

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, July 8, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council convened at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 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 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 June meetings, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Parham).

Council Member Parham introduced a Resolution to update the voting delegate on the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia's Election Committee (MEAG).

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Elberton that **Kevin Eavenson** is hereby appointed to serve as this City's voting delegate on the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia's Election Committee, with authority to cast all votes to which this City is entitled. **Brad Alexander** is appointed as alternate voting delegate.

This 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

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

Council Member Butler placed Ordinance 2221 on First Reading to amend the zoning map to rezone properties located along Mill Street and Roosevelt Street. The heading read as follows:

**ORDINANCE 2221**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING MAP  
OF THE CITY OF ELBERTON; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

City Manager Eavenson read the Ordinance in its entirety. Mayor Graves stated that the Ordinance will be read for the second time at the August 5, 2024 meeting.

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

1. Authorized the City Manager to execute a Notice of Award to RDJE, Inc. as recommended by Peoples & Quigley, Inc. for the 2024 Fortson Creek Sewer Replacement project.
2. Authorized the closing of various streets to vehicular traffic on Thursday, October 10 for the Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally hosted by ECCHS Cheerleaders and Student Council.
3. Authorized the closing of the public square to vehicular traffic on Thursday, October 31 for the Skelebration hosted by Main Street Elberton.
4. Authorized the closing of the public square to vehicular traffic on Saturday, November 2 for the Fall Festival hosted by Main Street Elberton.
5. Authorized the closing of the public square to vehicular traffic on Tuesday, November 26 for the Candlelight Shop Night/Tree Lighting hosted by Main Street Elberton.
6. Authorized the closing of the public square to vehicular traffic on Tuesday, December 10 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cookie Crawl hosted by Main Street Elberton.
7. Accepted the minutes of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting of June 24, 2024.

City Manager Eavenson presented the following reports:

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

**CITY CLERK:**

The Elberton Planning Commission met this month to consider a request to rezone 344 Mill Street from a general business (B-1) zone to a multi-family residential (R-2) zone. The neighborhood is a majority of residential housing. Therefore, staff recommended including Mill Street to Roosevelt Street in the rezone. The property at 440 Almond Street will not be included in the rezone since it has been used as a business in prior years. The Commission approved the recommendation of staff to rezone the properties as discussed above.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

The department submitted the 2024 Government Management Indicators (GOMI) Survey as required by the Department of Community Affairs.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department responded to 62 alarm calls for June 2024. These calls consisted of 34 medical emergencies, one outside trash fire, one excessive heat, two vehicle accidents, one gas leak, one overheated motor, 11 aircraft standbys, one smoke removal, one canceled en route, eight false alarms and one carbon monoxide detector activation. The department issued one burn permit for the month as well. The department also conducted 621 hours of in-house training.

**BUILDING INSPECTIONS:**

The Building Inspection Department issued 38 permits from May 17 through June 24. Permits issued: 12 electrical permits, eight plumbing permits, two re-roof permits, ten building permits, one sign permit and five mechanical permits.

During that same period 32 inspections were completed; eight electrical inspections, five plumbing inspections, one sign inspection, one demo inspection, nine building inspections, three roofing inspections, four mechanical inspections and one pool inspection.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

- 1108 Calls for Service
- 387 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 87 Incident Reports were filed
- 231 City Court cases made
- 30 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 60 People were arrested for various charges
- 8 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 26 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 **May 2024** are as follows:

	<u>May</u>	<u>April</u>
Kidnapping:	0	1
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	13	17
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	2	4
Larceny/Theft:	5	11
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	1

Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	2
Fraud Offenses:	2	5
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	2
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	6	10
Drug Offenses:	5	9
Weapons Violations:	2	3
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

**WATER & SEWER:**

The crews repaired water leaks on Jones Street, 608 Elbert Street, Progress Boulevard, 620 Elbert Street and Creek View Drive. The crews installed a 2-inch water tap and meter at the new spec building that will be used to operate the irrigation system. The crews installed a 2-inch water tap and meter at 1029 Falling Creek Drive. The crews continued to work on LCRR Inventory. The crews replaced the sump pump in the fountain pump pit on the square.

The crews cleaned and inspected sewer laterals at 180 South Tusten Street, 258 Edwards Street, 1157 Oglesby Boulevard and 1020 Evergreen Street. The Crews cleaned and inspected the sewer main on Park Street. The crews installed a 4-inch sewer tap and cleanout at 1601 Old Middleton Road. The crews repair an 8-inch sewer main on Country Manor Lane. The crews made repairs to Country Manor Lift Station and Silk Mill Lift Station. Contractors cut all sewer right of ways during the month of June.

The crews replaced the screen and basket on the helisieve at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant. The crews cleaned and inspected the RAS check valves at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant.

The crews made repairs to the chlorine and caustic feed systems at the Filter Plant.

**ELECTRIC:**

The Electric Department installed the lighting and temporary power to the Spec Building on Progress Blvd. The department finished the Campbell Street conversion and removed all of the old wire. The department replaced broken poles at Cecchini Road, 1357 Hartwell Hwy, and Kathwood Drive and installed a new re-closer pole on the Calhoun Falls Highway. The department replaced bad transformers at 1668 Lexington Highway and Geneva Granite. The department finished the month by installing 6 new poles on Porter Drive.

**GAS:**

The Gas Department installed new gas service to the Shine on Elberton Car Wash at 620 Elbert Street. The department also mowed around all district regulator stations.

The permitting process is still underway for the Brewers Mill expansion project. The City is in the process of obtaining permits from both the Georgia Department of Transportation and Hartline Railroad. This is necessary to cross state Hwy 17 (Bowman Hwy) and the Hartline Railroad to expand the natural gas line down Brewers Mill road. The permit application was received from Hartline Railroad. The next step will be to complete the application and obtain approval from the Hartline Railroad and GDOT.

**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.

**ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:**

There have been 27 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from May 23-June 20 including *Sight, Garfield & If* movies; ECCHS' graduation holding; Encore Productions' *The Play the Goes Wrong* reading & audition, and ETF's Teen Summer Camp.

Approximately 868 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between May 23 and June 20. There has been one rental quoted and two confirmed during this period.

**MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

Our June First Friday was a success with Lara Smith & Local Honey providing the entertainment. We had several craft/food vendors to participate with a large crowd in attendance.

Farmer’s Market is going strong with 9 vendors in attendance on our last date. We have new vendors contacting us each week to participate in the market. JUCEE Plus Smoothie & Wine Bar held their ribbon cutting on June 7<sup>th</sup> and is now open in their new location at 9 N McIntosh. They stated that they love the location and are staying very busy.

The Jim-Ree Museum hosted the Juneteenth celebration that was held on the square on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended and we are excited to watch this event grow in the years to come.

We are excited about the upcoming feature of Elberton in the August issue of Georgia Trends magazine. We are working with the advertising team on promoting our area and look forward to the outcome.

**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%	50.8%
AVERAGE	30.6%	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	46.5%

The bar at The Quarry will now be open at 5:00pm each Saturday beginning July 6th. We will serve drinks and food from our special bar menu offering an expanded appetizer selection. We will be open to serve hotel guests and local patrons alike. We have also noticed an influx of patrons at the restaurant during the month of June.

City Attorney Jenkins stated he continued to work on dilapidated housing properties list. He also announced that Megan Whetsel will be joining Dyal Jenkins Law.

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