \$909.00 to be paid from the Trails Equipment Fund (2530002451.000)

SANTA CLAUS INSPECTION REPORT
April 2026

TOTAL PERMITS

6 Improvement Location
1 Building Permit
911 Addresses for new
(Apartment Complex)
1 Electrical Permit

TOTAL INSPECTIONS

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

Reporting: April – May 1, 2026

Misc. : No APC meeting

Christmas Lake Village Activity For April 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 – 25

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

Santa Claus Police Department Activity for April, 2026

Off-Duty Call Outs – 4

Citations for the Town of Santa Claus -11

Warnings for Town of Santa Claus – 29

Crash reports for the Month - 3

Vehicle Inspections - 5

Domestic Disturbances- 2

Assist another Dept.- 12 See Attached

Medical Emergencies- 4

Disturbances - 15

Theft Reports - 0

Verbal Warnings - 0

Case reports/ Investigations- 5 / 10

Warrant Service- 20

Gun Permits- 0

Arrests- 1

Assist Motorist- 1

