

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, February 6, 2023 – 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, February 6, 2023 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 Butler motioned to approve the minutes of the January meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

Mrs. Aurolyn White spoke to Council with regard to the Jim-Ree Museum. She stated that funding for the museum is through a combination of membership, cover charges and donations. The museum is run by volunteers through appointments in order to control expenses. Mrs. White invited Council to the museum on Saturday, February 11 from 1 pm until 4 pm for a tour.

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

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager’s purchasing authority.

Department: Public Works	
2023 Asphalt Paving Project #1 to include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asphalt overlay (1-1/2”) of the Granite City Walking Trail - 67,118 sq. ft. • Asphalt overlay (1-1/2”) at Carey Street Park, parking area and walking track – 14,802 sq. ft. • Asphalt paving (2”) at rear parking lot and driveway behind the Elberton Police Department – 6,780 sq. ft. • Asphalt paving (2”) at Trailhead Park on College Ave., new paving area (900 sq. ft.) and asphalt repair (400 sq. ft.) 	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Stratton and Sons RECOMMENDED	\$107,547.36
Garrett Paving Company	\$138,599.08

2. Authorized the closing of a portion of the square to vehicular traffic on Friday, March 17 for the Shamrock Shuffle hosted by Main Street Elberton.
3. Concurred with the Mayor’s appointment of Mrs. Anna Grant Jones and the reappointment of Mrs. Andrea Daniel to the Development Authority of Elberton, Elbert County, Bowman.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending December 31, 2022.
2. Monthly reports on the activities of various departments.
3. Any other matters to be presented by the City Manager.

CITY CLERK:

The qualifying fees for the November 2023 election have been published in the Elberton Star as required by the Secretary of State’s Office. The election will be for Council Members from Wards 2 and 3.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The department participated in the Job Fair at the Elbert County Comprehensive High School along with a dozen other local businesses.

The department submitted the ADA Transition Plan update and self-survey reporting as required annually by the Georgia Department of Transportation Title VI regulations. The department is working on completing on-line training as required every three years.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 91 Alarm Calls for the month of January, 2023. These calls consisted of 3 Structure Fires, 1 Cooking Fire, 4 Outside/Grass Fires, 54 Medical Emergencies, 9 Vehicle Accidents, 1 Hazardous Liquid Spill, 1 Gas Leak, 1 Aircraft Standby, 3 Water Leaks, 2 Smoke Removals, 10 False Alarms, and 2 Service Calls. The department conducted 2 Fire Inspections, 1 Pre Plan, and issued no burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 660 hours of in-house training and 8 hours of out of station training.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

The building inspection department issued 15 permits for the month of January, 2023. Permits issued: 8 Electrical Permits, 3 Plumbing Permits, 1 Sign Permit, 1 Building Permits, 1 Demo Permit, and 1 Mechanical Permit. During this same period there were 8 Electrical Inspections, 3 Plumbing Inspections, 4 Sign Inspections, 1 Mechanical Inspection, and 2 Building Inspections.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

- 887 Calls for Service
- 293 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 89 Incident Reports were filed
- 281 City Court cases made
- 19 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 68 People were arrested for various charges
- 10 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 12 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 December 2022 are as follows:

	<u>December</u>	<u>November</u>
Kidnapping:	2	0
Rape Offenses:	2	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	16	19
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	2
Larceny/Theft:	2	9
Motor Vehicle Theft:	1	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	3
Fraud Offenses:	2	3
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	10	7
Drug Offenses:	10	10
Weapons Violations:	0	3
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	1	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks at Hamilton Street and East Church Street. The crews drained the Industrial Park Water Tank so that the tank can be stripped and repainted by Utility Services. The crews uncovered and exercised valves on Country Club Lane. The valves will have to be closed and an 8 inch water main removed while the county replaces a damaged culvert pipe. The crews installed ¾ inch water

taps and meters at 1701, 1703 and 1806 Athens Highway. The crews installed a 1-inch water tap and meter at 1517 Country Club Road.

The crews drained the #2 clearwell for contractors to install the final tie-in to the new clearwell. The crews disinfected and refilled the #2 clearwell when the tie-in was completed.

ELECTRIC:

The Electric Department installed power to the new fire station addition on Mahoney Drive. The department re-wired two transformer banks, one at Regions Bank and the other at the Inferno Gym. The department built a new line on Lithia Springs Road for a new house being built. The department finished up the month by installing decorative lighting at the Elbert Theatre and changing out street lights to the new LED fixtures.

GAS:

The Gas Department has been removing meters from the system that have been inactive continuously for at least 3 years. The Department has recovered and moved approximately 130 meters out of 250 planned.

Gas In-Home Sales and Service for FY2023

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
New Customers Installed	0	0	0	0	2	0	0						2
Existing Customers Serviced	1	0	0	1	3	4	4						13
Total	1	0	0	1	5	4	4						15

Appliances installed, repaired, replaced, or serviced for FY2023

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
Water Heaters	1	0	0	1	1	2	0						5
All Other Appliance	0	0	0	0	4	3	4						11
Total	1	0	0	1	5	5	4						16

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the Street Department poured concrete curbing at the College Ave. Trailhead for the new parking spaces. The construction crew started work on the second floor apartments at 9 N. McIntosh Street. Interior demolition was completed and framing of the interior walls began.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

January is referred to as paper month for Main Street. It is spent preparing our yearly Main Street assessment that is due in January. It is also spent planning the upcoming year's event calendar. New event flyers and registrations have been made. They are being uploaded to our Facebook page. Bands have been secured for our First Friday concert series that will kick off in May. All event permits have been submitted for approval.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 19 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Dec. 28 to Jan. 25 including the Elbert Chamber's Twilight Stroll, movies *Devotion*, *Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody*, & *Puss in Boots: Last Wish*, Encore Productions' *Hello, Dolly!* auditions & rehearsals, MLK Committee's movie field trip, and ETF's paint class & volunteer dinner.

Approximately 821 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center during this 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%	53.9%
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	31.5%	49.0%	53.6%
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%
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%	42.1%

Occupancy continues to be strong considering the property is seasonal with winter as the slower months. January 2023 set a record for January occupancy at 40.6%. Year-to-date occupancy at 42.1% means the property is on track for a record setting year.

Work to solicit bids and proposals to replace the HVAC system used by the guest rooms is ongoing. In addition to price, the solicitation process is considering material availability, longevity of the brand selected, and the installation method to be chosen to lessen property disruption.

Matters to be considered by Council.

- Council Member Burton urged Council to visit the Jim-Ree Museum.
- Council Member Butler thanked the utility workers for assisting Griffin with repairs due to the tornado damage.
- Council Member Prince recommended revisiting the sign ordinance for updates.
- Mayor Graves thanked the utility workers as well for assisting Griffin. He also thanked Council for attending the GMA training in Atlanta. Mayor Graves stated that February is Black History Month. He also recognized Mrs. White for her publication of three books that documented local black history.

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