

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, February 7, 2022 – 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, February 7, 2022 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

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

Mayor Graves called the Meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins gave the prayer.

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

Mr. Timothy Aaron Styles was scheduled to speak to Council with regard to utilities assistance and relief for citizens. However, he asked to be removed prior to the meeting.

Council Member Colquitt introduced a Resolution approving the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Elberton for 2022-2026:

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the 1989 Georgia General Assembly enacted House Bill 215, the Georgia Planning Act, requiring all local governments to prepare a comprehensive plan in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Update for the City of Elberton, Georgia, was prepared in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council that the Comprehensive Plan Update for the City of Elberton, Georgia dated 2022, as approved by the Georgia Department Community Affairs is hereby adopted, and furthermore, that the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission shall be notified of said adoption within seven (7) days of the adoption of this resolution.

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

City Manager Dunn read the Resolution in its entirety. Council Member Colquitt made a motion to adopt the Resolution as read, seconded by Prince, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, Parham).

Council Member Colquitt placed Ordinance 2216 on first reading to annex portion of property into the corporate limits of Elberton:

**ORDINANCE 2216**

**AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING THE PROPERTY LOCATED OWNED BY MONTY DIXON AND STAN DIXON PURSUANT TO THAT CERTAIN ACT (GEORGIA LAW. 1962, P. 119) AUTHORIZING SAME UPON WRITTEN AND SIGNED APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID LAND; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

City Manager Dunn read the Ordinance in its entirety.

Council Member Parham motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Butler

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.
2. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to Elbert Memorial Hospital for the Seventh Annual Duck Derby and Picnic in Sutton Park on May 14, 2022.
3. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to Elbert County Comprehensive High School for the 2022 Graduation Exercise on May 20, 2022.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending December 31, 2021.

**CITY CLERK:**

The Police Department held a training workshop to alcoholic beverage license holders on revisions to the alcohol and tobacco laws. All license holders were invited and urged to attend the update. Representatives from the VFW, Flat Tire Bar and Grill and Pine Town Grill, Gas Express and El Rinconcitto Machoacano Restaurant attended the training.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department responded to 107 Alarm Calls for the month of January, 2022. These calls consisted of 5 Vehicle Accidents, 65 Medical Emergencies, 20 False Alarms, 6 Aircraft Standbys, 3 Gas Leaks, 3 Service Calls, 2 Dumpster Fires, and 3 Structure Fires. The department conducted 7 fire inspections, 3 Pre Plans, and issued 2 burn permits. The Department attended 567.5 hours of in-house training and 24 hours out of station training.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:**

The building inspection department issued 13 permits for the month of January, 2022. Permits issued: 5 Electrical permits, 2 Plumbing permits, 1 Building permit, 1 Sign permit, 1 Mechanical permit, 1 Specialty permit, 1 Demolition permit and 1 reroof permit. During this same period there were 3 building inspections, 6 electrical inspections and 2 sign inspections, 3 plumbing inspections, 3 mechanical inspections, 1 specialty inspection for a porch addition, 2 demo inspections and 1 roof inspection along with 14 site visits.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

1,200 Calls for Service  
554 Vehicle Traffic Stops

- 86 Incident Reports were filed
- 304 City Court cases made
- 31 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 57 People were arrested for various charges
- 8 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 50 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 are as follows:

	December 2021	November 2021
Kidnapping:	1	1
Rape Offenses:	0	1
Robbery:	0	1
Assault:	4	5
Arson	0	0
Burglary:	2	1
Larceny/Theft:	11	7
Motor vehicle theft:	2	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	3	1
Fraud Offenses:	1	0
Stolen Property Offenses:	1	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	7	3
Drug Offenses:	4	9
Weapons Violations:	3	2
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

**WATER & SEWER:**

The crews repaired water leaks on South Tusten Street, Harmony Plaza and Wilcox Heights. The crews cleaned and inspected sewer mains on Sunnyside Avenue and West Tate Street. The crews cleaned and inspected sewer laterals on Wayne Street, West Clairmont Avenue and at the Medical Center.

Construction continues at the Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The contractors have continued to form and pour the walls for the new clearwell.

**ELECTRIC:**

During the month of January the department restored power and fixed several spans of downed primary due to a winter storm. The crews also changed out 7 bad poles this month located on Heard drive, Lake Forest Drive, Caldwell Court, Almond Street, Cardinal Drive, and North McIntosh Street. The crew also installed power to a new granite shed.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Along with routine maintenance for the month, the Street Department cleaned out the storm drains all around town including Pembroke Cir., Edwards St., Springdale Rd., Reese St., Woodland Rd., Glendale Ave, Tusten St., Progress Blvd., Lake Forest Dr., Auld Ave, Elm St., Wildwood Dr., Heard Dr., Walden Way & Ridgecrest Dr.

**NATURAL GAS:**

The Natural Gas Department started with the routine yearly maintenance required by safety regulations. The department has met with the SCRS representative to gather information for the yearly federal DOT 7100 report which is required by PHMSA.

Gas In-Home Sales and Service for FY2022

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
New Customers Installed	1	3	0	4	4	0	2						14
Existing Customers Serviced	2	1	1	0	7	3	5						19
Total	3	3	1	4	11	3	7						32

Appliances installed, repaired, replaced, or serviced for FY2022

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	YTD
Water Heaters	1	2	1	2	5	1	2						14
All Other Appliances	5	3			5	3	6						22
Total	6	5	1	2	10	4	8						36

**ELBERT THEATRE:**

There were 45 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Nov 23-Jan 27 including ETF's Christmas Movie Field Trips, volunteer dinner and paint classes; N Downer's theatrical rental; C Page's concert; Encore Productions' *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* auditions and rehearsals; L Harper's theatrical rental; COC's Twilight Stroll, and COE's *Scream* movie.

Approximately 3,042 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Nov. 23 and Jan. 27.

**MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

The DDA board has worked on and finalized the event schedule for 2022, and we are looking forward to the things to come. Main Street member's yearly dues were mailed out the first of January and are steadily being returned to the office.

Main Street helped to facilitate the Elbert Youth Leadership class on January 25. Our objective for the day was to create resumes, focusing on what to and what not to include in the resume. We also talked about how to present yourself for a job interview and how to handle yourself during the interview.

**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%	39.4%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%	40.1%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	34.0%	46.7%
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	31.5%	49.0%
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	20.8%	36.3%
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	28.9%	23.5%
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%	39.3%

Like in previous years, occupancy decreases significantly during the holiday and winter months. However, the year-to-date occupancy remains at pre-pandemic levels.

The Quarry restaurant was closed for two weeks around the holidays. A few events that were scheduled were cancelled due to the resurgence of the Omicron Covid virus in December and January. Business was very slow at the beginning of January but picked up significantly the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>.

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

There were no matters to be considered by Council. Mayor Graves announced that there were several board appointments that needed to be made. One member to the Elberton Planning Commission and three to the Elberton Historic Preservation Commission. He asked Council to consider constituents that might be interested in serving the City of Elberton. He closed the meeting by recognizing February as Black History Month and quoting excerpts from Bishop William H. Heard's autobiography "From Slavery to the Bishopric".

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