

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, March 4, 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, March 4, 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. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

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

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

As privilege of the chair, Mayor Graves added item 7 to the consent agenda. Council Member Parham motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Colquitt and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

1. For the record, the bid received during the bid opening of February 16, 2024, for the 2024 Splash Pad Facility in accordance with the recommendation from the City's consulting engineer was rejected.
2. Authorized the closing of a portion of the square to vehicular traffic on Friday, March 15 for the Shamrock Shuffle hosted by Main Street Elberton.
3. Authorized the closing of a portion of the square to vehicular traffic on Saturday, March 23 for the Downtown Egg Hunt hosted by Main Street Elberton.
4. Authorized the closing of a portion of the city streets to vehicular traffic on Saturday, April 27 for the 5K Run hosted by the Elberton Lions Club.
5. Authorized a grant to a waiver for the special event for open container consumption of alcoholic beverages on the public square for the Shamrock Shuffle event.
6. Authorized the issuance of a temporary beer and wine license to Cassandra Wiseman of Blue Cielo Farms for the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce Banquet to be held Saturday, April 13, 2023 at the Rock Gym located at 45 Forest Avenue, Elberton.
7. Accepted the minutes, decisions and recommendations of the February 19 Elberton Planning Commission Meeting.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending January 31, 2024.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

**CITY CLERK:**

Georgia Arbor Day was celebrated by a proclamation signing and tree planting on February 16. The City of Elberton has received its Tree City designation for the 18<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

The U.S. Department of Transportation requires gas departments to submit drug and alcohol testing to its management information system and to update the alcohol misuse prevention and anti-drug plan annually. This year the department was selected for audit. All records were found to be in compliance.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department responded to 54 Alarm Calls for February 2024. These calls consisted of 32 Medical Emergencies, 1 Structure Fire, 1 Cooking Fire, 2 Trash Fires, 1 Vehicle Fire, 3 Vehicle Accidents, 1 Gas Leak, 1 Overheated Electric Motor, 6 Aircraft Standbys, 1 Smoke Removal, 1 Police Assist, 1 Bomb Treat, and 3 False Alarms. The Fire Department issued 2 Burn Permits for the month as well. The department conducted 465 hours of in-house training.

**BUILDING INSPECTIONS:**

The Building Inspections Department issued 33 permits for February. Permits issued were: 13 Electrical Permits, 7 Plumbing Permits, 4 Reroof Permits and 2 Building Permits. During the same period there were total of 28 inspections, 5 Electrical Inspections, 4 Plumbing Inspections, 8 Building Inspection and 4 Roofing Inspections.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of January 2024. The department recorded:

- 950 Calls for Service
- 394 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 82 Incident Reports were filed
- 248 City Court cases made
- 23 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 56 People were arrested for various charges
- 13 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 122 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 **January 2024** are as follows:

	<u>January</u>	<u>December</u>
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	0	1
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	11	12
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	1	0
Larceny/Theft:	6	9
Motor Vehicle Theft:	1	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	0	1
Fraud Offenses:	3	2
Stolen Property Offenses:	1	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	2	1
Drug Offenses:	6	7
Weapons Violations:	0	1
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

**WATER & SEWER:**

The crews repaired water leaks at 625 Elbert Street and 64 Oak Street. The crews installed new water taps and meters at 1141 Martin Grove Drive and 1101 Russell Ridge Drive. The crews worked with the county to secure a 6-inch water main while the county replaced a culvert pipe on Pleasant Hill Road. The crews continued to survey city and customer service lines for the LCRR Inventory as required by the Georgia EPD.

**ELECTRIC:**

The Electric Department pulled in 10,000 feet of new wire on Campbell Street Extension for the Sewer Plant line move project. The department transferred and pulled 10 poles which completed Phase 1 of this project. The department roughed in the wiring on the first floor of the Bailey Building. The department finished up the month by installing new underground primary for the poultry farm on Limo Road.

**GAS:**

The Natural Gas Department installed 3 residential services and relocated one service on Press Mann Road.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the Street Department poured concrete at the new training facility for the Fire Department. The Construction Crew continued work on the first and second floors of the Bailey Building on the Public Square.

**ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:**

There were 37 events at the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center from Jan. 26 – Feb. 26 including COE’s *The Boys in the Boat*, *The Book of Clarence*, *Anyone But You*, *Argylle*, & *Ordinary Angels* movies; Encore Productions’ *Pippin* rehearsals, *Finding Nemo Kids* auditions & rehearsals; ETF’s movie field trips, Murder Mystery Dinner & paint class, and EC Library’s Black History Month program.

Approximately 879 patrons visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Ctr between Jan. 26 – Feb. 26.

**MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

Main Street has completed its 2024 event calendar and is excited to kick off our events with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Shamrock Shuffle that will take place on our downtown square on Friday, March 15 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day.

Our farmer’s market is gearing up to kick off the end of March and this will be located in the center of the square as it has been in previous years, every Wednesday from 7 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

**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%	30.3%
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%	44.3%

January’s occupancy was low due to being a winter month, but February’s occupancy will return to be in excess of 45%, higher than any previous February.

City Attorney Jenkins gave an update on dilapidated housing.

Council Member Burton inquired as to any plans for recognizing Mecole Hardman on recently being a three time Super Bowl Champ. Mayor Graves stated that a Proclamation was being prepared to recognize his achievements.

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