

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Monday, August 4, 2025 – 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, August 4, 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 meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

Council Member Burton motioned to approve the minutes of the July 7 meeting, seconded by Council Member Parham, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

Mr. Freddie Baker gave an update on the Concerned Men of Elbert County organization. He expressed an urgent need for air conditioning for the Burke Street facility.

Mrs. Pamela Hughes, 843 Academy Drive, owner of Simply Us Catering and Decorating, LLC, spoke to Council regarding the Elberton Police Department incident of July 26. She stated that several officers stopped by her food truck (Simply Us on the Move) to inquire as to whether they held a valid permit. She stated that the permit was produced; however, the officers began to harass her son Mr. Tywan Hughes who apparently had an existing warrant. She stated that she visited the police department on July 28 to follow-up on the previous incident; however, Police Chief Marunich was rude. Mrs. Hughes asked Council and the City Manager to consider addressing the police staff's behavior.

Mr. Mac Hughes, 1350 Ward Drive, requested to address Council with regard to the incident of July 26. Council Member Butler motioned to authorize Mr. Hughes to speak to Council, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham). Mr. Hughes expressed his concerns with the behavior of the police officers and chief.

Mayor Graves thanked everyone for their comments and stated that their complaints will be considered.

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. Approved the expenditures that exceed the City Manager's purchasing authority.

Department: Natural Gas	
Honeywell corrector modules to assist in <i>accurately measuring natural gas for remote meter reading. Single source bid item.</i>	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Natural Gas Trade Com RECOMMENDED	\$52,414.78

2. Accepted the minutes, recommendations and decisions of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting of July 21, 2025.

City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

1. Financial Report ending June 30, 2025.
2. City Manager Eavenson stated that Peoples Quigley had submitted the 2025 ElbertonNET System Upgrade Fiber-to-Home (FTTH) Network Overbuild bid review recommending Highliter Cable Services, Inc. as the low bidder in the amount of \$716,266.85. Council Member Burton motioned to approve the expenditure as recommended by Peoples Quigley, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Parham, Prince).
3. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The department submitted the city's Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2026 to the Tax and Expenditure Center at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government as required by TED House Bill 122.

CITY CLERK:

The annual GMEBS retirement pension fund census reporting has been submitted on-line for 2024 earnings. This report is mandatory and due annually to the Georgia Municipal Association.

The Elberton Historic Preservation Commission will be hosting a meet and greet at City Hall on Tuesday, August 19 to bring together the Commission, Council and Real Estate Agents for an evening of community connection, collaboration, and conversation.

Qualifying for Mayor and Council Member Wards 1, 4, and 5 will be held Monday, August 18th through Wednesday, August 20th, from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. The qualifying fee for Mayor is \$571.51 and for Council Member is \$445.51.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The department responded to 45 alarm call and issued two burn permits.

Training efforts included 418 hours of in-house training, 20 hours of training center usage, and 88 out of station training.

Excessive heat/scorch burn. (No fire)	1
Medical Calls	32
Flammable Liquid/Chemical Spill	2
Aircraft Standby	2
Smoke Removal	1

False Alarm	3
Vehicle Accidents	4
Total	45

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

	Permits Issued	Inspections
Electrical	2	4
Plumbing	2	4
Building	2	17
Sign	1	0
Demolition	2	1
Mechanical	0	2
Roof	1	2
Total	10	30

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

978 Calls for Service
352 Vehicle Traffic Stops
80 Incident Reports were filed
297 City Court cases made
22 Traffic accidents were investigated
59 People were arrested for various charges
3 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
17 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 **June 2025** are as follows:

	<u>June</u>	<u>May</u>
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	2	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	12	11
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	0
Larceny/Theft:	5	2
Motor Vehicle Theft:	1	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	3	0
Fraud Offenses:	0	2
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	1

Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	3	5
Drug Offenses:	10	11
Weapons Violations:	1	3
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews installed water taps and services for the landscape planters at the Heard Street Parking Lot Project, 1705 Athens Highway, 1707 Athens Highway, and 1190 Athens Tech Drive. The crews installed a fire hydrant at the new 4-H facility located on Athens Tech Drive. The crews repaired water leaks at Lake Forest Drive, Forest Avenue, Country Club Road, Ruckersville Road, Porter Drive, and East Church Street.

The crews cleaned and inspected sewer mains and laterals on Kathwood Drive and Harmony Plaza. The crews repaired an 8-inch sewer main on Pine Knoll Drive. The crews installed a 4-inch sewer tap at 313 South McIntosh Street. The crews replaced a ring and cover on a manhole on Lee Street. The crews collaborated with the Georgia Rural Water Association to conduct smoke tests and identify problem areas in the Falling Creek Sewer Basin. The crews made repairs to the Hickory Drive lift station.

The crews installed a new sodium permanganate chemical pumping system at the Filter Plant.

SPLASH PARK PROJECT:

The splash park construction continues to progress. The parking lot has been paved and striped, sheetrock has been installed on the ceilings and walls, final grading is complete, windows have been installed and fencing is being installed. The city crews have been cleaning the fence line and tearing down the old granite field house. All pump-related equipment and valves will be installed and hopefully tested soon.

ELECTRIC:

- Replaced a capacitor bank pole on Elbert Street.
- Set a span guy pole on Mill Street.
- Replaced a 3-phase pole on South Oliver Street.
- Replaced a service pole on Mill Street.
- Installed a gate at the old electric plant.
- Built a transformer bank and installed power at the splash pad.
- Installed new underground services on Valley View Court and Fambrough Place.
- Replaced 18 poles on the Calhoun Falls Hwy,
- Pulled six poles on the Calhoun Falls Hwy.
- Replaced a pole on Jones Street.
- Replaced three cross arms on Calhoun Falls Hwy.

GAS:

- Completed service installs at 1039 Brown Brothers Road and 1334 Brewers Bridge Road.

- Removed gas services at 479 Taggart Street, 254 Locklin Street and 642 McClendon Street.
- 2760 Bowman Highway- poultry farm gas installation complete and online.
- 90 underground locates have been completed throughout the gas distribution system for month of July.
- Obtain rectifier readings throughout gas distribution system.
- Employees performed odorization testing throughout gas distribution system.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The Heard Street/First Baptist Church parking lot project is nearing completion. All the curbing and sidewalk on Heard Street is complete. A small portion of the curbing for the landscape planter in the alley way remains to be completed. First Baptist church has completed the paving of the parking lot.

The old granite fieldhouse building at the rear of the splash pad site has been demolished.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street held its 27th Annual Cruise In & Classic Car Show on Saturday, July 19th. The event was a tremendous success as this was our largest car show to date. We had 161 cars in this year's show. We have received tons of positive feedback from participants and spectators.

Annual Christmas in July will be held on Tuesday, July 29th 6pm-8pm. Merchants will remain open later than normal to accommodate patrons. Vendors, food trucks, and pictures with Santa will be a part of the Tuesday evening event. This event is to promote local back to school shopping.

The Sister City visitors toured the downtown area on Tuesday, July 22.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There have been 39 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from June 27, 2025-July 25, 2025 including the *Mission Impossible*, *Jurassic World* and *F1* movies; Encore Productions' *Puffs* and *Kong's Night Out* rehearsals; the Elbert Theatre Foundation's Teen Camp and *Matilda Jr* performance.

Approximately 930 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between June 27, 2025-July 25, 2025.

ELBERT HOTEL AND QUARRY:

Hotel:

- Three LAMAR Billboards are going up over the next month to promote the Hotel - these will remain up over the course of a year:
 - I-85 North of Carnesville, Hwy 17 in Lavonia, and Hwy 29 from Hartwell to Anderson
- Saturday, Sept 6th has officially been set for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Hotel. Plans continue to come together for the evening reception.

Quarry:

- Chef Tony Schmidt recently spent an afternoon at The Quarry helping to plan the hors d'oeuvres menu for the 100th Anniversary Reception, while also offering sound business/management advice pertaining to the restaurant.
- The Quarry experienced a very successful evening during the 27th Annual Car Show on Saturday, July 19th, complete with drink specials and a modified dinner menu.
- Our next evening of live music will be performed by Brad Evans and Jeff Ledbetter - date TBD.

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u>
July	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%	40.4%	62.8%	47%
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%	39.0%	
AVERAGE	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	46.5%	44.6%	

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