

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Monday, April 6, 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, April 6 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

Present: 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 March 2 meeting, seconded by Council Member Butler, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

Mr. Scott Cothran, 209 Highland Park, spoke to Council regarding a request for a speed bump or 3-way stop on Highland Park. He noted that he had already discussed this with his district representative, Council Member Colquitt, who does not support the request.

Council Member Burton placed Ordinance 2232 on second 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.**

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

Council Member Prince placed Ordinance 2233 on first reading to amend Chapter 14, Elections to align municipal procedures with the unified Georgia Election Code, as follows:

ORDINANCE 2233

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF ELBERTON CODE OF ORDINANCES,
CHAPTER 14, ELECTIONS; TO ALIGN MUNICIPAL PROCEDURES WITH THE
UNIFIED GEORGIA ELECTION CODE; 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: Parks	
General landscaping & lawn maintenance services include Hickory Drive Park, Burke Street Park, and Granite City Walking Trail.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
A Cut Above Lawn Care Serv RECOMMENDED	\$26,400.00
Greenspace Solutions	\$30,240.00

Department: Motor Pool	
Roll off truck to be funded by SPLOST. Recommendation based on additional features, such as heavy-duty transmission, back up camera system, tighter turn radius, better suspension, and adjustable canopy.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
NuLife Municipal Truck Center 2026 Western Star 47X RECOMMENDED	\$232,195.00
Sansom Equipment Company 2026 Freightliner 114SD	\$219,500.00
NuLife Municipal Truck Center 2006 Mack GR64F	\$249,195.00

2. Accepted the minutes, recommendations, and decisions of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting of March 16 and the corrected February 16 minutes.
3. Authorized the execution of a contract with Hinderliter De Lamas & Associates to provide tax auditing and recovery services.
4. Authorized the issuance of an on-premises consumption of beer license to Mr. Kasyapkumar R. Patel at Aniva 312, LLC located at 1004 Calhoun Falls Highway (the former VFW building).
5. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit for a 5K Run event on Saturday, April 25 hosted by the Elberton Lions Club.
6. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permits for the First Friday Celebrations, food and music events on May 1, June 5, and August 7 and to grant a waiver for open container prohibition hosted by Main Street Elberton and the Downtown Development Authority.
7. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit for the 11th Annual Duck Derby event on Saturday, May 2 hosted by the Elbert Memorial Hospital Foundation.
8. Authorized the purchase of a commercial grade lawn mower.

Department: Utilities	
Commercial grade lawn mower to replace in operable mower at water/sewer facilities.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
P & J Small Engine RECOMMENDED	\$16,000.00
Social Circle Ace Hardware	\$17,425.00

City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

1. Financial Report ending February 28, 2026.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The department submitted the 2026 self-survey as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This survey is submitted annually to the Georgia Department of Transportation, which is responsible for the overall development and implementation of the ADA program of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

City Marshall Cleve Williams provided an update to the alcoholic beverage license holders on the revisions to the state guidelines as well as a refresher on the city's regulations.

Devan Seawright, Cleve Williams, Nicole Josselson, and Leighann Jones attended a Historic training held in Dalton. The training was hosted by the Georgia Alliance of Historic Preservation Commissions (GAPC) and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Effective March 1, 2026, employees were provided with an update to the handbook that included changes to the Employee Assistance Program.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

Permits	Permits Issued	Inspections
Electrical	1	
Plumbing	3	
Building	5	
Land Disturbance	0	1
Roof	3	5
Demolition	1	2
Mechanical	1	
Sign	2	
Driveway	0	1
Total	16	9

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- Responded to 43 alarm calls and issued one burn permit.
- 547.5 hours of in-house training; 20 hours of training center usage; 12 hours were utilized for joint exercises; 56 hours of out-of-station training.

Alarm Calls	March 2026	February 2026
Building Fire	2	2
Cooking Fire	0	1
Chimney Fire	0	1
Passenger Vehicle Fires	0	1
Medical Assists	29	29
Vehicle Accidents	2	5
Gas Leak	1	0
Electrical Shortage	1	0
Hazmat Call	0	1
Aircraft Standby	1	1
False Alarms	7	8
Total	43	49

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

	February	January
Calls for Service	401	386
Vehicle Traffic Stops	361	341
Incident reports	79	80
City Court Cases	308	283
Traffic Accidents	21	13
Arrests	54	53
DUI	9	8
Department Training Hours	189	62

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 **February 2025** are as follows:

Group A Crimes	February	January
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	11	13
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	2
Larceny/Theft:	6	10
Motor Vehicle Theft:	2	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	0
Fraud Offenses:	0	1
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	3	6
Drug Offenses:	8	7
Weapons Violations:	1	4
Animal Cruelty:	0	1
Sex Offenses:	0	1
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0
Homicide/ Manslaughter	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

Water System Maintenance:

- Repaired water leaks on: Country Club Road, Pine Needle Lane, Pine Street, Filter Plant Road and Railroad Street.
- Installed new water meter at 305 A College Ave.
- Installed 150 feet of 2-inch waterline.
- Set 2-inch meter for Central Granite on Harper Street.

Sewer System Maintenance:

- Replaced sewer lateral under the road at 1115 Lake Forest Drive.
- Located sewer main for project on Cloverleaf Road.

Reuse Water System:

- Replaced motor on screw pump at Fortson Creek Treatment Plant.
- Replaced seals, bearings, and couplings on screw pump at Falling Creek Plant.

Treatment Facilities

- Installed new 1-inch tapping saddle and tap for new sample line.

Clearwell Piping Project

Contractors installed new 20-inch water main from vault to clearwell one and started rehab of clearwell one.

ELECTRIC:

- Installed a new pole and transformer on Limo Road and Willie Black Road
- Replaced four poles on Petersburg Road and one pole on County Manor Lane
- Installed a new pole at Sunny Brook Apartments
- Repaired a meter base at Mollertech
- Began installing squirrel guards to help reduce outages

GAS:

- Installed 1500' feet of 2-inch gas line on Limo Road. This is a continuation to transfer gas services for the three poultry farms to the new gas main on Limo road.
- Performed service maintenance at station three on Athens Highway.
- Completed new customer installation at Turner Hill Road which included a main line extension of 1000' feet.
- Gas Authority SRCS performed OSHA training for confined space and vault entry to employees along with operator qualifications.
- Installed new meter at 1631 Nickville Road.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The street department has completed a new concrete pad (20 x 20) at the rear of the police department in the gravel lot. A new metal building will be installed to serve as a workspace and storage area for Mainstreet.

The department has also begun the construction of the new pavilion at the splash park.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street participated in the America Read's week by reading to DDAMain Street board member Devan Davis's 3rd grade class.

We held our first annual Downtown Shuffle Around for this year's St. Patrick's Day event.

The Downtown Eggstravaganza is being held on Thursday, April 2 from 5pm-8pm. This event will consist of an egg hunt to be held at Sutton Park at 6:15pm, food trucks, kids' activities and pictures with the Easter Bunny to be held on the square.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There have been 35 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from February 24, 2026-March 31, 2026 including Encore Productions' *Cinderella* rehearsals, *The Magician's Nephew* rehearsals and performances, and 20th Anniversary Party; the City of Elberton's *Hoppers*, *I Can Only Imagine 2* and *Reminders of Him* movies; Advantage Behavioral's movie field trip; the Elbert Theatre Foundation's paint class and coffee reception and ECMS' Special Education class tour.

Approximately 1,066 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between February 24, 2026-March 31, 2026.

There have been three rentals quoted and one confirmed during this period.

ELBERT HOTEL AND QUARRY:

Quarry:

- Closed Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18th due to installation of new HVAC system.
- Catered City of Elberton's Annual Planning Session held inside hotel's conference room.
- Rented dining room for private event.
- Reopened outdoor dining on patio and veranda.

Hotel:

- March has brought great occupancy rates, one of the highest months-to-date we've had. This is largely in part to a group from Korea here on business.
- Rented conference room for multiple events.

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%	36.2%
March	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%	51.6%	36.0%	63.1%
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 Attorney Jenkins updated Council on the dilapidated housing properties.

Mayor Graves asked to move into executive session to discuss future acquisition, disposal, or lease of real estate, including authorizing negotiations (O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4)).

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

Council Member Parham motioned to move out of executive session and reconvene the regular meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

Mayor Graves stated that no action was taken.

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

