

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ELBERTON MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, November 5, 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, November 5, 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, City Manager Dunn and City Clerk Churney.

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.

Mayor Guest stated that city employees Toni King and Kevin Eavenson recently lost their grandmother Mrs. Mary Beth King. He asked for prayer for their families during this difficult time.

Mayor Pro tem Butler motioned to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2012 meeting as corrected, seconded by Council Member Paul and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Paul, Seymour). Correction: page 4, 3rd bullet point under monthly report, should read “bid” not bit.

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

General Fund	\$ 4.7 million
Combined Utilities Fund	\$ 25.9 million
Elberton Technology Services Fund	\$ 507,117 net loss
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 122,165
Unrestricted Investments-General Fund and Utility Fund	\$ 4.7 million
Restricted Investments (SPLOST & Utility Funds)	\$ 2.2 million

Mr. Tommy Lyon spoke on behalf of the Elbert County Board of Commissioners in regard to Stephens School property on Tate Street. He stated that the property was in disrepair and has become a safety hazard to the neighborhood. Elbert County has acquired an environmental study and the building contains asbestos. Asbestos removal is estimated at \$30,000 plus the cost of demolition. Elbert County does not have any plans for the property at this time other than making it safe for the neighborhood. Elbert County is offering for the city to take over the property at its present state at no cost, or after work has begun at the cost incurred. Mr. Chip Rousey requested to speak on the matter. Council Member Colquitt motioned to hear Mr. Rousey, seconded by Council Member Paul and the motion passed unanimously (Butler,

Colquitt, Hunt, Paul, Seymour). Mr. Rousey stated that he hoped the city and county would work together to preserve the property as a park which includes a basketball court since there was a playground adjacent to the property currently. Mr. Tommy Fields requested to speak on the matter as well. Mayor Pro tem Butler motioned to hear Mr. Fields, seconded by Council Member Seymour and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Paul, Seymour). Mr. Fields stated that he is a member of Calvery Presbyterian Church that is located in the neighborhood. He stated that he is proud of the neighborhoods participation in the monthly crime watch program and would like to see a park that would be appealing to the neighborhood on the property.

Mrs. Phyllis Brooks requested to speak on behalf of the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce. Council Member Paul motioned to hear Mrs. Brooks, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Butler and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Paul, Seymour). Mrs. Brooks thanked the City of Elberton and staff for their efforts on behalf of the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce with regard to the Granite City Fall Festival. Mrs. Brooks stated that it was the most attend festival and the city contributed to its success.

Council Member Paul introduced the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 1989 Georgia General Assembly enacted House Bill 215, the Georgia Planning Act, requiring all local governments to prepare a comprehensive plan in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures promulgated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Short Term Work Program (STWP) for the City of Elberton, Georgia, was prepared in accordance with the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Elberton that the STWP 2012 – 2017 dated June 2012, as approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs is hereby adopted, and furthermore, that the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission shall be notified of said adoption within seven (7) days of the adoption of this resolution.

City Manager Dunn read the Resolution in its entirety. Council Member Paul motioned to adopt the Resolution as read, seconded by Council Member Seymour and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Paul, Seymour).

Council Member Paul introduced Ordinance 2178 for first reading as follows:

ORDINANCE 2178

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY; TO AMEND CHAPTER 32 OF THE CODE IN ORDER TO REQUIRE ANY ENTITY TO OBTAIN PERMISSION PRIOR TO LAYING CABLES, WIRES, AND CONDUITS WITHIN THE CITY RIGHTS OF WAY; TO REQUIRE A PERMIT; TO PROVIDE INSTALLATION SPECIFICATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR RELOCATION; TO

REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO FIX AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Dunn read the Ordinance in its entirety.

Council Member Hunt introduced the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: Several residents of the Hillcrest Avenue area have asked the Mayor and Council to consider addressing a potential safety problem at the intersection of N. McIntosh Street and Hillcrest Avenue by the placement of a 4-way stop; and

WHEREAS: The Elberton Police Department supports this request with the placement of a 4-way stop sign; and

WHEREAS: Council concurs with this recommendation to designate a 4-way stop as described in Attachment A incorporated herein, and to amend the Official Traffic Map of the City of Elberton in accordance with Section 36-6, traffic schedules.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize the intersection of N. McIntosh Street and Hillcrest Avenue to be designated a 4-way stop and direct the City Manager to have this intersection marked by signs in accordance with this Resolution.

City Manager Dunn read the Resolution in its entirety. Council Member Hunt motioned to adopt the Resolution as read, seconded by Council Member Colquitt. During discussion, Council recommended staff establishing a master plan criteria with regard to traffic amendments. The motion passed with a vote of 3-2 (for: Colquitt, Hunt and Paul) (against: Butler and Seymour).

Council Member Colquitt introduced Ordinance 2179 for first reading as follows:

ORDINANCE 2179

AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ELBERTON RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF A LOCAL EXCISE TAX ON ENERGY USED IN MANUFACTURING; TO PROVIDE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPOSITION OF AN EXCISE TAX ON ENERGY SOLD OR USED IN MANUFACTURING; TO PROVIDE FOR RATES; TO PROVIDE FOR A PHASE-IN PERIOD; TO PROVIDE FOR A TIME FOR IMPOSITION; TO PROVIDE FOR RECOVERY OF THE EXCISE TAX; TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES; TO PROVIDE FOR AUDITS; TO PROVIDE FOR ALLOWED EXPENDITURES OF THE PROCEEDS; TO PROVIDE FOR TERMINATION; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE TO COMMENCE COLLECTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Council Member Colquitt motioned to waive the first reading of the Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Hunt and the motion passed with a vote of 3-2 (for: Butler, Colquitt and Hunt) (against: Paul and Seymour). City Manager Dunn read the heading of Ordinance 2179. Mayor Guest stated that the Ordinance would be read in its entirety at the December meeting.

Council Member Paul motioned to approve the consent agenda as submitted, seconded by Mayor Pro tem Butler and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Hunt, Paul, Seymour).

1. Approved the dues, travel and training for all city departments.

Council:

Joel Seymour
GMA Training
City, County and Regional Cooperation
Macon, GA
November 16, 2012
Registration: \$175.00
Travel/Lodging: \$150.00

Police Department:

Scott Marunich
Child Victim Investigation Fundamentals
GPSTC Forsyth, GA
December 12-14, 2012
Travel/Lodging: \$169.00

Utilities – Electric

Cory Anderson
Advanced Line worker Program
Adel, GA
November 5-7, 2012
Travel/Lodging: \$679.76

2. Approved the calendar of holidays for 2013.
3. Approved the calendar of regular meeting dates for the Mayor and Council for 2013. At 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 203 Elbert Street, Elberton, GA 30635.

4. Authorized the issuance of an alcoholic beverage license to Mr. Nageshwaer Rao Bodi of Shell Hop In/AUM Food Mart, LLC. Mr. Bodi is applying for a retail beer and wine license for the remainder of 2012.

City Manager Dunn presented the monthly report.

- Urban Redevelopment Plan – an application for Opportunity Zones for two commercial districts is being submitted by the Regional Commission.
- Possible CDBG application for housing rehab.
- The Arts Center renovation project bids were significantly higher than the budgeted amount. Architect is working with low bidder to see if they can do any better. May need to reject all bids and start again.
- ElbertonNET construction on Washington Highway is going well.
- CMTS installation went well. Wideband is over 20 Mbps.
- Two of the linecrew went to Western Maryland to help with power outages.
- Monthly activities of the department.

City Attorney Phelps stated that he continues to work on the dilapidated housing properties list. Mayor Guest asked the City Manager to contact the school board with regard to their plans to rectify the Elberton Elementary School dilapidated property. The property continues to be a safety hazard for the neighborhood.

Council Member Paul asked Council to consider an alternative to the excise tax before the December meeting. Council Member Hunt expressed concerns with regard to the dilapidated housing list.

City Manager Dunn stated that he and City Attorney Phelps had met with the Reapportionment Office in Atlanta with reference to redrawing the city's wards. He stated that he had prepared a power-point presentation to present to Council in the staff development room. Mayor Guest adjourned the meeting for ten minutes in order to reconvene in the staff development room. City Manager Dunn stated that there are two criteria to consider when redistricting: constitutionally one person, one vote and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. City Manager Dunn asked Council to review the proposal and if they had any questions to let him know.

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