

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, September 13, 2021 – 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, September 13, 2021 at the City Municipal Complex, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham and Prince; City Attorney Jenkins, City Manager Dunn and City Clerk Churney.

Mayor Guest called the meeting to order, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and in prayer.

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

Ms. Evelyn Norton of Clairmont Avenue spoke to Council with regard to speeding in her neighborhood. She submitted a petition from the neighborhood along with a list of recommendations that might help alleviate the speeding. The recommendations are as follows: speed bumps, 25 mph speed limit, children at play sign, no 18 wheelers permitted, and yellow markers on both sides of the Clairmont Street. Mayor Guest thanked Ms. Norton for bringing this to Council's attention and informed her that Council will discuss the issue.

There were no Resolutions or Ordinances to be considered at the meeting.

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

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.
2. Accepted the millage rate.
3. Authorized the addition for on-premises consumption of distilled spirits to the existing alcoholic beverage license to Gerardo De Leon of Flat Tire Bar & Grill located at 17 N. Oliver Street.
4. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close a portion of the square to vehicular traffic on October 16, 2021 for The Swingin' Medallions concert downtown sponsored by Main Street Elberton.
5. Granted waiver for a special event for open container consumption of alcoholic beverages on the public square on October 16, 2021 for the concert downtown.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending July 31, 2021
- Consideration of FY2022 Budget Amendment. City Manager discussed that the amendment is to create a budget for the American Rescue Plan grant funding from the State of Georgia Office of Planning and Budget. A separate Fund is required by the Department of Community Affairs promulgation. Council Member Butler motioned to approve the Budget Amendment, seconded by Council Member Colquitt and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).
- Monthly report on the activities of various departments as follows:

CITY CLERK:

Qualifying for the November 2, 2021, Municipal General Election is complete. Qualifying for office is as follows: Mayor – Don Bray and Daniel Graves; Council Member Ward 1 – Carey Butler (Incumbent), Donikia Gray and Billy Jones; Council Member Ward 4 – Rick Prince (Incumbent); and Council Member Ward 5 – Kyle Parham (Incumbent).

Advance/early voting will begin on October 12 and end on October 29 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at City Hall, 203 Elbert Street. The City of Elberton will be closed on October 11 for Columbus Day. Two Saturdays of Advanced Voting are also scheduled during this period.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 47 Alarm Calls for the month of August, 2021. These calls consisted of 1 Vehicle Accident, 1 Vehicle Fire, 27 Medical Emergencies, 9 False Alarms, 1 Aircraft Standby, 1 Grass Fire, 4 Service Calls, 1 Hazmat Call, 1 Electrical Fire, and 1 Gas Leak. The department conducted 4 fire inspections, 3 Pre Plans, and issued 3 burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 624 hours of in-house training and 34 hours out of station training.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of July 2021.

The department recorded:

- 910 Calls for Service
- 260 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 91 Incident Reports were filed
- 181 City Court cases made
- 17 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 59 People were arrested for various charges
- 8 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 146 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 June 2021 are as follows:

	July 2021	June 2021	% Change +/-
Kidnapping:	0	0	No Change
Rape Offenses:	1	1	No Change
Robbery:	1	0	Up 100%
Assault:	12	11	Up 10%
Arson	0	0	No Change
Burglary:	3	1	Up 200%
Larceny/Theft:	5	9	Down 44%
Motor vehicle theft:	2	0	Up 200%
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	1	1	No Change
Fraud Offenses:	1	1	No Change
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0	No Change

Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	6	5	Up 20%
Drug Offenses:	11	7	Up 57%
Weapons Violations:	0	0	No Change
Animal Cruelty	0	0	No Change
Sex Offenses	0	0	No Change
Prostitution Offenses	0	0	No Change

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks on Village Road, Carey Street and Laurel Drive. The crews installed new water taps and meters at 1348 Mineral Springs Road, 1961 Tanglewood Drive and 1069 Russell Ridge Drive. The crews terminated an old water service at 1191 Old Middleton Road. The crews repaired a sewer crossing at Porter Drive. The crews cleaned and inspected sewer laterals at 234 Willow Street, 383 Wilcox Heights and 123 Brookwood Circle.

The crews pulled new wire for the Helisieve at the Fortson Creek Treatment Plant. The wiring was damaged due to lightning.

Construction continues at the Water Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The site where the new clearwell will be constructed was brought down 2 to 3 feet below grade and refilled with #57 stone in order to strengthen the base of the tank. The construction crews will begin forming and tying rebar during the month of September.

ELECTRIC:

During the month of August the Electric Department changed out 4 poles on Clairmont Ave. The department installed a pole on Oak Street and one on Old Hartwell Road. The department installed 1,650 feet of underground primary and installed 2 transformers at the Elbert County Airport for its grant project. The department changed out a pole at Eagle Granite Company and installed 3 new transformers there as well.

PUBLIC WORKS:

In addition to routine maintenance and operations, the department assisted Keep Elbert County Beautiful with the Granite Feather project at the Elberton Civic Center.

NATURAL GAS:

The department began the Northeast Expansion Phase 3-B project along the Anderson Highway to install service to 12 poultry houses. This will complete the Northeast Expansion project that began 3 years ago. This last section is approximately 4,500 feet of 4" HD PE along the highway and several hundred feet of 2" HD PE at the poultry farm to be served. Work is about one-third complete.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

The month of August was spent preparing for the upcoming fall events. Christmas in July was held on Tuesday, July 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. on the downtown square. This event mimicked our Candle Light Shop

Night that we hold in November. We had positive feedback and complements on the event due to the free offerings for children. The extreme heat was factor in attendance, however.

We will have a remembrance event on Saturday, September 11th for the 20th anniversary of 9/11 on the downtown square starting at 11 a.m. The JROTC, community jazz band and several other local individuals will participate in this event. After the program the event will then roll over into a Touch-A-Truck event for children to honor all of our men and women in uniform.

We are also preparing for and planning future events that will be in the months to come; along with speaking with new building owners that are exploring new business adventures to open up downtown. We look forward to working with these individuals and helping them in any way that we can to grow our downtown area.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 38 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from July 26-Aug 31 including Encore Productions' *9 to 5* rehearsals & performances, *Catch Me If You Can* & *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* Open Readings and *The Christmas Express* Auditions; ETF's *The Odd Couple: Female Version* auditions & rehearsals and paint class; *Paw Patrol: The Movie* screenings and Police Dept training session.

Approximately 1,246 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between July 26 and Aug 31.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%	39.7%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%	
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	34.0%	
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	31.5%	
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	20.8%	
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	28.9%	
February	29.0%	26.6%	33.1%	32.7%	
March	37.9%	35.0%	19.2%	32.7%	
April	32.3%	40.5%	4.7%	38.5%	
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	43.7%	
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	38.5%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	33.2%	39.9%

Despite resurging COVID cases in the state and nationally, weekend travel at the Hotel is very strong. Guests typically are not making advance reservations and instead are calling the "day of" or are walking in. This has led to higher than expected occupancy numbers this summer.

Sales at The Quarry Plates and Pours have weakened dramatically in August as local COVID cases were on a dramatic climb. Both lunch and dinner sales are reduced from their June and July levels.

City Manager Dunn reported the City of Elberton in cooperation with the Elbert County Board of Commissioners is planning an expansion of ElbertonNET's broadband internet service into unserved areas of Elbert County. A project is being developed that would serve over 700 homes with fiber-to-home technology. The goal is to reach as many addresses as possible, but there are always ending points along roads to building any new infrastructure.

There were no matters to be presented by Council.

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney:

- Dilapidated housing report.

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