

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ELBERTON MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, July 9, 2012 - 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, July 9, 2012 in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Paul and Seymour; City Attorney Phelps, and City Clerk Churney. Absent was: City Manager Dunn was not feeling well prior to the meeting.

Mayor Guest called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro tem Butler led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and Council Member Paul led in prayer.

Council Member Seymour motioned to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2012 and June 14, 2012 meetings as submitted, seconded by Council Member Hunt and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Paul, Seymour).

Reports. Controller Eavenson presented the Financial Report through May 2012 as enclosed for review.

General Fund	\$ 4.6 million
Combined Utilities Fund	\$ 25.9 million
Elberton Technology Services Fund	\$ 765,429 net loss
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 222,860
Unrestricted Investments-General Fund and Utility Fund	\$ 4.5 million
Restricted Investments (SPLOST & Utility Funds)	\$ 2 million

Mr. Mack Geter, 538-B Jones Street, spoke on behalf of the Westside Neighborhood Watch. He stated that there were various properties located within the neighborhood that were in very poor condition. He added that there were also some dilapidated vehicles and other debris in the community as well. Mr. Geter discussed the condition of 524 Jones Street, 520 Jones Street and 650 Pulliam Street. Mayor Guest stated that the City Marshal, Building Inspector and City Attorney maintained a list of "dilapidated housing status report" monthly. He asked City Attorney Phelps to discuss the procedure for this process. City Attorney Phelps discussed the procedures as follows:

- Complaint is filed;
- City Marshal and Building Inspector inspect the property to determine what needs to be done to bring the property to code;
- A letter is sent to the property owner and all interested parties specifying the condition of the property;
- If no action is done within the time limit set, the complaint is then referred to the City Attorney for action;
- City Attorney files an action for a hearing on the property to be heard by Superior Court;
- During this process, the City Marshal and Building Inspector are obtaining estimates on costs involved in bringing the property to code;
- City Attorney represents City at the hearing. It is up to the Judge to give the property owner an extension or effectuate the code.

Mayor Guest thanked Mr. Geter for his concern and advised that staff would review the properties discussed above.

Council Member Paul placed Ordinance 2176 on first reading.

ORDINANCE 2175

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Clerk Churney read the Ordinance in its entirety.

Any other matters concerning Ordinances and Resolutions. Mayor Guest stated that Elbert County had submitted a Resolution for the Council to adopt the updated hazard mitigation plan. Mayor Guest recommended council to review the plan prior to its consideration at the August meeting.

As privilege of the Chair, Mayor Guest removed item 2 from the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro tem Butler motioned to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Colquitt and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Paul, Seymour).

1. Approved the dues, travel and training for all city departments.
2. Authorization for the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute the necessary documents with the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce for Tourism Services for FY13 was removed for further review.

The monthly report on the activities of the department was submitted prior by City Manager Dunn.

City Attorney Phelps stated that a hearing was scheduled for August for several dilapidated housing properties.

Council Member Seymour stated that he had received a petition from property owners on Tusten Street and Heard Drive with regard to placement of a speed bump due to their concerns with speeding and vehicles running the stop signs in the area. Police Chief Welsh stated that he had conducted a study of the area and found that the average speed ranged from 15 - 30 miles per hour with 398 vehicles entering the area per day. Police Chief Welsh recommended installing two "minor lifts" and increase enforcement activity in the area. Council Member Seymour motioned to install "minor lifts" to the area discussed above, seconded by Council Member Hunt. During discussion, Council Members Butler and Colquitt stated that they did not think the "minor lifts" would help. The motion fell with a vote of 2 for (Seymour and Hunt) and 3 against (Paul, Colquitt and Butler).

Council Member Hunt asked if the city had a campaign policy that required employees to take a leave of absence to campaign. He stated that previously when an employee campaigned for Sheriff they took a leave of absence. Mayor Guest stated that the policy states that employees may not campaign during working hours. It does not require employees to take a leave of absence. He stated that the previous employee chose to take a leave of absence in order to campaign full time. City Attorney Phelps added that working with the police department and campaigning for sheriff could be considered a conflict of interest. Council Member Colquitt added that he had previously inquired about signs on personal vehicles parked on city property. City Attorney Phelps stated that he recommended no signage on personal vehicles while conducting city business. Mayor Pro tem Butler recommended providing employees with a city vehicle to conduct city business. Mayor Guest stated that he would discuss the matter further with the City Attorney and City Manager.

There being no further business to come before Council, upon proper motion and second the meeting was adjourned (Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Paul, Seymour).