

The Santa Claus Town Council met in regular session on December 8, 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, Jason Little and Brian Warran

Absent: Michael Johannes

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Patricia Vaal nominated Kevin Burke for President of the Santa Claus Town Council for 2026. No further nominations were submitted. Patricia Vaal made the motion to select Kevin Burke as President of the Santa Claus Town Council for 2026. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 3 Nays: None Abstain (Kevin Burke)

Motion carried: 3-0-1

Jason Little nominated Patricia Vaal for Vice-President of the Santa Claus Town Council for 2026 . No further nominations were submitted. Jason Little made the motion to select Patricia Vaal for Vice-President of the Santa Claus Town Council for 2026. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 3 Nays: None Abstain: 1 (Patricia Vaal)

Motion carried: 3-0-1

Per IC code 36-5-6-6 the Clerk-Treasurer shall serve as clerk of the legislative body and record the proceedings.

Scot Elliott President of the Water Board made the recommendation for David Maddox to fill the vacancy left by Matt Woolems on the Water Board. Jane Lindsey stated that this would be for 1 year. Patricia Vaal made the motion to appoint David Maddox to the Water Board. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

MINUTES

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve December 8th, minutes as presented and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve December 22nd, minutes as presented and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve December 29th, minutes as presented and Kevin Burke seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Kevin Burke presented a Proclamation for Clifton Newman's 100th birthday. Mr. Newman served in World War II in the United States Navy. Mr. Newman also serves in several community organizations. The Proclamation declares January 21, 2026 to be CLIFF NEWMAN 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION DAY.

Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve the Proclamation for Clifton Newman's 100th birthday. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

This proclamation will be delivered to Mr. Newman's party by a Council member. The Council agreed to develop formal eligibility guidelines for future recognitions.

Kevin Burke discussed America's 250th birthday celebration. Burke wanted the Town to put on an event to mark this historic day. Patricia Vaal said she would discuss ideas with America's Christmas Hometown at their next meeting.

Kevin Burke stated that the murals in town have been a success and have brought much enjoyment to visitors and community members. Burke encouraged other businesses consider adding murals to their buildings.

Kevin Burke encouraged the community to reach out to our State representatives in support of the food and beverage tax.

DECEMBER REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT MAX MEYER

Max Meyer announced that the fire truck has been sold to a department in Poland. Meyer is working with Clerk-Treasurer about accepting the payment through a wire transfer. Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey expressed her concern about the third party that the transaction was going through. Lindsey stated she has reached out to the company about sending an actual check. Attorney, Kevin Patmore stated that the money could be wired to his client account and he would transfer the funds to us. Lindsey stated she would get the information to Patmore for review.

Meyer presented an invoice #20378 from Gudorf in the amount of \$5,964.13 for installation of a new compressor on the fire department's geothermal unit. This would be paid from Rainy Day. Gudorf asked to be

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paid in advance however Clerk-Treasurer stated that Gudorf could not be paid in advance. The Council could approve the invoice to be paid upon completion of the work. Jason Little made the motion to approve invoice #20378 for Gudorf not to be paid until completion of the work. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

PARKS & RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTER ZACH TISCHENDORF

Zach Tischendorf reported that the park received a grant in the amount of \$3500 from Community Foundation to purchase a water station for Yellig Park.

Tischendorf stated that the Park Board reviewed bids for renovating the bathrooms in the foyer of the Santa Claus Community Center. The Park Board chose the lowest bid from JK Forever Homes in the amount of \$26,763.60. Tischendorf asked the Council to approve the bid. Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve the bid from JK Forever Homes in the amount of \$26,763.60 for the foyer bathroom renovation to be paid from CCB. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Tischendorf informed the Council that Community Foundation would like to install a drop box on the outside of the Community Center. The drop box would not be attached to the building but would be a free-standing drop box. The Council agreed on the drop box and will allow Tischendorf to proceed in working with the Community Foundation to install it.

POLICE DEPARTMENT JAMES FAULKENBURG

James Faulkenburg reported that he is still working with Ford regarding the recalls.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Todd Hays was not in attendance and provided his report in advance

UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT RUSS LUTHY

TRAILS

Russ Luthy reported that the Lincoln Discovery Trail construction will begin soon.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Russ Luthy reported they have hired a new employee and was in the process of completing the new hire paperwork.

Community Crossings paving project is finishing up on the punch list items.

WASTEWATER

Russ Luthy requested that the Council consider a wastewater rate study. Luthy stated that the most recent one was done in 2013 and with an aging plant the current revenue they will not be able to make the necessary

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improvements. Patricia Vaal made the motion to allow the Clerk-Treasurer and Russ Luthy to start the process of a rate study. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

WATER

Scot Elliott, Water Board President, spoke on the Patoka Water increasing their rates 9%. Elliott proposed an increase of 6% beginning on 6-1-26 with customers seeing the increase on July's bill. Elliott stated that the 6% increase will result in 52 cents on 1,000 gallons for residential customers. Elliott stated that he did not want to pursue a rate study this year however Elliott felt the Council should consider doing a rate study in 2028-2029.

Kevin Patmore, attorney, presented Ordinance 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.04 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS CONCERNING WATER RATES AND CHARGES for the first reading. Jason Little made the motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.04 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS CONCERNING WATER RATES AND CHARGES. Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Attorney, Kevin Patmore stated that the Council would need to set a public hearing date. Patmore stated that the public hearing could be held at the next Town Council meeting prior to the second reading of Ordinance 2026-02. Patricia Vaal made the motion to set a public hearing for 2-9-26 at 5:30 pm at the Santa Claus Town Hall for Ordinance 2026-02 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.04 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS CONCERNING WATER RATES AND CHARGES. Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

Attorney, Kevin Patmore stated that he would publish the notice of hearing and send out certified letters to the towns of Gentryville and Chrisney. Jason Little made a motion to direct Kevin Patmore to publish the notice of public hearing and send out certified letters to Gentryville and Chrisney. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

Ayes: 4 Nays: None

Motion carried: 4-0

INDUSTRIAL PARK

Dylan Warran inquired about his offer to purchase 6 acres of Industrial Park land. Dylan Warran wanted to know when the Council plans to decide on his offer of \$30,000. Brian Warran, council member stated that per the advertised notice of sale the Council would have a decision by the end of 2025. Brian Warran stated that the integrity of the bidding process is gone. After a lengthy discussion the decision remains unresolved due to conflict with the proposed bike trail grant utilizing the same land. Patricia Vaal stated that this should be tabled until the February meeting to allow for grant timeline clarity.

TOWN ATTORNEY KEVIN PATMORE

Kevin Patmore presented Ordinance 2026-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING POLICIES FOR RECEIVING CASH PAYMENTS FOR UTILITY AND OTHER SERVICES for the second reading. This Ordinance will allow the Clerk-Treasurer's office to continue to accept cash however allow for addressing issues with the removal of the penny from circulation. Jason Little made the motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING POLICIES FOR RECEIVING CASH PAYMENTS FOR UTILITY AND OTHER SERVICES. Brian Warran seconded the motion.

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

Patmore discussed the DNR flood plan that was given to the Council through e-mail. Patmore stated that he will take to the APC meeting.

CLERK-TREASURER JANE LINDSEY

December Fund Balances:

General-\$6,528,691.78

Water-\$1,884,682.26

Wastewater-\$1,045,274.64

Clerk-Treasurer, Jane Lindsey presented Resolution 2026-01 CANCELLATION OF OLD WARRANTS. Lindsey stated that this is a resolution that is done yearly to receipt in outstanding checks that are two years old. Patricia Vaal made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-01 CANCELLATION OF OLD WARRANTS. Jason Little seconded the motion.

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

VOUCHERS

Jason Little made a motion to approve General vouchers in the amount of \$851,969.52 and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$106,082.67 and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

Jason Little made a motion to approve Wastewater vouchers in the amount of \$28,571.22 and Michael Johannes seconded the motion.

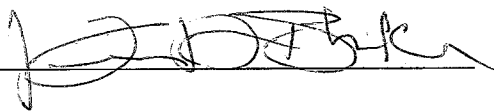
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

Patricia Vaal made a motion to adjourn the town council meeting at 6:51 P.M. and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried 4-0

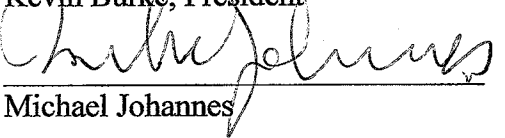
The next Town Council meeting will be February 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm.



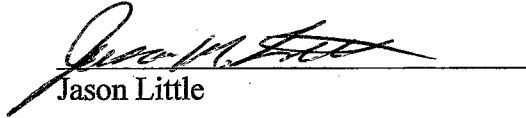
Kevin Burke, President




Patricia Vaal, Vice President



Michael Johannes

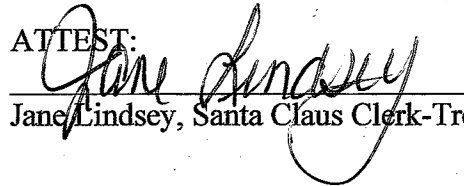


Jason Little



Brian Warran

ATTEST:



Jane Lindsey, Santa Claus Clerk-Treasurer

SANTA CLAUS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S

ACTIVITY REPORT

December 1 -31, 2025

First Responder (EMR) – 14

Garage Fire - 1

CO – 1

Signal 9 (Disregard) - 2

Santa Claus Parade - 1

19 - Total Runs

Santa Claus Park & Recreation Department

December 2025 Report

SCCC Memberships, Daily Admittance, Room Rentals

	Senior (62+)	Youth (14-17)	Adult	Daily	Big Room Hour Rental
December	32	21	89	10	12

Completed Projects

- Chemical/Fertilizer and Janitor Supply orders completed
- Finished spreading millings on east parking area by community center

New/Ongoing Projects

- Community Center Foyer Restroom (Quotes received via Universal Design)
- Double Door Fob Reader (Installed, waiting on Brian for Software updates)
- AED Replacement
- Grant Exploration
- Trail Maintenance, plastic grip strips for bridges
- Mower procurement – SCAG Turf Tiger II

Items for Town Council/Redevelopment Commission

- Foyer Restroom Remodel – park board recommends lowest quoted price submitted by JK Forever Homes in the amount of \$26,763.60

SANTA CLAUS INSPECTION REPORT

December 2025

TOTAL PERMITS

3 Improvement Location
2 Building Permit
0 911 Addresses
0 Electrical

TOTAL INSPECTIONS

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

Reporting: December, 2025

Misc. :

APC Meeting

Santa Claus Police Department Activity for December,2025

Off-Duty Call Outs – 10
Citations for the Town of Santa Claus - 1

Warnings for Town of Santa Claus – 20

Crash reports for the Month - 3

Vehicle Inspections - 3

Domestic Disturbances- 4

Assist another Dept.- 8 See Attached

Medical Emergencies- 9

Disturbances - 27

Theft Reports - 4

Verbal Warnings - 0

Case reports/ Investigations- 12 / 42

Warrant Service- 2

Gun Permits- 0

Arrests- 7

Assist Motorist- 5

Christmas Lake Village Activity For December 2025

**Fir Tree Cir – Medical
Pine Drive – Vin Check
Blitzen – Domestic
Ornament Cir - Medical
Rudolph Ln – Warrant
Ornament Ln – Medical Service
Blitzen – Investigation
Blitzen – Suspicious Person
Rudolph – Warrant
Sleigh Bell – Speak to Officer
Sleigh Bell – Domestic
Balthazar – Accident
Ornament Cir – Medical
Melody Ln – Medical
Tinsel Cir – Speak to Officer
Pyracantha Cir – Speak to Officer
Pyracantha Cir – Accident
Sled Run – Vin Check
Sleigh Bell – Scam Complaint
Kasper Dr – Pd Crash**

Reserve Hours Worked December 2025

47-6 - Jazyk – 8

47-8 – Kennedy – 24

47- 7 – Goffinet – 16

47-9 – Griebelbauer – 16

Agency Assists: December 2025.

County - Domestic

County – PI Crash

County – Missing Person

County – Vehicle Fire

County – Tree Down

County – PI Crash

County – Stabbing / Shooting

ISP – Attempt to Locate Person

PLANT INFORMATION

Treatment

December	2025	13.39	MG
December	2024	24.41	MG

Precipitation

December	2025	2.36	INCHES
December	2024	5.87	INCHES

OPEN ACTION ITEMS

Plant O&M, Process control testing. Work continues with the AMP project. Awaiting results on PT re-takes.

COLLECTION SYSTEM

SSO(s)/	0
By-pass	

OPEN ACTION ITEMS

Routine station and maintenance checks. Sewer main and lateral rehab ongoing. #23 piping seal on-going. Insurance claim-repairs made (LS #24), and incurred cost will be forwarded to insurance company. Failure resulted from Center-Point Energy, power interruption.

LATERAL INSPECTIONS

REVOLVING TOTAL LATERAL INSPECTIONS	65		CIPP crew to return end of '25 or early '26 to begin prep of SA 8
NEW IN: December --	2		
COC'S			
COC'S COMPLETED	0		
REQUIRING REPAIRS	2		
NO REPAIRS	0		Safety
EXEMPT LATERALS	0		As of December 31, 2025, no Lost Time injuries
			1 field assessment(s) completed
			Will need to appoint safety coordinator

STREETS

MOWING		no
SIGN- REPLACE/REPAIR/INSTALL	#	No
COMPLAINTS	#	Yes
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.

WATER AND WORK ORDERS

WORK ORDERS- TOTAL RECEIVED	#	12
WORK ORDERS- COMPLETED	#	12
WORK ORDERS- PENDING	#	0

OPEN ACTION ITEMS –Water

Mariah Hill (PHI) water line project began in earnest on 12.17.2025. Weather has been agreeable and progress has been steady. We are reviewing plans for PH II of this project.

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, CLIFTON B. "CLIFF" NEWMAN WAS BORN ON JANUARY 21, 1926; AND,

WHEREAS, NEWMAN IS A PART OF THE "GREATEST GENERATION" WHO SERVED OUR NATION IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY DURING WORLD WAR II ON THE U.S.S. BREESE; AND,

WHEREAS, NEWMAN IS A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS; AND,

WHEREAS, NEWMAN HAS SERVED HIS FELLOW MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY AS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARD, A MEMBER OF THE MASONIC LODGE, ODD FELLOWS, AND AS A MEMBER OF LARKIN BAPTIST CHURCH; AND,

WHEREAS, NEWMAN HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY MANY AS THE "KINDEST PERSON THEY HAVE EVER KNOWN;" AND,

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS IS HAPPY TO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION OF NEWMAN'S MILESTONE 100TH BIRTHDAY.

NOW, THEREFORE, KEVIN BURKE, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA, HEREBY DECLARES THE 21ST DAY OF JANUARY, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-SIX, TO BE

CLIFF NEWMAN 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION DAY

IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA AND ITS CITIZENS, IN HONOR AND GRATITUDE FOR HIS LOYAL AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE TOWN, LOCAL COMMUNITY AND NATION.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, KEVIN BURKE, PRESIDENT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, HAS SET HIS HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA TO BE AFFIXED HERETO THIS TWELFTH DAY OF JANUARY, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-SIX.

KEVIN BURKE,
PRESIDENT OF THE SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL

ORDINANCE 2026-01

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING POLICIES FOR RECEIVING CASH PAYMENTS
FOR UTILITY AND OTHER SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Santa Claus ("Town") operates water and wastewater utilities for which customers receive invoices each month for utility services provided; and

WHEREAS, due to the discontinuation of the United States Mint's production of the penny and an anticipated shortage of pennies, the Town's ability to provide exact change to customers paying in United States Currency may be affected.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the Town Council of The Town of Santa Claus, Indiana, that a new Section is hereby added to the Municipal Code of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana, as follows:

"10.04.128 Cash Payments. If a water customer pays for water charges in United States currency without providing exact change equaling the total payment due, the Town shall not provide change less than one dollar (\$1.00), and any overpayment by such customer shall be applied as a credit to such customer's account."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a new Section 10.16.124 is hereby added to the Municipal Code of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana, as follows:


"10.16.124 Cash Payments. If a wastewater customer pays for wastewater charges in United States currency without providing exact change equaling the total payment due, the Town shall not provide change in any increment less than one dollar (\$1.00), and any overpayment by such customer shall be applied as a credit to such customer's account."

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana on the 12th day of January, 2026.

SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL


Kevin Burke, President

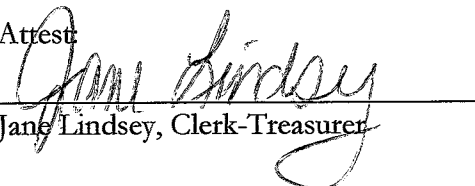
Michael Johannes


Jason Little


Patricia Vaal


Brian Warran

Attest


Jane Lindsey, Clerk-Treasurer

Resolution 2026-01 TOWN COUNCIL GENERAL OLD WARRANTS

RESOLUTION 2026-01

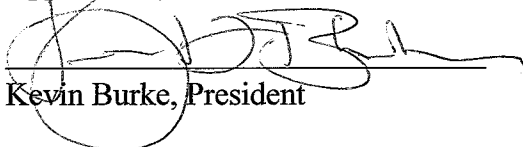
CANCELLATION OF OLD WARRANTS


TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS

Pursuant to IC 5-11-10.5 all checks outstanding and unpaid for a period of two years as of December 31st of each year are considered void. The following checks are to be voided, removed from the outstanding checks list and receipted back into the fund or funds upon which they were originally drawn:

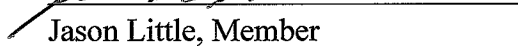
<u>Check No.</u>	<u>Issue Year</u>	<u>Issued To</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>	<u>Fund #</u>
16596	2023	PARTEK SOLUTIONS	\$ 117.80	GENERAL
11604	2023	CORP TRANSFER	\$100.00	SEWER
11605	2023	CORP TRANSFER	\$100.00	SEWER
11606	2023	CORP TRANSFER	\$100.00	SEWER
11607	2023	CALIF PACIFIC	\$33.44	SEWER
11608	2023	FREEMAN	\$100.00	SEWER
11609	2023	BARTLES	\$100.00	SEWER
11610	2023	MEAGLES	\$100.00	SEWER
11611	2023	FISCHER	\$150.00	SEWER
11613	2023	BELL	\$150.00	SEWER
11617	2023	PEARSON	\$150.00	SEWER
11618	2023	KISSEL	\$150.00	SEWER
11619	2023	MCDUGALD	\$150.00	SEWER
11620	2023	TUCKER	\$150.00	SEWER
11634	2023	QUALLS	\$100.00	SEWER
11635	2023	DUNN/LEWIS	\$100.00	SEWER


Approved by the Santa Claus Town Council on January 12, 2026

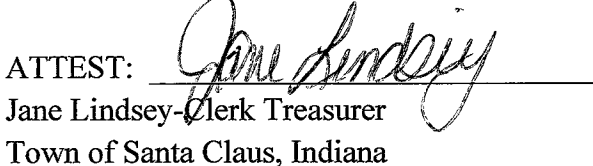

Kevin Burke, President


Patricia Vaal, Vice President

Michael Johannes, Member


Jason Little, Member


Brian Warran, Member

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