

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, March 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, March 2 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

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

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

Council Member Butler motioned to approve the minutes of the February 2 meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Parham).

There were no speakers from the floor scheduled.

Council Member Parham introduced a Resolution to fill vacancies on the Elberton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board of directors, as follows:

CITY OF ELBERTON
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there currently exists a vacancy on the Elberton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board of directors; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. Section 36-42-6 allows the governing body of the municipal corporation to appoint directors of the DDA by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and five Council Members of the City of Elberton constitute the governing body pursuant to that state law O.C.G.A. Section 36-42-3; and

WHEREAS, the Elberton DDA board of directors received a resignation from Ms. Mallory Smith and Mr. Gerardo De Leon; and

WHEREAS, the Elberton DDA board of directors recommend Ms. Michelle Maxwell and Ms. Jody Lefevre to fill the vacancies on the board of directors of the DDA; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor respectfully submits to the Council the above recommendation of the DDA board of directors to be considered to fill the vacancies on the board; and

WHEREAS, the appointees meet the qualifications of being a director of the Elberton DDA in that certain state law O.C.G.A. Section 36-42-7, being that the nominees qualify as persons who have an economic interest in the redevelopment and revitalization of the downtown development area.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton hereby appoint Ms. Michelle Maxwell and Ms. Jody Lefevre as director of the Elberton DDA, term ending June 30, 2027.

RESOLVED this 2nd day of March 2026.

City Manager Eavenson read the Resolution in its entirety. Council Member Parham motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Parham).

Council Member Prince arrived at the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Council Member Butler placed Ordinance 2231 on second reading to amend Chapter 24, Law Enforcement to provide for uniform oath for law enforcement and to provide for employment related information, 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.

Council Member Butler motioned to waive the reading, seconded by Council Member Parham and the motion to waive passed unanimously. City Manager Eavenson read the heading of the Ordinance. Council Member Butler motioned to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Parham and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Parham, Prince).

Council Member Burton placed Ordinance 2232 on first reading to amend Chapter 12, Cemeteries to align with the state mandates and to provide for the orderly management, maintenance, and safety of all city-owned burial grounds, as follows:

ORDINANCE 2232

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF ELBERTON CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 12, CEMETERIES; AND TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Eavenson read the Ordinance in its entirety.

By virtue of the Chair, Mayor Graves added an item to the Consent Agenda to be designated as item #8.

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. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.

Department: Public Works Department		
Two new, 3/4 -ton 4x4 crew cab trucks equipped with service bodies.		
Vendor:	Make/Model	Bid Amount:
Stivers Brothers	2025 F250	\$58,887.00
Ed Murdock	2026 Ram 2500	\$59,963.00
Athens Ford	2026 F250XL	\$60,420.00
Alan Jay	2026 Chev 3500	\$60,886.00
Carl Black	2025 Chev 2500	\$64,377.50
Carl Black	2026 Chev 2500	\$64,377.50
Serra Buick	2026 GMC 2500	\$65,500.00

2. Accepted the minutes, recommendations, and decisions of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting of February 16, 2026.
3. Accepted of the minutes of the Elberton Historic Preservation Commission meeting of February 17, 2026.
4. Authorized the issuance of a retail beer and wine license to Mr. Sridharan Krishnan at Market Street located at 624 Elbert Street.
5. Authorized the issuance of a temporary on-premises beer and wine license for Elbert Memorial Hospital Foundation for March 14, 2026, at 45 Forest Avenue. The previous event was postponed due to weather.
6. Authorized the issuance of a temporary on-premises beer and wine license for Elbert County Chamber of Commerce for the Annual Banquet at 45 Forest Avenue on April 16, 2026.
7. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit for the Easter event on Thursday, April 2, 2026 hosted by Main Street Elberton.
8. Approved expenditure for the Samuel Elbert Hotel.

Department: Samuel Elbert Hotel		
Replacement of a 10-year-old kitchen air conditioning with new unit.		
Vendor:	Brand	Bid Amount:
McGee Heating & Air	Trane 7.5 Ton	\$25,899.00
R & B Maintenance, Inc	Carrier	\$28,500.00

Jones Heating & Air	Trane	\$38,765.00
Jones Heating & Air	Carrier	\$30,286.50
McG Mechanical Services	Trane	\$40,366.00

City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

1. Financial Report ending January 31, 2026.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

CITY CLERK:

As a requirement of the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance, all alcohol license holders and their front-line employees are required to participate in an informational presentation regarding city, state, and federal laws. The City Marshal will be conducting the presentation on February 25 and 26, 2026.

The Elberton Sister City Committee will meet on Sunday, March 1, 2026, to select student ambassadors for its long-standing summer exchange program with Mure-cho, Japan.

Commemorating 20 years as a Tree City USA, the City executed a proclamation and planted a new tree at the walking trail to observe Georgia Arbor Day.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

Permits	Permits Issued	Inspections
Electrical	4	1
Plumbing	1	1
Building	1	
Land Disturbance	1	
Roof	2	2
Demolition	1	
Total	10	4

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Training efforts included: 570 hours of in-house training, 22 hours at training center; 16 hours of joint exercise by city and county fire, 141 hours of out-of-station training.

Three recruits attend "Due Regard" emergency vehicle operations training conducted by the Georgia State Patrol hosted by the county fire department.

	February 2026	January 2026
Building Fire	2	1
Cooking Fire	1	0
Chimney Fire	1	0
Passenger Vehicle Fires	1	0
Medical Assists	29	31
Vehicle Accidents	5	4
Hazmat Call	1	0
Aircraft Standby	1	1
Smoke Removal	0	1
False Alarms	8	6
Total	49	44

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of **January 2026**. The department recorded:

	January	December
Calls for Service	386	507
Vehicle Traffic Stops	341	209
Incident reports	80	66
City Court Cases	283	177
Traffic Accidents	13	25
Arrests	53	46
DUI	8	4
Department Training Hours	62	96

The Group A crimes of the (NIBRS) National Incident Based Reporting System are sent to the FBI monthly. The Group A crimes for **January 2025** are as follows:

Group A Crimes	January	December
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	1
Assault:	13	11
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	2	1
Larceny/Theft:	10	7
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	0
Fraud Offenses:	1	4
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	6	4
Drug Offenses:	7	5
Weapons Violations:	4	1
Animal Cruelty:	1	0
Sex Offenses:	0	1
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0
Homicide/ Manslaughter	0	2

WATER & SEWER:

Water System Maintenance:

- Repaired water leaks on: Elbert Street, S. McIntosh Street, N. Rainbow Drive, Springdale Road, and Highland Avenue
- Finished patching all utility road cuts

Sewer System Maintenance:

- Jetted sewers at 231 McKinley Street, 173 Heard Drive stub and mainline

Reuse Water System:

- Replaced bearings on the belt press roller at Fortson Creek Treatment Plant

Treatment Facilities

- Installed new 2-inch tap at the Filter plant for the combined turbidity meter
- Repaired leak on sample pump

Clearwell Piping Project

The contractors have installed the new 20-inch main from the Filter Plant to the # 2 clearwell. The new line was put in service and clearwell # 1 was taken out of service for concrete restoration. Also new chemical lines were installed alongside with new main.

ELECTRIC:

- Poles were replaced on Lexington Hwy and Jones Street
- Replaced three poles and built a transformer bank at Old Harmony Blue Granite shed
- Built a transformer bank and installed new service on Crosstie Drive
- Installed underground service on Lexington Hwy and Calhoun Falls Hwy
- Installed squirrel guards on Circuit 1512, 1522, 1532

GAS:

- Performed meter change outs on Plantation Road, Cromer Road, Rhodes Drive and Prince Avenue
- Installed meter at 1357 Ward Drive and new service and meter at 1825 Huntcliff Drive
- Re-route gas service line at 2118 Stinchcomb Road
- Removed service at 1561 Hartwell Highway at customer's request
- Meter reading instrument replaced at the Elbert County High School
- Repaired gas main at Oglesby Boulevard at Porter Drive creek crossing
- Replaced regulators on Indian Hill Road to address pressure issues
- Submitted annual loss and unaccounted report to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

PUBLIC WORKS:

Terry Alexander painted and repaired walls at the Elberton Arts Center. In addition, routine maintenance and small projects were conducted on various city properties.

The street department continued routine maintenance of catch basins, helped with the cleanup of the storage building at Elmhurst Cemetery, and poured sidewalk on Heard Street.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

The annual downtown Galentine's event was held on Thursday, February 5. Main Street participated by providing a photo spot for participants to take pictures during the event.

Main Street attended the Salvation Army board meeting on Wednesday, February 18 and will now also serve on the Salvation Army's land/building committee.

Main Street held its annual planning session on February 19 and welcomed two new board members, Michelle Maxwell with 3 Sisters Trendy Consignments and Jody LeFevre with The Salvation Army.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There have been 32 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from January 30, 2026-February 23, 2026, including the *Housemaid* and *Solo Mio* movies; the Elbert Theatre Foundation's volunteer dinner and paint class; Encore Productions' *Magician's Nephew* rehearsals & performances and *Cinderella* rehearsals and Advantage Behavioral's movie field trip

Approximately 1,457 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between January 30, 2026-February 23, 2026. There have been four rentals quoted and zero confirmed during this period.

ELBERT HOTEL AND QUARRY:

Quarry:

- Participated in the Downtown Galentine's Event - Feb 5
- Successful (sold out) Valentine's Dinner - Feb 14
- Rescheduled events (due to weather):
 - Live music with Dawson Scarborough - February 28
 - Blue Cielo Private Wine Club Dinner - March 1

Hotel:

Upcoming events:

- ECCHS Anchor Club - March 2
- The City of Elberton's Annual Planning Session - March 21
- Live music - March 28

The latest occupancy report is as follows:

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
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%	36.2%
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%	

City Manager Eavenson provided Council with the 2026 TSPLOST paving projects for review prior to the May meeting. City Manager Eavenson also reminded Council of the Planning Session scheduled for March 21, 2026, at the Samuel Elbert Hotel.

City Attorney Jenkins updated Council on the dilapidated housing properties. He also asked Council if they had any additional concerns about properties within their ward to let him know.

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.

ATTEST:


Cindy D. Churney, City Clerk




R. Daniel Graves, Mayor