

The Santa Claus Town Council met in regular session on October 15, 2025, 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, Deputy Clerk & 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, Building Inspector; Todd Hays, Parks Director; Zach Tischendorf and Fire Department; BJ Stallman

MINUTES

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve October 15th and October 27th, 2025, minutes as presented and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

No comments from the public

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Kevin Burke mentioned that there are several holiday events going on in the community. Burke said the Visitor's Bureau website is a great place to see a listing of the days and times of the events. Burke also stated that the Town would like to recognize all Veterans but especially those who work for the Town. The Town Council thanks them for their service to our country. Burke announced that there would be a ribbon cutting presentation for the new apartment building named Frosty Falls on December 2nd at noon at location. Frosty Falls is being built by Kerstiens with the financial support of the Readi Grant. Another community development soon to be completed and celebrated is the mural on the Holiday Foods building. The mural is coming along, and the public is encouraged to participate in the painting.

OCTOBER REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT MAX MEYER

BJ Stallman spoke on behalf of the fire department and announced the fire department has secured two grants totaling \$11,500, including a \$2,500 grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for an AED and a \$9,000 grant from the Spencer County Community Foundation for hydraulic extrication equipment. Stallman reported the fire department has secured over \$60,000 in grants this year, reflecting strong external funding efforts made by the department.

11-10-2025 TOWN COUNCIL MTG

Jane Lindsey presented an invoice for Stryker in the amount of \$463.24 for the remaining balance of the purchase of the CPR device. Lindsey stated that there was a delay for receiving this invoice due to the software of the vendor. They kept sending “statements” not an actual invoice and therefore Lindsey could not pay the balance. The vendor finally had a software engineer create a specific invoice for this balance due. Lindsey stated that this was included in the original vote minus 7 cents and for that reason Lindsey needed a vote to approve this invoice in the amount of \$463.24 to include the 7-cent overage. Michael Johannes made the motion to approve the invoice from Stryker in the amount of \$463.24. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

PARKS & RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER ZACH TISCHENDORF

Zach Tischendorf reported that the Trick or Treat trail had the largest turnout so far and the community really enjoyed the additional activities. Tischendorf announced that the ice rink is scheduled for December 20th and 21st. Fundraising efforts are being made by America’s Christmas Hometown and the Town.

Jennifer Rich’s term is up on the Park and Rec Board. Rich was approved by the Park and Rec Board for a second term and Tischendorf asked the Town Council to re-appoint Jennifer Rich to serve a second 4-year term beginning 1/1/2026 and ending 12/31/2029. Patricia Vaal made the motion to accept the recommendation of Jennifer Rich to serve on the Park and Recreation Board for a 4-year term. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

The Park and Rec Board approved their meeting dates for 2026 and presented them to the Clerk-Treasurer for Town Council approval. Jane Lindse, Clerk-Treasurer, stated she has included them on the meeting list to be approved by the Town Council at the December meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT JAMES FAULKENBURG

James Faulkenburg presented a letter from Sternberg addressing critical police vehicle repairs. Faulkenburg called other vehicle retailers, and they were similar in price. Faulkenburg also reported that the 2020 Durango is also in need of repair for a possible fuel pump failure. The Durango was towed to JAWS. Faulkenburg expressed his concern about making sure these vehicles were repaired and operational. Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer, spoke on the need to get the vehicle repaired despite the guarantee from Ford that the Town would be reimbursed. Lindsey said there was no alternative with exception of purchasing a new vehicle and repair was the most cost effective. Lindsey stated that they would take the necessary steps to try to get Ford to reimburse for the cost of the repair, however there is no guarantee that a reimbursement will be made. Patricia Vaal made the motion to proceed with the repair of the 2022 Ford Explorer through Sternberg in the amount of \$2,338.77 to be paid from Rainy Day. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Todd Hayes reported that the Key Realty sign had been approved.

UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT RUSS LUTHY

11-10-2025 TOWN COUNCIL MTG
TRAILS

Russ Luthy stated that kickoff is scheduled within the next two weeks following final contractor agreements. Luthy stated that notice would be given in an e-mail for interested parties to attend. This project represents ongoing investment in recreational infrastructure to boost community engagement and quality of life.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Russ Luthy reported progress on the Community Crossing project with road overlay completed and ongoing guardrail installation delaying the full opening. The guardrails are expected by Thursday and are required before the road can be officially opened due to liability concerns. Striping will be completed once temperatures consistently exceed 35 degrees, ensuring quality and longevity. Luthy also reported that salt inventory was robust with over 160 tons available, ensuring readiness for winter weather.

WASTEWATER

Russ Luthy gave a copy of the wastewater budget to the Town Council for their review. Luthy said he would have final copy for adoption at the December meeting.

WATER

Russ Luthy continues the lead pipe inventory project. Luthy stated due to the community relatively recent development they do not expect to find any lead or galvanized lines. Approximately 700 homeowners will receive notices from EPA asking them to verify their water service line information through a QR code.

INDUSTRIAL PARK

Nothing to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY KEVIN PATMORE

Kevin Patmore presented Ordinance 2025-04 AN ORDINANCE CREATING A WHEEL TAX FUND for the second reading and adoption. Michael Johannes made the motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2025-04 AN ORDINANCE CREATING A WHEEL TAX FUND. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

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

Kevin Patmore presented Ordinance 2025-06 AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING SEX OFFENDER RESTRICTIONS for the second reading and adoption. Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve 2025-06 AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING SEX OFFENDER RESTRICTIONS. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

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

CLERK-TREASURER JANE LINDSEY

October Fund Balances:

General-\$6,974,987.56

Water-\$2,019,310.45

Jane Lindsey inquired about setting a payroll date for paying out the Holiday and Safety bonuses. Lindsey stated that in the past these bonuses were paid the first paycheck in December to give the employees a little extra on their paychecks in time for holiday expenses. Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve payment of the Holiday and Safety bonuses on the first paycheck in December. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Lindsey discussed that effective July 1st the Council makes the decision on how the CVET and FIT taxes are deposited into funds. Lindsey stated that if all monies were deposited into the general fund then no action needed to be taken however if monies were to be deposited into funds other than the general fund, then the Council would need to act through an ordinance, resolution or vote (memorialized in the meeting minutes). Lindsey provided the Council with the June distributions and a copy of the legislative change for review. Lindsey stated that she felt the Council should deposit the December distribution with the same percentages as the June distribution to keep the year consistent. Lindsey stated that the monies in question are a small amount with the CVET being \$132 and the estimated FIT to be around \$500. Lindsey has not received the amounts to be deposited yet for the FIT so that is an estimate. Lindsey stated that with a vote this time the Council could make a more permanent change by resolution or ordinance in the future. Patricia Vaal made the motion to deposit the FIT and CVET December tax distributions with the same percentages as the June distributions in the same funds as the June distributions. Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Lindsey presented the renewal amount for the health insurance policy. Lindsey stated that increase was less than expected considering the additional employee coverage added the previous year and that it is aligned with industry norms and budgeted accordingly. There will be no coverage modifications in the Choice Plus Plan by United Healthcare regarding deductibles, out of pocket employee costs or copays per Amenity Insurance consultant Chris Middleton. Middleton was unable to attend the meeting but sent a letter explaining the premium and coverage. Lindsey provided a copy of the letter to the Council ahead of the meeting. The premium increased 9.6%, changing the premium from \$22,594.61 to \$24,768.41. Lindsey stated that currently the Town pays 82.5% of the premium and the employees are responsible for 17.5%. Lindsey asked the Council to discuss if they wanted to make changes in those percentages. After discussion the Council agreed to maintain the 82.5% employer and 17.5% employee premium split. Michael Johannes made a motion to approve the health insurance policy increase to a total of \$24,468.41 and continue with the premium split of 82.5% town and 17.5% employee. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

MISC

Patricia Vaal spoke regarding attendance at the Spencer County Economic Development meeting. Vaal stated that she would like to continue to represent the Santa Claus Council as a representative on the organization's board. Vaal stated that her role would not be effective until March of 2026. Michael Johannes made a motion to nominate Patricia Vaal to the SCEDA pending the approval of the Spencer County Commissioners. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 3 Nays: 0 Abstain: 1 (Patricia Vaal)

Motion passed.

Jane Lindsey presented the letter from the Indiana Regional 15 requesting an appointment be made on behalf of the Town of Santa Claus to their board. Lindsey stated the current appointment is Michael Johannes. Patricia Vaal made a motion to retain Michael Johannes as the Town's appointment to the Indiana Regional 15 board. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Lindsey also reminded the Council of upcoming appointments to the APC board (one Republican and one Democrat) and the water board vacancy needs to be filled as well.

VOUCHERS

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve General vouchers in the amount of \$83,848.06 and Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$96,661.51 and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve Wastewater vouchers in the amount of \$460,127.73 and Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

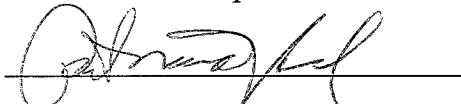
Michael Johannes made a motion to adjourn the town council meeting at 6:50 P.M. and Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

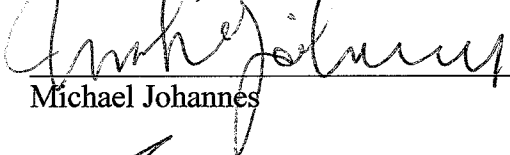
The next Town Council meeting will be December 8th at 5:30 pm.



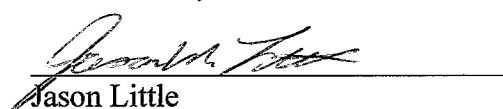
Kevin Burke, President



Patricia Vaal, Vice President



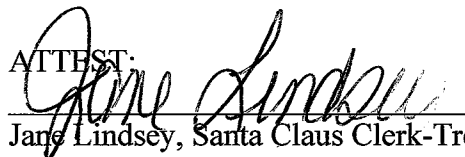
Michael Johannes



Jason Little



Brian Warran

ATTEST:


Jane Lindsey, Santa Claus Clerk-Treasurer

SANTA CLAUS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S

ACTIVITY REPORT

October 1- 31, 2025

First Responder (EMR) – 22

Gas Leak - 2

Escorts for High School Sports - 2

Signal 9 – 3

Standby for Holiday World for Fire Ball - 4

33 – Total Runs

NICHOLS FIRE TESTED ALL HOSES AND LADDERS ON OCTOBER 23 & 24

Santa Claus Park & Recreation Department

October 2025 Report

SCCC Memberships, Daily Admittance, Room Rentals

	Senior (62+)	Youth (14-17)	Adult	Daily	Big Room Hour Rental
October	19	11	70	8	8

Completed Projects

- Playground Shelterhouse light replacement
- Soccer field repairs
- Community center – installed hip thrust machine and purchased deadlift bar, ez curl bar, and safety squat bar

New/Ongoing Projects

- Trail Maintenance
- SCCC – Working on key fob entry/remote door control on front double door entrance to SCCC
- Park Master Plan, Phase A Engineering
- Universal Design – Foyer Restroom Bid Process (November/December timeframe)

Upcoming Events

Ice Rink at SCCC – December 20th & 21st

Items for Town Council/Redevelopment Commission

- Park Board recommends Jennifer Rich to reappointment on Park Board (4 year term, expires in 2029)
- Park Board recommends 2026 meeting schedule (7 PM central time, Town Hall)

Monday, January 5th
 Monday, February 2nd
 Monday, March 2nd
 Monday, April 6th
 Monday, May 4th
 Monday, June 1st

Wednesday, July 8th
 Monday, August 3rd
 Wednesday, September 9th
 Monday, October 5th
 Monday, November 2nd
 Monday, December 7th

SANTA CLAUS INSPECTION REPORT
October 2025

TOTAL PERMITS

3 Improvement Location
2 Building Permit
0 911 Addresses
0 Electrical

TOTAL INSPECTIONS

0 Temporary Electric
2 Footers
1 Foundations
1 Waterproofing
0 Post
0 Underground Electric
1 Underground Plumbing
1 Framing
0 R.I. Electric
0 R.I. Plumbing
0 R.I. HVAC
9 General
1 Gas
2 Electric Meter
1 Final
1 Certificate of Occupancy

Reporting: October - November, 2025

Misc. : APC Meeting

Santa Claus Police Department Activity for October,2025

**Off-Duty Call Outs – 7
Citations for the Town of Santa Claus - 5**

Warnings for Town of Santa Claus – 30

Crash reports for the Month - 8

Vehicle Inspections - 6

Domestic Disturbances- 6

Assist another Dept.- 6 See Attached

Medical Emergencies- 14

Disturbances - 44

Theft Reports - 0

Verbal Warnings - 5

Case reports/ Investigations- 7 / 46

Warrant Service- 1

Gun Permits- 0

Arrests- 4

Assist Motorist- 9

Christmas Lake Village Activity For October 2025

**Lake Noel – Suspicious Circumstances
Melody LN – Paper Service
S Melchoir Dr – PI Crash
Mistletoe Dr – Medical Assistant
Fir Tree Circle – Disabled Vehicle
Pine Drive – Suspicious Person
Stare Dr – Vin Check
Winter Lane – Vin Check
Balthazar Drive – Trespasser
Ornament Cir – Welfare Check
Kasper Drive – PD Crash
Evergreen – Speak to Officer
Tinsel Circle – Vin Check
Evergreen Plz – PD Crash
Kasper Drive – Disabled Vehicle
Carol Drive – Lock-out
Blue Spruce Drive – Fire Alarm
Pine Drive – PO Violation
Pine Drive – Medical
Mistletoe Dr – Medical**

Reserve Hours Worked October 2025

47.6 - Jazyk – 8

47-8 – Kennedy – 24

47- 7 – Goffinet – 16

47-9 – Griebelbauer – 0

Agency Assists: October 2025.

County – Warrant

Dale – Crash

County – Domestic

County – Traffic Stop

Dale – EMS

Gentryville – Remove Unwanted Person

PLANT INFORMATION

Treatment

October	2025	14.28	MG
October	2024	8.54	MG

Precipitation

October	2025	7.2	INCHES
October	2024	.6	INCHES

OPEN ACTION ITEMS

Plant O&M, Process control testing. Work continues with the AMP project. Proficiency Testing continues.

COLLECTION SYSTEM

OPEN ACTION ITEMS

SSO(s)/	0
By-pass	

Routine station and maintenance checks. Sewer main and lateral rehab ongoing. L.S. Upgrade job awarded to Jochem Tech-Complete. Repairs made to LS #22 force main, #27 discharge piping, and #23 piping seal.

LATERAL INSPECTIONS

REVOLVING TOTAL LATERAL INSPECTIONS	62		CIPP crew to return end of '25 or early '26 to begin prep of SA 8
NEW IN: October	6		
COC'S			
COC'S COMPLETED	1		
REQUIRING REPAIRS	0		
NO REPAIRS	0		Safety
EXEMPT LATERALS	1		As of October 31, 2025, no Lost Time injuries
			1 field assessment(s) completed
			Will need to appoint safety coordinator

STREETS

MOWING		Yes
SIGN- REPLACE/REPAIR/INSTALL	#	No
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 90% complete. Aid in oversight of Mt. Zion Rd intersection construction.

WATER AND WORK ORDERS

WORK ORDERS- TOTAL RECEIVED	#	35
WORK ORDERS- COMPLETED	#	35
WORK ORDERS- PENDING	#	0

OPEN ACTION ITEMS –Water

2024 Validated Water Audit submitted to IFA. Final plans for Mariah Hill (PHI). Job Awarded to SLB Pipe Solutions

ORDINANCE 2025-06

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING SEX OFFENDER RESTRICTIONS

WHEREAS, the Town of Santa Claus (“Town”) has heretofore adopted and approved Ordinances, hereinafter referred to as the “Santa Claus Municipal Code” pursuant to the provisions of Ind. Code §36-1-5-3, and,

WHEREAS, as this Code has been enacted, various modifications, corrections, and changes need to be made to the adopted Code; and,

WHEREAS, IC §36-1-3-4 bestows upon the Town all powers granted to it by statute and all other powers necessary or desirable in the conduct of its affairs, even though not granted by statute; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that it is necessary to implement restrictions to protect the health and safety of children from potential risks posed by sex offenders during Halloween and at activities conducted in the Town for children.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained, by the Town Council that a new Chapter 3.80 shall be added to the Municipal Code of the Town of Santa Claus, as follows:

3.80 SEX OFFENDERS

3.80.010 Purpose

The purpose of this section is to protect the health and safety of children from the dangers posed by sex offenders. The following restrictions are intended to impose reasonable time, place, and manner regulations, and are rationally related to advance the Town’s interest in protecting the health and safety of children and the general public.

3.80.020 Definitions

As used in this Chapter:

- (1) **CHILD** or **CHILDREN** means any person(s) under the age of 18.
- (2) **OFFENDER AGAINST CHILDREN** means any person who is defined in I.C. §35-42-4-11, regardless of whether the person is required to be registered pursuant to I.C. §11-8-8-8 *et seq.*

3.80.030 Halloween Restrictions

(A) Any Offender Against Children, as defined herein, shall be required to refrain from answering the door or otherwise distributing candy to children who are trick-or-treating between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. of October 31 of each year, or between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. on any day officially designated for trick-or-treating if that day is a day other than October 31.

(B) Exterior Illumination. During the hours designated for trick-or-treating on October 31, or on any such other date officially designated for trick-or-treating; the owner of any residence or other building at which a child sex offender is present shall keep exterior lights customarily used to invite or signal trick-or-treat participation – including porch lights and entryway illumination – turned off. This restriction does not prohibit exterior lighting reasonably necessary for security, safety, or ingress and egress, provided such lighting is not used to attract or invite trick-or-treaters.

3.80.040 Restrictions on Events.

No Child Sex Offender shall attend or place him or herself within five hundred (500) feet of any event for children conducted by or authorized by the Town, including, but not limited to, the Trick or Treat Trail, Touch a Truck events, Easter egg hunt, Christmas Celebration Ice Rink, Youth sporting events and any similar events on Town property.

3.80.050 Waiver

Any Child Sex Offender who has good cause for waiver of the requirements of the restrictions imposed by this chapter may apply for a waiver of such restrictions or limits to the Town Council, which may grant a waiver to such person following a public hearing on such request.

3.08.060 Penalty

Any person violating this chapter shall be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 for the first violation and a fine not exceeding \$1,000 for each second and subsequent violations.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana on the 10th day of November, 2025.

SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL




Kevin Burke, President

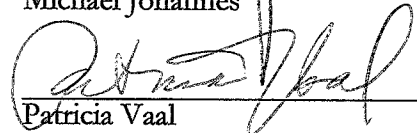
Jason Little



Brian Warran



Michael Johannes



Patricia Vaal

Attest:


Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer

ORDINANCE 2025-04

AN ORDINANCE CREATING WHEEL TAX FUND

WHEREAS, Spencer County, Indiana has adopted a wheel tax pursuant to I.C. §6-3.5-5.1 *et. seq.*, and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Santa Claus will be entitled to an allocation of the county wheel tax pursuant to I.C. §6-3.5-5-10; and,

WHEREAS, a separate fund is necessary to separate and limit the use of the Town's allocation of wheel tax revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana, that a new section 1.99 is hereby added to the Municipal Code of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana, as follows:

“Chapter 1.99 Wheel Tax Fund

Sections: 1.99.010 Established
 1.99.020 Contributions
 1.99.030 Use of Funds
 1.99.040 Termination

1.99.010 Established. There is hereby established a special fund known as the “Wheel Tax Fund.”

1.99.020 Contributions. Contributions to the fund shall be from allocations and distributions by the Spencer County Treasurer of the Spencer County Wheel Tax, pursuant to I.C. §6-3.5-5-15.

1.99.030 Use of Funds. Expenditures may be made from such fund by appropriation by Santa Claus Indiana for the following purposes:

- (1) To construct, reconstruct, repair, or maintain streets and roads under the Town's jurisdiction;
- (2) As a contribution to an authority established under I.C. §36-7-23; or,
- (3) For the Town's contribution to obtain a grant from the local road and bridge matching grant fund under I.C. §8-23-30.

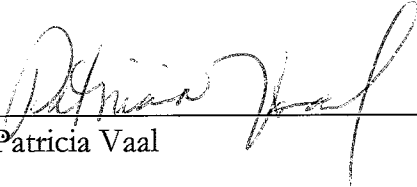
1.99.040. Termination. This fund shall be a perpetual fund until terminated or amended by future ordinance.”

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana this 10th day of November, 2025.

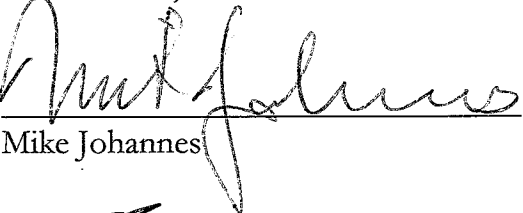
SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL



Kevin Burke, President

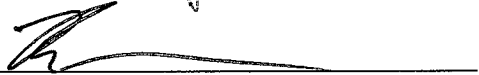


Patricia Vaal



Mike Johannes

Jason Little



Brian Warran

Attest:



Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer