

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

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

There were no scheduled speakers from the floor.

Council Member Parham introduced a Resolution to execute an intergovernmental agreement contract with regard to distribution of the local optional sales tax receipts, as follows:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS:** Pursuant to Georgia state law, OCGA 48-8-89, and further consideration hereinafter set forth, Elbert County and the cities of Elberton and Bowman have successfully negotiated the distribution of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) receipts for the next ten (10) year period beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2032; and

**WHEREAS:** Elbert County, Elberton, and Bowman have reviewed the impact of all criteria required by law within their negotiations; and

**WHEREAS:** Elbert County, Elberton, and Bowman have been able to resolve and agree upon other areas of concern to both parties during the LOST renegotiation; and

**WHEREAS:** Elbert County, Elberton, and Bowman agree to maintain the current distribution percentages for the next ten (10) years, the current distribution being Elbert County 66%, Elberton 29% and Bowman 5%.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton that the proposed Intergovernmental Contract and Agreement regarding the distribution of the Local Option Sales Tax receipts is determined to be in the best interest of the City of Elberton and its citizens.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute the Intergovernmental Contract with Elbert County and Bowman in substantially the form of Exhibit "A" for the distribution of the Local Option Sales Tax receipts.

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

As privilege of the chair, Mayor Graves added the approval of a budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2022 to the consent agenda. Council Member Butler motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Prince and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Parham, Prince).

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the City Manager’s purchasing authority.

**Expenditures for November 2022**

Department: Electric Department	
2023-ROW Tree Trimming Services for 18.97 miles of power lines.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Caldwell Landscaping <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	\$117,300.00
Lakeside Tree	\$182,491.00

Department: Downtown Development	
Automatic fire sprinkler system for first and second floor of 9 N. McIntosh Street.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
A & A Fire Protection <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	\$31,700.00
Century Fire Protective	\$40,511.76

Department: Public Works Department	
Ram 1500 Crew Cab Pickup Truck.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Thomson Motors <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	\$39,775.00
Sealed bids were accepted on September 2, 2022 and no bids were received. This truck was available on October 25, 2022.	

2. Approved the calendar of regular meeting dates for the Mayor and Council for 2023.

Monday, February 6	Monday, March 6
Monday, April 3	Monday, May 1
Monday, June 5	Thursday, July 13
Monday, August 7	Monday, September 11
Monday, October 2	Monday, November 6
Monday, December 4	Monday, January 8 (2024)

3. Approved the calendar of holidays for 2023.

Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 16
Good Friday	Friday, April 7
Memorial Day	Monday, May 29
Independence Day	Tuesday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 4
Columbus Day	Monday, October 9
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 23
	Friday, November 24
Christmas Day	Monday, December 25
New Year's Day	Monday, January 1, 2024

4. Concurred with the Mayors' appointments of Mrs. Virginia Dye and Mrs. Connie Spivey to the Elbert County Library Board, said term to end December 31, 2026.
5. Authorized issuance of a public assembly permit to close various streets to vehicular traffic on Sunday, December 4, for the Annual Christmas Parade. The parade is sponsored by the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce.
6. Authorized the execution of a contract with the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce for tourism services.
7. Approval of a budget amendment for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022-003). The amendment adjusts certain departments who require additional appropriation so that they do not exceed their legal budgetary limit. The action is required to comply with the laws of the State of Georgia as enforced by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts, regulations of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and generally accepted accounting principles.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending September 30, 2022.
2. Operational report, as follows:

**CITY CLERK:**

Alcoholic license renewal applications have been mailed. The deadline to submit the 2023 renewals is November 15.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

Michael Hart will be retiring from the City of Elberton at the end of the year after 22 years of service to the Public Works department. Savannah Fortson has been promoted to fill this position and will move from Customer Service to Public Works next month.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department responded to 72 Alarm Calls for the month of October, 2022. These calls consisted of 53 Medical Emergencies, 1 Structure Fire, 6 False Alarms, 1 Aircraft Standby, 6 Vehicle Accidents, 1 Power Line Down, 3 Outside Fires, and 1 call of Assistance to Police Department. The department conducted 11 fire inspections, 2 Pre Plans, and issued no burn permits. The Department conducted 465 hours of in-house training.

**BUILDING INSPECTIONS:**

The building inspection department issued 12 permits for the month of October, 2022. Permits issued: 6 Electrical Permits, 2 Plumbing Permits, 1 Sign Permit, 1 Building Permit, 1 Specialty Permit, and 1 Roofing Permit. During this same period there were 8 electrical inspections, 2 plumbing inspections, 2 building inspections, 1 roof inspection, 2 specialty inspections for a deck along with 20 site visits.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

- 1,146 Calls for Service
- 461 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 103 Incident Reports were filed
- 408 City Court cases made
- 25 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 66 People were arrested for various charges
- 18 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 80 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 July 2022 are as follows:

	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>August</u>
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	1	2
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	11	16
Arson:	1	0
Burglary:	1	2
Larceny/Theft:	7	11
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	1
Fraud Offenses:	2	1
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	1
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	5	4
Drug Offenses:	9	21
Weapons Violations:	0	0
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

**WATER & SEWER:**

The crews repaired water leaks on Lake Forest Drive, South Oliver Street and West Tate Street. The crews installed new water taps and meters at 1190 Russell Ridge Drive and 1616 Stoney Creek Drive. The crews assisted the electric crew in installing power to the new high service pump station at the Filter Plant.

Construction is almost complete at the Filter Plant. On October 27, the water plant operators began filling and disinfecting the new 750,000 clearwell ahead of start-up which was scheduled for October 31.

**ELECTRIC:**

The department changed several poles during the month in various areas of the system including the Lexington Highway, Country Manor Lane, the Calhoun Falls Highway, and Ruckersville Road. The department removed overhead lines at the National Guard Armory at the customer's request. The department installed new wire and transformers at the Water Filter Plant and at Beaverdam School.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the Street Department completed the new sidewalk on the north side of Public Square. The construction crew started work on 9 N. McIntosh Street to refurbish the first floor commercial space after a long-term tenant vacated.

**NATURAL GAS:**

The Gas Department installed three residential services on Montevideo Road and an additional six poultry houses to an existing customer on Craft Ferry Rd.

Ideal Gas Measurements completed the annual regulator and large meter testing. Repairs or replacements to equipment was made as necessary.

**MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

Main Street hosted a downtown Halloween event on Monday, October 31. In addition to merchants handing out candy, a costume parade and costume contest was held. Main Street partnered with the local Cattleman's Association for this event. WSGC broadcasted live from the Square.

Main Street has been busy behind the scenes planning and getting everyone registered for our upcoming Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, November 5. We have a large number of vendors that have signed up to attend this year's event and are looking forward to the turn out.

Main Street will kick off its 12 Days of Christmas Cash on Friday, November 11 and will carry this thru Tuesday, November 22 with our annual Candlelight Shop Night to be held that evening.

**ELBERT THEATRE:**

There were 42 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Sept. 20 to Oct. 27 including Encore Productions' *White Christmas* rehearsals; Advantage Behavioral movie field trip; ETF's *The Play that Goes Wrong & Murder on the Orient Express* open readings, board meeting and paint classes; Elberton Police Dept community meeting; Gas Authority's quarterly meeting; E. Lee's concert; and COE's movies *Beast, The Woman King & Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* movies. Approximately 552 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center during this same period.

**ELBERT HOTEL:**

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%	40.1%	48.0%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	34.0%	46.7%	54.0%
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%	40.7%

Occupancy in the month of October set a new record for the property at 54%. This is despite having a few rooms offline due to persistent HVAC issues. With the cooler weather, some of these rooms can be used as the heating function is mostly unaffected. Replacement parts for the individual room HVAC units continue to be on backorder for the end-of-life equipment. Facing the possibility that no replacement parts may ever be available, we are soliciting quotes to replace the entire system.

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 Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

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, Prince).

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.