

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**PUBLIC HEARING & CALLED MEETING OF THE ELBERTON MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Thursday, June 3, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Public Hearing and Called Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton convened at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at Municipal Complex, 203 Elbert Street, with Mayor Guest presiding.

Present at the Public Hearing were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, and Parham; City Manager Dunn, City Clerk Churney, CFO Eavenson, Water director Hackett, Natural Gas director Jones, and Electric/Broadband director Alexander. Also present were Rose Scoggins of The Elberton Star and Linton Johnson of Elberton Radio.

Mayor Guest called the meeting to order, led the assembly in Pledge of Allegiance, and gave the invocation. A notice of the meeting was issued in accordance with law for the purpose of discussing the FY22 proposed budget and any other matters that may properly come before Council.

Mayor Guest asked if anyone wished to speak on the FY22 proposed budget. There was no comment. Mayor Guest asked City Manager Dunn if he had received any written or oral comments, and the answer was no. Council Member Butler motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Council Member Parham. The motion was adopted by 5-0 vote (Butler, Burton, Prince, Colquitt, Parham).

Mayor Guest asked for a thirty minute recess while the group enjoyed dinner catered by The Quarry Plates and Pours from the Samuel Elbert Hotel and stated that the Called Meeting would be moved to the Staff Development Room.

Present at the Called Meeting were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, and Parham; City Manager Dunn, CFO Eavenson, Water director Hackett, Natural Gas director Jones, and Electric/Broadband director Alexander.

Mayor Guest called to order the Called Meeting. Mayor Guest asked City Manager Dunn to give the Fiscal Year 2022 budget presentation. Upon conclusion of the presentation by the City Manager, Mayor Guest asked if there were any other questions. Having all questions answered or discussed, the Mayor moved on to other business.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. with a motion duly made and seconded.

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, June 7, 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, June 7, 2021 at the City Municipal Complex, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

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

**Mayor Guest called the Public Hearing to order. A Notice of Hearing was issued in accordance with the law for the purpose of obtaining comments on the FY22 proposed budget. Mayor Guest asked if there were any comments on the proposed budget. There being none, Council Member Butler motioned to adjourn the public hearing. Council Member Burton seconded the motion and the motion to adjourn the public hearing passed unanimously (Burton, Butler, Prince, Parham, Colquitt).**

**Mayor Guest called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. 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 May 3 meeting, seconded by Council Member Colquitt and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

Mrs. Pam Allgood with Keep Elbert County Beautiful (KECB) spoke to Council with regard to the “Granite Feature” project. She asked for permission from Council for the annual \$5,000 allocation from the City of Elberton to be utilized for the project. City Manager informed Council that the project was permitted in the contract between the City of Elberton and KECB.

Mr. John Clark requested to speak to Council with regard to the lack of diversity within the police department. Mayor Guest accepted his request to speak. Mr. Clark requested that Council put in place a committee of retired African Americans police officers to review why “young African Americans” do not want to serve the police force. Mayor Guest stated that per the City of Elberton Bylaws and Charter the City Manager is designated to hire all City personnel. Mr. Clark stated that he understood that; however, he would like for a committee to look into the issue. Mayor Guest added that Council will discuss his request.

Council Member Colquitt introduced the following Resolution for consideration:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS:** The Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton on June 3, 2021, after due and legal notice, reviewed the Annual Budget estimate for Fiscal Year 2022 as prepared by the City Manager in accordance with Section 33 of the Charter; and

**WHEREAS:** The General Fund budget is proposed at \$5,093,948; and

**WHEREAS:** The Solid Waste Fund budget is proposed at \$937,462; and

**WHEREAS:** The Combined Public Utilities System Fund budget is proposed at \$22,438,221; and

**WHEREAS:** The ElbertonNET Technology Services Fund budget is proposed at \$6,210,314; and

**WHEREAS:** The Hotel/Motel Tax Special Revenue Fund budget is proposed at \$90,000; the 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Capital Projects Fund budget is proposed at \$696,200; the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Capital Projects Fund budget is proposed at \$514,200; the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund is proposed \$1,915; the Elbert Hotel Enterprise Fund is proposed at \$500,000; and the Elbert Theatre Enterprise Fund is proposed at \$151,600; and

**WHEREAS:** The rates and fees schedule of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget is hereby included as Attachment "A"; and

**WHEREAS:** The total combined Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$36,633,860.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** and it is hereby resolved that the Mayor and Council do officially approve and adopt the aforementioned Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 as submitted including the rates and fees schedule designated Attachment "A".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor, City Manager, and/or City Clerk are authorized and directed to execute the necessary documents in order to enact actions authorized by Council with the adoption of this Annual Budget.

This 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

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

Council Member Prince placed Ordinance 2214 on second reading to annex property located on Limo Road into the corporate limits of Elberton:

#### **ORDINANCE 2214**

**AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON LIMO ROAD PURSUANT TO THAT CERTAIN ACT (GEORGIA LAW. 1962, P. 119) AUTHORIZING SAME UPON WRITTEN AND SIGNED APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID LAND; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Council Member Prince motioned to waive the reading, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion to waive passed unanimously. City Manager Dunn read the Ordinance in its entirety at the May meeting. Council Member Prince motioned to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion pass unanimously (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince, Colquitt).

Council Member Butler motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Parham and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

1. Authorized the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute the necessary documents with Rushton &

Company for FY2021 audit services.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending April 30, 2021
- Monthly report on the activities of various departments as follows:

**CITY CLERK:**

The department continues to collect delinquent Business License renewals for calendar 2021.

In light of the passage of Georgia House Bill 202 earlier this year, there have been changes to the requirements of the November Municipal General Election that will affect the qualifying period, early/advanced voting dates and procedures.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

Open enrollment was held in May for the group medical, vision and dental plans.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department responded to 51 alarm calls for the month of May, 2021. These calls consisted of 6 Vehicle Accidents, 32 Medical Emergencies, 3 Aircraft Standbys, 2 Grass Fires, 1 Storm Clean up Alarm, 6 False Alarms and 1 Flammable liquids spill. The department conducted 5 fire inspections, 3 Pre Plans, and issued 3 burn permits. The Fire Department also conducted 504 hours of in-house training and 32 hours out of station training for the month.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:**

The building inspection department issued 13 permits for the month of May, 2021. Permits issued: 8 Electrical Permits, 1 Plumbing permit, 1 Sign permit, 1 Driveway permit, 1 Carport/Shed permit and 1 Demo permit. During this same period there were 52 building inspections, 59 electrical inspections, 51 plumbing inspections, 56 mechanical inspections, 1 reroof inspection, 1 sign inspection, 1 carport inspection along with 24 site visits. The large increase in inspections is due to the new apartment building on S. Oliver Street being built.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

- 891 Calls for Service
- 207 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 98 Incident Reports were filed
- 133 City Court cases made
- 22 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 61 People were arrested for various charges
- 5 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence

## 148 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 April 2021 are as follows:

	April 2021	March 2021	% Change +/-
Kidnapping:	0	0	No Change
Rape Offenses:	0	3	Down by 3 Offenses
Robbery:	0	0	No Change
Assault:	10	7	+43%
Arson	0	1	-100%
Burglary:	2	0	Up by 2 Offenses
Larceny/Theft:	9	10	-10%
Motor vehicle theft:	0	1	-100%
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	2	2	No Change
Fraud Offenses:	2	4	-50%
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0	No Change
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	12	7	+58%
Drug Offenses:	10	8	+25%
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 crew repaired water leaks on Hickory Drive and Hillcrest Avenue. The crew installed water taps and meters on Jack McVeigh Road, Country Club Road and West Church Street. The crew performed maintenance on fire hydrants in the system and drained the National Guard Tank for Utility Services to perform routine washout and inspection.

The crew installed sewer taps on Hickory Drive and Washington Highway and replaced a sewer lateral at 123 Oak Drive. The crews cleaned and inspected the sewer main on Oak Drive.

The crews replaced the brushes on the helisieve at the Fortson Creek Treatment plant and repaired a leak on the caustic feed system at the Filter Plant. Construction continues at the Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The excavation and ground work is nearing completion, and after this is completed actual construction of the new clearwell will begin.

### **ELECTRIC:**

During the month of May the Electric department transferred and pulled 16 poles where transfer of facilities from old poles had been completed. The department also changed out 10 bad poles and pulled in new wire on Tusten Street. The department installed 15 new LED lights on a section of Elbert Street and 6 new LED lights on Mill Street.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

In addition to routine maintenance and operations, the department poured 2 yards of concrete for the sidewalk on Fountain Street and painted 692 feet of yellow curbing on Third Street.

**NATURAL GAS:**

The Natural Gas Department has completed approximately 90% of the new main on Northeast Phase 3-A build. In addition to one poultry farm, 20 residential customers and 1 commercial customer have signed up for service on the new main. Installation of these services will take place in June, and this project should be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

**MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

On Friday, May 7 Main Street held a downtown concert on the square to celebrate our small business owners for National Small Business week. "Across The Wide" performed from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The crowd for the free concert was small, but this was the first large Main Street event since the pandemic.

Main Street Manager Crystal Beebe spoke at the Eggs and Issues Breakfast held on Thursday, May 20 at the Civic Center with the topic being the housing issues in our community.

The upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cruise-in Classic car show will be held downtown on Saturday, July 17 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The Granite Bowl Blast fireworks show will follow after the car show. We are extremely excited about this event due to our last car show in 2019 being such a success and causing us to have to revamp our layout for the event to be able to fit more cars around the downtown.

**ELBERT THEATRE:**

There were 34 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from April 24 to May 31 including a yoga class, Encore's *'Til Beth Do Us Part* rehearsals, *Wait Until Dark* & *Crimes of the Heart* Open Readings and *9 to 5* auditions, ETF's movie field trips, paint class & board meeting, Lead Elbert's graduation, *Those Who Wish Me Dead* movie, and an ECCHS graduation gathering.

Approximately 484 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between 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%	32.7%
April	32.3%	40.5%	4.7%	38.5%
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	43.7%
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	32.7%

A noticeable increase in weekend travel began in April that has not existed for about a year. Occupancy for April and May began to return to pre-pandemic levels, with occupancy reaching a level not seen since November, 2019. The hotel returned to positive cash flow and income in April and May as a result.

The Quarry Plates and Pours launched more menu items in May including a crispy chicken sandwich on the lunch menu. New salads are planned for both lunch and dinner for June.

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney:

- Dilapidated housing report.

Matters to be presented by Council.

- Council Member Colquitt expressed his concerns over the price of supplies as well as the ability to obtain supplies in order to continue work as normal. City Manager Dunn stated that to-date delivery on supplies for utilities has slow down but not halted.

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