

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, February 1, 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, February 1, 2021 at the Elberton Arts Center, 17 West Church Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

The City of Elberton announced January 27, 2021 a change to the location of its regular meeting of the Mayor and Council. 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, Prince, and Parham; 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 and prayer.

Council Member Parham motioned to approve the minutes of the January meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham). Council Member Prince was absent during voting.

There were no speakers from the floor. However, Mayor Guest recognized former Council Member Bobby Hunt in the audience and welcomed him to the meeting.

Council Member Colquitt placed Ordinance 2212 on second reading to rezone Parcel E11-131 on Railroad Street to a B-2 General Business zone:

ORDINANCE 2212

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

Council Member Colquitt made a motion to waive the reading of the ordinance, which was read in its entirety at the January meeting. Council Member Parham seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, Parham). City Manager Dunn read the heading of the Ordinance. Council Member Colquitt made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2212. Council Member Parham seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, Parham).

Council Member Butler placed Ordinance 2213 for second reading to amend the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 36, Traffic and Vehicles:

ORDINANCE 2213

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 36, TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, OF THE OFFICIAL CODE OF ORDINANCES
OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Council Member Butler made a motion to waive the reading of the ordinance, which was read in its entirety at the January meeting. Council Member Parham seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, Parham). City Manager Dunn read the heading of the Ordinance and stated that an alternative section 1 has been provided as a substitute to the original section 1 that was read at the January meeting. Council Member Butler made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2213 with the alternative section 1. The motion fell due to lack of second.

There were no Consent Agenda items to be considered this month.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending December 31, 2020.

CITY CLERK:

The qualifying fees for the November 2021 election have been published in the newspaper as required by the Secretary of State's Office. The election will include Mayor and Council Members from Wards 1, 4 and 5.

The department participated in the "Public Meetings in a COVID World" virtual training this month. The training discussed utilizing the ZOOM technology platform verses meeting in person.

The department participated in the "Election Forum" virtual training this month. The forum discussed the training requirements set by the State of Georgia for the 2021 Municipal Election. Training must be completed by August 1st in order to hold an election.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Police Chief Mark Welsh retired January 3 after 22 years of service, and City Marshal Allen Lee will be retiring January 29 after 34 years of service.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 69 alarm calls for the month of January, 2021. These calls consisted of 5 Vehicle Accidents, 47 Medical Emergencies, 2 Aircraft Standbys, 2 Structure Fires, 1 Gas Leak, 3 Service Calls, and 9 False Alarms. The department conducted 487.5 hours of in-house training.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

The building inspection department issued 7 permits for the month of January, 2021. Permits issued: 1 Building Permit, 1 Mechanical permit, 1 Reroof Permit, 2 Sign Permits and 2 Driveway Permits. During this same period there were 2 electrical inspections, 1 reroof inspection, 1 mechanical inspection, 2 sign inspections, 2 driveway inspections along with 8 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

- 758 Calls for Service
- 134 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 88 Incident Reports were filed
- 104 City Court cases made
- 19 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 64 People were arrested for various charges
- 6 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 0 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 December 2020 are as follows:

	December 2020	November 2020	% Change +/-
Kidnapping:	0	0	No Change
Rape Offenses:	0	1	Down 100%
Robbery:	0	0	No Change
Assault:	9	26	Down 65%
Arson	0	0	No Change
Burglary:	1	5	Down 80%
Larceny/Theft:	12	7	Up 42%
Motor vehicle theft:	2	2	No Change
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	4	1	Up 300%
Fraud Offenses:	2	4	Down 50%
Stolen Property Offenses	2	0	Up 200%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	3	9	Down 67%
Drug Offenses:	5	6	Down 17%
Weapons Violations:	0	1	Down 100%
Animal Cruelty	0	0	No Change
Sex Offenses	0	0	No Change
Prostitution Offenses	0	0	No Change

WATER & SEWER:

The crew repaired water leaks at North Thomas Street, Wildwood Apartments, McLendon Street and Carey Street. They replaced an angle valve at 1349 Turner Trail. The crews cleaned and inspected sewer mains within the sewer system. The crews cleaned sewer services at 1305 Fairway Drive and Locklin Street. The crews repaired the belt press conveyor at the Falling Creek and Fortson’s Creek Treatment Plants.

Contractors continue to make repairs to the #4 filter at the Filter Plant. The sand and anthracite media will be added the first week in February which will complete the project. Afterwards filter #4 will be placed back into service.

ELECTRIC:

During the month of January the Electric department pulled 21 poles where transfers had been made by other companies and disposed of them. The department also removed the Christmas decorations from the four lane. To finish up the month the department bush hogged the Allen Logan right-of-way and

installed 9 new poles on it due to a quarry reopening.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The Construction Crew continues to install windows at the Samuel Elbert Hotel. The Medical Drive stormwater rehab project has been put to bid and opens in early February.

NATURAL GAS:

The Gas department completed the Deep Creek Rd-Lloyd Rousey Rd project and pressurized the main. The installation of 7 poultry houses on Lloyd Rousey Rd. was completed. Four new residential customers on Lloyd Rousey and Deep Creek Roads were installed as part of this project.

The department has completed all quarterly compliance required by the Public Service Commission which includes odorization, CP test points and distribution patrolling.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 26 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center including the *Wonder Woman 1984* movie showings, ECCHS' One-Act rehearsals and Encore's *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* rehearsals from Dec 24-Jan 25.

Approximately 342 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Dec 24-Jan 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%	
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%	10.5%	
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	30.5%

The Quarry Plates and Pours restaurant inside the hotel re-opened after the holidays on Tuesday, January 4 with new hours. The restaurant is now open for three meals each day (breakfast, lunch, and dinner/bar) four days a week, Tuesday through Friday. The new hours have helped to boost sales and are easier to manage being open only four days per week.

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

There were no matters to be considered by Council.

There being no further business to come before Council, upon proper motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.