

CITY OF ELBERTON
FINAL MEETING OF THE 2023 MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, January 8, 2024 – 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, January 8, 2024 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

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

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor and Council took a moment of silence in memory of Joel Seymour who passed away recently. Joel Seymour served as a City Council Member for 12 years.

City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

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

There were no speakers from the floor scheduled to speak. There were no Ordinances or Resolutions to consider at the meeting.

Council Member Colquitt motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager’s purchasing authority.
2. Authorized the City Manager to execute the necessary documents for a loan from the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund to the Elberton Downtown Development Authority for the completion of the renovations of the First Floor at 23 N. Public Square (Bailey Building).
3. Authorized the closing of various streets on Sunday, January 14 for the Annual Martin Luther King Parade sponsored by the Martin Luther King Parade Committee.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending November 30, 2023.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The department issued the following licenses and permits over the past five years:

Classification	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Occupational Tax	295	304	287	250	231
Regulatory Permit	80	78	95	86	63
Professional	23	24	21	22	21
Financial	3	3	3	3	3
Insurance	289	275	285	298	286
Vending	10	13	8	12	10

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The department will be participating in the Job Fair at the Elbert County Comprehensive High School next month along with a dozen other local businesses.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 52 Alarm Calls for the month of December, 2023. These calls consisted of 34 Medical Emergencies, 1 Cooking Fire, 1 Gas Leak, 3 Vehicle Accidents, 3 Flammable Liquid Spills, 3 Aircraft Standbys, 1 Smoke Removal, 2 Calls Canceled En Route and 4 False Alarms. The Department conducted 363 hours of in-house training.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

The building inspection department issued 9 permits from November 26, 2023 to December 26, 2023. Permits issued: 2 Electrical Permits, 2 Plumbing Permits, 1 Reroof Permits, 2 Building Permits, 1 Land Disturbance Permit and 1 Sign Permits.

During this same period there were 5 Electrical Inspections, 2 Plumbing Inspections, 1 Sign Inspection, 2 Building Inspections and 1 Roofing Inspection.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of November 2023. The department recorded:

- 594 Calls for Service
- 286 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 88 Incident Reports were filed
- 176 City Court cases made
- 28 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 71 People were arrested for various charges
- 7 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 5 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 **November 2023** are as follows:

	<u>November</u>	<u>October</u>
Kidnapping:	0	2
Rape Offenses:	1	1
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	13	14
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	2	2
Larceny/Theft:	8	9
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	2	0
Fraud Offenses:	3	4
Stolen Property Offenses:	1	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	3	6
Drug Offenses:	17	6
Weapons Violations:	3	0
Animal Cruelty:	3	0
Sex Offenses:	1	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks at 700 Elbert Street, 709 Elbert Street, 309 Elbert Street, Brookwood Circle, South Rainbow Drive, Rhodes Drive and 200 McDonough Street. The crews installed water taps and meters at 108 Heard Drive, 1757 Pine Needle Lane, 1370 Limo Road,

1420 Washington Highway and 1422 Washington Highway. The crews asphalted utility cuts along Elbert Street.

ELECTRIC:

The Electric Department replaced 3 poles on Thompson Street, 2 on Locklin Street, 2 on Williams Street, 2 on Campbell Street and 1 on Sara Jane Drive. The department replaced bad underground cable at Timberlane Apartments and installed a new underground service on the Athens Highway. The department cleared the right of way on Campbell Street Extension for a joint use project with Hart EMC. The department finished out the month by removing the Christmas decorations.

GAS:

The Natural Gas Department installed the meter at the second poultry farm on Limo Rd and has started installing pipe to the third and final farm. The department installed a new service at 902 Elbert St. The department has completed the annual leak survey on the system and is resolving issues that were found in the survey.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the Street Department poured the concrete pad at the new training facility for the Fire Department on Calhoun Falls Hwy. The Construction Crew started work on the second floor of the Bailey Building.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There were 40 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Nov 22-Dec 28 including *Trolls Band Together*, *Journey to Bethlehem* & *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* movies; Encore Productions' *A Gift to Remember* rehearsals & performances and *Pippin* rehearsals; Christmas Movie Field Trips & paint class, and EPD's Christmas Dinner.

Approximately 2,984 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Nov. 22 and Dec. 28.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

On Tuesday, December 12 Main Street hosted the 2nd Annual Cookie Crawl downtown. This event included local craft vendors, food trucks, jumpies, and the train for children to ride. We also had the children's movie "Frozen" playing on the outdoor big screen.

Main Street is currently working on end of year reports and an in person presentation that will be given to the Georgia Main Street board on February 29 in downtown Athens to close out our 2023 year.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>FY24</u>
July	47.2%	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%	40.4%
August	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%	47.0%
September	50.1%	31.5%	40.1%	48.0%	46.7%
October	39.5%	34.0%	46.7%	53.9%	55.3%
November	41.0%	31.5%	49.0%	53.6%	58.0%
December	30.3%	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%	32.7%
January	21.9%	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%	
February	33.1%	32.7%	39.2%	40.5%	
March	19.2%	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%	
April	4.7%	38.5%	46.8%	60.0%	
May	10.5%	43.7%	49.9%	59.7%	
June	19.8%	38.5%	41.5%	39.8%	
AVERAGE	30.6%	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	46.7%

City Attorney Jenkins gave a report on Dilapidated Housing.

There were no matters to be considered by Council.

Mayor Graves stated that there was a request from the Elbert Memorial Hospital Foundation for a temporary alcohol license for on premises consumption of beer and wine for January 27, 2024 to be held at the Roc Gym located at 45 Forest Avenue. He added that the Hospital Foundation was late in submitting the request, but Council needed to consider it prior to the February meeting. Council Member Butler motioned to approve the request, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

There being no further business to come before Council, upon proper motion and second the final meeting the 2023 Mayor and Council was adjourned.

CITY OF ELBERTON
ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, January 8, 2024 – 5:50 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Organizational & Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council convened as stated above in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

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

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order.

Mayor Graves administered the oath of office to Council Members Terry Burton and Troy Colquitt.

Mayor Graves asked for nominations for Mayor Pro Tempore for calendar year 2024. Council Member Colquitt nominated Council Member Rick Prince for Mayor Pro tem. Mayor Graves closed the nominations. Mayor Graves administered the oath of office to Mayor Pro Tempore Prince.

Mayor Graves asked for nominations for City Attorney for calendar year 2024. Council Member Butler nominated Steve Jenkins as the City Attorney. Mayor Graves closed the nominations. Mayor Graves administered the oath of office to City Attorney Jenkins.

Mayor Graves asked for nominations for Municipal Court Judge for calendar year 2024. Council Member Butler nominated Robert A. Johnson as Municipal Court Judge. Mayor Graves closed the nominations. Mayor Graves stated that the oath of office for Judge Johnson would be completed at a later date.

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