

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, March 6, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the meeting of the Mayor and Council convened at 5:30 p. m. on Monday, March 6, 2023 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince and Parham; City Attorney Jenkins, City Manager Dunn and City Clerk Churney.

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

Council Member Colquitt motioned to approve the minutes of the February meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

There were no speakers from the floor.

Council Member Parham introduced a Resolution authorizing the continuation of a capital lease agreement with Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation, as follows:

**RESOLUTION**  
**to Lease, Purchase, and/or Finance Equipment**

**WHEREAS**, the laws of the State of Georgia (the "State") authorize the City of Elberton (the "Governmental Entity"), a duly organized municipal corporation of the State, to purchase, acquire and lease personal property for the benefit of the Governmental Entity and its inhabitants and to enter into any necessary contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governmental Entity wants to lease, purchase and/or finance equipment ("Equipment") from **Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation** and/or an authorized Caterpillar dealer ("Caterpillar") by entering into that certain Governmental Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement") with Caterpillar; and

**WHEREAS**, the form of the Agreement has been presented to the governing body of the Governmental Entity at this meeting.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that:

(i) the Agreement, including all schedules and exhibits attached to the Agreement, is approved in substantially the form presented at the meeting, with any Approved Changes (as defined below),

(ii) the Governmental Entity enter into the Agreement with Caterpillar, and

(iii) the Agreement is adopted as a binding obligation of the Governmental Entity; and that changes may later be made to the Agreement if the changes are approved by the Governmental Entity's counsel or members of the governing body of the Governmental Entity signing the Agreement (the "Approved Changes") and that the signing of the Agreement and any related documents is conclusive evidence of the approval of the changes; and that the persons listed below, who are the incumbent officers of the Governmental Entity (the "Authorized Persons"):

Lanier Dunn	City Manager
Cindy Churney	City Clerk

be, and each is, authorized, directed and empowered, on behalf of the Governmental Entity, to (i) sign and deliver to Caterpillar, and its successors and assigns, the Agreement and any related documents, and (ii) take or cause to be taken all actions he/she deems necessary or advisable to acquire the Equipment, including the signing and delivery of the Agreement and related documents; and that the Clerk of the Governmental Entity is authorized to attest to these resolutions and affix the seal of the Governmental Entity to the Agreement, these resolutions, and any related documents; and that nothing in these resolutions, the Agreement or any other document imposes a pecuniary liability or charge upon the

general credit of the Governmental Entity or against its taxing power, except to the extent that the payments payable under the Agreement are special limited obligations of the Governmental Entity as provided in the Agreement; and that a breach of these resolutions, the Agreement or any related document will not impose any pecuniary liability upon the Governmental Entity or any charge upon its general credit or against its taxing power, except to the extent that the payments payable under the Agreement are special limited obligations of the Governmental Entity as provided in the Agreement; and that the authority granted by these resolutions will apply equally and with the same effect to the successors in office of the Authorized Persons; and that the undersigned's certification of the Authorized Persons' signatures shall be binding on the Governmental Entity.

Resolved this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023

City Manager Dunn read the Resolution in its entirety. Council Member Parham motioned to adopt the Resolution as read, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, Parham).

Council Member Prince motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.

**Expenditures for March 2023**

Department: Public Works	
Commercial Grade Lawnmower	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
P & J Small Engines <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	\$14,411.25
Royston Rental	\$14,332.58

Department: ElbertonNET	
15 kVa Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) replacement plus installation for the ElbertonNET Headend	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Allison-Smith Company <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	\$ 62,976.00
WESCO	\$101,031.00
Sphaera, Inc.	\$121,985.00

Department: Elberton Utilities	
Replace Mail Folding Machine for Utility Billing	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Pitney Bowes <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	\$11,255.76
Quadient	\$11,547.00

2. Authorized the closing of a portion of the square to vehicular traffic on Saturday, April 1 for the Downtown Egg Hunt hosted by Main Street Elberton.
3. Authorized the closing of a portion of the city streets to vehicular traffic on Saturday, April 29 for the 5K Run hosted by the Elberton Lions Club.
4. Authorized the closing of a portion of the square to vehicular traffic on Saturday, June 17 for the Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the Jim Ree Museum.
5. Authorized the issuance of a retail beer and wine license to Granite Nation, LLC located at 243 College Avenue owned by Sadik Vadariya. This is the former Bill's Food Mart.
6. Authorized the issuance of a temporary beer and wine license to Rebecca Holliday on behalf of the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce for April 13, 2023 to be held at the Rock Gym located at 45 Forest Avenue, Elberton.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending January 31, 2023.
2. Monthly reports on the activities of various departments.

3. Any other matters to be presented by the City Manager.

**CITY CLERK:**

The annual Georgia State Board of Workers’ Compensation Indemnity Claims reporting has been submitted for calendar year 2022.

Georgia Arbor Day was celebrated by a proclamation signing and tree planting on February 17. The City of Elberton has received its Tree City designation for the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

The department attended the Elections training as required by the Georgia Secretary of State’s office for the November municipal general election.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department responded to 39 Alarm Calls for the month of February, 2023. These calls consisted of 1 Structure Fire, 2 Cooking Fires, 27 Medical Emergencies, 6 Vehicle Accidents, and 3 Aircraft Standbys. The department conducted 2 Fire Inspections, 2 Pre Plans, and issued 1 burn permit. The Fire Department conducted 452.5 hours of in-house training and 40 hours out of station training for the month.

**BUILDING INSPECTIONS:**

The building inspection department issued 12 permits for the month of February, 2023. Permits issued: 5 Electrical Permits, 1 Plumbing Permits, 1 Reroof Permit, 3 Building Permits, and 2 Demo Permits. During this same period there were 5 Electrical Inspections, 1 Plumbing Inspections, 3 Sign Inspections, 2 Demo Inspections, and 2 Building Inspections.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of January 2023. The department recorded:

- 840 Calls for Service
- 317 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 74 Incident Reports were filed
- 282 City Court cases made
- 16 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 71 People were arrested for various charges
- 10 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 29 Department Training Hours

The Group A crimes of the (NIBRS) National Incident Based Reporting System are sent to the FBI on a monthly basis. The Group A crimes for January 2023 are as follows:

	<u>January</u>	<u>December</u>
Kidnapping:	0	2
Rape Offenses:	1	2
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	12	16
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	2	1
Larceny/Theft:	8	2
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	2	0
Fraud Offenses:	1	2
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	5	10
Drug Offenses:	6	10
Weapons Violations:	0	3
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	2	1
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

**WATER & SEWER:**

The crews repaired water leaks at Grogan Circle, Lincoln Avenue, Hillcrest Avenue, Edwards Street and Elbert Street. The crews began the Limo Road water main extension project on February 6 to serve 24 chicken houses with the developer paying 100% of the cost. To date 3,000 feet of 6-inch water main is installed with 600 feet remaining. The crews installed water taps at Miller Drive and Athens Highway.

The crews added new wiring and receptacles to belt press building at the Fortson’s Creek Treatment Plant.

**ELECTRIC:**

The Electric Department replaced three 3-phase poles near Beaverdam School. The department set 3 new poles on Allen Logan Road and installed power for a Quarry that is re-opening. The department finished out the month by installing new meters, metering equipment, and LED street lights.

**GAS:**

The Natural Gas Department installed a new service and meter at Beaverdam School. The Department removed a service on Elbert St. for demolition of structures. The Department began the annual atmospheric corrosion inspections (painting of meter sets).

Gas In-Home Sales and Service for FY2023

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
New Customers Installed	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0					2
Existing Customers Serviced	1	0	0	1	3	4	4	1					14
Total	1	0	0	1	5	4	4	1					15

Appliances installed, repaired, replaced, or serviced for FY2023

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
Water Heaters	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0					5
All Other Appliances	0	0	0	0	4	3	4	1					12
Total	1	0	0	1	5	5	4	1					17

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the crews continued construction on the second floor apartments at 9 N. McIntosh Street. One sidewalk was added and another section repaired on College Ave. for the update to the Granite City Trailhead park.

**MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

The first event for 2023 will be Friday, March 17 on the downtown square with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Shamrock Shuffle. This event will take place 7pm-10pm with music, dancing, karaoke and giveaways. This event was well attended last year and we are expecting the same outcome for this year’s event.

**ELBERT THEATRE:**

There were 34 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Jan 26-Feb 23 including Encore Productions’ *Hello, Dolly!* rehearsals, ECCHS’ football awards & pageant, Advantage Behavioral’s movie field trip, *Plane & A Man Called Otto* movies, ETF’s paint classes & *The Sugar Bean Sisters* open reading, New Hope Campus’ bingo event, and Congressman Collins’ meet & greet.

Approximately 1,019 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Jan 26-Feb 23.

**ELBERT HOTEL:**

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%

September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%	40.1%	48.0%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	34.0%	46.7%	53.9%
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	31.5%	49.0%	53.6%
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%
February	29.0%	26.6%	33.1%	32.7%	39.2%	
March	37.9%	35.0%	19.2%	32.7%	41.0%	
April	32.3%	40.5%	4.7%	38.5%	46.8%	
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	43.7%	49.9%	
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	38.5%	41.5%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	33.2%	41.1%	42.1%

January 2023 set a record for January occupancy at 40.6%, and February will likely finish the month at a record for February around 40.5%.

Matters to be considered by Council.

- Mayor Graves welcomed Mr. Tyler Taylor to the meeting. Mr. Taylor is the new administrator at Elbert Memorial Hospital.
- Mayor Graves updated Council on the APPA Legislative Rally in Washington.
- Mayor Graves congratulated the girls ECCHS basketball team.
- Mayor Graves issued condolences to the family of Mr. Charles Thornton on his recent passing.

There being no further business to come before Council, upon proper motion and second the meeting was adjourned.