

CITY OF ELBERTON
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, June 3, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council convened at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2024 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Burton, Colquitt and Parham; City Manager Eavenson, City Clerk Churney and City Attorney Jenkins. Council Member Prince was absent from the meeting due to a prior engagement.

Mayor Graves called the Public Hearing to order. A Notice of Hearing was issued in accordance with the law for the purpose of obtaining comments on the FY25 proposed budget. Mayor Graves asked if there were any commends on the proposed budget. There being none, Council Member Butler motioned to adjourn the public hearing. Council Member Parham seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously (Burton, Butler, Parham, Colquitt).

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order at 5:24 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. City Attorney Jenkins led the assembly in prayer.

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

Council Member Parham introduced a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a new signature card for the Municipal Competitive Trust as required by the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG Power).

Resolution of
CITY OF ELBERTON, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the City is a Beneficiary of the Municipal Competitive Trust (the "Trust") that MEAG Power established as of January 1, 1999; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Trust, the City is allowed to transfer certain funds between accounts and withdraw certain funds from accounts by written direction to MEAG Power and the Trustee; and

WHEREAS, by official action of the City, a City official was delegated authority to make deposits to the Trust and to communicate City decisions with respect to the Trust to MEAG Power and the Trustee; and

WHEREAS, in order to improve the notification process, MEAG Power has requested that all written directions communicating City decisions with respect to the Trust be executed by two independent City officials; and

WHEREAS, the City, after due consideration, has determined that such procedural changes are in the best interest of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that henceforth the Mayor and City Manager (together, the "Authorized Officials") are authorized to communicate City decisions with respect to the Trust by jointly executing written directions to MEAG Power and the Trustee; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City hereby authorizes the Authorized Officials to execute, and the City Clerk to attest and deliver, certificates specifying the names, titles, term of office and specimen signatures of the Authorized Officials and other certificates and documents that MEAG Power may require from time to time to effect the purposes of the Trust and this Resolution.

City Manager Eavenson read the Resolution in its entirety. Council Member Parham motioned to adopt the Resolution as read, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Parham).

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

1. Accepted the budget calendar for fiscal year 2025. Monday, June 17, 2024 will be the Second Public Hearing and Adoption of the budget.
2. Authorized the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute the necessary documents with Rushton & Company for FY24 audit services.
3. Confirmed the selection of Peoples & Quigley, Inc. Consulting Engineers in response to the Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services related to the Water and Wastewater Treatment and Operations Services.
4. Authorized closing the square to vehicular traffic on Saturday, July 20 for the 26th Annual Elberton Cruise-In & Classic Car Show hosted by Main Street Elberton.
5. Authorized to grant a waiver for the special event for open container consumption of alcoholic beverages on the public square for the 26th Annual Elberton Cruise-in & Classic Car Show.
6. Authorized closing the fountain end square to vehicular traffic on Tuesday, July 30 for the Christmas in July hosted by Main Street Elberton.

City Manager Eavenson presented the following reports:

1. Financial Report ending April 30, 2024.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The department continues to collect delinquent business license renewals for calendar 2024 which were due by March 31.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The City is participating in the Northeast Georgia Connects Educator Externship Program. The program gives Educators a chance to observe and interact with various companies and have a real-world experience to bring back to the classroom. This year the Water Plant will be hosting the educator for the one week program.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 41 alarm calls for May 2024. These calls consisted of 25 medical emergencies, four vehicle accidents, one gas leak, one power line down, one shorted electrical equipment, four aircraft standby's, one public service, and four false alarms. The department issued one burn permit for the month as well. The department also conducted 630 hours of in-house training and zero hours of out-of-station training for the month as well.

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

The Building Inspection Department issued 13 permits from April 25th to May 17th. Permits issued: two electrical permits, two plumbing permits, six building permits, one sign permit and two mechanical permits.

During this same period there were total of 36 inspections done; ten electrical inspections, two plumbing inspections, three sign inspections, one demo inspection, five building inspections, three roofing inspections, nine mechanical inspections and three pool inspections.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

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

947	Calls for Service
234	Vehicle Traffic Stops
95	Incident Reports were filed
197	City Court cases made
18	Traffic accidents were investigated
65	People were arrested for various charges
5	Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
126	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 April 2024 are as follows:

	<u>April</u>	<u>March</u>
Kidnapping:	1	0
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	17	27
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	4	2
Larceny/Theft:	11	10
Motor Vehicle Theft:	1	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	2	0
Fraud Offenses:	5	3
Stolen Property Offenses:	2	1
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	10	7
Drug Offenses:	9	6
Weapons Violations:	3	0
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews repaired water leaks on Old Mineral Springs Road and North Oliver Street. The crews installed a 1.5-inch water tap and meter at 620 Elbert Street. The crews cut grass at tanks and pump stations in the water system. The crews inventoried parts in the warehouse. The crews made repairs to the automated valve at the National Guard Tank.

The crews replaced electrical disconnects on pumps 1 and 2 at the Silk Mill Lift Station. The crews inspected the sewer lateral at 110 Glendale Avenue. The crews cut grass at all lift stations in the sewer system. The crews installed a 6-inch sewer tap and lateral on Pine Needle Lane.

The crews replaced the motor and drive on the # 3 clarifier at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant. The crews made repairs to the eye wash stations at both treatment plants. The crews removed debris from the E.Q. tank at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant

The crews cut grass at the Filter Plant. The crews ran the belt press at the Filter Plant.

ELECTRIC:

The Electric Department replaced broken poles on the Calhoun Falls Hwy and Tate Street due to storm damage. The department installed a new 3-phase pole on Calhoun Falls Hwy. The department finished wiring the apartments at 23 N. Public Square. The department replaced two 3-phase poles at the spec building and installed conduit for power and lighting. The department finished out the month by installing underground service on Poplar Springs Rd.

GAS:

The Gas Department met with the Subscribed Regulatory Compliance Service (SRCS) of the Gas Authority to update protocols in the Drug and Alcohol screening process with Cindy Churney and to go over upcoming changes in all gas manuals.

The department is reviewing the Brewers Mill Road poultry house project. We are waiting on Hartline Rail Road (Joey Dorsey) to send over the permit package.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Along with monthly routine maintenance, the construction crews continued work on the first and second floors of the Bailey Building on the Public Square. The second unit of the first floor is nearing completion and should be available for rent the by the second week of June.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There have been 22 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from Apr 26-May 22 including Encore Productions' *Finding Nemo Kids* performances and *The Cemetery Club* rehearsals & performances; *Unsung Hero* movie; Water Planning Council's business meeting, and ETF's paint class.

Approximately 751 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Apr 26-May 22.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

On May 3rd Main Street partnered with the Elbert Memorial Hospital Foundation to kick off our First Friday events. Music was provided by Second String All-stars Band. We had food trucks, jumpies and vendors set up at this event. We used this event to help promote the annual Duck Derby that was held on Saturday, May 4th.

Main Street is currently working on the annual car show that will be held on Saturday, July 20th. We will be sending out save the date postcards to all of our previous car show participants so they can plan to attend.

Our Downtown Farmer's Market is going strong with vendors joining each week. We are currently looking over several other small town farmers' markets and the way they operate in order to update our rules and registration. Our market's ordinance has not been updated since 2007.

Main Street attended a Downtown Development workshop that was held in Athens at the Athens Tech campus on Tuesday, May 7th. This workshop covered all the tools that are offered for the downtown development process.

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%	46.0%
March	19.2%	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%	51.6%
April	4.7%	38.5%	46.8%	60.0%	53.8%
May	10.5%	43.7%	49.9%	59.7%	44.8%
June	19.8%	38.5%	41.5%	39.8%	
AVERAGE	30.6%	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	46.1%

While business travel still remains the primary driver of occupancy, The Samuel Elbert Hotel has recently hosted two separate tourist groups. First, a group of tourists from Germany included Elberton as a destination on their southeast motorcycle tour. Mid-month, a classic car group traveling together on their annual tour throughout Georgia enjoyed their stay. Additionally, high school graduation played a factor in May's occupancy totals.

City Attorney Jenkins stated he continued to work on dilapidated housing properties list.

Mayor Graves recessed the meeting for 5 minutes while the group moved to the Staff Development Room for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Work Session.

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