

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Thursday, July 14, 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 Thursday, July 14, 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 led the assembly in prayer.

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

Mr. Charles Thornton of Elberton’s Promise questioned Council about partnering with community organizations and community policing.

Ms. Mary Morrison Clark of the Martin Luther King Committee inquired as to how to get the movie “Our Friend, Martin” included in the schedule for showing at the Elbert Theatre.

Ms. Pam Allgood of Keep America Beautiful expressed concerns regarding the enforcement of the litter laws.

Ms. Linda Lloyd of Economic Justice Coalition, Inc. provided a proposal for Federal Rescue Funding from Council for home care in the amount of \$100,000 per year for three years.

Council Member Parham introduced a Resolution authorizing an intergovernmental agreement for a one percent special purpose local option sales and use tax:

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON, GEORGIA APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION, BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON, OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ELBERT COUNTY, THE CITY OF ELBERTON, AND THE CITY OF BOWMAN CONCERNING A ONE PERCENT SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES AND USE TAX ENACTED PUSUANT TO O.C.G.A. 48-8-110 ET SEQ; REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS: O.C.G.A. 48-8-110 *et seq.* authorizes the imposition of a one percent county special purpose local option sales and use tax (SPLOST) for the purposes of *inter alia* of financing capital outlay projects to be owned or operated by Elbert County and one or more municipalities; and

WHEREAS: Elbert County, Georgia, the City of Elberton, Georgia, and the City of Bowman, Georgia desire to utilize the proceeds of a SPLOST for the one or more of the purposes authorized under O.C.G.A. 48-8-110 (a) (1).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Elberton, Georgia as follows:

SECTION 1. The attached intergovernmental agreement addressing the disbursement of SPLOST proceeds among Elbert County, Georgia, the City of Elberton, Georgia, and the City of Bowman, Georgia, and other related matters is hereby approved.

SECTION 2. The Mayor of the City of Elberton is authorized to execute an intergovernmental agreement on behalf of the City of Elberton and the City Clerk is authorized to affix the seal of the City thereto.

SECTION 3. All resolutions, or parts of resolutions, in conflict herewith are repeals.

This 14th day of July, 2022.

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

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

1. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close the square to vehicular traffic for the Main Street Fall Festival on Saturday, November 5.
2. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close the fountain end of the square to vehicular traffic for the Main Street Candlelight Shopping on Thursday, November 22.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending May 31, 2022.
2. Fire Chief Jordan gave an update on calls for the year. He also recognized Calvin Tate for his service to the department. He will be retiring July 29 with 36 years of service.
3. City Clerk Churney updated Council on House Bill 879 that pertained to alcohol licensing with the Department of Revenue. She also discussed job openings at the city and the activity at the theatre after the pandemic closure.
4. Main Street Manager Beebe updated Council on various events and activities scheduled for downtown. She reminded them that the Car Show was scheduled for this weekend. She also informed Council that she has contacted the Carl Vinson Institute for guidance in updating the downtown master plan beautification project.
5. Operational report, as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The Georgia Clerks Education Institute requires Certified Clerks to complete 30 hours of continuing educational training every three years to maintain their status as a Georgia Certified Clerk. It is recommended by the institute to attend one training event per year to ensure that the 30 hours of recertification training is met. The department attended the Annual Convention in Savannah this month

in order to meet the recertification requirements. The trainings provided updates on the Essentials of Human Resources for Clerks and discussed the rules and regulations of Alcoholic Beverage Licensing at the State level.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The City is participating in Rehab Industries of Northeast Georgia (RING) through the high school vocational program. The program provides 100 hours of on-the-job training to students in order to obtain skills that will benefit them after graduation. The Police Department and ElbertonNET are taking part in this program for the summer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 74 Alarm Calls for the month of June, 2022. These calls consisted of 9 Vehicle Accidents, 46 Medical Emergencies, 10 False Alarms, 2 Aircraft Standbys, 1 Vehicle Fire, 1 Structure Fire, 3 Public Service Calls, 1 Extrication call, and 1 Outside Trash Fire, The department conducted 7 fire inspections, 3 Pre Plans, and issued 0 burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 581 hours of in-house training.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

The building inspection department issued 22 permits for the month of June, 2022. Permits issued: 8 Electrical Permits, 3 Plumbing Permits, 3 Mechanical Permits, 3 Roof Permits, 2 Building Permits, 2 Sign Permits and 1 Specialty Permit. During this same period there were 11 electrical inspections, 4 plumbing inspections, 4 mechanical inspections, 3 roof inspections, 8 building inspections, 1 sign inspection and 1 carport inspection along with 35 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

- 1,401 Calls for Service
- 695 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 123 Incident Reports were filed
- 612 City Court cases made
- 18 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 88 People were arrested for various charges
- 20 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 44 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 May 2022 are as follows:

	<u>May</u>	<u>April</u>
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	0

Assault:	19	13
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	1
Larceny/Theft:	8	15
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	2
Fraud Offenses:	0	3
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	4	7
Drug Offenses:	22	14
Weapons Violations:	1	0
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	1	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks on Country Club Road, Churchhill Road, Jones Street, Elbert Street, South Tusten Street, Roosevelt Street, Wilcox Heights and Hartwell Highway. The crews replaced the angle valve at 213 Heard Street. The crews raised water main valve boxes and sewer manhole covers ahead of paving crew on Jones Street, Reese Street, Campbell Street, Pine Knoll Drive and Springdale Road. The crews installed a 4 inch sewer tap and cleanout at 709 Elbert Street. The crews cleaned and inspected sewer laterals at 425 Knight Street and 332 East Tate Street.

Construction continues at the Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The contractors have removed all forms from the inside of the new clearwell. The contractors will work during the month of July installing valves and connecting the existing clearwells to the new clearwell.

ELECTRIC:

During the month of June the Electric Department repaired the traditional lights on the north side of the Square by installing new wire and conduit. The department installed 3 new poles on Jones Ferry Road and hooked up a new meter base. The department changed out 6 poles on Filter Plant Road and installed new wire there as well. The department removed an old line at Sunny Acres trailer park. The department finished up the month by cutting and cleaning up 6 trees that were affecting the primary wire.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine and maintenance, the Street Department and Construction Crew installed 30 new windows at the Samuel Elbert Hotel. This completes this project.

NATURAL GAS:

The Natural Gas Department installed 1,500 ft of conduit on Thirteen Forks Rd and 300 ft on Bowman Hwy for ElbertonNET to assist in the construction being done there. The department removed a service on Ruckersville Rd and began cutting ROW for the next section of the leak survey. Ideal Gas Measurements was on site in Elberton to adjust and inspect system Regulator Stations on Thirteen Forks Rd, Pulliam Mill Rd, Nickville Rd and Athens Hwy.

An lead inspector with the Georgia Public Service Commission was on site on May 23, 2022 to inspect the department’s Methane Emission Reduction Plan for compliance with the Protecting Our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2020 passed by the US Congress. The inspector found no violations or probably violations and an inspection report was filed with the Commission on June 29, 2022. The lead inspector actually took a copy of Elberton’s Methane Plan with him as an example to train other inspectors at the Commission dealing with this new regulation from Congress.

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	0	14
Existing Customers Serviced	2	1	1	0	7	3	5	1	0	1	1	2	24
Total	3	4	1	4	11	3	7	1	0	1	1	2	38

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	1	17
All Other Appliances	5	3	0	0	5	3	6	0	0	1	0	1	24
Total	6	5	1	2	10	4	8	1	0	1	1	2	41

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street held the First Friday event of the summer on Friday, June 3 at 7pm. The band Big Teach performed. The spotlight sponsor for this event was Elbert Memorial Hospital. This event had a beach theme and was successful. We are currently working with the band to schedule an Eagles Tribute show at the Elbert Theatre in the early part of 2023.

The band for July’s First Friday on July 1 was Second Time Around. The theme was patriotic and the spotlight sponsor was WSGC Radio. The 24th Annual Cruise-In Car Show is July 16. Last year’s event was our largest to date with 130 car participants, and we are anticipating that number to rise this year. We have obtained this year’s sponsors and are currently collecting door prizes for the car show participants.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 43 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from May 24-June 28 including Encore Productions’ *Rex’s Exes* rehearsals and performances, *White Christmas* open reading, *Clue* auditions and rehearsals; ETF’s summer movies *The Smurfs*, *A Dog’s Way Home* and *Hotel Transylvania 3*, paint class, Teen Camp & *Newsies Jr* performances; and COE’s *Downton Abbey: A New Era* & *Top Gun: Maverick* movies.

Approximately 2,096 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between May 24-June 28.

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%	49.9%
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	38.5%	41.5%
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	33.2%	41.1%

Occupancy ended the fiscal year very close to what it was pre-pandemic in FY19. The full fiscal year 2022 was the best average occupancy rate yet for the property.

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

Matters to be presented by Council.

- Council Member Burton inquired as to the request made by Mr. Clark at last month's meeting with regard to establishing a public safety committee among the citizens to make recommendations to the Elberton Police Department. Mayor Graves stated that establishing a such committee would be up to Council and that if he wanted to move forward then he recommended that he discuss the idea with each Council Member to determine their opinion as well.

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