

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ELBERTON CITY COUNCIL
Monday, April 7, 2008 – 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council convened at 5:30 p. m. on Monday, April 7, 2008 in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Seymour, and Paul; City Attorney Phelps, City Manager Dunn and City Clerk Churney.

Mayor Guest called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro tempore Colquitt led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and City Attorney Phelps led the assembly in prayer. Mayor Guest welcomed the visitors to the meeting.

Council Member Butler motioned to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2008 meeting as submitted, seconded by Council Member Paul and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports. Controller Kim Greenway presented the Financial Report through February 2008 with the following net assets:

General Fund	\$ 3.638 million
Utility Fund	\$ 22 million
Elberton Technology Services Fund	\$ 1.8 million net loss
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 264,098
Unrestricted Investments-General Fund and Utility Fund	\$ 2.85 million
Restricted Investments (SPLOST & Utility Funds)	\$ 883,000

Mayor Guest asked if there were any speakers from the floor. Mr. Tracy Fortson with the Boys and Girls Club was scheduled to speak but was not present at the meeting. Ms. Rosanne Davis with Housing and Economic Leadership Partners (HELP) was scheduled to speak. Ms. Davis updated Council on the progress of the Oglesby Boulevard development. She stated that they are ready to begin building two of the nine houses. Council inquired as to the progress of the Samuel Elbert Hotel project. Ms. Davis stated that they were still working on additional funding for the project. Mr. John Foote asked to speak to Council. Council Member Paul motioned to hear Mr. Foote, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Foote of 152 Forest Avenue asked Council to consider having a plant, wildlife, and pedestrian survey completed on Forest Hills Park area as well as an economic benefits assessment completed. He stated that with proper planning the area could be used as a tourist destination at minimal cost to the city. He gave several possible examples of uses for the park such as butterfly garden, rose garden, botanical garden, bird watching, nature study, sculpture garden and fitness club outings. After discussion, Council thanked Mr. Foote for his ideas.

Council Member Seymour introduced the following Resolution for second and final reading:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The City of Elberton and the Downtown Development Authority have worked for many years to revitalize the historic McIntosh Street off the public square; and

WHEREAS: The City of Elberton was awarded a Rural Business Enterprise grant from United States Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$50,000 to be used to construct a parking lot in downtown Elberton; and

WHEREAS: This project will create/save jobs in this area and boost the economy in Elberton, Georgia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Elberton, Georgia hereby agrees to purchase the following parcel of land on James Street for this project:

Parcel Description

A parcel or land consisting of 0.06 acres, more or less, identified as Elbert County tax map number E11-089, owned by the Elberton Downtown Development Authority, for the selling price of \$22,543.35.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk are authorized to execute the necessary documents to effectuate this purchase of land for the proposed parking lot project.

Council Member Seymour motioned to waive the formal reading of the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion passed unanimously. Council Member Paul motioned to adopt the Resolution as presented, seconded by Council Member Seymour and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Guest asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent agenda to be discussed further. Council Member Paul asked to remove item 7 from the consent agenda. The consent agenda was adopted as amended with the removal of item 7.

- 1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the City Managers purchasing authority as follows:

Public Works – Infrastructure Construction (SPLOST)
Install/replace of 60 linear feet of 36” storm drain on Edwards Street.
Includes labor, equipment, and material.
(COE will replace cut curbing and asphalt.)

Cedar Farms and Construction, Inc. (Division of Tugaloo Pipeline)	Recommended	\$12,000.00
Dodd Construction Company, Inc.		\$17,500.00

2. Approved the dues, travel and training for all city departments as follows:

➤ **Mayor**

Larry Guest
Electric Cities of Georgia
2008 Annual Meeting
Savannah, GA
April 16-18, 2008
Registration: \$175.00
Lodging/Travel: \$250.00

Scott Marunich & Joseph Evans
Judgmental Use of Deadly Force
Forsyth, GA
April 28-30, 2008 *24-hour course*
Registration: None
Lodging/Travel: \$234.00

➤ **City Manager**

Lanier Dunn
Electric Cities of Georgia
2008 Annual Meeting
Savannah, GA
April 16-18, 2008
Registration: \$175.00
Lodging/Travel: \$250.00

Brian Jones, Scott Marunich, Allen Lee
Field Training Officer Program
McDonough, GA
May 5 -9, 2008 *40-hour course*
Registration: None
Lodging/Travel: \$425.00/each

➤ **City Clerk**

Cindy Churney
IIMC Annual Clerks Conference
Atlanta, GA
May 18-22, 2008 *20-hour course*
Registration: \$510.00
Lodging/Travel: \$600.00

Stephanie Hughes & Luke Mize
Survival Spanish for Uniformed
Interdiction
Meridian, MS
May 19-22, 2008 *32-hour course*
Registration: None

➤ **City Marshal**

Jeff Algood
Internal Affairs Investigations Course
Forsyth, GA
April 7-11, 2008 *40-hour course*
Registration: None
Lodging/Travel: \$230.00

Mike Seymour, Jimmy Jordan, Jeff Hunt,
Sam Hill, Mark Welsh
Breath Alcohol Training –
Recertification
Athens, GA
May 19, 2008 *4-hours*
Registration: None

➤ **Police**

GA Police Accreditation Coalition, Inc.
Elberton Police Department
Membership for 2008
Dues: \$50.00

➤ **Utilities - Electric Division**

Ron Ethridge
Electric Cities of Georgia
2008 Annual Meeting
Savannah, GA
April 16-18, 2008
Registration: \$175.00
Lodging/Travel: \$250.00

➤ **Gas Division**

Leon Miller
Certified Welder Refresher Course
Gainesville, GA (*evening classes*)
May 27, 2008 – July 28, 2008
Registration: \$200.00

Brian Jones
On Scene Traffic Accident Level II
Forsyth, GA
April 14-18, 2008 *40-hour course*
Registration: None
Lodging/Travel: \$195.00

Charles Truitt and Michael Sheppard
Pipeline Operators of Georgia
Macon, GA
April 8-10, 2008
Registration: \$200.00
Travel/Lodging: \$510.00

Charles Truitt and David Hudson
2008 Annual Meeting - MGAG
Callaway Gardens, GA
April 30-May 2, 2008
Registration: \$310.00
Travel/Lodging: \$696.00

➤ **Water Division**
Branon Young
Water Class II Training
Carrollton, GA
April 28-May 1, 2008
Registration: \$245.00
Travel/Lodging: \$392.00

➤ **Telecomm Division**
Danny Hall
Two-day hands on Technical Training
Atlanta, GA
April 15-16, 2008
Registration: \$650.00
Travel/Lodging: \$155.00

3. Accepted the minutes and decisions of the Elberton Historic Preservation Commission of March 18, 2008.
4. Accepted the minutes, decisions and recommendations of the Elberton Planning Commission of March 17, 2008.
5. Authorized the closing of a portion of North McIntosh Street to traffic on April 25, 2008 at 1 p.m. for the Jim-Ree African Museum and Main Street Elberton Promotions Committee for a free Jazz Concert.
6. Authorized the City Manager and/or City Clerk to execute the property and liability insurance annual policy renewal with Travelers.
7. The authorization for the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute the necessary documents to participate in the Piedmont Northern Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad was removed for further discussion.
8. Authorized the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute a Right-of-way Agreement with G.D.O.T. for the Clairmont Avenue project.
9. Concurred with the Mayor's appointment of Ms. Carol Seymour to the Elberton Housing Authority Board.
10. Concurred with the Mayor's appointment of Mr. Mac Geter to the Elberton Planning Commission.

Council Member Paul removed item 7 of the Consent Agenda with regard to renewing the Piedmont Northern Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad contract. Council inquired as to the cost of the service and the return that the city received from the service. City Manager Dunn stated that the cost was the same as last year. He also stated that the agency was an avenue to investigate drug related issues, which we do not currently have in-house. Council Member Colquitt inquired as to why the Police and Sheriff's department did not work together on drug issues. Council Member Paul

asked why Elbert County didn't participate in the program. Mayor Guest called on County Commission Chair Tommy Lyon who was in the audience. Commission Chair Lyon stated that the Sheriff's office had a great informant program in place and did not see the need in outsourcing it. He did add that he would encourage both agencies to work together on the drug issues. Council Member Seymour stated that they have not been able to work together in the past due to "personality conflicts". Commission Chair Lyon added that maybe they could work something out. Council Member Paul motioned to approve item 7 as submitted, seconded by Council Member Seymour and the motion passed with (Hunt and Colquitt voting "against" the motion) and (Paul, Seymour and Butler voting "for" the motion).

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports to Council:

- City Manager Dunn stated that the NAS-RAC equipment was installed on March 26. ElbertonNET has launched HDTV in addition to channels on every service package.
- City Manager Dunn stated that there was some concern last week with the Atlanta Braves choosing to move some of their games in 2008 and 2009 off of TBS and on to the new local Atlanta station Peachtree TV. ElbertonNET is not allowed to carry Peachtree TV because we are not in the Atlanta DMA. However, that station will give us a special feed just for the 45 scheduled Braves games. They will be on ElbertonNET Channel 21.
- City Manager Dunn discussed the hail damage. The City of Elberton experienced some property damage during the hail storm on March 15.
- City Manager Dunn stated that the new electric bucket truck has arrived and has been placed in service. This truck replaces the 17 year old truck.
- City Manager Dunn stated that the James Street project is progressing.
- City Manager Dunn asked for direction from Council on clearing of Forest Hills Park area. Council recommended continuing with mulching and try to get clubs and other organization involved.
- Monthly reports and activities of the various departments.
- State of the City Report.

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney. Council Member Hunt motioned to accept the property located on the Calhoun Falls Highway known as the Armory property as recommended by City Attorney Phelps, seconded by Mayor Pro tempore Colquitt and the motion passed unanimously.

Other matters to be considered by Council. Council Member Seymour inquired about the DOT project on Clairmont Avenue. Council Member Hunt asked could we pro-rate the Mans Unit program. Mayor Pro tempore Colquitt commented on the negative job growth which was reported in the Georgia Trend data on Elbert County. Council Member Butler stated for the record that the he had spoken to Randy Haralson with the Elberton Airport on the airports capacity for corporate jets. He reported that the airport had been extended in 1994 and could accommodate up to a 10 passenger corporate jet. The airport currently has 4000 feet runway and would like to expand to 5000 feet in the future.

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

Mayor

ATTEST: _____ City Clerk