

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, September 14, 2026 – 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, September 14 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

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

A notice of the meeting was issued in accordance with law for the purpose of receiving comments regarding the violation of the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance at 1004 Calhoun Falls Highway, known as Bar 72 and Event Center. The Notice of Hearing stated that the establishment permitted the consumption of alcohol past the permitted time (4-104), permitted open containers outside the establishment (4-225), and permitted flagrant defiance of the local noise ordinance (28-12).

Mr. Kasyapkumar Patel (License Holder) apologized for the violations. He explained that the facility had been rented to two separate individuals when the incidents occurred.

Mr. Steven Oglesby (Renter on August 2 & August 16, 2026): Denied selling alcohol passed the permitted time, claiming he was giving it away for free. He stated that patrons were already outside the building by the time the police arrived to address the noise.

Mr. James Gaines (Renter on September 13, 2026): Also denied selling alcohol past the deadline, stated he was giving it away. He noted that patrons were outside the establishment and refusing to leave.

Mayor Graves announced that Council would deliberate and consider the violation later in the meeting, after which the Public Hearing was adjourned.

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

Council Member Butler motioned to approve the minutes of the August 3 meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

There were no scheduled speakers from the floor.

Council Member Parham placed Ordinances 2235 on first reading to amend the zoning map.

ORDINANCE 2235

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING MAP
OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

City Manager Eavenson read the Ordinance in its entirety. A second reading will be required at the October meeting.

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

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

Department: Public Works		
2025 Garbage Truck to replace wrecked vehicle. To be funded by proceeds from insurance settlement.		
Vendor:	Description:	Bid Amount:
Sansom Equipment Co	RECOMMENDED 2025 Peterbilt	\$235,950.00

Carolina Environmental Syst	2025 Freightliner	\$216,045.00
NuLife	2027 Peterbilt	\$287,895.00

Department: Utilities – Meter Reading & Services		
Purchase of Mobile Collector and tablet to upgrade Itron field collection system for remote meter reading to Temetra. To be funded by FY2027 Budget.		
Vendor:		Bid Amount:
United Systems	RECOMMENDED	\$23,000.00

Department: Police		
New service weapons with Aimpoint sights (24). To be funded by SPLOST funds.		
Vendor:		Bid Amount:
AmChar Wholesale Inc	RECOMMENDED	\$11,568.00
ED's Public Safety, Inc		\$12,144.00
GET Distributors, Inc		\$12,144.00

Department: Fire		
Turnout gear for Firefighters (17). To be funded by SPLOST funds.		
Vendor:		Bid Amount:
FireLine	RECOMMENDED	\$95,591.00

Department: Public Works		
50 x 100 x 16 Storage Building. To be funded by SPLOST funds.		
Vendor:		Bid Amount:
Danny Craft Construction	RECOMMENDED	\$78,359.00
Randall Brown Construction		\$120,642.70
Summit Structural		\$105,550.00

Department: Public Works		
City portion of roadway – Oglesby Blvd. To be funded by TSPLOST funds.		
Vendor:		Bid Amount:
Elbert County Board of Comm	RECOMMENDED	\$11,723.15

Department: Utilities – Water/Sewer Division		
Water System Improvements - 2026 Galvanized Main Replacement. Recommendation provided by DCCM Engineering.		
Vendor:		Bid Amount:
UWS, Inc	RECOMMENDED	\$1,923,070.00
Ashlind Construction		\$2,251,867.87
HD Excavations		\$3,010,965.00
FS Scarborough		\$4,156,416.73
OHM Shiv		\$4,252,270.00
Site Engineering		\$4,684,050.00

2. Accepted the minutes, decisions, and recommendations of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting of August 17.
3. Accepted the minutes of the Elberton Historic Preservation Commission of August 18.
4. Authorized the issuance of a retail beer/malt and wine license to Dhruv Patel of Sri Radhey USA, Inc. (formerly the Usharaj USA/Texaco Food Mart) located at 211 N. Oliver Street.

5. Authorized a public assembly permit to close the square to traffic on November 7, for the **26th Annual Granite City Fall Festival** event and waive the open container prohibition hosted by Main Street Elberton and the Downtown Development Authority.
6. Authorized a public assembly permit for a **31st Annual 5K Walk-a-thon** event on November 7, hosted by SafeHouse Ministries, Inc.
7. Authorized a public assembly permit to close the square to traffic on November 24, for the **19th Annual Candlelight Shopping Downtown and Tree Lighting** event hosted by Main Street Elberton and the Downtown Development Authority.
8. Authorized a public assembly permit to close the square to traffic on December 8, for the **5th Annual Cookie Crawl** event hosted by Main Street Elberton and the Downtown Development Authority.
9. Authorized a public assembly permit to close various streets to traffic on January 17, for the **Annual Martin Luther King Parade** hosted by the MLK Parade Committee.

City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

1. Financial Report ending July 31, 2026.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The department submitted the Personal Financial Disclosure Statement reports to the State Ethics using the new Peachfile online portal.

Splash Island was the ultimate hot spot for cooling down this month:

Description	May 1-31 2026	June 3-21 2026	June 24-July 19 2026	July 22-Aug 23 2026
No. of days open	18	15	20	25
Patron Breakdown:				
No. Paid Patrons	1221	2394	2239	1468
Rental Admission Count (25 per rental)	150	175	325	600
Other (School/501c3)	167	25	80	54
No. of Patrons (Age 62+/2 and under)	135	197	392	317
Total Patron Count	1673	2791	3036	2439
Rental Breakdown:				
Pavillion (\$150ea)	6	5	11	24
Group Rentals (\$500ea)	0	0	2	4
Other/school/501c3 (\$0)	1	1	0	0
Revenue:				
Admissions	\$6,105.00	\$11,970.00	\$11,195.00	\$7,340.00
Rentals	\$1,317.50	\$750.00	\$2,650.00	\$5,600.00
Concessions	\$2,905.60	\$5,784.00	\$5,601.00	\$4,557.00

The last day of the operating season for Splash Island Elberton is Sunday, September 27th.
BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

Permit Type	Issued	Inspections Performed
Electrical	2	1
Land Disturbance	0	0
Roof	6	4
Demolition	1	0
Mechanical	2	0
Sign	2	1
General Building	6	4
Total	19	10

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- Responded to 84 alarm calls and issued three burn permits.
- 416 hours of in-house training; 36 hours of training center usage; 12 hours were utilized for joint exercises; 93 hours of out-of-station training.

Alarm Calls	August 2026	July 2026
Outside Trash Fire	0	1
Building Fire	1	0
Wildland Fire	0	0
Medical Assists	66	37
Gas Leak	0	1
Power Pole Fire	0	0
Aircraft Standby	2	2
False Alarms	13	6
Vehicle Accidents	2	5
Total	84	52

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released its monthly activity report for **July 2026**. The department recorded:

	July	June
Calls for Service	468	540
Vehicle Traffic Stops	322	368
Incident reports	59	97
City Court Cases	250	279
Traffic Accidents	21	20
Arrests	41	53
DUI	7	8
Department Training Hours	245	27

The **Group A** crimes of the (**NIBRS**) National Incident-Based Reporting System are sent to the FBI every month. The Group A crimes for **July 2026** are as follows:

Group A Crimes	July	June
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	0	1
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	7	7
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	4	1
Larceny/Theft:	9	13
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	2
Fraud Offenses:	1	2
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	1
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	4	8
Drug Offenses:	13	7
Weapons Violations:	0	5
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0
Homicide/ Manslaughter	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

Water System Maintenance

- Repair water leaks at East Clairmont Street, Campbell Street, and Laurel Drive.

- Repair fire hydrant at the Elbert County Fire Training Facility on Jenkins Road.
- Haul dirt and fill washed-out areas along the Pilgrim's water main right-of-way.
- Cut rights-of-way throughout the water system.
- Raise water main valve boxes on newly paved streets.
- Add support to the Pilgrim's water main at the creek crossing.

Sewer System Maintenance

- Replace a section of sewer main at Almond Street and Willow Street.
- Clean and inspect sewer mains on Country Manor Lane and Taggart Street.
- Cut rights-of-way throughout the sewer system.
- Raise sewer manholes on newly paved streets.

Water Treatment Facilities Maintenance

- Repair leaks on the sodium hypochlorite tank.
- Disinfect and return newly restored Clearwell #1 to service.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities Maintenance

- Replace the main breaker on Blower #1 at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant.
- Replace the blower room exhaust fan at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant.

ELECTRIC:

- Replaced a pole on Crestview Drive
- Replaced six poles on Lake Forest Drive
- Replaced underground primary at 144 Lake Forest Drive
- Set 15 new poles on Brookwood Circle and Ridgecrest Drive
- Installed new primary on a section of Lake Forest Drive
- Replaced a transformer on Jones Street

GAS:

- Perform routine maintenance on customer regulator and district regulator stations.
- Performed routine annual maintenance and painting on in-ground emergency valves throughout the distribution system.
- Installed service at 2312 Harmony Road.
- Completed maintenance work at station three (3) district regulator station on Athens Highway at West Railroad Street which included replacing all window glass, adding a security door and new lighting.
- Completed operator qualification requirements for Taylor Powell and Thomas Wiggs

PUBLIC WORKS:

The paving contractor has started on the 2026 paving project. The paving includes Lake Forest Drive, Lake Forest Circle, Brookside Drive, Johnson Drive at Athens Tech Road, Worley Street, McGinty Street, South McIntosh, East Church Street, Grogan Circle, Tusten Street, Burke Street, the Downtown public parking (Swift lot), the Elbert Theatre parking lot, and the Blackwell Cultural Center parking lot.

The new roof on City Hall has been completed.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

The Christmas in July event was on Tuesday, July 28. We had food trucks, craft vendors and pictures with Santa.

The final First Friday of the season was Friday, August 7. Second Strings Allstars provided live music. This event was well attended, and we are already booking musical talent for next year's First Friday series.

We are gearing up for the fall events with our first Jeep Show on Saturday, October 10. We will be partnering with TJ & Friends for this event. We will have Stan the Man providing music and karaoke for dancing, along with food trucks and jumpies for the kids.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There have been 33 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from July 25,2026-August 27, 2026 including Encore Productions’ A Year with Frog and Toad Kids auditions and *Wrong Window!* rehearsals; *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*, *Moana*, *Hadestown: The Musical* & *The Odyssey* movies; D McCalla’s women’s empowerment event & A Rowley’s business conference; the Elbert Theatre Foundation’s paint class.

Approximately 1,207 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Ctr between July 25, 2026-August 27, 2026. There has been one rental quoted and one confirmed during this period.

ELBERT HOTEL AND QUARRY:

Quarry:

- Participated in the First Friday, August 7, serving guests in the restaurant and bar.
- Hosted two Paint & Sip classes with Wendy Rayne for a total of 30 guests who enjoyed food and drinks from the restaurant during their guided class.
- Catered a Bridal Brunch on Aug 22 for 35+ guests.
- Served a catered lunch to approximately 50 people in conjunction with Bubba Burgers for the Electric Cities of Georgia bus tour on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Hotel:

- Ingles Markets occupied a large block of rooms for a total of 60 nights as they completed a redesign of the Hull store location.
- America's Home Place occupied rooms for a total of 24 nights as they chose Elberton for their Annual Regional meeting.
- We are planning the return of live music on Saturday, Sept 11. Clay Page will join us for our Patio Sessions with a live acoustic set from 7-9pm.

The latest occupancy report is as follows:

	FY22	FY 23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
July	39.4%	23.8%	40.4%	62.8%	47.0%	42.9%
August	40.0%	37.2%	47.0%	41.3%	40.2%	46.8%
September	40.1%	48.0%	46.7%	55.3%	40.0%	
October	46.7%	53.9%	55.3%	65.8%	54.7%	
November	49.0%	53.6%	58.0%	44.8%	50.6%	
December	36.3%	38.0%	32.7%	28.0%	29.0%	
January	23.5%	40.6%	30.3%	30.3%	24.9%	
February	39.2%	40.5%	46.0%	37.0%	36.2%	
March	41.0%	51.9%	51.6%	36.0%	63.1%	
April	46.8%	60.0%	53.8%	50.5%	52.3%	
May	49.9%	59.7%	44.8%	44.3%	56.7%	
June	41.5%	39.8%	50.8%	39.0%	33.3%	
AVERAGE	41.1%	45.6%	46.5%	44.6%	44.0%	

Council Member Prince inquired as to the progress of the Fiber Expansion Project. City Manager Eavenson stated that splicing was complete and service is ready to be cut on.

City Attorney Jenkins reported on the status of properties that are currently not up to city code compliance.

Mayor Graves asked City Marshal Cleve Williams to update Council on the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance violations.

City Marshal Williams reported that the Elberton Police Department was called to 1004 Calhoun Falls Highway, known as Bar 72 and Event Center, on three separate occasions. During all three occasions, the establishment permitted the consumption of alcohol past the permitted time (4-104), permitted open containers outside the establishment (4-225), and permitted flagrant defiance of the local noise ordinance (28-12). He also added that there was an odor of marijuana observed by the Police Officers. He recommended revocation of the establishment's alcohol license for the remainder of calendar year 2026.

Council Member Butler motioned to issue an administrative penalty in the amount of \$500.00, bond forfeiture of \$250.00 and revocation of alcohol license for the remainder of calendar year 2026, seconded by Council Member Prince, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

Mayor Graves reported that Council needed to consider financial support for the Elbert Memorial Hospital. He added that supporting the hospital would need to be community effort, but questions remained about what conditions would need to be met for that support to take place. Mayor Graves presented some ideas for potential funding that could assist the hospital while helping alleviate the strain on property taxpayers. Further discussion will be needed before the Council makes any decisions regarding financial support.

Mayor Graves reported that Council will adjourn to the Staff Development Room for the purpose of holding a work session to discuss future land use and zoning education with a focus on strategies. The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) will lead the presentation. The session is directly related to Elberton's Comprehensive Plan Update.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a motion duly made and seconded.

ATTEST:


Cindy Churney, City Clerk


R. Daniel Graves, Mayor

CITY OF ELBERTON
CALLED MEETING OF THE ELBERTON MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Friday, September 18, 2026 - 1:00 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Called Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton convened at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2026, at Municipal Complex, 203 Elbert Street, with Mayor Graves presiding.

Present were Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham and Prince; City Manager Eavenson, Deputy Clerk Seawright and City Attorney Jenkins.

Mayor Graves called the Called Meeting to order. He led the assembly in Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

Council Member Butler introduced the following Resolution for consideration:

RESOLUTION
CITY OF ELBERTON

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE ELBERTON-ELBERT COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY; TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR SUCH PURPOSE; TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Elberton-Elbert County Hospital Authority is a public hospital authority organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Georgia and provides hospital and medical services to the citizens of the City of Elberton, Elbert County, and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, the continued operation of the community hospital is important to the health, safety, welfare, and economic well-being of the citizens of the City of Elberton and the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the Hospital Authority is presently experiencing significant financial challenges that threaten the continued availability of hospital and medical services within the community; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. § 31-7-85 authorizes municipalities to contract with hospital authorities for the continued maintenance and use of hospital facilities and for purposes related to their maintenance and operation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that providing temporary financial assistance to the Hospital Authority for the continued maintenance and operation of the community hospital serves an important public purpose and is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Elberton;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City hereby appropriates the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) from the available General Fund balance for the purpose of providing financial support to the Elberton-Elbert County Hospital Authority for the continued maintenance and operation of the community hospital and the continued availability of hospital and medical services to the community.

Section 2. The City's Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund budget is hereby amended to increase appropriations by Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00), with such increase funded from the available General Fund balance. See Attachment "A".

Section 3. The City is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Elberton-Elbert County Hospital Authority substantially in the form presented to the Mayor and Council providing for the use of such funds for the purposes stated herein. See Attachment "B".

Section 4. The Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, and other appropriate City officials are authorized to execute such documents and take such actions as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

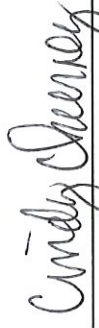
Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption in accordance with law.

This 18th day of September 2026.

City Manager Eavenson read the Resolution in its entirety. Council Member Butler motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Prince and the motion passed unanimously 5-0 (Butler, Burton, Prince, Parham, Colquitt).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a motion duly made and seconded.

ATTEST:


Cindy D. Churney, City Clerk


R. Daniel Graves, Mayor