

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, April 3, 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, April 3, 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 February meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

There were no speakers from the floor.

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

1. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close the public square to vehicular traffic for the Spring Festival to be held on Saturday, April 29. The event is hosted by Main Street Elberton.
2. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly to close the fountain end of the public square to vehicular traffic for a Prayer Vigil on Sunday, May 21. The event is hosted by the Rev. John Barnett of the Power of Prayer.
3. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close the public square to vehicular traffic for the First Friday Celebrations for May 5, June 2, July 7 and August 4. The event is hosted by Main Street Elberton.
4. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close the public square to vehicular traffic for the Annual Elberton Cruise In & Fireworks Show on Saturday, July 15. The event is hosted by Main Street Elberton.
5. Authorized a waiver for the special event for open container consumption of alcoholic beverages on the public square for the First Friday Celebrations Event.
6. Authorized a waiver for the special event for open container consumption of alcoholic beverages on the public square for the Annual Elberton Cruise In & Fireworks Show.
7. Authorized the issuance of an on-premises consumption of wine license to Lovely Nails located at 212 Elbert Street owned by Hue Nguyen.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending February 28, 2023.
2. Monthly reports on the activities of various departments. City Manager Dunn also updated Council on the planned capital projects. He asked Council to consider the 5.39 acres owned by the City that is located off the Calhoun Falls Hwy to be used as the fire training facility. If Council concurred, then the property would need to be annexed into the corporate limits of Elberton. This process would need to be discussed with Elbert County prior to annexation.
3. Discussion of selling vacant lots owned by the City. City Manager Dunn discussed selling properties that the City had acquired through a quitclaim deed and/or tax sales. Council Member Butler motioned to declare the properties surplus, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).
4. Any other matters to be presented by the City Manager.

CITY CLERK:

The department has completed the on-line submission of the campaign finance system reports to the State Ethics Commission as required for the 2023 Municipal Year.

The Elberton Sister City will host the 40th Anniversary in November of this year. It is expected to have ten visitors from Mure-cho in attendance for the celebration.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 59 Alarm Calls for the month of March, 2023. These calls consisted of 1 Cooking Fire, 38 Medical Emergencies, 8 Vehicle Accidents, 3 Aircraft Standbys, 1 Gas Leak, 1 Hazardous Spill, and 7 False Alarms. The department conducted 2 Fire Inspections, 1 Pre Plan, and issued 1 burn permit. The Fire Department conducted 345 hours of in-house training.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

The building inspection department issued 9 permits from March 13th to March 26th. Permits issued: 1 Electrical Permit, 4 Plumbing Permits, 0 Reroof Permits, 4 Building Permits, and 0 Demo Permits. During this same period there were 2 Electrical Inspections, 4 Plumbing Inspections, 0 Sign Inspections, 1 Demo Inspection, and 3 Building Inspections.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of February 2023. The department recorded:

- 766 Calls for Service
- 261 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 65 Incident Reports were filed
- 179 City Court cases made
- 19 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 48 People were arrested for various charges
- 1 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 116 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 February 2022 are as follows:

	February	January
Kidnapping:	1	0
Rape Offenses:	2	1
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	15	12
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	2
Larceny/Theft:	5	8
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	2
Fraud Offenses:	3	1
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	5	5
Drug Offenses:	3	6
Weapons Violations:	0	0
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	2
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews poured utility cuts on Elbert Street, East Church Street, Fairway Drive, Medical Drive and North Oliver Street. The crews completed the 3600' extension of the 6" water main on Limo Road. The crews installed water ¾" water taps at 1048 Regina Court and 1194 Russell Ridge Drive.

The crews made repairs to Country Manor lift station and Industrial Park lift station. The crews ran conduit and power to the renovated Beaverdam School lift station and placed the lift station in service.

ELECTRIC:

The Electric Department replaced 2 broken poles due to auto accidents, one on S. McIntosh Street and one on River Road. The department cut 6 dead pine trees on the Lexington Hwy and installed conduit on Progress Blvd. to repair bad wiring to the street lights.

GAS:

The department has installed one new residential service and relocated two services.

The Department was inspected by the Georgia Public Service Commission on the 5 year lookback at the Distribution Integrity Management Plan on February 28, 2023. No notice of concerns and no violations were noted. A filing with the Commission by the inspectors is expected within 90 days.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the Street Department painted the new parking spaces at the College Ave. Trailhead. The construction crew continued work on the second floor apartments at 9 N. McIntosh Street.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

The Shamrock Shuffle event on March 17 was canceled due to inclement weather. We will continue with this event next year.

Main Street’s annual downtown egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 1st at 11:30am. We have received a large amount of egg donations from our local businesses. The Spring Fling Festival will be held on Saturday, April 29th.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 33 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Feb 24-Mar 23 including COE’s *80 for Brady, Creed III & Jesus Revolution* movies, Encore Productions’ *Hello, Dolly!* rehearsals, Advantage Behavioral’s movie field trips, Gas Authority’s spring meeting, ETF’s paint class & *While the Lights Were Out* open reading, New Hope Campus’ bingo event and P. Allen’s colon cancer awareness event.

Approximately 1,202 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Feb 24-Mar 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>	<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%	40.5%
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%	41.9%

January and February 2023 both set records for winter month occupancy. March will also set a record for a March month in excess of 50%. Sales at the restaurant improved in late February and March from the earlier winter period. Cost of sales at the restaurant and cost of operating supplies at the hotel are under higher pressure again.

City Attorney Jenkins gave Council a dilapidated housing status report.

Matters to be considered by Council.

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