

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, March 7, 2022 – 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 7, 2022 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, 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 gave the prayer.

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

There were no scheduled speakers from the floor.

Council Member Colquitt placed Ordinance 2216 on second reading to annex portion of property into the corporate limits of Elberton:

**ORDINANCE 2216**

**AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING THE PROPERTY LOCATED OWNED BY MONTY DIXON AND STAN DIXON PURSUANT TO THAT CERTAIN ACT (GEORGIA LAW. 1962, P. 119) AUTHORIZING SAME UPON WRITTEN AND SIGNED APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID LAND; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

Council Member Butler introduced a Resolution approving the Elberton.Net 2022 Phase 2 Expansion Plan:

**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON APPROVING THE ELBERTON.NET 2022 PHASE 2 EXPANSION PLAN INTO PORTIONS OF UNINCORPORATED ELBERT COUNTY, AUTHORIZING THIS CONSTRUCTION OF A FIBER-TO-THE-HOME EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Elberton heretofore has operated a telecommunications system by and through its department known as ElbertonNET as authorized in its Charter under Section 17.1; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton desire to extend the telecommunications system for the expected public benefit of providing broadband services including

high speed Internet in areas of Elbert County, some of which are unserved or underserved by any existing providers, numbering approximately 575 existing homes and businesses to be eligible for service; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has also determined and does hereby find that it is in its best interest to construct an expansion of the its existing telecommunications systems in order to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, to enhance broadband capacity, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service in order to stimulate long-term economic growth and opportunity.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton in an open meeting duly assembled, and it is hereby resolved by the authority thereof, as follows:

**Section 1:** The ElbertonNET 2022 Phase 2 System Expansion Plan is hereby approved, and construction of the system expansion that includes approximately 28 miles of fiber-to-the-home plant known as Nodes ELBRTN- 23 through 27 is hereby authorized.

**Section 2:** The ElbertonNET 2022 Phase 2 System Expansion Plan includes completing the construction of the five Nodes and their associated service areas on parts of the following roads: Martin Villa Dr., Tanglewood Dr., Huntcliff Way, Pleasant Hill Rd., Indian Springs Rd., Nowhere Rd., portions of Bowman Hwy., Oak Spring Dr., Cromer Rd., Dickerson Rd., Woodyard Rd., Fortson Dr. and Cir., Brewers Mill Rd., portions of the Hartwell Hwy., Brown Brothers Rd., Micliff Dr., Brewers Bridge Court, portions of the Anderson Hwy., Allen Logan Rd., and Shallow Creek Rd..

**Section 3:** The construction cost estimate and budget for this project in the amount of \$546,123 is approved and incorporated herein by reference as Attachment "A."

**Section 4:** The City Manager is authorized and directed to obtain pole attachment permits with Hart Electric Membership Corporation for the purpose of this construction project under the terms and conditions in the Pole Attachment License Agreements in existence with Hart EMC dated December 31, 2008. Payment for permits or make-ready work is hereby authorized under the existing contracts.

**Section 5:** The City Manager is authorized and directed to issue purchase orders for fiber-to-the-home equipment including optical transmitters, amplifiers, and customer premise micro-nodes in accordance with the engineering design and plan contained in the System Expansion Plan. The City Manager is authorized and directed to issue purchase orders for fiber optic cable and strand to the successful bidder from a competitive bid process for these products.

**Section 6:** The Mayor and Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager or other authorized officials to commence with construction of the new Nodes and the provision of service to the new service areas with all diligence and expedience, and to take any further actions and execute and deliver any other documents necessary to carry out the purpose of this Resolution.

**Section 7:** All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**RESOLVED** this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

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

Council Member Parham motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Prince.

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.
2. Authorized the closing of N. McIntosh Street to vehicular traffic for the Shamrock Shuffle on Thursday, March 17, 2022. The event is hosted by Main Street Elberton.
3. Authorized the closing of the public square to vehicular traffic for the Spring Fling on Saturday, April 9, 2022. The event is hosted by Main Street Elberton.
4. Granted a waiver for the special event for open container consumption of alcoholic beverages on N. McIntosh Street on Tuesday, March 17, 2022 for the Shamrock Shuffle.
5. Authorized the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license for retail of beer and wine to Gas Express #1113 located at 211 N. Oliver Street. This is the former Circle K Store, which was sold to Gas Express, LLC.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending January 31, 2022.

**CITY CLERK:**

Georgia Arbor Day was celebrated by a proclamation signing and tree planting on February 18. The City of Elberton has received its Tree City designation for the 16<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

A representative with Newport Group will be meeting with staff March 14 to answer questions with regard to the employer-sponsored retirement savings plan.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department responded to 44 Alarm Calls for the month of February, 2022. These calls consisted of 2 Vehicle Accidents, 24 Medical Emergencies, 4 False Alarms, 8 Aircraft Standbys, 1 Gas Leak, 4 Service Calls, and 1 Structure Fire. The department conducted 6 fire inspections, 4 Pre Plans, and issued 2 burn permits. The Fire Department attended 68 hours of out of station training during the month.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:**

The building inspection department issued 18 permits for the month of February, 2022. Permits issued: 7 Roof permits, 3 Electrical permits, 4 Plumbing permits, 2 Building permits and 2 Sign permits. During this same period there were 2 building inspections, 4 electrical inspections, 2 sign inspections, 6 plumbing inspections, 1 demo inspection and 8 roof inspections along with 12 site visits.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of January 2022. The department recorded:

1,033 Calls for Service  
434 Vehicle Traffic Stops

- 89 Incident Reports were filed
- 364 City Court cases made
- 19 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 53 People were arrested for various charges
- 8 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 60 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 2022 are as follows:

	January 2022	December 2021
Kidnapping:	0	1
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	7	4
Arson	0	0
Burglary:	2	2
Larceny/Theft:	8	11
Motor vehicle theft:	1	2
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	1	3
Fraud Offenses:	1	1
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	1
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	7	7
Drug Offenses:	6	4
Weapons Violations:	0	0
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

**WATER & SEWER:**

The crews repaired water leaks on Calhoun Falls Highway, Willow Street, Waldon Way, Locklin Street, West Railroad Street and Bolton Drive. The crews replaced an angle valve at 567 Almond Street. The crews replaced a 2 inch water main in the parking lot area of The Colony Shops on Elbert Street due to a persistent leak.

The crews cleaned sewer mains on Kathwood Drive, Country Club Road, Snyder Street, Wilson Street and Mill Street. The crews repaired a section of sewer main and lateral on Wilson Street.

Construction continues at the Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The contractors have continued to form and pour the walls for the new clearwell. All walls should be completed within the month of March and forms started for the top pour.

**ELECTRIC:**

During the month of February the department changed out 4 poles and built a transformer bank on North McIntosh Street to replace old facilities there. The department finished up the month setting poles on Campbell Street near the Blackwell Learning Center, on Heard Street near the former Libby's Flowers, and two poles on Porter Drive.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Along with routine maintenance for the month, the Street Department cleaned out two other storm drains located on Jones Street and Woodland Road that were not done in the previous month. The department began clearing the right-of-way and street on a section of Cactus Hill Circle from overgrowth.

**NATURAL GAS:**

The Department assisted ElbertonNET to install underground cable on Raymond Anderson Road for about 3,000 feet for an expansion of services there.

Gas In-Home Sales and Service for FY2022

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
New Customers Installed	1	3	0	4	4		2						14
Existing Customers Serviced	2	1	1	0	7	3	5	1					20
Total	3	3	1	4	11	3	7	1					33

Appliances installed, repaired, replaced, or serviced for FY2022

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
Water Heaters	1	2	1	2	5	1	2	1					15
All Other Appliances	5	3			5	3	6						22
Total	6	5	1	2	10	4	8	1					37

**ELBERT THEATRE:**

There were 34 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Jan. 28 – Feb. 28 including *The 355*, *Moonfall & Dog* movies; Encore Productions’ *You’re a Good Man*, *Charlie Brown* rehearsals & *Legally Blonde Jr* auditions & rehearsals; and ETF’s paint classes.

Approximately 489 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Jan. 28 –Feb. 28.

**MAIN STRET ELBERTON:**

Main Street will host the first Shamrock Shuffle on the one way street in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, on Thursday, March 17, from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. There will be a DJ playing music, line dancing, karaoke and party favors. We are encouraging the businesses to stay open later for the foot traffic.

Main Street is also preparing for the first Spring Festival to be held on Saturday, April 9, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. We have partnered with the local Cattleman’s Association and 4H office to be able to offer an entire agricultural wing of the festival.

**ELBERT HOTEL:**

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%	39.4%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%	40.1%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	34.0%	46.7%
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	31.5%	49.0%
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	20.8%	36.3%
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	28.9%	23.5%
February	29.0%	26.6%	33.1%	32.7%	39.2%
March	37.9%	35.0%	19.2%	32.7%	
April	32.3%	40.5%	4.7%	38.5%	
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	43.7%	
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	38.5%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	33.2%	39.3%

Despite a slow January which was not unexpected for a winter month, February 2022 saw the highest occupancy for a February since opening. The property will complete its fifth full year of operation in March, 2022.

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

Council Member Butler and Mayor Graves recognized County Administrator Phil Pitts who was in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Graves also congratulated the Lady Devils who will play for the state championship Thursday in Macon. He also encouraged support for the families in Ukraine.

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