

CITY OF ELBERTON
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, June 5, 2023 – 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, June 5, 2023 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince and Parham; City Manager Dunn and City Clerk Churney. City Attorney Jenkins was not present due to recovering from bronchitis. However, Acting City Attorney Whetsel was present on his behalf.

Mayor Graves called the Public Hearing to order. A Notice of Hearing was issued in accordance with the law for the purpose of obtaining comments on the FY24 proposed budget. Mayor Graves asked if there were any comments on the proposed budget. There being none, Council Member Parham motioned to adjourn the public hearing. Council Member Burton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (Burton, Butler, Parham, Colquitt, Prince).

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. He led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and in prayer.

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

There were no speakers from the floor.

Council Member Parham placed Ordinance 2219 on second reading to annex 1087 Calhoun Falls Hwy into the corporate limits of Elberton with a heading as follows:

ORDINANCE 2219

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING THE PROPERTY LOCATED OWNED BY THE CITY OF ELBERTON PURSUANT TO THE OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA, ANNOTATED, IN CHAPTER 36 OF ARTICLE 36; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Council Member Parham motioned to waive the reading, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion to waive passed unanimously (Burton, Butler, Parham, Colquitt, Prince). City Manager Dunn read the Ordinance in its entirety at the May meeting. Council member Parham motioned to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Parham and the motion passed unanimously (Burton, Butler, Parham, Colquitt, Prince). For the record, Elbert County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution on May 8, 2023 to authorize the annexation of the property above.

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

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.
2. Authorized the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute the necessary document with Rushton & Company for FY23 audit services.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending April 30, 2023.
2. The departmental report was submitted as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The city clerk will be attending the election training to be held in Savannah next month hosted by GMA. The training will cover the basic information on municipal elections and qualifying candidates for public office as well as highlight any changes to the election law since the last election.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The department submitted the 2023 census data for the GMA-GIRMA Firefighters' Cancer Benefit Program (FCBP). Participation in this program is required by HB 146.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 56 Alarm Calls for the month of May, 2023. These calls consisted of 36 Medical Emergencies, 8 Vehicle Accidents, 3 Aircraft Standbys, 1 Smoke Removal, 1 Outside Trash Fire, 1 Hazmat Call, 1 Vehicle Fire, and 5 False Alarms. The department conducted 0 Fire Inspections, 0 Pre Plan, and issued 1 burn permit. The Fire Department conducted 768 hours of in-house training and 64 hours of out of station training.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

The building inspection department issued 7 permits the month of May. Permits issued: 2 Electrical Permits, 2 Plumbing Permits, 1 Building Permit, 1 Land Disturbance Permit and 1 Sign Permit. During this same period there were 4 Electrical Inspections, 2 Plumbing Inspections, 1 Demo Inspection, 1 Building Inspection, 2 Roofing Inspections, 2 Driveway Inspections and 1 Porch/Deck Inspection.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of April 2023. The department recorded:

924	Calls for Service
251	Vehicle Traffic Stops
104	Incident Reports were filed
248	City Court cases made
27	Traffic accidents were investigated
72	People were arrested for various charges
23	Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
312	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 April 2022 are as follows:

	April	March
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	1	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	14	10
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	1
Larceny/Theft:	12	5
Motor Vehicle Theft:	1	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	2
Fraud Offenses:	1	0
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	6	3
Drug Offenses:	15	12
Weapons Violations:	0	4
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crew placed the Industrial Tank back on line after outside restoration and painting was completed. The crews installed water taps and meters at 1238 Limo Road, 1744 Old Middleton Road and 1747 Athens Hwy. The crews began installation of a 4-inch water main to serve the Bailey Building on the square for sprinklers.

The crews painted the older piping on clearwells #1 and #2 at the Filter Plant. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new 750,000-gallon clearwell and high service pump station at the Filter Plant was held 5/25/23.

All operator licenses were renewed for the next 2 years. There are 20 water and wastewater licenses held by the Water/Wastewater staff.

ELECTRIC:

The Electric Department replaced two poles on Crestview Drive for a new house. The department installed 3000' of underground wire for a new addition at Elbert County Elementary School. The department ran power to a new meter base feeding a sign at Beaverdam School. The department set 3 poles and added a transformer at 1379 Washington Hwy for a new home. The department replaced and added a new pole at Modern Stoneville's new shed on Old Middleton Road. The department replaced 3 poles at 2324 Lexington Hwy for a new shop and future home site. The department finished up the month by replacing 4 bad poles on Carey Street.

GAS:

The Department is currently painting meters, farm taps, and regulator stations on the Hartwell Hwy. The

Department held its annual Liaison Meeting at the Elberton Arts Center for local officials and also attended the Liaison Meeting at the City of Hartwell.

Gas In-Home Sales and Service for FY2023

	Ju l	Aug	Se p	Oc t	No v	De c	Ja n	Fe b	Mar	Ap r	Ma y	Ju n	YT D
New Customers Installed	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		2
Existing Customers Serviced	1	0	0	1	3	4	4	1	2	0	1		17
Total	1	0	0	1	5	4	4	1	2	0	1		19

Appliances installed, repaired, replaced, or serviced for FY2023

	Ju l	Au g	Se p	Oc t	No v	De c	Ja n	Fe b	Mar	Ap r	May	Jun	YT D
Water Heaters	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0		7
All Other Appliance	0	0	0	0	4	3	4	1	0	0	1		13
Total	1	0	0	1	5	5	4	1	2	0	1		20

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the Construction Crew continued work on the new apartments at 9 N. McIntosh Street. The Street Department assisted with demolition of pavement in the alleyway behind the Bailey Building, and will restore the pavement in June once the water department has completed a new sprinkler line.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

The 2nd Annual Spring Fling was held on Saturday, April 29. This year’s event had lots of new craft vendors and food vendors. The event was well attended by the community. The participating vendors said they did great and will be returning in the fall.

The May First Friday concert was canceled by the band due to rain, but the band rescheduled for the Fall Festival so no money was lost due to the weather. The second First Friday concert is scheduled for June 2 from 7:00 pm to 10 pm on the downtown square. Entertainment will be the Second Time Around Band.

New event cards were published for the 2023 events. They will be added to event bags and also distributed to the local welcome center, to local hotels, and to the welcome center on I-85.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 43 events at the Elbert Theatre and Elberton Arts Center from Apr. 18 to May 25 including Encore Productions’ *Hello, Dolly!* rehearsals and performances & *Murder on the Orient Express* rehearsals; Action Staffing’s Meeting; *Dungeons & Dragons & Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret* movies; Toccoa Council Meeting; ETF’s paint class & *A Gift to Remember* Open Reading; Comer Elementary movie field trips and Elbert Co Library’s Authors Event.

Approximately 1,635 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre and Elberton Arts Center between April 18 and May 25.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%	40.1%	48.0%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	34.0%	46.7%	53.9%
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	31.5%	49.0%	53.6%
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%
February	29.0%	26.6%	33.1%	32.7%	39.2%	40.5%
March	37.9%	35.0%	19.2%	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%
April	32.3%	40.5%	4.7%	38.5%	46.8%	60.0%
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	43.7%	49.9%	
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	38.5%	41.5%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	33.2%	41.1%	44.7%

April's occupancy rate set a record for the property since inception in 2017 at 60.0%. The month of May could end the month at another record level at just over 60%. This is in spite of having 2 rooms unavailable due to lack of HVAC.

The HVAC project has begun with material being ordered and some interior piping being re-routed. One floor will be shut down the week of June 5 to begin replacement on that floor.

Since City Attorney was absent, Acting City Attorney Whetsel advised Council there was no update on the dilapidated housing at this time.

There were no matters to be considered by Council.

Mayor Graves extended his condolences to the family of Winston Heard. He also reminded Council of the Juneteenth celebration at the Jim-Ree African American Museum to be held on June 17 from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Mr. Jimmy White also updated Council on the celebration.

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