

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, May 2, 2022 – 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, May 2, 2022 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

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

Mayor Graves called the Meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins gave the prayer.

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

Jamil Burton was recognized for his participation in the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program. State Representative Rob Leverett read a Resolution that was approved by the Georgia House of during the recent legislative session honoring Jamil Burton for his accomplishments.

Mr. John Clark was scheduled to speak to Council on behalf of the residence on S. McIntosh Street with regard to high volume of traffic and drug activity. However, he declined to speak during the meeting.

Mr. William Huff was scheduled to speak to Council with regard to the rehabilitation of 278 Locklin Street. However, he rescinded his request to speak prior to the meeting.

Council Member Prince placed Ordinance 2217 on first reading with a heading as follows:

ORDINANCE 2217

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND UPDATE CHAPTER 22, LAND USE OF
ARTICLE 3, DEFINITION OF TERMS; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING
ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

City Manager Dunn read the Ordinance in its entirety.

Council Member Parham motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Council Member Burton.

1. Approved expenditures that exceed the city managers purchasing authority.
2. Accepted the budget calendar for fiscal year 2023.
3. Accepted the Mayor's appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission.
4. Accepted the minutes, decision and recommendations of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting April 18, 2022.
5. Authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract with the Georgia Dept. of Transportation to relocate electric facilities on the Lexington Hwy. at Falling Creek bridge.
6. Authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract with the Georgia Dept. of Transportation to relocate natural gas facilities on the Lexington Hwy. at Falling Creek bridge.
7. Authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a renewal contract with the Elbert County Board of Commissioners for Dispatch Services for Public Safety and Jail Inmate Housing Service for a five year term.
8. Authorized the City Manager to execute a Grant Contract Agreement with the Georgia Office of Planning and Budget for the 2022 Broadband Expansion Project Phase 1.
9. Authorized the City Manager to execute a Change Order with Suez Utility Services for a containment system to remove paint layers at the Industrial Park Water Tank for \$169,948.00.
10. Accepted and adopted the 2022 Electric Rate Index effective as of May 1, 2022.
11. Authorized issuance of a public assembly permit to close the public square to vehicular traffic for the Classic Car & Fireworks Show, July 16, 2022. The event is hosted by Main Street Elberton.
12. Authorized issuance of a public assembly permit to close the public square to vehicular traffic for the Christmas in July Candlelight Shopping Downtown, July 26, 2022. The event is hosted by Main Street Elberton.
13. Authorized grant waiver for the special event for open container consumption of

alcoholic beverages on the public square for the Classic Car & Fireworks Show, July 16, 2022.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending March 31, 2022.

CITY CLERK:

The department continues to collect delinquent Business License renewals for calendar 2022.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The department submitted the ECG Salary Survey for 2022 as requested for all Electric Cities of Georgia members. The department submitted the Census of Governments Survey of Public Employment and Payroll for 2022 as required by the U. S. Census Bureau.

Open enrollment will be held in May for the group medical, vision and dental plans.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 70 Alarm Calls for the month of April, 2022. These calls consisted of 11 Vehicle Accidents, 1 Vehicle Fire, 43 Medical Emergencies, 7 False Alarms, 1 Aircraft Standby, 1 Gas Leak, 4 Service Calls, and 2 Outside Trash Fires. The department conducted 14 fire inspections, 4 Pre Plans, and issued 3 burn permits. The Fire Department attended 160 hours of out of station training.

BUILDING INSPECTION REPORT

The building inspection department issued 8 permits for the month of April, 2022. Permits issued: 4 Electrical permits, 2 Building permits, and 2 Mechanical Permits. During this same period there were 4 building inspections, 5 electrical inspections, 1 sign inspections and 1 mechanical inspection along with 14 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of March 2022. The department recorded:

- 1,310 Calls for Service
- 567 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 114 Incident Reports were filed
- 459 City Court cases made
- 22 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 77 People were arrested for various charges
- 17 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 124 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 March 2022 are as follows:

	<u>March</u>	<u>February</u>
Kidnapping:	2	0
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	10	4
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	1
Larceny/Theft:	9	12
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	0
Fraud Offenses:	3	4
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	7	11
Drug Offenses:	13	2
Weapons Violations:	5	0

Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	2
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired a water leak on Joru Drive. The crews installed water taps at 440 Hillcrest Avenue and 1053 Huntington Drive. The crews poured utility cuts on Waldon Way, Brookside Circle and Forest Avenue. The crews raised valve boxes on Elbert Street.

The crews cleaned and inspected check valves at Silk Mill Lift Station. The crews cleaned and inspected sewers on Wayne Street, McLendon Street and Ohio Street. The crews replaced the manhole ring and cover at intersection of Elbert Street and North Thomas Street.

The crews the control panel for the backwash tank, replaced the backwash pump with spare pump and pulled the #3 high service pump motor to be rebuilt at the Filter Plant. All of these pieces of equipment were damaged by lighting.

Construction continues at the Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The contractors have completed the forms for the top pour of the new clearwell. The contractors will now tie the rebar mat for the top and plan to pour concrete on May 19, 2022.

ELECTRIC:

The Electric Department replaced 3 poles on Ruckersville Road. The department transferred and pulled 11 poles. The department replaced a pole on Cactus Hill Circle and replaced another one on Country Club Road. The department located all of the utilities on Sunrise Court and installed conduit for telecommunications. The department started on the Country Club Road line rehabilitation project.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine and maintenance activities, the Street Department replaced two pipes underneath Forest Hills Road to repair a sink hole. After the pipes were installed, the department poured concrete to fill it back in. The Street Dept. and Construction Team continued work on the picnic pavilions at the Burke Street facility throughout the month of April.

NATURAL GAS:

The Natural Gas Department stripped and painted station two (Brewers Bridge Rd), station five (Old Mineral Springs Rd) and started on station 3 (Overhead Bridge) due to requirements from the PSC. The Department installed residential services on Press Mann Rd, Nickville Rd and Hartwell Hwy. The department removed a residential service on Railroad Street.

Ideal Gas Measurements completed our annual Cathodic Protection Survey. The department made two digs, one on Bowman Hwy to install a test station and one on Washington Hwy to remove a jumper wire to allow protection on a valve.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 40 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Mar. 26 – Apr. 25 including COE's *The Lost City* & *Sonic the Hedgehog 2* movies and annual training session; Encore Productions' *Legally Blonde Jr* rehearsals & performances and *Rex's Exes* auditions & rehearsals; and ETF's movie field trips.

Approximately 1,000 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Mar. 26 and April 25.

MAIN STRET ELBERTON:

Main Street hosted the first spring festival on Saturday, April 9. Due to the extreme weather conditions the event was cut short at 2 pm. All of the vendors said that they would return for our next festival.

Main Street and the Chamber collected prefilled plastic Easter eggs from local businesses to be used at our 2nd Annual Downtown Easter Egg hunt to be held on Saturday, April 16th at 11:30am in the center of the downtown square. This event had to be canceled due to the rain. All eggs were divided up and packaged and were then donated to local families.

Main Street will kick off its First Friday concert series on Friday, May 6 from 7pm-9pm on the downtown square with a performance by the Dead Strings Band. Flat Tire Bar & Grill will be the spotlight sponsor for this event. The theme for this event is Cinco De Mayo.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%	39.4%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%	40.1%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	34.0%	46.7%
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	31.5%	49.0%
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	20.8%	36.3%
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	28.9%	23.5%
February	29.0%	26.6%	33.1%	32.7%	39.2%
March	37.9%	35.0%	19.2%	32.7%	41.0%
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%	39.5%

March continued the trend from February 2022 with the highest occupancy for those months since opening five years ago. We have no reason to believe that this trend will not continue into the late spring and summer. Visitors are not making advance reservations, and instead the majority are last minute bookings. This is probably a by-product of the COVID era.

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.