

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, October 2, 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, October 2, 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 Manager Dunn, City Clerk Churney and City Attorney Jenkins.

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 September 11 meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

There were no speakers from the floor, Ordinances or Resolutions to consider.

Council Member Butler 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.

**Expenditures for October 2023**

Department: ElbertonNET	
Six Field Signal Meters for DOCSIS 3.1 plus one Headend Transmitter (forward and reverse) for Field Signal Meters	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Advanced Media Technologies <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	\$50,685.00
National Cable TV Coop	\$53,486.00
Viavi	\$62,184.00

Department: Fire Dept.	
New Floor Coating (Polyaspartic/Polyurea) for 2,100 sq. ft. of the living quarters. Includes removal of existing tile, grinding the floor to prep, and filling cracks and divots.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Coating Solutions (Hull, GA) <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	\$17,850.00 (\$8.50 per sq.ft.)
Atlas Coatings (Greenville, SC)	Vendor only does coating; others must remove tile (\$8.87 per sq. ft. just for coating)

Department: Elberton Utilities, Natural Gas Division	
Remote Methane Leak Detector handheld unit for required leak surveys	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Heath Consultants <b>RECOMMENDED</b>	\$16,200.00

2. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close various city streets to vehicular traffic on Sunday, December 3, for the Annual Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce.
3. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close a portion of the square to vehicular traffic on Tuesday, December 12, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cookie Crawl, sponsored by Main Street Elberton.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending August 31, 2023.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

**CITY CLERK:**

Alcoholic license renewal applications will be mailed by October 15. The deadline to submit the 2024 renewals is November 15.

The Tree City USA application has been submitted for calendar year 2023.

Due to the amendment in 2022 of O.C.G.A. 21-2-385 (B), voting shall be conducted the second and third Saturdays for a municipal general election during advance/early voting.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department responded to 49 Alarm Calls for the month of September, 2023. These calls consisted of 35 Medical Emergencies, 2 Building Fires, 2 Vehicle Fires, 2 Vehicle Accidents, 2 Aircraft Standbys, 5 False Alarms, and 1 Service Call. The department conducted 1 Fire Inspection, 0 Pre Plans, and issued 2 Burn Permits. The Fire Department also conducted 408 hours of in-house training and 0 hours out of station training for the month as well.

**BUILDING INSPECTIONS:**

The building inspection department issued 20 permits from August 26, 2023 to September 25, 2023. Permits issued: 5 Electrical Permits, 2 Plumbing Permits, 3 Reroof Permits, 5 Building Permits, 2 Land Disturbance Permits, 2 Sign Permits, 0 Demo Permits and 1 Mechanical permit.

During this same period there were 8 Electrical Inspections, 3 Plumbing Inspections, 1 Sign Inspections, 1 Demo Inspection, 5 Building Inspection, and 1 Roofing Inspections.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

- 1,137 Calls for Service
- 422 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 96 Incident Reports were filed
- 307 City Court cases made
- 20 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 75 People were arrested for various charges
- 5 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 48 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 **August 2023** are as follows:

	<u>August</u>	<u>July</u>
Kidnapping:	4	0
Rape Offenses:	0	2
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	8	18
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	3
Larceny/Theft:	8	4
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	4	1
Fraud Offenses:	2	6
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	1	5
Drug Offenses:	7	8
Weapons Violations:	1	1
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	1
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

**WATER & SEWER:**

The crews repaired water leaks on Edwards Street, Forest Avenue, West Railroad Street, South Oliver Street, Porter Drive, North Thomas Street and Carey Street. The crews installed a new water tap and meter at 1541 Woodyard Road. The crews performed the system wide hydrant

flush, and repaired all hydrants that were found to be in need of attention during hydrant flush. The crews replaced 360 feet of 6-inch water main on Country Club Lane after the county replaced a damaged culvert pipe and rebuilt the road. The crews installed 7 new services on Victory Road and tied in the new 2-inch water main.

### **ELECTRIC:**

During the month of September the Electric Department installed 20 new poles on Limo Road to supply power to a new poultry farm at the edge of our electric territory. The department installed over 16,000 feet of new wire and replaced 12 Georgia Power poles because this was a joint use project. The department also built a new line at Eagle Granite for a new compressor room to finish out the month.

### **GAS:**

The Department continued to work to install 8 new poultry houses on Limo Rd. with a 4" main served from Mineral Springs Road. This project should conclude in October, and has begun to install the 4" main.

### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the Construction Crew completed demolition on the upstairs of the Bailey Building at 23 S. Public Square. The Street Department prepped Forest Avenue for paving.

### **MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

Main Street will be creating logos for each one of our annual events for future marketing and promoting. Our next event will be held on Tuesday, October 31 with our Halloween "Skelebration" Downtown, formally known as Elberton's Downtown Trick-or-Treat. We have purchased 5-foot skeletons for our Main Street members to decorate for the season, and a contest will be held to judge which business does the best in creativity with their skeleton.

Main Street will hold its annual Granite City Fall Festival on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 9am-3pm. We will have the band Big Teach to perform from 11am-2pm. There are already a heavy amount of vendors that have signed up for this year's event. We are receiving new registrations, calls and emails daily with new participants.

Main Street has participated in several online training sessions the month of September, and attended in person training on September 19<sup>th</sup> in the town of Braselton.

**ELBERT THEATRE:**

There were 16 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Aug. 29 to Sept. 21 including ETF's *Tuna Does Vegas* open reading & paint class; Encore Productions' *Artifice* rehearsals & performances and *Gift to Remember* auditions; Savannah Riverkeeper's movie screening and COE's *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3* movie.

Approximately 318 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Aug 29- Sept 21.

**ELBERT HOTEL:**

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>FY24</u>
July	47.2%	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%	40.4%
August	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%	47.0%
September	50.1%	31.5%	40.1%	48.0%	
October	39.5%	34.0%	46.7%	53.9%	
November	41.0%	31.5%	49.0%	53.6%	
December	30.3%	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%	
January	21.9%	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%	
February	33.1%	32.7%	39.2%	40.5%	
March	19.2%	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%	
April	4.7%	38.5%	46.8%	60.0%	
May	10.5%	43.7%	49.9%	59.7%	
June	19.8%	38.5%	41.5%	39.8%	
AVERAGE	30.6%	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	43.7%

The HVAC replacement project was completed by September 15, and the property is now 100% available for the first time in over a year. Weekends have had heavy traffic due to UGA Football games in Athens plus other local gatherings. During the two weekends since the HVAC project was completed, occupancy on the weekends exceeded 93%.

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

There were no matters to be considered by Council.

Mayor Graves recognized Jessica Hayes and Beth Goolsby from Representative Mike Collins' office that was present at the meeting.

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