

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, February 2, 2026 – 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, February 2, 2026 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 Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

Council Member Parham motioned to approve the minutes of the January 5, meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

Council Member Parham nominated Steve Jenkins as the City Attorney at the January 5, 2026 meeting and it was seconded by Council Member Colquitt. City Attorney Jenkins was absent at the meeting. Therefore, Mayor Graves gave the oath of office to City Attorney Jenkins at the meeting.

Mr. Tyler Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, gave an update on the financial condition of the Elbert Memorial Hospital.

Mayor Graves asked for a motion to place Ordinance 2231 on first reading to amend Chapter 24, Law Enforcement to provide for uniform oath for law enforcement and to provide for employment related information. Council Member Butler placed Ordinance 2231 on first reading, as follows:

ORDINANCE 2231

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF ELBERTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 24, LAW ENFORCEMENT; TO PROVIDE FOR UNIFORM OATH FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS; TO PROVIDE FOR EMPLOYMENT RELATED INFORMATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Eavenson read the Ordinance in its entirety.

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

1. Accepted the minutes, recommendations and decisions of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting of January 20, 2026.

City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

1. Financial Report ending December 31, 2025.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

CITY CLERK:

Effective January 1, 2026 Georgia Senate Bill 199 brought changes in the Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report filing requirements. The bill standardized the reporting dates for the campaign and personal finance disclosures. Effective January 1, 2027, the bill requires local elected officials to file the reports directly with the State Ethics Commission instead of the municipal filing officer.

The Elberton Sister City Committee will be accepting applications in February for the 2026 summer exchange program.

Georgia Arbor Day will be celebrated by a proclamation signing and tree planting on February 20. The City of Elberton has received its Tree City designation for the 20th year in a row.

The Elbert Theatre movies continue to be an asset for the community. Over the past five years, the facility has seen 22,550 patrons attend the movies:

Description	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
No. of patrons	3916	6211	6060	5601	762
Concessions Sold	\$19,149.90	\$27,401.46	\$27,872.55	\$25,498.71	\$3,838.00
No. of movies shown	38	42	40	37	12
NOTE: 2021 was during COVID shutdown.					

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Human resources participated in the career fair at the Elbert County Comprehensive High School on January 21, 2026. Additionally, staff spoke with ninth grade students on the importance of properly completing an application, resume and cover letter.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

Permits	Permits Issued	Inspections
Electrical	3	1
Plumbing	2	1
Building	3	
Mechanical	3	
Roof	3	
Total	14	2

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

In January 2026, the department responded to 44 alarm calls and issued no burn permits.

Training efforts included 647.5 hours of in-house training; 20 hours of training center usage; 12 hours were utilized by a joint exercise by city and county fire; and 14 hours of out-of-station training. The department also hosted training for evaluator and proctor certifications. Additionally, two recruits attended Hazmat Awareness training conducted at the county fire department.

Alarm Calls	January 2026	December 2025
Building Fire	1	1
Passenger Vehicle Fires	0	2
Grass Fire	0	1
Medical Assists	31	37
Vehicle Accidents	4	6
Aircraft Standby	1	1
Smoke Removal	1	0
Electrical	0	4
False Alarms	6	6
Water/Steam Leak	0	1
Total	44	59

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

	December	November
Calls for Service	507	801
Vehicle Traffic Stops	209	263
Incident reports	66	74
City Court Cases	177	260
Traffic Accidents	25	24
Arrests	46	61
DUI	4	6
Department Training Hours	96	99

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 **December 2025** are as follows:

Group A Crimes	December	November
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	1	0
Assault:	11	9
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	3
Larceny/Theft:	7	9
Motor Vehicle Theft:	1	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	1
Fraud Offenses:	4	2
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	4	3
Drug Offenses:	5	6
Weapons Violations:	1	1
Animal Cruelty:	0	1
Sex Offenses:	1	1
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0
Homicide/ Manslaughter	2	0

WATER & SEWER:

During the month the department performed water system maintenance: repaired water leaks on: Reese Street, Second Street Extension, Martin Street, Lena Drive, and Hamilton Street; replaced an angle valve at 840 Mercer Drive; replaced a damaged fire hydrant on Bowman Highway in the Goss Community; installed ¾-inch water taps and meters at 1058 Jones Ferry Road and 825 Mercer Drive; and asphalted utility cuts and poured a section of sidewalk at 313 Heard Street.

Sewer system maintenance was performed during the month: repaired a damaged sewer lateral at 178 Brookside Drive and pulled and replaced a pump at the Pulliam Street Lift Station.

The department pulled and replaced the reuse pump at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant and disinfected and placed Clearwell #2 back online at the treatment facilities.

Clearwell Piping Project:

The contractors have installed the new 20-inch bypass line and valves from the #2 Clearwell to the new vault.

ELECTRIC:

The department installed conduit on Lexington Hwy for a new home construction; removed a large oak tree on North Oliver Street; and replaced several poles on Elbert Street, Calhoun Falls Hwy, Taggart Street, Mobley Hill Road and Petersburg Road.

NATURAL GAS:

The department obtained the monthly rectifier readings and quarterly readings of odorization through the gas distribution system; installed new services at 1374 Fairfax Circle, 2500 Washington Highway, and 131 Edwards Street; removed meters at 134 S. McIntosh Street, 241 McKinley Street and 1213 Beechwood Road; and employees attended training for high pressure regulators and relief valves.

PUBLIC WORKS:

During the month, Terry Alexander painted and repaired the upper portion of McIntosh #9 for the Downtown Development Authority. In addition, routine maintenance and small projects were conducted on various city properties.

The street department continued routine maintenance of catch basins on various streets; assisted with the removal of a large oak tree on North Oliver Street; repaired pot holes on Locklin Street and Prince Street and repaired a sink hole on Brookwood Circle.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street completed our annual assessment on January 14. This assessment is submitted to the Georgia Main Street program, along with Main Street America to maintain our accreditation for the program.

Main Street participated completed our Rural Zone orientation online on January 7.

Main Street annual membership invoices will be going out the end of this month. This is a yearly \$100.00 membership fee that allows your business to be promoted within the Main Street program.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There have been 31 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from December 23, 2025-January 29, 2026 including the *David, Greenland 2 & Housemaid* movies; Encore Productions' *Magician's Nephew* rehearsals and *Cinderella* auditions; the Chamber of Commerce's Twilight Stroll; the Martin Luther King Jr Committee's movie field trip; the Elbert Theatre Foundation's paint class and the Elbert County Board of Education's movie rental.

Approximately 1,114 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between December 23, 2025-January 29, 2026. There have been three rentals quoted and three confirmed during this period.

ELBERT HOTEL AND QUARRY:

Quarry:

The Quarry hosted several events during the month: A private 50th Anniversary reception on January 10, 2026 with 60 guests in attendance and a dinner for the National Guard on January 17, 2026 with 30 guests attendance. Several events were cancelled due to the winter storm: the live music event with Dawson Scarborough for January 25, 2026 and the Blue Cielo event at the Quarry on January 25, 2026.

The Quarry provided lunch and dinner for city staff and out of town crews during the storm relief on January 25, 2026. There were approximately 60 in attendance.

Hotel:

The Samuel Elbert Hotel's 2nd Annual "Winter Staycation" promotion resulted in 10 rooms being booked for the weekend of January 23-2, 2026. However, due to the winter storm those reservations had to be canceled. The Hotel hopes the Valentine's dinner will boost reservations for the Hotel. The Hotel accommodated several members of the electric crew from Mount Dora, Florida and right-of-way staff during the winter storm.

The latest occupancy report is 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%	40.2%
September	31.5%	40.1%	48.0%	46.7%	55.3%	40.0%
October	34.0%	46.7%	53.9%	55.3%	65.8%	54.7%
November	31.5%	49.0%	53.6%	58.0%	44.8%	50.6%
December	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%	32.7%	28.0%	29.0%
January	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%	30.3%	30.3%	24.9%
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%	

Mayor Graves asked if there were any matters to be considered by Council. There being none, upon proper motion and second the meeting was adjourned.


 R. Daniel Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:


 Cindy D. Churney, City Clerk