

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, November 2, 2020 – 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, November 2, 2020 at the Elberton Arts Center, 17 West Church Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

The City of Elberton announced October 28, 2020 a change to the location of its regular meeting of the Mayor and Council. Due to the Governor’s executive order restricting public gatherings, the meeting will be held at the Elberton Arts Center, located at 17 West Church Street, which is a larger venue than City Hall.

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

Mayor Guest called the meeting to order. He led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Council Member Butler motioned to approve the minutes of the September 14 meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, Parham).

There were no speakers from the floor.

Council Member Parham placed Ordinance 2210 on first reading to amend the Charter of the City of Elberton:

ORDINANCE 2210

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE II, MAYOR AND COUNCIL,
DIVISION 1. IN GENERAL, SECTION 7, FORM OF GOVERNMENT;
BIENNIAL ELECTION; TERMS OF OFFICE; OATH REQUIRED; SALARIES.**

City Manager Dunn read the Ordinance in its entirety.

Council Member Prince motioned to accept the consent agenda as submitted, seconded by Council Member Parham and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince, Colquitt).

1. Accepted the expenditures to exceed the city manager’s purchasing authority.
2. Approved the calendar of regular meeting dates for the Mayor and Council for 2021.
3. Approved the calendar of holidays for 2021.
4. Authorized the issuance a public assembly permit to close the pass through on the public square to vehicular traffic on November 24, 2020 for Candlelight Shop Night as requested by Main Street Elberton.

5. Authorized the issuance a public assembly permit to close various streets to vehicular traffic on December 6, 2020 for the Annual Christmas Parade as requested by the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending September 30, 2020.
- Council Member Butler asked the City Manager to research the use of compression release engine brakes also known as “jake brakes” within the City. He also inquired about painting the curbing at the intersection on S. Oliver Street.
- Council Member Colquitt mentioned that he had rode with the City Manager to view the street improvements and upgrades being made by the City.
- Monthly report on the activities of various departments as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The City Clerk’s office assisted with the Local Government segment of Lead Elbert. The Elbert Chamber is sponsoring this program for 2020.

Alcoholic beverage license renewals are being accepted through November 15.

Staff attended the Plan Implementation Meeting on October 21 hosted by the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current comprehensive plan and its updates that are due by February 2022.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 52 alarm calls for the month of September, 2020. These calls consisted of 7 Vehicle Accidents, 33 Medical Emergencies, 6 False Alarms, 1 Vehicle Fire, 2 Hazmat Calls, 1 Structure Fire, 1 Cooking Fire, and 1 Service Call. The department issued 2 burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 500 hours of in-house training.

The Fire Department responded to 27 alarm calls for the month of October, 2020. These calls consisted of 5 Vehicle Accidents, 16 Medical Emergencies, 1 Gas Leak, 1 Power Line Down, and 4 False Alarms. The Fire Department also conducted 621 hours of in-house training.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

The building inspection department issued 8 permits for the Month of October, 2020. Permits issued: 5 Electrical Permits, 1 Sign Permit, 1 Plumbing and 1 Accessory Permit. During this same period there were 5 electrical inspections, 1 plumbing inspection, 1 accessory site inspection and 1 sign inspection along with 6 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of September 2020. The department recorded:

1,014 Calls for Service

- 229 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 131 Incident Reports were filed
- 176 City Court cases made
- 22 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 74 People were arrested for various charges
- 13 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence

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 September 2020 are as follows:

	September 2020	August 2020	% Change +/-
Kidnapping:	0	0	No Change
Rape Offenses:	1	2	Down 50%
Robbery:	1	0	Up one incident
Assault:	15	20	Down 25%
Arson	0	2	Down 100%
Burglary:	3	2	Up 50%
Larceny/Theft:	9	16	Down 43.7%
Motor vehicle theft:	1	1	No Change
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	2	1	Up by 100%
Fraud Offenses:	1	3	Down 66.6%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	7	12	Down 41.6%
Drug Offenses:	14	9	Up 55.5%
Weapons Violations:	1	0	Up one incident
Animal Cruelty	0	0	No Change
Sex Offenses	0	0	No Change
Prostitution Offenses	0	0	No Change

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks on West Clairmont and Ridgecrest Drive. The crews replaced angle valves at 241 McKinley Street, 178 College Avenue, and 192 College Avenue. The crews extended 2,000 feet of 2 inch water main on North Rainbow Drive. The crews installed a ¾ water tap at 1495 North Rainbow Drive and also installed a 1 inch water tap at 453 South Oliver Street. The crew worked raising valve boxes on newly paved streets. The crews drained Goss Tank for Utility Services to perform a wash out and inspection of the tank.

The crews repaired a 2 inch reuse water line at Fortson’s Creek Treatment Plant. The crews replaced a float switch on the RAS pump station at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant. The crews repaired the belt press belt drive motor at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant.

The crews installed sample lines on each filter at the Filter Plant. The operators at the Filter Plant began a pilot study on the 3 operating filters to determine if the filters can run efficiently at a rate of 720 gallons per minute. The normal flow rate is approximately 540 gallons per minute. The results will be reported to the Georgia EPD at the end of the 3 month study.

The repair process to filter #4 continues. Peoples and Quigley Engineers are currently reviewing the submittals for the new underdrain system. Once approved the underdrain system will be ordered and installed once received.

ELECTRIC:

During the month of October the Electric Department finished phase 2 of the Water Filter Plant line rehabilitation. New wire and poles are installed all the way from the rear of the Filter Plant up to Walker Granite on the Hartwell Hwy. The department also installed 10 new poles on the Washington Hwy. for a line rehabilitation job there. The department re-routed an underground line at Athens Tech due to the new construction. The department finished out the month by rebuilding a transformer bank at Slabco and changing out a broken pole at Elbert Co. High School.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The Street Dept. cleaned and edged the curbs and gutters on Jones St., Seaboard St., Railroad St., N. Oliver St. and McDonough St. The right of way was cut along the railroad tracks from Seaboard St. to Williams St. The base was put down on Jones St. Ext. to get ready for paving.

The Construction Crew completed installing new windows at the hotel. The Landscaping Dept. cut the utility strips and alley-ways behind the square.

NATURAL GAS:

The Natural Gas Department installed 2,000 foot of 2" High Density Main and a residential customer on Moore Rd. The Department has also started building High Density PE to poultry houses on Lloyd Rousey Rd, and removed two gas services for demolition of property.

Ideal Gas Measurements completed the yearly inspection on all large meters and district regulator stations.

MAIN STREET:

Main Street participated in the DCA Fall Conference virtually this year, along with the Georgia Downtown Conference, that were held the month of October.

We are pushing forward with planning our Candle Light Shop Night to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 24. We are also planning activities for the Shop Small Saturday Promotion to be held on Saturday, Nov 28. We have applied with American Express to be a Shop Small, Shop Local ambassador for the 2020 year.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 18 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center including Encore Productions' *Fruitcakes* rehearsals & *Dearly Departed* Open Reading and ETF's paint classes Sept 29-Oct 27.

A total of 74 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Sept 29-Oct 27.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21

July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	
February	29.0%	26.6%	33.1%	
March	37.9%	35.0%	19.2%	
April	32.3%	40.5%	4.7%	
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	32.3%

Occupancy maintained consistent in low 30's for the summer, about three-fifths of the prior year. Occupancy usually begins to fall in the winter months as business travel slows. Due to the lack of holiday travel this year, we expect occupancy to fall dramatically in November through February.

Restaurant service at the new The Quarry Plates and Pours restaurant expanded in September to include evening hours on Thursday through Saturday where both the bar and food service is available. Thursdays and Fridays are particularly busy, and Saturdays are slower. Food sales since opening have been:

	<u>2020</u>
June	\$12,393
July	13,234
August	11,225
September	19,654
AVERAGE	\$14,127

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney:

- Dilapidated housing report.

There were no matters to be presented by Council.

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