

CITY OF ELBERTON
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, June 6, 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, June 6, 2022 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

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

Mayor Graves called the Public Hearing to order. A Notice of Hearing was issued in accordance with the law for the purpose of obtaining comments on the FY23 proposed budget. Mayor Graves asked if there were any comments on the proposed budget. There being none, Council Member Butler motioned to adjourn the public hearing. Council Member Burton seconded the motion and the motion to adjourn the public hearing passed unanimously (Burton, Butler, Parham, Colquitt).

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

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

Mr. John Clark requested to speak to Council. Council Member Burton motioned to hear Mr. Clark, seconded by Council Member Parham, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham). Mr. Clark asked Council to consider establishing a public safety committee among the citizens to make recommendations to the Elberton Police Department. He stated that other cities have such committees. He added that the committee would have no authority other than making recommendations.

Council Member Butler placed Ordinance 2217 on second reading to amend the land use ordinance pertaining to definitions:

ORDINANCE 2217

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND UPDATE CHAPTER 22, LAND USE OF
ARTICLE 3, DEFINITION OF TERMS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING
ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

Council Member Parham introduced the following Resolution for consideration:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton on June 2, 2022, after due and legal notice, reviewed the Annual Budget estimate for Fiscal Year 2023 as prepared by the City Manager in accordance with Section 33 of the Charter; and

WHEREAS: The General Fund budget is proposed at \$5,358,911; and

WHEREAS: The Solid Waste Fund budget is proposed at \$1,019,246; and

WHEREAS: The Combined Public Utilities System Fund budget is proposed at \$22,815,323; and

WHEREAS: The ElbertonNET Technology Services Fund budget is proposed at \$6,843,509; and

WHEREAS: The Special Purpose and Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Capital Projects Funds are budgeted at \$1,440,600; and

WHEREAS: The Non-major Funds of the City are budgeted at \$954,674; and

WHEREAS: The rates and fees schedule of the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget is hereby included as Attachment "A"; and

WHEREAS: The total combined Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$38,432,263.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, and it is hereby resolved that the Mayor and Council do officially approve and adopt the aforementioned Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 as submitted including the rates and fees schedule designated Attachment "A".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, and/or City Clerk are authorized and directed to execute the necessary documents in order to enact actions authorized by Council with the adoption of this Annual Budget.

This 6th day of June, 2022.

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

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

1. Authorized the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute the necessary documents with Rushton & Company for FY22 audit services.
2. Authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract with the Georgia Dept. of Transportation to relocate natural gas facilities on the Hartwell Hwy. at the Coldwater Creek bridge. The GDOT portion is \$749,984 (78%) and the Local portion is \$213,016 (22%).
3. Authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an Easement Limited Agreement contract with the Georgia Dept. of Transportation to modify and preserve existing easement rights for natural gas facilities on the Hartwell Hwy. at the Coldwater Creek bridge.
4. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close the square to vehicular traffic for the Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 18.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending April, 2022.
- City Manager Dunn presented a request from the Elberton Youth Development Commission to acquire a surplus bus from the Elbert County School District at a cost of \$2,500. He stated that the city would donate the bus to the organization. Council Member Colquitt motioned to approve the request, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Parham, Burton, Colquitt).

CITY CLERK:

The department continues to collect delinquent Business License renewals for calendar 2022.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 49 Alarm Calls for the month of May, 2022. These calls consisted of 8 Vehicle Accidents, 29 Medical Emergencies, 8 False Alarms, 1 Aircraft Standby, 1 Power Line Down, 1 Structure Fire, and 1 Outside Brush Fire. The department conducted 3 fire inspections, 3 Pre Plans, and issued 2 burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 818 hours of in-house training and attended 456 hours of out of station training.

BUILDING INSPECTION REPORT:

The building inspection department issued 7 permits for the month of May, 2022. Permits issued: 3 Sign Permits, 3 Electrical permits and 1 Plumbing Permit. During this same period there were 5 electrical inspections, 3 sign inspections 2 plumbing inspection and 2 building inspections along with 19 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

- 1,399 Calls for Service
- 591 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 124 Incident Reports were filed
- 535 City Court cases made
- 24 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 85 People were arrested for various charges
- 20 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 92 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 April 2022 are as follows:

| | <u>April</u> | <u>March</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kidnapping: | 0 | 2 |
| Rape Offenses: | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery: | 0 | 0 |
| Assault: | 13 | 10 |
| Arson: | 0 | 0 |
| Burglary: | 1 | 1 |
| Larceny/Theft: | 15 | 9 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft: | 1 | 0 |
| Counterfeiting/Forgery | 2 | 1 |
| Fraud Offenses: | 3 | 3 |
| Stolen Property Offenses: | 0 | 0 |
| Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism: | 7 | 7 |
| Drug Offenses: | 14 | 13 |
| Weapons Violations: | 0 | 5 |
| Animal Cruelty: | 0 | 0 |
| Sex Offenses: | 0 | 2 |
| Prostitution Offenses: | 0 | 0 |

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks on Country Club Road, Willie Black Road, College Avenue, Parkwood Drive and Burke Street. The crews replaced angle valves at 828 Lincoln Heights, 325 South Oliver and 621 McLendon Street. The crews installed a new water tap at 430 Highland Drive. The crews poured utility cuts on Burke Street and Harmony Plaza. The crews painted the inside of the water fountain on the square.

The crews replaced the manhole ring and cover at the intersection of Elbert Street and Thomas Street. The crews cleaned and inspected the sewer main on Hillcrest Drive. The crews installed a new sewer tap at 155 Brookside Drive.

Construction continues at the Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The contractors made the final concrete pour on the new clear well on May 19, 2022. During the month of June the installation of the new high service pump station will begin.

ELECTRIC:

During the month of May the Electric Department replaced 2 poles at the intersection of Hartwell Hwy and Ruckersville Road. The department set 2 poles on Fleming Road and replaced bad underground primary to the Spring Valley Apartments. The department pulled 4 poles at Beaverdam Elementary School and cut around 20 trees there to move the existing power line outside of the playground area.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine and maintenance, the Street Department cleaned and prepared the walking trail at Sutton Park for Elbert Memorial Hospital's Annual Duck Derby. The department also started removing old tree stumps and filling the holes back with dirt.

The Construction Crew painted the exterior brick and doors at the Elbert Theatre.

NATURAL GAS:

The Natural Gas Department installed a new service on Anderson Hwy. The department is continuing to work on the leak survey along with several more compliance regulations required by the PSC.

The department held a Liaison meeting, which is required by PSC to inform all Emergency Responders and Public Officials of the pipeline locations and joint response areas in our area.

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 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 14 |
| Existing Customers Serviced | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | 22 |
| Total | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | 36 |

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 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | 16 |
| All Other Appliances | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 23 |
| Total | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | 39 |

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street was scheduled to kick off its First Friday concert series on Friday, May 6 on the downtown square with a performance by the Dead Strings Band. The spotlight sponsor for this event was the Flat Tire Bar & Grill. Due to the weather forecast we were forced to cancel the vent. We will hold our next First Friday event on Friday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m., with Big Teach performing. Our spotlight sponsor for this event is Elbert Memorial Hospital. This event will have a beach theme.

We are currently working on the 24th Annual Car Show that is coming up in July. Last year’s event is our largest to date with 130 car participants, and we are looking to outdo that number this year.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 35 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Apr 26-May 23 including ECCHS’ band rehearsal and concert & pre-graduation meeting; Encore Productions’ *Rex’s Exes* rehearsals & *Artifice* open reading; ETF’s movie field trips & paint class; COE’s *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore*, *The Bad Guys*, *Father Stu* & *Downton Abbey: A New Era* movies & Elberton Gas Department meeting.

Approximately 963 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Apr. 26 and May 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> |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 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% | 41.0% |
| April | 32.3% | 40.5% | 4.7% | 38.5% | 46.8% |

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| 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% | 40.2% |

Occupancy in May included two motorcycle tour groups from Germany that stayed one night in Elberton and also dined at The Quarry Plates and Pours. This tour company last visited in 2019 before the pandemic. We believe the occupancy average for FY22 will finish the fiscal year with the highest occupancy since opening the property in 2017. Two months remain in the year.

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

There were no matters to be considered by Council.

Mayor Graves asked to move into executive session for the purpose of receiving an update from the City Attorney on legal matters as permitted by O.C.G.A. 50-14-2. Council Member Colquitt motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Council Member Butler, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham).

Council Member Colquitt motioned to move out of executive session and reconvene the regular meeting, seconded by Council Member Parham, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham).

Mayor Graves stated that no action was taken.

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