

CITY OF ELBERTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, September 12, 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, September 12, 2022 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

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

Mayor Graves 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 August meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Prince, Parham).

Mr. Williamson Sintyl of Arise Project for Humanity requested to speak to Council to share Arise's vision for the youth in the county. However, Mr. Sintyl was called out of town prior to the meeting and will reschedule to speak to Council at a later date.

Ms. Donikia Gray of Youth Lives Matter addressed Council with regard to the community's engagement and outreach concerns, via police officers.

Council Member Parham introduced a Resolution to appoint a director to the Elberton Downtown Development Authority (DDA):

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there currently exists a vacancy on the Elberton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board of directors due the resignation of an unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. Section 36-42-6 allows the governing body of the municipal corporation to appoint directors of the DDA by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and five Council Members of the City of Elberton constitute the governing body pursuant to that state law O.C.G.A. Section 36-42-3; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor respectfully submits to the Council the name of Mr. Quinn Floyd to be considered for appointments as directors of the DDA; and

WHEREAS, the appointees meet the qualifications of being a director of the Elberton DDA in that certain state law O.C.G.A. Section 36-42-7, being that the nominees qualify as (a) persons who have an economic interest in the redevelopment and revitalization of the downtown development area.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton hereby appoint as a director of

the Elberton DDA Mr. Quinn Floyd, term to end June 30, 2024.

RESOLVED this 12th day of September, 2022.

City Manager Dunn read the Resolution as presented. Council Member Parham motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Prince and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince).

Council Member Parham placed Ordinance 2218 on first reading to annex certain properties into the Corporate Limits of Elberton:

ORDINANCE 2218

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN PROPERTIES LOCATED ON THE WASHINGTON HWY INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF ELBERTON PURSUANT TO THAT CERTAIN ACT (GEORGIA LAW. 1962, P. 119) AUTHORIZING SAME UPON WRITTEN AND SIGNED PETITION OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

City Manager Dunn read the Ordinance in its entirety. Mayor Graves noted that the reading of the parcel number was sufficient for future annexations.

Mayor Graves asked if there was a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as submitted. Council Member Butler asked to remove item #6 from the agenda for further discussion. Mayor Graves concurred.

Council Member Butler motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda items #1-5, seconded by Council Member Prince and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince).

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager’s purchasing authority.

Department: All City of Elberton departments – Utility Billing, Payments, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, and Payroll		
Replacement of the existing IBM AS/400 server which is an IBM Power 7 installed in 2012. Power 7 end of life is announced for end of 2022. New server plus operating software licenses for users.		
Although the Power 10 machine is a later version than Power 9, it offers no real advantages over the Power 9 for the City’s specific installation requirements.		
Vendor:		Cost
IBM – Power 9 machine	RECOMMENDED	\$71,784.09
IBM – Power 10 machine		\$73,814.19

Department: Elberton Utilities – Wastewater Division		
Trailer mounted high pressure sewer main cleaner (jetter). Replaces the machine purchased in 2008 which is end of useful life.		
Vendor:		Cost
Jet-Vac Equipment Company	RECOMMENDED	\$74,940.28
P&H Supply		\$81,500.00

Department: Police		
Two (2) new Ford Explorer Police Interceptor Units. (In stock and available as of 8/29/2022.)		
Vendor:		Cost
Phil Brannen Ford of Perry	RECOMMENDED	\$70,842.00
Wade Ford, Inc.		\$79,488.00
Ed Murdock Superstores		\$88,481.76

Department: Police		
Eighteen (18) body-worn cameras to replace existing units that are several years old and are failing. Includes first year subscription and warranty.		
Vendor:		Cost
Motorola Solutions (\$49/month/each)	RECOMMENDED	\$10,584.00
Digital Ally (\$49/month/each)		\$10,584.00

Recommendation of Motorola based on (1) the quality of the video is better, (2) this is the same system used by Georgia State Patrol, and (3) the video is held in cloud storage for 7 years. The Digital Ally storage is 90 days with this monthly plan, and additional storage time is extra per month.

2. Accepted the millage rate of 5.439.
3. Accepted the minutes and decisions of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting of August 15, 2022 to rezone 1242 Washington Hwy from and R1-Residential Zone to a B2-General Business Zone.
4. Authorized issuance of a public assembly permit to close various streets and the square to vehicular traffic for the Annual Martin Luther King Parade on Sunday, January 15, sponsored by the Martin Luther King Parade Committee.
5. Authorized issuance of a public assembly permit to close various streets for the 5K Run on Saturday, October 22, sponsored by the Elberton Lions Club.

Council discussed item #6, FY2023 budget amendment for the American Rescue Plan Fund (ARPF) that was removed by Council Member Butler for further discussion from the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Council Member Prince asked to remove “removal of blighted buildings on N. McIntosh Street” from Economic and Community Development expenditure.
- Council Member Butler recommended postponing the budget amendment until next month.
- Council Member Burton asked to include the “Life Center” for funding with the other Community Appropriations.
- Council Member Parham had no additions or deletions from the budget amendment.
- Mayor Graves stated that it was not cost effective to rehabilitate the buildings located on N. McIntosh Street in their current condition.

After discussion, Council Member Butler motioned to reconsider the FY2023 budget amendment for the ARPF at the October 3rd meeting, seconded by Council Member Parham and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince).

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending July 31, 2022.
2. Kevin Eavenson updated Council on the on-bill financing program.
3. Scott Marunich updated Council on the citizen police academy and neighborhood watch program.
4. Jason Hackett updated Council on the Water & Wastewater Operations water projects.
5. Operational report, as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The department submitted the 2022 Health Insurance Cost Study Survey response as required by the U. S. Census Bureau. The Department of Revenue presented a webinar to update local governments on the alcoholic beverage license renewals and updates to its portal.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 96 Alarm Calls during the month of August, 2022. These calls consisted of 65 Medical Emergencies, 2 False Alarms, 3 Aircraft Standbys, 6 Vehicle Accidents, 2 Cooking Fires, 1 Water Leak, 2 Smoke Removals, 1 Call for Excessive Heat with No Ignition, 1 Assistance given to another Governmental Agency, 1 Canceled En Route, 10 Fire Alarms, 1 Citizen Complaint and 1 Structure Fire. The department conducted 8 fire inspections, 3 Pre Plans, and issued no burn permits. The department conducted 526 hours of in-house training and 34 hours out of station training for the month.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

The Building Inspection Department issued 17 permits for the month of August, 2022. Permits issued: 6 Electrical, 3 Demolition, 3 Mechanical, 3 Sign, 1 Building and 1 Plumbing. During this same period there were 9 electrical inspections, 6 demolition inspections, 5 mechanical inspections, 3 sign inspections, 4 building inspections, 2 plumbing inspections, 2 roof inspections along with 39 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

1,183	Calls for Service
464	Vehicle Traffic Stops
92	Incident Reports were filed
347	City Court cases made
19	Traffic accidents were investigated
71	People were arrested for various charges
22	Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
120	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 July 2022 are as follows:

	<u>July</u>	<u>June</u>
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	0	1
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	12	11
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	3
Larceny/Theft:	9	11
Motor Vehicle Theft:	1	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	0
Fraud Offenses:	1	3
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	6	1
Drug Offenses:	11	10
Weapons Violations:	0	0
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	1	1
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks on Sunset Drive and East Clairmont Ave. The crews repaired a fire hydrant at the corner of Cleveland Avenue and Clairmont Avenue. The crews replace a fire hydrant at the corner of East Church Street and Springdale Road that was damaged when hit by a truck. The crews collected 20 lead and copper samples within the distribution system as required by the Georgia EPD every 3 years. The crews rodded sewer mains in the southern section of the sewer system.

The crews installed 4-inch conduit for the new transformer that will power the new high service pump station at the Filter Plant. Construction continues at the Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. The contractors have connected the new high service pump station and piping to the existing 16-inch water main at the Filter Plant. The contractors have poured the pad for the new generator that will serve as backup power for the new high service pump station. The new generator is scheduled to be delivered and set on September 8, 2022.

ELECTRIC:

The Electric Department installed 2 stub guy poles, one on Jones Street and one on North Oliver Street. The department replaced 4 poles in front of ECCHS on Jones Street. The department replaced a broken service pole on Brookwood Circle and replaced another broken pole on Fairfax Circle. The department replaced 3 bad poles on Mill Street and installed a service pole on Hickory Drive. The department replaced a bad pole at 1729 Pine Needle Lane. The department pulled 12 poles this month and finished out the month by changing two rotten 3 phase bank poles on Old Middleton Road.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the Street Department worked to construct the new sidewalk on the north side of Public Square.

NATURAL GAS:

The Gas Department started on a line extension Montevideo Rd. installing 4” HDPE Pipe. As of the end of August the department has installed 2,000 feet. The project is about 25% complete and should be finished by the end of September.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street held the First Friday event on Friday, August 5. Lara Smith with Local Honey performed. Our spotlight sponsor for this event was U-Blast. They set up a football toss and sold raffle tickets to benefit Friends Helping Friends. We will host an end of summer blast on Saturday, Sept. 3 with the band Something Once Sacred (S.O.S). The band will start at 7pm after the Georgia game and they will finish up at 10pm.

Main Street has been busy behind the scenes to help grow the Elberton Farmer’s Market on the downtown square every Wednesday morning 7:30am-11:30am. We have partnered with several local farmers and our very own Elberton Farm Bureau, along with the Cattleman’s Association and we are extremely pleased with the outcome.

ELBERT THEATRE:

There were 37 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from July 26-Aug 29 including Encore Productions’ *Clue* rehearsals and *White Christmas* auditions; ETF’s summer movie *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* and paint class; COE’s *League of Super Pets*, *Elvis*, *Thor: Love and Thunder* & *Paws of Fury* movies and the Chamber’s networking event.

Approximately 1,098 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between July 26 - Aug 29.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%
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%	46.8%	
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	43.7%	49.9%	

June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	38.5%	41.5%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	33.2%	41.1%	30.5%

The property was closed to guests in early July due to coolant leaks on the individual room HVAC system. The system was drained and many leaks were found and repaired. Ultimately about one-third of the units have coolant leaks and replacement coils are needed. Due to the age and obsolescence of the system, finding replacement coils has been difficult. To date no material has been acquired and 7 of the 27 rooms are unable to be used.

The Quarry Plates and Pours lost many employees in August who were returning college students. The restaurant had to close several evenings due to lack of staff.

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

There were no matters to be presented by Council.

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