

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, May 4, 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, May 4 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 Butler motioned to approve the minutes of the April 6 meeting, seconded by Council Member Parham, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

Mrs. Aurolyn White, 24 S. Oliver Street, representing Jim-Ree Museum, addressed the Council regarding a proposal to install a commemorative statue of Bishop William Henry Heard on the square. Mrs. White highlighted Bishop Heard's life (1850-1937) as an embodiment of American spirit, noting his journey from local pillar to a figure of global influence.

Mr. Freddie Baker, 1295 Old Middleton Road, representing the Concerned Men of Elbert County, addressed the Council regarding a recent staff vs. student kickball game involving Elbert County Middle School. Noting the event's high community attendance, Mr. Baker formally issued a challenge to the City for a kickball game against Elbert County.

Council Member Prince placed Ordinance 2233 on second 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.**

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

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

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

Department: Utilities Department – Electric Division	
One (1) Ford F550 bucket truck to replace 2017 Dodge 5500 service bucket truck. To be funded by electric investments. 15-18 months' delivery.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Altec	\$253,317.00

Global	\$257,331.00
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Department: Utilities Department – Electric Division

Two (2) Kenworth with Altec aerial bucket truck to replace two 2019 Kenworth bucket trucks. To be funded by electric investments. 36-39 months’ delivery.

Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Altec	\$422,295.00 x 2
Global	\$430,049.00 x 2

Department: Police Department

Two (2) 2026 Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicles (Explorer SUV’s). To be funded by SPLOST.

Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Phil Brannen Ford	\$88,490.00
Wade Ford	\$95,000.00
Allan Vigil Ford	\$97,260.00

2. Acceptance of the budget calendar for fiscal year 2027, as follows:

First Public Hearing	Monday, June 1, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.	Budget Work Session to follow
Second Public Hearing & Adoption	Monday, June 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.	

3. Authorized an agreement with Anthem for comprehensive medical insurance coverage for City employees.
4. Authorized a public assembly permit to close the square to vehicle traffic on Sunday, May 17 for the **Georgia State Golf High School Tournament Welcome Party** requested by the ECCHS Golf Team.
5. Authorized a public assembly permit to close the street to vehicle traffic near the Granite Bowl on Friday, May 22 for the **ECCHS Graduation Exercise** requested by ECCHS.
6. Authorized a parade permit to close various streets to traffic on Saturday, June 13 for **Juneteenth Celebration Parade** requested by the Jim-Ree Museum.
7. Authorized a public assembly permit to close the square to traffic on Saturday, June 13 for **Juneteenth Celebration on the Square** requested by the Jim-Ree Museum.
8. Authorized a public assembly permit to close the square to vehicle traffic on Saturday, July 18 and grant a waiver for open container prohibition for the **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Elberton Cruise-In & Classic Car Show** requested by Main Street Elberton.
9. Authorized a public assembly permit to close the square to vehicle traffic on Tuesday, July 28 for Christmas **in July Candlelight Shopping Downtown** requested by Main Street Elberton.
10. Authorized a Retail Alcoholic Beverage License to Mr. Ramchandra Joshi, 887 Elbert Street (formerly owned by Mr. Shaliesh Amin, Reetix 2, LLC).

City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

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

City Manager Eavenson announced that the City was recently approved for a \$45 million grant—the largest in Elberton’s history—awarded by the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) under the Helene Resiliency Funding Program. This funding is dedicated to upgrading and reinforcing the City’s water and sewer infrastructure. Mr. Eavenson credited Chris Quigley of PeoplesQuigley for his instrumental role in securing

the award. In turn, Mr. Quigley commended the collaborative efforts of City Manager Eavenson and Utilities Director Hackett in successfully obtaining the grant.

**CITY CLERK:**

The department continues to collect delinquent business license renewals for calendar year 2026. The due date for business licenses was March 31.

The Government Management Indicators (GOMI) survey has been submitted this month. The survey is a mandatory annual data collection effort managed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). It gathers information on local government operations across Georgia, including staffing, financial management, service delivery, and planning efforts.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

The City used a competitive bidding process to solicit proposals for its group medical insurance plans. The department prepared a comprehensive bid package, which was released publicly on March 17 and remained open for 30 days. A total of 12 bids were received.

After reviewing all submissions, it is recommended that the City continue with its current plan offered by Anthem Blue Open Access. This plan currently provides the most favorable combination of employee benefits and premium costs.

Open enrollment will begin in May for employees who wish to enroll in or make changes to their group medical coverage. Premium costs for the health insurance plan will be incorporated into the upcoming fiscal year 2027 budget.

**BUILDING INSPECTIONS:**

Permit Type	Issued	Inspections Performed
Electrical	0	1
Plumbing	2	1
Land Disturbance	0	0
Roof	4	3
Demolition	0	1
Mechanical	3	0
Sign	3	0
Driveway	0	0
General Building	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

- Responded to 61 alarm calls.
- 549 hours of in-house training; 15 hours of training center usage; 32 hours were utilized for joint exercises; 40 hours of out-of-station training.

Alarm Calls	April 2026	March 2026
<b>Building Fire</b>	1	2
<b>Wildland Fire</b>	1	0
<b>Passenger Vehicle Fires</b>	2	0
<b>Medical Assists</b>	40	29

Vehicle Accidents	9	2
Gas Leak	0	1
Electrical Shortage	1	1
Aircraft Standby	2	1
False Alarms	5	7
Total	61	43

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

	March	February
Calls for Service	467	401
Vehicle Traffic Stops	301	361
Incident reports	81	79
City Court Cases	227	308
Traffic Accidents	11	21
Arrests	71	54
DUI	6	9
Department Training Hours	80	189

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 **March 2026** are as follows:

Group A Crimes	March	February
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	12	11
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	3	1
Larceny/Theft:	7	6
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	2
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	0
Fraud Offenses:	1	0
Stolen Property Offenses:	1	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	3	3
Drug Offenses:	22	8
Weapons Violations:	4	1
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0
Homicide/ Manslaughter	0	0

**WATER & SEWER:**

Water System Maintenance:

- Installed new two-inch water main on Cedar Street for new townhomes.
- Installed four new water taps and set meters for 212 Cedar Street.
- Installed water tap for lot two at Fambrough Drive.
- Installed water tap and meter for 1709 Athens Highway.

Sewer System Maintenance:

- Extended the six-inch sewer main and installed six-inch sewer tap on Cedar Street.
- Installed sewer tap for lot two at Fambrough Drive.

Reuse Water System:

- Replaced seals and bearings on screw pump at north plant.

Treatment Facilities:

- Drained and cleaned basins one and two at filter plant.

**ELECTRIC:**

- Replaced four poles and installed new wire on Porter Drive, replaced a bad transformer on Old Middleton Road, and replaced two 3-phase poles on Tate Street Ext.
- Installed a transformer and new pole on Wyche Circle for a new shop.
- Installed underground service on Huntington Drive and Middleton Church Road.
- Cut and removed trees on Clairmont Ave, Highland Ave and Elm Street.
- Replaced all the lights at Mollertech.
- Installed a receptacle at the Splash Park pavilion
- A new pole was installed on Railroad Street.

**GAS:**

- A new mainline tap was installed on the eight-inch-high pressure gas main on Hartwell Highway and installed approximately 1,500 feet of service line.
- Installed new service at 2418 Cunningham Road and 2264 Montevideo Road.
- The Gas Authority provided SRCS training to members of the City customer service team regarding customer service calls related to gas leaks.
- Michael Sheppard attended the annual Pipeline Safety Seminar presented by the Georgia Public Service Commission

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

The street department poured a new concrete pad (20 x 40), new sidewalk, constructed the new picnic shelter, and installed 240 feet of stormwater pipe at Splash Park.

**MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

Main Street partnered with local businesses and individuals with the donations of prefilled easter eggs for the Downtown Eggstravaganza that was held on Thursday, April 2. This event consisted of an egg hunt that was held at Sutton Park at 6:15pm, food trucks, kids' activities and pictures with the Easter Bunny were held on the square.

Main Street hosted one of the largest Touch-A-Truck events held downtown during Georgia Cities Week. There were many participants along with food trucks and live music provided by Dawson Scarborough.

Main Street attended a recent board meeting of the Salvation Army of Elberton. We are seeking partnership opportunities with the Salvation Army and community.

**ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:**

There have been 23 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from April 1, 2026 – April 23, 2026 including the Elbert Theatre Foundation's puppetry workshop; Encore

Productions' *Cinderella* rehearsals; *Super Mario Galaxy* and *Project Hail Mary* movies; Advantage Behavioral's movie field trip; K Burton's birthday party and T Glaude's meet and greet.

Approximately 453 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Ctr between April 1, 2026–April 23, 2026.

There has been one rental quoted and one confirmed during this period.

**ELBERT HOTEL AND QUARRY:**

**Quarry:**

- Promoted evening dinner reservations directed toward local prom goers. We had a total of 49 people make reservations as a result.
- Participated in Main Street's First Annual Touch-A-Truck event - promoting kids' meals & service vehicle replicas.
- Hosted one of our largest lunch crowds for 2026 on April 22 for Administrative Professionals Day. We had a lot of local businesses participate, treating their office staff to lunch.
- Participated in a cross promotion with the Elbert Theatre for a Dinner & Show combo regarding the live stage performance of Cinderella on opening night, April 24, 2026.

**Hotel:**

- April has been another steady month for occupancy as we surpassed 50% occupancy rate.
- We welcomed new Guest Services Manager, Nicole Bennett, effective April 13, 2026.
- The Hotel was inspected by the Georgia Department of Public Health on March 30, 2026, and received a score of 100.

The latest occupancy report is as follows:

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
<b>July</b>	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%	40.4%	62.8%	47%
<b>August</b>	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%	47.0%	41.3%	40.2%
<b>September</b>	31.5%	40.1%	48.0%	46.7%	55.3%	40.0%
<b>October</b>	34.0%	46.7%	53.9%	55.3%	65.8%	54.7%
<b>November</b>	31.5%	49.0%	53.6%	58.0%	44.8%	50.6%
<b>December</b>	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%	32.7%	28.0%	29.0%
<b>January</b>	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%	30.3%	30.3%	24.9%
<b>February</b>	32.7%	39.2%	40.5%	46.0%	37.0%	36.2%
<b>March</b>	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%	51.6%	36.0%	63.1%
<b>April</b>	38.5%	46.8%	60.0%	53.8%	50.5%	52.3%
<b>May</b>	43.7%	49.9%	59.7%	44.8%	44.3%	
<b>June</b>	38.5%	41.5%	39.8%	50.8%	39.0%	
<b>AVERAGE</b>	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	46.5%	44.6%	

City Attorney Jenkins reported on the status of properties that are currently not up to city code standards.

Mayor Graves asked if there were any matters to be considered by Council. Council Member Burton mentioned the kickball challenge and the Jim-Ree Museum's proposal for a commemorative statue.

Mayor Graves expressed his gratitude to Chris Quigley for his vital assistance in the grant process and the work of City Manager Eavenson and Utilities Director Hackett in bringing the project to fruition.

There being none, upon proper motion and second the meeting was adjourned.

  
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R. Daniel Graves, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Cindy D. Churney, City Clerk