

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, August 2, 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, August 2, 2021 at the City Municipal Complex, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham and Prince; 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. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

Council Member Butler motioned to approve the minutes of the July 15, seconded by Council Member Parham and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

There were no scheduled speakers from the floor.

There were no Resolutions or Ordinances to be considered at the meeting.

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

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.
2. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close a portion of the square to vehicular traffic on Thursday, August 19, 2021 for the Annual Football Season Pep Rally Kick-off sponsored by the ECCHS Cheerleaders.
3. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit for the Elbert County Dive Team to hold a "Fin Drive" initiative on the four-lane on Saturday, September 11, 2021.
4. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close various streets to vehicular traffic on Thursday, September 30, 2021 from for the Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally sponsored by ECCHS.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending June 30, 2021
- Monthly report on the activities of various departments as follows:

CITY CLERK:

A display ad will be in the August 4 edition of the Elberton Star announcing the qualifying dates, times and fees as required by the State Elections Office for the November 2 municipal general election. Qualifying for the November election will begin on Monday, August 16 at 8:30 a.m. through Wednesday, 18 at 4:30 p.m. for Mayor and a Council Member from Wards 1, 4 & 5. The qualifying fee for Mayor is \$545.59 and for Council Member is \$419.59. The Board of Registrars will be providing a copy of the voter's registration list for review by the City. The deadline to register to vote in the November election is October 4. Early voting will begin October 11 and end on October 29. The City Clerk has completed the

online election training as required by O.C.G.A. 21-2-101 through the Georgia Secretary of State's Office in order to conduct the November municipal general election.

The department submitted the Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2022 to the Tax and Expenditure Center at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government as required by TED House Bill 122.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The annual GMEBS retirement pension fund census reporting has been submitted on-line for 2020 earnings. This report is mandatory and due annually to the Georgia Municipal Association.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 46 Alarm Calls for the month of July, 2021. These calls consisted of 7 Vehicle Accidents, 24 Medical Emergencies, 13 False Alarms, 1 Aircraft Standby, and 1 Gas Leak. The department conducted 4 fire inspections, 3 Pre Plans, and issued 3 burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 793.5 hours of in-house training.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

The building inspection department issued 11 permits for the month of July, 2021. Permits issued: 6 Electrical permits, 2 Mechanical permits, 1 Building permit, 1 Roof permit and 1 Driveway permit. During this same period there were 2 roof inspections, 1 building inspection, 12 electrical inspections, 2 mechanical inspections, 1 driveway inspection, 1 plumbing inspection along with 13 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

- 837 Calls for Service
- 232 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 85 Incident Reports were filed
- 131 City Court cases made
- 20 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 44 People were arrested for various charges
- 4 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 44 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 June 2021 are as follows:

	June 2021	May 2021	% Change +/-
Kidnapping:	0	0	No Change
Rape Offenses:	1	1	No Change
Robbery:	0	0	No Change
Assault:	11	15	Down 27%
Arson	0	0	No Change

Burglary:	1	4	Down 75%
Larceny/Theft:	9	8	Up 12.5%
Motor vehicle theft:	0	1	Down 100%
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	1	4	Down 75%
Fraud Offenses:	1	3	Down 67%
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	1	Down 100%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	5	15	Down 67%
Drug Offenses:	7	11	Down 57%
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 on North McIntosh Street, South Thomas Street, Medical Drive, Elbert Street, Old Hartwell Road and Oglesby Boulevard. The crews installed a new 2 inch water main on Medical Drive and killed the old 2 inch galvanized water main. The crews cleaned and inspected sewer laterals on McLendon Street, Campbell Street and Gordon Street. The crews made repairs to the Pulliam Street Lift Station and the Hickory Drive Lift Station.

The crews replaced the rollers and guards on the conveyor at the Fortson’s Creek Treatment Plant. The crews repaired a broken water spigot at the Fortson’s Creek Treatment Plant. The crews replace three 2 inch valves on the chlorine feed tanks at the Filter Plant.

Construction continues at the Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The concrete rigid inclusions were installed at the Filter Plant during the month of July. The inclusions will help stabilize the soil and support the new 750,000 gallon clearwell.

ELECTRIC:

During the month of July the Electric department cut 13 dead trees at the Granite City Trail. The department also replaced 5 broken poles during July. The department finished up the month by changing out two bad poles at Best Cheer stone on the Athens highway.

PUBLIC WORKS:

In addition to routine maintenance and operations, the department added fresh mulch at the intersection of Highway 17 and 72 for Keep Elbert County Beautiful.

NATURAL GAS:

The Gas Department finished up all mainline construction on the Northeast Phase 3-A project, which included 23 residential gas services, one commercial account, and one poultry farm.

The department completed the quarterly cathodic protection survey, the odorization test points survey, and has started the annual leak survey. All are required by the PSC.

The department removed 3 services for demolition and moved a service on Kathwood Dr. for an expansion on a granite shed.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

The month of July has been spent preparing for the 23rd Annual Cruise In Classic car show that was held downtown on Saturday, July 17 6pm-9pm. The Granite Bowl Blast firework followed afterwards. We are extremely proud of how this event turned out. We had 120 cars in attendance which now makes this our largest car show to date. Out of the 120 entries 31 of those were new entries, meaning they had never attended our event. We collected over 60 door prizes from our local businesses that were given away to the car show participants. Many businesses that stayed open late for the event have stated that it was a great turnout for their business.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 20 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from July 1-25 including ETF's Teen Camp, *Frozen Jr* performances, Encore's *9 to 5* rehearsals and B Ladd's *Motherless Daughters* Film. Approximately 594 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between July 1-25.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>
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%	32.7%
March	37.9%	35.0%	19.2%	32.7%
April	32.3%	40.5%	4.7%	38.5%
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	43.7%
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	38.5%
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	33.2%

Sales at The Quarry Plates and Pours were weaker in July as compared to June, but the week that included Main Street's Car Show was the largest sales week yet. Special events downtown have a significant draw to the restaurant and bar.

City Manager Dunn reported on the reduced gross margin from electric sales in FY2021 just completed. He stated this lower level is not sustainable with our given electric rate structure.

Dunn reported that the City has seven full-time employee vacancies to be filled, and that entry level pay rates would have to be increased to address the weak labor market.

Dunn reported that the State has created a Fiscal Recovery Fund and are accepting grant applications. Dunn stated he could apply for a grant to expand broadband services further into unserved Elbert County. The Mayor and Council gave direction to proceed with the grant application.

Matters to be presented by Council:

- Council Member Colquitt recognized Pam Allgood in the audience who had given the Mayor and Council each a packet of information from the Anthony Shoals Preservation Group. The information was on the “business and environmental ethics concerns” on the Pilgrims Pride corporation.

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney:

- Dilapidated housing report.

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