

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, April 5, 2021 – 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 5, 2021 at City Hall, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, and Parham; City Attorney Jenkins, City Manager Dunn and City Clerk Churney.

Mayor Guest 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 March meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

Mr. John Clark, Elbert Branch of NAACP, spoke to council with regard to employment practices within the police department. He asked Council to look into recruiting diverse officers and employment practices within the police department. He suggested obtaining extensive background checks on potential candidates. He also suggested establishing a citizen diversity committee to assist in hiring diverse officers. He added that he had several additional questions with regard to diversity. Mayor Guest instructed Mr. Clark to provide the City Manager with the questions to provide a response at a later date.

Mr. James Davis, Sr., 362 Mill Street, spoke to council with regard to community concerns. He inquired about the selection process within the police department. He suggested the department to seek more diversity. He added that he had observed the new Police Chief at a community meeting. He said the meeting became hostile, which led to attendees walking out. He added that he had several additional questions. Mayor Guest instructed Mr. Davis to provide the City Manager with the questions to provide a response at a later date.

There were no Ordinances or Resolutions to consider.

Council Member Butler made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as follows, which was seconded by Council Member Burton. The motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, Parham).

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

Department: Public Works Department	
Medical Drive Storm Water Drainage Improvements Project.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
All American Earthworks, LLC RECOMMENDED	\$542,920.65
Stratton & Sons Construction, Inc.	\$616,884.00
Cedar Farms & Construction, Inc.	\$664,260.27
Shamgar, Inc.	\$678,000.00

2. Authorized the closing of the intersection of Forest Hill Road at Brookhaven Circle for the

Sixth Annual Duck Derby & Picnic in Sutton Park to be held by the EMH Foundation on May 8th.

3. Accepted the Mayor's appointment of Tom Denny and Barbara Hammond to Elberton Planning Commission.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending February 28, 2021.

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

There were no matters to be considered by Council.

CITY CLERK:

The department submitted the 2021 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) annual response Update as required by the U. S. Census Bureau.

The City has designated a steering committee to assist in the 2022 Comprehensive Plan update as required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The first meeting will be held in April in order to discuss the current plan and make recommendations for updates.

The department has submitted the 2020 self-survey as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This survey is submitted annually to the Georgia Department of Transportation, which is responsible for the overall development and implementation of the ADA program of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The 2021 Government Management Indicators (GOMI) Survey reporting has been submitted on-line for the City of Elberton to the Department of Community Affairs.

The department participated in the "Defined Benefit Plan Pension Committee Secretary" virtual training this month by the Georgia Municipal Association. The training discussed updates and requirements of application submissions and reporting's.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 45 alarm calls for the month of March, 2021. These calls consisted of 5 Vehicle Accidents, 2 Vehicle Fires, 28 Medical Emergencies, 1 Structure Fire, 2 Gas Leaks, 1 Service Call, 1 Power Line Down, and 4 False Alarms. The department conducted 1 Pre Plan and issued 3 burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 543 hours of in-house training and 8 hours out of station training for the month.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

The building inspection department issued 13 permits for the month of March, 2021. Permits issued: 2 Building Permits, 2 Mechanical Permits, 2 Reroof Permit, 1 Sign Permit, 3 Electrical Permits, 2 Garage Permits and 1 Plumbing Permit. During this same period there were 3 electrical inspections, 2 Reroof

inspection, 2 mechanical inspections, 1 sign inspection, 1 Plumbing inspection, 2 Garage inspections and 3 Building inspections along with 19 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of February 2021. The department recorded:

- 692 Calls for Service
- 140 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 91 Incident Reports were filed
- 76 City Court cases made
- 11 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 45 People were arrested for various charges
- 8 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 120 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 2021 are as follows:

	February, 2021	January, 2021	% Change +/-
Kidnapping:	0	0	No Change
Rape Offenses:	0	2	Down by 2 Offenses
Robbery:	0	0	No Change
Assault:	15	8	+87.5%
Arson	0	0	No Change
Burglary:	1	7	-85.7%
Larceny/Theft:	10	9	+11%
Motor vehicle theft:	1	0	Up by 1 Offense
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	2	3	-33.3%
Fraud Offenses:	1	2	-50%
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0	No Change
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	6	0	Up by 6 Offenses
Drug Offenses:	4	6	-33.3%
Weapons Violations:	0	0	No Change
Animal Cruelty	0	0	No Change
Sex Offenses	0	0	No Change
Prostitution Offenses	0	0	No Change

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks at Old Hartwell Road, Lexington Highway and Willie Black Road. The crews installed a new 1 inch service line to help correct pressure issues at Cactus Hill Apartments. The Industrial Tank is still out of service. The tank has been painted on the inside and is completing the paint cure time after which it will be disinfected and placed back in service.

The crews cleaned and inspected sewer mains within the sewer system. The crews cleaned sewer services at 1157 Oglesby Boulevard and 845 Lincoln Avenue. The crews replaced a section of sewer main and replaced a sewer lateral on Cloverleaf Drive. The crews replaced the sewer lateral at Pizza Hut. The

crews pulled and cleaned pumps at Country Manor lift station. The crews made repairs to the Industrial Park lift station.

Construction is set to begin on the new 750,000 gallon clearwell and high service pump station in April.

ELECTRIC:

During the month of March the Electric Department finished the Allen Logan Road line rehabilitation project to serve a new customer at the old quarry site. The department changed 16 bad poles this month, and pulled 14 old poles during the month as well. The department also had to replace a 2500 KVA Pad mount at Pilgrim's Pride during a scheduled Saturday outage.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The Street Department poured new sidewalk sections on Myrtle Street and Mill Street. Routing maintenance of storm drains and getting ready for grass cutting season rounded out the rest of the month.

NATURAL GAS:

The Gas Department installed two residential services on Nickville Rd. and on Tobe Wells Rd. An unscheduled Public Service Commission inspection visit happened in March with the PSC inspectors performing two category inspections, one for the Public Awareness Program (PAP_ requirement and one for the Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP). No violations were found. A letter should come within a few weeks or months to document the inspections as being filed with the PSC by its staff.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

The month of March has been spent preparing for the upcoming Spring Fling to be held downtown on Saturday, April 24th 9am-4pm. The community seems to be excited about the event, and we are having application being turned in daily. The event will be similar to the vendors and activities at the Fall Festival which was not held last year due to the pandemic.

Main Street completed and passed the second 4 week course of Main Street America. The course covered Advanced Principles of Quality Design. This course covered a lot of information concerning the importance of your downtown design.

On Saturday March 27, Main Street held a community Easter egg hunt on the downtown square. Prefilled eggs were donated by our small businesses and school organizations. This event was well attended and pushed foot traffic in to our downtown businesses.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 34 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Feb. 24 to Mar. 29 including *Encore's Hank Williams: Lost Highway* rehearsals & performances, *Deathtrap* Open Reading, *Beauty & the Beast Jr* rehearsals, and ETF's paint class & board meeting.

Approximately 649 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>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	34.0%
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	31.5%
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	20.8%
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	28.9%
February	29.0%	26.6%	33.1%	32.7%
March	37.9%	35.0%	19.2%	
April	32.3%	40.5%	4.7%	
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	30.6%

Business at the Hotel remains steady. The usual uptick in occupancy after the Christmas and New Year's holidays happened in February. March's occupancy will be very close or slightly above February's. The Quarry Plates and Pours restaurant inside the hotel saw increased traffic and sales during the first three weeks of March as the weather warmed. The last week of March was slower with Spring Break seeming to have an impact to lower sales and patron counts. More menu items for the dinner/bar menu are planned for April. However, breakfast service was suspended in March due to lack of help.

There being no further business to come before Council, upon proper motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk