

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, October 4, 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, October 4, 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 and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

Council Member Parham motioned to approve the minutes of the September 13, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

Mr. Charles Thornton of Elberton’s Promise, was scheduled to speak to Council with regard to the City participating with community organizations and community policing; however, he was unable to make the meeting. Ms. Shameya Brown had planned to speak in his absence, but she was not present at the time speakers were recognized.

Council Member Burton introduced the following Resolution for consideration:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Elberton to amend the Official Traffic Map of the City of Elberton by amending the map in accordance with Section 36-6, traffic schedules; and

WHEREAS, the neighbors in the area have presented a petition requesting a speed bump to slow traffic on Clairmont Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council authorize the placement of three sets of speed bumps on the Eastside, Westside and Center of Clairmont Avenue as specified in Attachment “A”; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution shall become part of the Official Traffic Map, which may be found on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize the placement of three speed bumps on Clairmont Avenue in accordance with Attachment ‘A’ incorporated herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council direct the City Manager to install the speed bumps as designated above as well as erect any required signs upon the adoption of this resolution.

City Manager Dunn read the Resolution as presented. Council Member Burton motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion passed by a vote of 3-2 with Burton, Parham and Butler voting for its adoption and Prince and Colquitt voting against its adoption.

Council Member Parham introduced the following Resolution for consideration:

**CITY OF ELBERTON
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
THE NORTHEAST GEORGIA REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly enacted the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act (O.C.G.A. Section 12-8-31.1), as amended in 2011, which requires county and municipal governments to develop or be included in a comprehensive solid waste management plan; and

WHEREAS, the update of the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan has been prepared on behalf of and includes the solid waste management plans of all municipalities within the jurisdiction of the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Authority; and

WHEREAS, the update of the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan has been prepared in compliance with the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act, as amended in 2011, and the minimum public participation and other procedural requirements have been met or exceeded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton that the update of the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan is accepted, and furthermore, that the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission shall be notified of said adoption in writing within five (5) days of the adoption of this resolution.

City Manager Dunn read the Resolution as presented. Council Member Parham motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Prince and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince, Colquitt).

Council Member Butler introduced the following Resolution for consideration:

**CITY OF ELBERTON
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2020-2025**

WHEREAS, Elbert County and its municipal governments recognize that it is threatened by several different types of natural and man-made hazards that can result in loss of life, property loss, economic hardship and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has required that every county and municipality have a pre-disaster mitigation plan in place, and required the adoption of such plans in order to receive funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, a Hazard Mitigation Plan is a community's plan for evaluating hazards, identifying resources and capabilities, selecting appropriate actions, and developing and implementing the preferred

mitigation actions to eliminate or reduce future damage in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Elbert County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2020-2025 has been prepared in accordance with FEMA requirements at 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, the Plan will be updated every five years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of Elberton, Georgia that:

1. The City of Elberton, Georgia, has adopted the Elbert County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2020-2025; and
2. It is intended that the Plan be a working document and is the first of many steps toward improving rational, long-range mitigation planning and budgeting for Elbert County and its municipalities.

City Manager Dunn read the Resolution as presented. Council Member Butler motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince, Colquitt).

Mayor Guest stated that consideration of placing Ordinance 2215 on first reading to annex the property located on the Hartwell Highway owned by Imagine Construction was removed by the petitioner prior to the meeting.

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

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.
2. Approved the Budget Amendment for FY21.
3. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close portions of city streets to vehicular traffic on October 23, 2021 for a 5K Run for Breast Cancer Awareness sponsored by the ECCHS Anchor Club.
4. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close portions of city streets to vehicular traffic on November 20, 2021 a 5K Run for the Girls Soccer program sponsored by ECCHS Athletics.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending August 30, 2021
- Monthly report on the activities of various departments as follows:

CITY CLERK:

Due to SB 202 changes were made in the absentee/early voting procedures. For the latest updates go to www.cityofelberton.net and choose Government, then Elections.

Alcoholic license renewal applications will be mailed by October 15. The deadline to submit the 2022 renewals is November 15.

The Tree City USA application has been submitted for calendar year 2021.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Mike Seymour retired on September 30, 2021 after serving the Police Department for 45-1/2 years.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 40 Alarm Calls for the month of September, 2021. These calls consisted of 4 Vehicle Accidents, 1 Vehicle Fire, 21 Medical Emergencies, 11 False Alarms, 2 Aircraft Standbys, and 1 Gas Leak. The department conducted 4 fire inspections, 4 Pre Plans, and issued 2 burn permits. The Department conducted 517.5 hours of in-house training and attended 40 hours of out of station training.

Also Bryan Allen with the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training visited the department on September 21, 2021 to conduct an audit of the department. He inspected training records, personnel records, equipment, and interviewed personnel as well. The department passed the audit and continues to maintain its Certificate of Compliance with the State of Georgia.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

The building inspection department issued 13 permits for the month of September, 2021. Permits issued: 3 Electrical permits, 1 Mechanical permit, 2 Building permits, 2 Roof permits, 2 Demolition permits, 2 Sign permits, and 1 Plumbing permit. During this same period there were 2 roof inspections, 2 building inspections, 4 electrical inspections, 1 mechanical inspection, 2 plumbing inspections, and 2 demolition inspections along with 9 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of August 2021. The department recorded:

- 999 Calls for Service
- 336 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 99 Incident Reports were filed
- 218 City Court cases made
- 14 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 39 People were arrested for various charges
- 6 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 66 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:

	August 2021	July 2021	% Change +/-
Kidnapping:	0	0	No Change
Rape Offenses:	0	1	Down 100%
Robbery:	0	1	Down 100%
Assault:	6	12	Down 50%

Arson	0	0	No Change
Burglary:	5	3	Up 66%
Larceny/Theft:	12	5	Up 144%
Motor vehicle theft:	2	2	No Change
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	1	1	No Change
Fraud Offenses:	1	1	No Change
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0	No Change
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	13	6	Up 116%
Drug Offenses:	9	11	Down 18%
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 Heard Drive, Oak Street and Carey Street. The crews replaced a fire hydrant at corner of Oak Street and Brookhaven Circle. The crews removed and relocated a water service and meter at 1191 Old Middleton Road. The crews installed rip rap at over flow pipes on the National Guard Tank and Goss Tank. The crews replaced the pump motor starters and pulled and cleaned pumps at the Mill Street Lift Station.

Construction continues at the Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The first concrete pour on the new clearwell was done on 9/28/21.

ELECTRIC:

The Electric Department changed out 3 poles on Clairmont Avenue and 1 pole on Fairway Drive. The department installed 1,200 feet of underground primary and 2 transformers at the new apartments on S. Oliver Street. The department also installed 33 new LED lights on Elbert Street.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The department performed routine maintenance and operations during the month. The street department made a stormwater pipe repair at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Glendale Avenue.

NATURAL GAS:

The Gas Department is completing the installation of the poultry farm on the Anderson Hwy. as part of the Northeast Expansion 3-B to complete that project. Material delays and rain delayed the completion of the project by two weeks. The department is continuing the periodic leak survey that must be performed by the end of 2021.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street held a remembrance event on Saturday, September 11 for the 20th anniversary of 9-11 on the downtown square. The JROTC, community jazz band and several other local individuals participated in the event. After the program the community got to meet some of our local heroes that work within the

community and explore their means of transportation. This included the city fire department, police department, EMS and public works.

The Elbert Theatre, Chamber, along with Main Street hosted the Chi-Town concert that was held at the theater on Saturday, September 18th. Chi-Town is a Chicago tribute band and was well received by the community. We had several of our local businesses to offer “Chicago” themed items on their menus for the weekend of the show.

Main Street is currently working with ElbertonNET in preparing for the Swingin’ Medallions concert that will be held on the downtown square on October 16 at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate ElbertonNET’s 20th anniversary. This will be a free event for the public.

On Friday, October 29 Main Street will host Halloween Downtown, where the community can trick-or-treat with our downtown merchants and other businesses that would like to set up candy tables from 4pm-6pm.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 21 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Sept. 1 - 24 including ETF’s *The Odd Couple: Female Version* rehearsals and paint class, Encore Productions *The Christmas Express* rehearsals, and the Chi-Town Transit Authority concert. Approximately 165 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center during this period.

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%

Occupancy for September should finish the month slightly above 40%. Visitation has been strong despite the rise of COVID in the late summer in the south. Weekend visitation has been especially busy which means more personnel and leisure travel to Elberton as compared to business travel which was the primary volume of business over the last year.

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.