

CITY OF ELBERTON
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, June 1, 2020 – 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 1, 2020 at the Elberton Arts Center, 17 West Church Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

The City of Elberton announced May 26, 2020 a change to the location of its regular meeting of the Mayor and Council for June 1. Due to the Governor’s executive order restricting public gatherings, the meeting will be held at the Elberton Arts Center, located at 17 West Church Street, which is a larger venue than City Hall.

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

Mayor Guest 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 FY21 proposed budget. Mayor Guest asked if there were any comments on the proposed budget. There being none, Council Member Butler motioned to adjourn the public hearing. Council Member Prince seconded the motion and the motion to adjourn the public hearing passed unanimously (Burton, Butler, Prince, Parham, Colquitt).

Mayor Guest called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. He led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Council Member Parham motioned to approve the minutes of the May 4 meeting, seconded by Council Member Prince and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

There were no speakers from the floor.

Council Member Butler introduced the following Resolution for consideration:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton on May 28, 2020, after due and legal notice, reviewed the Annual Budget estimate for Fiscal Year 2021 as prepared by the City Manager in accordance with Section 33 of the Charter; and

WHEREAS: The General Fund budget is proposed at \$5,152,365; and

WHEREAS: The Solid Waste Fund budget is proposed at \$905,616; and

WHEREAS: The Combined Public Utilities System Fund budget is proposed at \$23,750,832; and

WHEREAS: The ElbertonNET Technology Services Fund budget is proposed at \$5,501,196; and

WHEREAS: The Hotel/Motel Tax Special Revenue Fund budget is proposed at \$80,000; the 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Capital Projects Fund budget is proposed at \$630,200; the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Capital Projects Fund budget is proposed at \$514,200; the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund is proposed \$26,115; the Elbert Hotel Enterprise Fund is proposed at \$500,000; and the Elbert Theatre Enterprise Fund is proposed at \$185,100; and

WHEREAS: The rates and fees schedule of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget is hereby included as Attachment "A"; and

WHEREAS: The total combined Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$37,245,624.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, and it is hereby resolved that the Mayor and Council do officially approve and adopt the aforementioned Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 as submitted including the rates and fees schedule designated Attachment "A".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, and/or City Clerk are authorized and directed to execute the necessary documents in order to enact actions authorized by Council with the adoption of this Annual Budget.

This 1st day of June, 2020.

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

Council Member Burton place Ordinance 2208 on second reading to annex 1010 Campbell Street into the corporate limits of Elberton:

ORDINANCE 2208

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1010 CAMPBELL STREET PURSUANT TO THAT CERTAIN ACT (GEORGIA LAW. 1962, P. 119) AUTHORIZING SAME UPON WRITTEN AND SIGNED APPLICATION OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF SAID LAND; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Council Member Burton motioned to waive the reading, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion to waive passed unanimously. City Manager Dunn read the Ordinance in its entirety at the May meeting. Council Member Burton motioned to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion pass unanimously (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince, Colquitt).

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

1. Authorized the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute the necessary documents with Rushton & Company for FY2020 audit services. The fee is the same as the last six years, \$36,900.
2. Authorized the City Manager to execute the necessary documents for a loan from the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund to I.A.K. Company, Inc., for the purchase of 17 N. McIntosh Street.
3. Authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents for an Inter-participant Transfer Agreement among the City of Elberton, the City of Washington, and MEAG Power for up to 6 megawatts for 24 months.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending April 30, 2020
- Monthly report on the activities of various departments as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The deadline for submitting the 2020 occupational tax license renewals was extended to May 31, 2020 due to various businesses being closed during COVID-19.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Christopher Eaves has been hired at the Elberton Fire Department. He has already received his Firefighter 1 certification. He has also volunteered with the department for the past two years.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 30 alarm calls for the month of May 2020. These calls consisted of 1 Vehicle Accident, 20 Medical Emergencies, 3 False Alarms, 1 Vehicle Fire, 1 Aircraft Standby, 1 Vehicle Fire, 1 Trash Fire, and 2 Service Calls. The department issued 2 burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 394 hours of in-house training for the month as well.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

The building inspection department issued 8 permits for the month of May, 2020. The department issued 1 Building Permit, 5 Electrical Permits, 1 sign permit, and 1 roof permit. During this same period there were 2 Building Inspections, 5 Electrical Inspections, and 10 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of April 2020. The department recorded:

- 532 Calls for Service
- 43 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 54 Incident Reports were filed
- 26 City Court cases made
- 19 Traffic accidents were investigated

- 12 People were arrested for various charges
- 1 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 168 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 2020 are as follows:

	April 2020	March 2020	% Change +/-
Kidnapping:	0	1	Down 100%
Rape Offenses:	0	0	No Change
Robbery:	0	0	No Change
Assault:	7	6	Up 16.6%
Burglary:	0	1	Down 100%
Larceny/Theft:	4	9	Down 55.5%
Motor vehicle theft:	0	0	No Change
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	0	0	No Change
Fraud Offenses:	0	0	No Change
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	4	4	No Change
Drug Offenses:	3	12	Down 75%
Weapons Violations:	0	0	No Change
Animal Cruelty	0	0	No Change

These are showing a remarkable reduction in calls for service and crimes mainly due to issues involving the COVID 19 Pandemic. This clearly shows the dramatic effect this crisis has had on society in relation to criminal justice issues. The difference in statistics between January 2020 and April 2020 are as follows:

	April 2020	January 2020	% Change +/-
Calls for Service	532	1,194	Down 55%
Vehicle Traffic Stops	43	473	Down 91
Incident Reports filed	54	124	Down 56%
City Court cases made	26	322	Down by 92%
Traffic accidents	19	17	Up by 12%
Various Arrests	12	97	Down by 88%
Drug Related Charges	3	11	Down by 73%
DUI Arrests	1	11	Down by 91%

The Group A crimes of the (NIBRS) National Incident Based Reporting System are sent to the

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks on Village Road and Georgia White Road. The crews replaced the angle valve at 1155 Middleton Church Road. The crews installed ¾" water taps at 2543 Athens Highway, 1146 Willie Black Road and 1151 Jack McVeigh Road. The crews drained Tower Lane Water Tank for cleaning and inspection by Utility Services. The crews replaced the phase monitor at the Bowman Highway booster pump station.

Work was started by AllSouth Constructors on the Tower Lane Tank to install an altitude valve that would help control tank levels at Tower Lane and increase tank levels when needed at National Guard Tank and

the Industrial Tank. However this project has been put on hold due to issues with existing valves in the system not closing completely.

The crews cleaned and inspected sewer mains in the sewer system. The crews painted Country Manor, Industrial Park and Pulliam Street lift stations. The crews made repairs to Country Manor lift station.

The crews installed new spigots on the clarifiers at the Fortson's Creek Treatment Plant. The crews installed a new grease pump on the #2 screw pump at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant.

AllSouth Constructors began work on the chemical feed upgrades at the Filter Plant. The contractors have installed the fluoride exhaust fan system, electrical controls for the carbon feed system and a section of the bulk bag rack. The crews relocated the fluoride feed system to the lower level of the Filter Plant to make room for the new carbon feed system. The crews replaced the micro control switch on the #2 high service pump at the Filter Plant.

ELECTRIC:

During the month of May the Electric Department finished pulling in the .336 new aluminum wire on the Hartwell Hwy. This was the last section of wire to be pulled on Zone A of circuit 1532. All that is left of this project is removing the old wire and it will be complete.

The department changed out 3 old poles on Willie Black Road and added an underground line to serve a new house and an existing home. The department also installed a new section of underground cable at Wildwood Apartments that went bad due to age. The department built a new overhead line and installed 2 spans of primary to feed a new house being built on the Lexington Hwy. and also installed a transformer on Jack McVeigh Drive for a house that is under construction.

CITY MARSHAL:

This office investigated a report of a natural gas vent pipe that was damaged by a tractor trailer in the yard of a residence on Bowman Hwy.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The Street Division replaced 40 feet of 30-inch stormwater pipe on Mattox Drive. The department poured 3 yards of concrete to replace 20 feet of sidewalk on Mattox Drive. The department continues to paint over the center line on Jones Street.

The Construction Division continued the renovation of 17 N. McIntosh Street. The crew completed the interior painting and installed lighting.

NATURAL GAS:

The Natural Gas Department installed 3 new residential services on Nickville Road, Sand Hill Road, and Deep Creek Road.

The department continues work on the Northeast Expansion Phase 2 project. This project consists of 43,500 feet of new pipeline from 6" to 2" in size. About 70% of the pipeline has been installed by trenching or boring. About 60% of the new pipeline has been activated with gas service. Pipeline

installation will continue at least through the end of June, and then installation of the three poultry farms plus residential customers will begin. The onsite piping to one farm is already complete. Four residential customers and one commercial customer have paid for new gas taps on the new line.

MAIN STREET:

The month of May has been very slow as have the past two months during the COVID-19 pandemic. Main Street sends out updates to all of our local small businesses letting them know of everything that is being offered to help. We have also created a Facebook page for our business owners to be able to access all of this information easily.

Many of our small businesses are using other creative measures to keep their business afloat such as Facebook Live sales where people can still purchase items from them and then the items can be shipped or picked up while still practicing social distancing. Our restaurants are also offering take-out, curbside pick-up and delivery.

All Main Street activities have been canceled until further notice. We are currently looking in to the success of future events once everything reopens and what precautions will need to be taken.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were no events during the month of May as the Elbert Theatre and Elberton Arts Center were both closed.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%
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%	
June	36.4%	50.4%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	33.7%

The property remained open on a limited basis between March 21 and April 3, at which time it closed. The property re-opened on Monday, April 27.

All future group events that were pre-booked in 2020 have cancelled with refunds given, with the exception of one wedding in June that was moved in July. That booking is expected to be significantly

diminished. We believe there will be no weddings, family reunions, or class reunions during the summer which traditionally has been the property's busiest time.

The hotel restaurant, The Quarry Plates and Pours, is scheduled to open on June 1 for lunch only. Inside and outside dining plus carry-out will be available. New health department restrictions will have to be observed including all employees wearing masks. If this opening is marginally successful, we will consider adding evening service. The bar has to remain closed, and the breakfast buffet is not permitted either by the Health Dept. guidelines.

City Manager Dunn added that Police Chief Mark Welsh was working with a group that was planning a peaceful demonstration in Elberton this weekend. A copy of the Parades and Assemblies Permit Requirements as well as the Noise Ordinance was provided to Council for informational purposes. City Manager Dunn also provided Council with an employee salary relative to pay grade range chart as discussed at the budget hearing last week.

City Manager Dunn provided Council with a policy on employee classification of elected officials and the procurement of employee benefits for elected officials to consider. The purpose of the policy is to define the employee classification of the elected officials for tax reporting purposes and to establish a policy authorizing the City Manager to procure employee benefits for elected officials who are not considered full-time employees. Council Member Butler motioned to approve the plan, seconded by Council Member Parham and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney:

- Dilapidated housing report.

There were no additional matters to be presented by Council.

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