

CITY OF ELBERTON
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, November 4, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council convened at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2024 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 Public Hearing to order. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comments from The 81 Group, LLC dba Elberton Texaco in regard to the violation of the City's Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance of October 6, 2024.

Brian Drake of the Elberton Police Department stated that he and another officer observed patrons exiting Elberton Texaco located at 211 N. Oliver Street at 12:44 am with a case of beer. The City's Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance states "No alcoholic beverage shall be sold upon the premises of the place of business of any licensee between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 7:00 am." Therefore, a citation was issued to Maqsood Yasin of Elberton Texaco.

Mayor Graves asked if there was anyone present from Elberton Texaco to speak on behalf of the store. There was no one present.

Mayor Graves stated that Council would consider the administrative penalty for Elberton Texaco later in the meeting.

Mayor Graves adjourned the Public Hearing and called the Regular Meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

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

Mrs. Mary Clark addressed Council with regard to the Martin Luther King Parade.

As privilege of the chair, Mayor Graves added Tyler Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of Elbert Memorial Hospital to speakers from the floor. Mr. Taylor gave an update on the financial condition of the Elbert Memorial Hospital for the quarter.

Council Member Butler introduced the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Elberton (the "Participant") that Mayor Daniel Graves is hereby appointed as a voting delegate of the Participant ("Voting Delegate") with full power and authority to communicate the decisions of the Participant to Electric Cities of Georgia, Inc. ("ECG"), with regard to the Board of Directors of ECG Election process including, but not limited to, submitting nomination forms and ballots for the election. City Manager Kevin Eavenson (the "Alternate") is hereby appointed as the alternate Voting Delegate with full power and authority of the Voting Delegate to the extent that it is convenient for the Participant to make such communications to ECG through the Alternate.

This 4th day of November, 2024.

City Manager Eavenson read the Resolution in its entirety. Council Member Butler motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Prince and the motion passed unanimously.

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

- 1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the City Managers purchasing authority.

Department: Public Works	
One new full size 4x4 truck with crew cab and short box/short bed.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Hardy Chevrolet, Dallas, Georgia RECOMMENDED	\$46,790.00
Alan Jay Automotive, Sebring, Florida	\$46,351.00

- 2. Approved the calendar of regular meeting dates for the Mayor and Council for 2025.

Monday, January 6	Monday, July 7
Monday, February 3	Monday, August 4
Monday, March 3	Monday, September 8
Monday, April 7	Monday, October 6
Monday, May 5	Monday, November 3
Monday, June 2	Monday, December 1

- 3. Approved the calendar of holidays for 2025.

New Year’s Day	Wednesday, January 1
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 20
Good Friday	Friday, April 18
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26
Juneteenth	Thursday, June 19
Independence Day	Friday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 1
Veterans Day	Tuesday, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 27 Friday, November 28
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 24 Thursday, December 25

- 4. Authorized the closing of portions of the City streets to vehicular traffic on Friday, January 3, 2025 for the Annual Twilight Stroll hosted by the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce.
- 5. Authorized the closing of portions of the City streets to vehicular traffic on Sunday, January 19, 2025 for the Annual Martin Luther King Parade hosted by the Martin Luther King Committee.

City Manager Eavenson presented the following reports:

- 1. Financial Report ending September 30, 2024.
- 2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The department held a mandatory training for Department Head’s and Supervisor’s. The training focused on the harassment policy and job performance best practices.

CITY CLERK:

Alcoholic license renewal applications were mailed on October 15. The deadline to submit the 2025 renewals is November 15.

Several members of the Historic Preservation Commission participated in a webinar this month. The webinar provided an introduction to historic preservation and local designation programs for the community. During the last assessment, the commission failed to meet the requirements set for each member to attend at least one informational or educational meeting every three years pertaining to historic preservation.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 51 alarm calls for October, 2024. These calls consisted of three structure fires, 28 medical emergencies, four vehicle accidents, two aircraft standbys, seven severe weather clean-ups and seven false alarms. The department issued four burn permits for the month as well. The department conducted 670 hours of in-house training and 44 hours of out-of-station training for the month.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

The Building Inspections Department issued 19 permits from September 24 to October 25. Permits issued: three electrical permits, two plumbing permits, two re-roof permits, nine building permits and three mechanical permits.

During this same period, 25 inspections were completed; eight electrical inspections, four plumbing inspections, one sign inspection, seven building inspections, two roofing inspections and three mechanical inspections.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of **September 2024**. The department recorded:

- 865 Calls for Service
- 252 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 79 Incident Reports were filed
- 165 City Court cases made
- 20 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 50 People were arrested for various charges
- 6 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 184 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 **September 2024** are as follows:

	<u>September</u>	<u>August</u>
Kidnapping:	0	2
Rape Offenses:	0	2
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	15	17
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	2
Larceny/Theft:	6	4
Motor Vehicle Theft:	1	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	3	1
Fraud Offenses:	1	3
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	4	5
Drug Offenses:	6	11

Weapons Violations:	0	0
Animal Cruelty:	0	1
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks on Elbert Street, Old Middleton Road, Pine Hill Drive, Dogwood Lane, Lincoln Heights, Porter Drive, Deer Lane, South McIntosh Street, and Athens Highway. The crews installed a water tap at 1230 Athens Highway. The crews raised valve boxes on Whiteside Drive for paving project. The crews completed and submitted the Lead Service Line Inventory to Georgia EPD.

The crews raised manholes along Lincoln Avenue for paving project. The crews cleaned and inspected sewer mains and manholes along Lexington Highway. The crews cut grass at all lift stations in the sewer system.

The crews pulled and replaced a RAS pump at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant.

The crews made repairs to the carbon feed system at the Filter Plant. The crews cut grass at the Filter Plant.

Work continues on the Fortson Creek Sewer Main Replacement/Relocation Project. The city crews relocated 500 feet of 2-inch water main along the sewer right of way to make way for the new sewer main. Contractors blasted rock in three locations along the sewer right of way. The contractors also set the first new manhole and began installing the new 18-inch sewer main.

ELECTRIC:

The Electric Department had 15 broke poles and multiple wires down due to fallen trees from Hurricane Helene. After restoration was complete in Elberton, the department helped the City of Washington restore power. The department went on to assist Little River EMC with restoration as well. The department installed seven poles and built a new line on Valley View Drive. The department installed 500 feet of new underground wire on Fambrough Drive to provide power for two new houses being built. The department finished up the month by replacing poles on Oglesby Boulevard and Gordon Street.

GAS:

Along with monthly routine maintenance, services were installed at 1598 Bowman Hwy and 2430 Washington Hwy.

The right of way crew is nearing 50% completion on reclaiming the 8” gas main ROW along Hartwell Hwy, which runs from Nancy Hart to Brewers Bridge road.

The gas line relocation project at the bridge on Hartwell Hwy near the county line is approximately 80% complete. The GADOT contractors are completing this project.

Approximately 5500’ of 4 inch gas main has been installed on Limo road. The gas department will now begin to install 2” service lines to connect the main to each of the 24 poultry houses located in the area.

The department is also monitoring the road washout on Golf Course Road where a 6” inch 300psi gas main is located. The Elbert County Road Department has the area secured. The department should start covering it back up the week of October 28.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the construction crews continued work on the first and second floors of the Bailey Building on the Public Square.

The Street Department poured concrete for the sidewalks on Myrtle and Church Street.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There have been 36 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from September 23-October 23 including Encore Productions’ *The Play the Goes Wrong* rehearsals & performances, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* Family Story Time & rehearsals and *Spitfire Grill* Open reading; Toni King’s *Narnia* Bible Study; *Transformers One* & *Wile Robot* movies; Gas Authority’s quarterly meeting and Elbert Theatre Foundations’ paint class. Approximately 901 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between September 23 – October. 23.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

The 2nd annual Downtown Skelebration Trunk or Treat is Thursday, October 31st from 4pm-6pm. We have partnered with the schools local BETA club for this event so the students that participate receive service hours for school.

The 24th annual Granite City Fall Festival will be held Saturday, November 2 from 9am-3pm. We will have music provided by the band Big Teach, performances by local talent, craft vendors, food vendors and children’s vendors.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>
July	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%	40.4%	62.8%
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%	
December	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%	32.7%	
January	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%	30.3%	
February	32.7%	39.2%	40.5%	46.0%	
March	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%	51.6%	
April	38.5%	46.8%	60.0%	53.8%	
May	43.7%	49.9%	59.7%	44.8%	
June	38.5%	41.5%	39.8%	50.8%	
AVERAGE	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	46.5%	

Our patio improvements have been well received. We have recently added two propane patio heaters, so patrons can enjoy during the cooler months. The idea is to utilize the space as an entertainment area. We started off with a bang opening it up to the Class of '69 for their class reunion with DJ and dancing.

The restaurant catered two class reunions this month along with smaller business functions. We partnered with 68 Market to host a "Ghouls Night Out" that was a huge success. We are opening the restaurant to serve brunch from 10-2 during the Granite City Fall Festival. We will also be doing Thanksgiving pre-order meals to be picked up on Wednesday, Nov 27th.

City Attorney Jenkins stated he continues to work on dilapidated housing properties list.

Council considered the administrative penalty to Elberton Texaco. City Manager Eavenson recommended the following action since it was their first violation:

- Administrative penalty of \$300.00

- Bond forfeiture of \$250.00
- Total penalty of \$550.00

Council Member Butler motioned to accept the administrative penalty as recommended, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

Mayor Graves asked to move into executive session to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee (O.C.G.A. 50-14-3).

Council Member Parham motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Council Member Colquitt 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.

Council Member Parham motioned to appoint Kevin Eavenson as City Manager, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince). Mayor Graves commended Kevin on his leadership over the past six months.

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

