# CITY OF ELBERTON REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Monday, March 1, 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, March 1, 2021 at City Hall, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

The City of Elberton announced February 24, 2021 that the location of its regular meetings would be moving back to City Hall.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, and Parham; 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 and prayer.

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

There were no speakers from the floor or Ordinance and Resolutions to consider.

Council Member Butler made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as follows, which was seconded by Council Member Burton. The motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, Parham).

1. Approval of expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.

| Department: Police Department  |             |             |  |  |
|--|-------------|-------------|--|--|
| Two (2) new full size 4-door RWD or AWD utility police pursuit vehicles. |             |             |  |  |
| Vendor:  |             | Bid Amount: |  |  |
| Allen Vigil Ford   | RECOMMENDED | \$67,294.00 |  |  |
| Brannen Motor Co   |             | \$67,900.00 |  |  |
| Akins Ford \$77,684.00   |             |             |  |  |
| Jefferson Motor Co   |             | No bid.     |  |  |

| Department: Elberton Utilities - Water Division   |                          |  |  |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| One (1) new ¾ ton full size 4x4 pickup truck with extended or super cab. Replaces a Ford F-250 placed in service in 2007. |                          |  |  |
| Vendor:   | Bid Amount:              |  |  |
| Ed Murdock Superstores RECOMMENDED  | \$28,620.00              |  |  |
| Griffin Chevy   | \$32,570.00              |  |  |
| Allen Vigil Ford  | No bid. No availability. |  |  |

| Jefferson Motor Co | No bid. No availability. |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
|--------------------|--------------------------|

# Department: Elberton Utilities - Natural Gas & Water Divisions

Two (2) new full size 4x4 crew cab ton-and-a-half trucks, dually, with no bed. Replaces a Ford F-450 placed in service in 2011 (gas) and a Ford F-350 placed in service in 2010.

| Vendor:                |             | Bid Amount:              |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Ed Murdock Superstores | RECOMMENDED | \$90,408.00              |
| Akins Ford             |             | No bid. No availability. |
| Allen Vigil Ford       |             | No bid. No availability. |
| Jefferson Motor Co     |             | No bid. No availability  |

## Department: Elberton Utilities – Natural Gas Division

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) for 8,500 feet of 6", 4", and 2" natural gas pipeline construction in the Northeast Phase 3 project (Rock Branch Rd. to Ruckersville Rd.)

| Vendor:              |             | Bid Amount:  |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Nav-Tech             | RECOMMENDED | \$130,000.00 |
| Electricom           |             | \$130,775.00 |
| Kramer Service Group |             | \$147,500.00 |

## Department: Elberton Utilities – Natural Gas Division

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) natural gas pipe for Northeast Expansion Project Phase 3: 9,500 feet of 6", 11,000 feet of 4", and 17,500 feet of 2". 40,000 feet of #10 tracer wire and 32,000 feet of detectable tape.

| Vendor:   | Bid Amount:  |
|---|--------------|
| General Utilities Pipe & Supply Co. RECOMMENDED | \$103,355.00 |
| Irby Utilities                                  | \$126,030.16 |
| Consolidated Pipe & Supply                      | \$139,876.00 |

2. Authorized the closing of the public square to vehicular traffic for the Spring Fling on Saturday, April 24, 2021. The event is hosted by Main Street Elberton.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending January 31, 2021.
- City Manager Dunn reported on the bid opening that was held on February 11, 2021 with regard to the Medical Drive Storm Draining Improvement Project. He stated that the bids came in much higher than expected at between \$543,000 and \$678,000. The anticipated cost was between \$350,000 and \$400,000. He stated that they were looking a possible ways to scale back the project.

## CITY CLERK:

Georgia Arbor Day was celebrated by a proclamation signing and tree planting on February 19. The City of Elberton has received its Tree City designation for the 15<sup>TH</sup> year in a row.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 47 alarm calls for the month of February, 2021. These calls consisted of 3 Vehicle Accidents, 36 Medical Emergencies, 2 Structure Fires, 1 Gas Leak, 1 Service Call, and 4 False Alarms. The department conducted 1 Pre Plan and issued 2 burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 567 hours of in-house training and 40 hours out of station training for the month.

## **BUILDING INSPECTOR:**

The building inspection department issued 13 permits for the month of February, 2021. Permits issued: 1 Building Permit, 2 Mechanical Permits, 1 Reroof Permit, 1 Sign Permit and 8 Electrical Permits. During this same period there were 8 electrical inspections, 1 Reroof inspection, 2 mechanical inspections, 1 sign inspection along with 15 site visits.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

- 742 Calls for Service
- 146 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 94 Incident Reports were filed
- 89 City Court cases made
- 10 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 66 People were arrested for various charges
- 2 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 40 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 January 2021 are as follows:

|                         | January 2021 | December 2020 | % Change +/-     |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
|                         |              |               |                  |
| Kidnapping:             | 0            | 0             | No Change        |
| Rape Offenses:          | 2            | 0             | Up by 2 offenses |
| Robbery:                | 0            | 0             | No Change        |
| Assault:                | 8            | 9             | Down 11%         |
| Arson                   | 0            | 0             | No Change        |
| Burglary:               | 7            | 1             | Up 600%          |
| Larceny/Theft:          | 9            | 12            | Down 25%         |
| Motor vehicle theft:    | 0            | 2             | Down 100%        |
| Counterfeiting/Forgery: | 3            | 4             | Down 25%         |
| Fraud Offenses:         | 2            | 2             | No Change        |

| Stolen Property Offenses: | 0        | 2 | Down 100% |
|---------------------------|----------|---|-----------|
| Destruction/Damage/Vand   | lalism:0 | 3 | Down 100% |
| Drug Offenses:            | 6        | 5 | Up 20%    |
| 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 at 1042 Ruckersville Road and 1311 Bowman Highway. The crews installed a ¾ inch water tap and meter at 1236 Washington Highway. The Industrial Tank was taken out of service to be painted and replacement of the level indicator system. The tank is expected to be off line for 4-6 weeks. The work is being done by Utility Services.

The crews cleaned and inspected sewer mains within the sewer system. The crews cleaned sewer services at 624 Elbert Street, 125 South Oliver Street, 136 South Thomas Street and 1091 Porter Drive. The crews replaced the level control solenoid at the Pulliam Street lift station. The crews performed preventative maintenance at the Mill Street lift station.

Contractors completed work on the #4 filter at the Filter Plant and it was placed back in service on February 4, 2021.

#### **ELECTRIC:**

During the month of February the Electric department changed out 20 poles on the Allen Logan line to serve a new granite operation at the old quarry site. The department also pulled 32 poles and disposed of them this month. The department also had to change out a pole on North Oliver due to an auto accident.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

The Street Department installed a new storm drain at 739 Old Mineral Springs Rd. The Construction crew started on repainting and new flooring at the Elberton Utilities and Customer Service Center building.

#### **NATURAL GAS:**

The Gas Department has been performing routine maintenance on the system and performing required inspections in advance of starting new construction again on Northeast Phase 3 in early spring.

#### MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

The month of February has been spent preparing for the upcoming 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Fling to be held downtown on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am-4pm. The community seems to be excited about the event and we are having applications turned in daily for vendor spots.

The Main Street manager completed and passed the first 4 week course of Main Street America. The course covered advanced principles of sustainable organization. The course was broken up in to three sections, Promote, Partnership Development, and Coalitions, Foster Active Community

Engagement/Volunteer Development and Developing Diverse Funding Structure/Aligning Resources.

Lead Elbert met on February 9. Our community focus of the day was HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES. In the morning, we heard from different health related service providers in the area. In the afternoon, we focused on the skillset: maximizing your personal potential. We were fortunate to have Life Coach Mollie Drury to lead us in the afternoon facilitation.

## **ELBERT THEATRE:**

There were 23 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center including ECCHS' One-Act rehearsals, Encore's Hank Williams: Lost Highway rehearsals, 9 to 5 Open Reading, Beauty & the Beast Jr Auditions and rehearsals, ETF's paint class & board meeting, and COE's Council meeting from Jan 26-Feb 23.

Approximately 39 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Jan 26-Feb 23.

## **ELBERT HOTEL:**

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

|           | <u>FY18</u> | FY19  | <u>FY20</u> | FY21  |
|-----------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| July      | 29.5%       | 38.8% | 47.2%       | 31.4% |
| August    | 33.8%       | 33.3% | 50.2%       | 33.9% |
| 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%       |       |
| March     | 37.9%       | 35.0% | 19.2%       |       |
| April     | 32.3%       | 40.5% | 4.7%        |       |
| May       | 43.1%       | 52.7% | 10.5%       |       |
| June      | 36.4%       | 50.4% | 19.8%       |       |
| AVERAGE   | 35.4%       | 39.1% | 30.6%       | 30.3% |
|           |             |       |             |       |

Sales at The Quarry Plates and Pours restaurant inside the hotel re-opened after the holidays on Tuesday, January 4 with new hours. The restaurant is now open for three meals each day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner/bar) four days a week, Tuesday through Friday. The new hours have helped to boost sales and are easier to manage being open only four days per week.

New menu options were added in February during the evening period, and more options are planned to be launched soon. Business was definitely slower during the cold, wet days of February but began to pick up the last week of the month with sunny, warmer weather.

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

Matters to be considered by Council.

- Council Member Butler thanked the Linecrew for going to assist North Carolina last week due to the anticipation of bad weather.
- Council Member Butler also thanked the Public Works crews for painting the yellow curbing in the various wards.

There being no further business to come before Council, upon proper motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

|            | Mayor |  |
|------------|-------|--|
| ATTEST:    |       |  |
|            |       |  |
| City Clerk |       |  |