

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, June 2, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council convened at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2025 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

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

Mayor Graves 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 FY26 proposed budget. Mayor Graves asked if there were any commends on the proposed budget. There being none, Council Member Prince motioned to adjourn the public hearing. Council Member Parham seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (Burton, Butler, Parham, Colquitt, Prince).

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order at 5:34 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 meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

There were no speakers from the floor. However, Mayor Graves took the opportunity to recognize the Elbert County Golf Team on their recent titles, as follows:

PROCLAMATION

**Honoring the 2025 Elbert County Comprehensive High School
Boys and Girls Golf Teams**

- WHEREAS:

The Elbert County Golf Team has a long tradition of excellence and fair play on and off the course; and
- WHEREAS:

Larry Kesler was hired as head golf coach at Elbert County Comprehensive High School in 2020 and has since worked diligently to protect and build upon this legacy; and
- WHEREAS:

Coach Kesler has successfully done so, significantly growing both the girls and boys teams, doubling the size of each roster since 2020; and
- WHEREAS:

Coach Kesler, for his efforts, has been awarded Area Coach of the Year five times during his career and in 2025 was named State Coach of the Year by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association; and
- WHEREAS:

Since 2020, the boys and girls teams have had several titles and appearances, including 1 Boys State Championship, 2 Girl State Championship Runner Up, 5 Region Championships, 2 National Championship Individual Appearances (Frisco, TX and Pinehurst, NC), 1 National Championship Team Appearance (Frisco, TX), 1 Individual State Champion, 1 Individual State Champion Runner-Up, hosted two State Championships, 9 All-State Individual Golfers; and
- WHEREAS:

We would like to recognize the members of the 2025 State Champion Elbert County Boys Golf team, Nolan Henderson, Madden Drake, Kale Kurtz, Landen

Adams, Carson Amabile, Caleb Burton, Maddox Adams and Brayden Edwards; and

WHEREAS: We would also like to recognize the members of the 2025 State Runner Up Elbert County Girls Golf team, Lucy Johnson, Camdyn Moon, Sophie Lavender and Kamille Webb.

THEREFORE: I, R. Daniel Graves, on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Elberton, do hereby proclaim our sincere congratulations and express our tremendous pride in their significant athletic and personal achievements.

Mayor Graves presented the group with the above Proclamation and acknowledged their accomplishments.

Council Member Colquitt placed Ordinance 2227 on Second Reading to authorize the sale and execution of a warranty deed for surplus property:

ORDINANCE 2227
AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE AND EXECUTION OF A WARRANTY DEED FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF ELBERTON

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

Council Member Colquitt placed Ordinance 2228 on First Reading to amend the comprehensive zoning map to rezone 47 W. Church Street and 234 S. Thomas Street:

ORDINANCE 2228
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Eavenson read the Ordinance in its entirety.

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

1. Authorized the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute the necessary documents with Rushton & Company for FY25 audit services.
2. Authorized the issuance of a retail beer and wine license to 243 College Avenue, known as Bill’s Elberton, LLC. The business has been sold to Ameen Rajani.
3. Accepted the Elberton Planning Commission minutes of May 19, 2025.
4. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close a portion of Church Street for the ECCHS Band on August 1, August 22, September 12, September 19, October 3 and October 31 to provide a designated band area prior to the home games.
5. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to Rusty Greenway to hold a Bucket Brigade fundraiser for the Granite Center Shrine Club at N. Oliver Street and Elbert Street on August 16.

City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

1. Financial Report ending April 30, 2025.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The City held its first employee health fair this month at the fire department. About 60 employees participated. Elbert Memorial Hospital offered free health screenings and provided information on preventative options.

The department submitted the 2025 census data for the GMA-GIRMA Firefighters’ Cancer Benefit Program (FCBP). Participation in this program is required by HB 146.

CITY CLERK:

The department will be attending the election training to be held in Savannah next month hosted by GMA. The training will cover changes to the election law since the last election.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 30 alarm calls. The department issued three burn permits.

Training efforts included 465 hours of in-house training, 20 hours of training center usage and 21 hours of out-of-station training.

Medical Assists	20
Vehicle Accidents	3
Gas Leaks	2
Service Call (Electrical Wiring)	1
Aircraft Standby	1
Odor of Smoke	1
Smoke Detector activation (No Fire)	1
Alarm System activation (No Fire)	1
Total	30

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

	Permits Issued	Inspections
Electrical	4	4
Plumbing	1	3
Building	4	10
Demolition	1	1
Mechanical	2	4
Roof	2	1
Pool	0	1
Total	14	24

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of **April 2025**. The department recorded:

- 744 Calls for Service
- 233 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 65 Incident Reports were filed
- 209 City Court cases made
- 21 Traffic accidents were investigated

- 42 People were arrested for various charges
- 10 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 150 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 2025** are as follows:

	<u>April</u>	<u>March</u>
Kidnapping:	1	0
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	11	9
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	3	2
Larceny/Theft:	11	5
Motor Vehicle Theft:	1	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	1
Fraud Offenses:	0	3
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	4	2
Drug Offenses:	7	6
Weapons Violations:	1	1
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	1	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews installed water taps and services at 603 Victoria Court, 1223 Russell Ridge Drive, and 158 Lake Forest Drive. The crews moved seven water services from a two-inch galvanized water main to a six-inch water main at the end of South Tusten Street. The crews removed the two-inch galvanized main from service. The crews replaced a water service at 412 East Gordon Street. The crews repaired leaks on East Clairmont Street, Elm Street, and Heard Drive.

The crews cleaned and inspected sewer mains and laterals on Lake Forest Drive, Stoney Creek Drive, Lexington Highway, and Wilcox Heights. The crews installed a four-inch sewer tap and lateral at 158 Lake Forest Drive. The crews replaced a four-inch sewer lateral at 412 East Gordon Street. The crews cut and removed fallen trees from sewer rights-of-way.

The crews performed preventive maintenance on pump stations at Falling Creek, Fortson’s Creek Treatment Plants, and all lift stations within the sewer system.

The crews replaced an alum chemical pump at the Filter Plant.

SPLASH PARK PROJECT:

The splash park construction continues to progress. The city’s water/sewer crews installed a wood fence for safety purposes behind the granite wall at the splash park. Contractors installed and tested all piping related to the water features. Contractors have also finished the first pour on the splash pad area with an additional pour to come. Masons have laid the block for the support building, and contractors have connected both sewer laterals and a two-inch water lateral to the support building.

ELECTRIC:

- Moved the transformer bank for What's Up Pup to make room for the splash pad power service.
- Installed a pole on Forest Avenue for an electric service.
- Installed two new poles and reconfigured the line on Ridgeway Road.
- Built a bank and installed power to the new Dollar General Market on the Hartwell Hwy.
- Set three poles and ran service lines at the fair grounds for camper hook-ups.
- Replaced bad poles on Deer Lane, Bruce Street, Churchill Road and Calhoun Falls Hwy.
- Replaced a bad service at the Elberton Library.
- Built a bank for a new business behind the old Bicknell Supply building.
- Installed an underground service on the Lexington Highway.

GAS:

- Rebuilt high pressure regulator station on Academy Drive for seven residential homes.
- Constructed a new high pressure regulator station at 2760 Bowman Highway for poultry house service.
- Installed new service at 624 Elbert Street.
- Started new service install at 1205 Hunt Road for new home construction.
- Removed services at 2015 Nickville Road and 148 South Tusten Street.
- Public Service Commission completed a five year comprehensive inspection of the natural gas system.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- The Heard Street/First Baptist Church project continues. Approximately 156 feet of curbing and sidewalk has been completed. Two of three driveway entrances into the church parking lot have also been completed.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There have been 30 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from April 24, 2025-May 22, 2025 including the *Minecraft* and *Accountant 2* movies; Encore Productions' *Angel Street* rehearsals and performances, and *Puffs* Open Reading, auditions and rehearsals; the Elbert Theatre Foundation's paint class; Elbert County Comprehensive High School's Golf Team reception.

Approximately 690 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between April 25, 2025-May 22, 2025. There have been three rentals quoted and one confirmed during this period.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street kicked off our First Friday concert series on Friday, May 2. Music was provided by Lara Smith and her band Local Honey. We partnered with the hospital foundation again this year to help promote the annual Duck Derby that was held on Saturday, May 3.

The farmer's market is held every Wednesday from 7:30am-12:30pm. The market is in the center of the downtown square and is off to a great start this year with new vendors being added every week.

Main Street attended training hosted by the Georgia Main Street program at the Fox Theater in Atlanta. The title of this training was called "Gen-ergy" and was very informative relating to the differences in the generations and expectations as a volunteer, employee or event participant.

ELBERT HOTEL AND QUARRY:

Hotel:

- Accommodated guests with the Georgia High School Golf State Playoffs, as well as numerous guests for ECCHS graduation.
- Projects completed: Repainted conference room and purchased new umbrellas for patio
- Currently in the planning phase of the Hotel's 100th Anniversary Celebration - August marks 100 years.

Quarry:

- Participated in Main Street's First Friday with a nice turnout for restaurant & bar.
- Hosted a successful Mother's Day Brunch with plans of Father's Day Brunch in June.
- Working with reps from our food vendor, PFG in an effort to improve efficiency in the kitchen, particularly during dinner service.
- In the planning stage to add live music once per month on Saturday evenings during the summer months beginning in June.

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>
July	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%	40.4%	62.8%
August	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%	47.0%	41.3%
September	31.5%	40.1%	48.0%	46.7%	55.3%
October	34.0%	46.7%	53.9%	55.3%	65.8%
November	31.5%	49.0%	53.6%	58.0%	44.8%
December	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%	32.7%	28.0%
January	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%	30.3%	30.3%
February	32.7%	39.2%	40.5%	46.0%	37.0%
March	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%	51.6%	36.0%
April	38.5%	46.8%	60.0%	53.8%	50.5%
May	43.7%	49.9%	59.7%	44.8%	44.3%
June	38.5%	41.5%	39.8%	50.8%	
AVERAGE	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	46.5%	

City Attorney Jenkins stated he continued to work on dilapidated housing properties list.

Mayor Graves announced that after this meeting that Council would be taking a recess in order to move to the Staff Development Room for the FY26 Budget Work Session. He also announced that the second public hearing and called meeting would be held Monday, June 16 at 5:30 p.m.

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