

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, December 2, 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, December 2, 2024 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Graves presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince and Parham; City Manager Eavenson, 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 November meeting, seconded by Council Member Colquitt, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

There were no scheduled speakers from the floor.

Council Member Parham introduced the following Resolution:

**A RESOLUTION TO ADD MEMBERSHIP IN A FUND OF THE  
GEORGIA INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (GIRMA)**

**WHEREAS**, the Public Entity of the City of Elberton, located in County, Georgia ("Public Entity") is a current member of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (hereafter GIRMA), an interlocal risk management agency formed pursuant to Chapter 85 of Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing authority of Public Entity is currently a member of a GIRMA Fund and desires to add membership in an additional GIRMA Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing authority of Public Entity has reviewed the Fund Election Form attached as Appendix A and the Application and Participation Agreement applicable to the Fund and finds that it is in the best interest of its residents for Public Entity to be a member of the Fund indicated on the Fund Election Form;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing authority of Public Entity:

1. The Mayor of Public Entity is authorized to act on behalf of Public Entity to elect membership in the Fund identified in the Election Form attached as Appendix A by executing the Application and Participation Agreement for such GIRMA Fund.
2. The Mayor of Public Entity is designated as Public Entity's representative to GIRMA for purposes of Fund participation.
3. Public Entity may change its representative by making a written request to Georgia Municipal Association, Inc., the Program Administrator for GIRMA.
4. This resolution shall be effective on the date of adoption.

RESOLVED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2024.

City Manager Eavenson read the Resolution in its entirety and stated that the Resolution was required by House Bill 451, effective January 1, 2025. He added that HB 451 required local governments to provide a lifetime critical illness lump sum PTSD diagnosis benefit and a lifetime long-term PTSD disability benefit income replacement to first responders. Council Member

Parham motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Approved the alcoholic beverage licenses for calendar year 2025.

No	Business Name	Business Location	Contact	Type	Classification
1	3 Reinas Taqueria, LLC	113 N. McIntosh St	Julieta Alegria Balatazar	On Premises Consumption	Beer, Distilled Spirits
2	514 Elbert Inc	514 Elbert St	Basat Aziz	Retail	Beer, Wine
3	AJ Foodmart dba One Stop	3 Adams Street	Gopu Mitra	Retail	Beer Only
4	Deepsiddhi, Inc. dba Elberton Package	409 Elbert St	Deep Patel / Neela Patel	Retail	Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits
5	Edwards Package Store, Inc.	583 Elbert Street	Chong Suk Yi	Retail	Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits
6	El Rinconcito Michoacano	304 Elbert St	William Servin	On Premises Consumption	Beer Only
7	Elberton-Athens Elks Lodge #1100	1008 Country Manor Ln	Reid Ferrell	On Premises Consumption	Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits
8	Elberton Country Club, Inc.	1101 Country Club Rd	William M. Palmer	On Premises Consumption	Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits
9	Elberton Shell Hop In dba JJ & B Foodmart No 1	118 N. Oliver St	Gopu Mitra	Retail	Beer Only
10	Elbertorium Gas, Inc, dba Petro Food	310 Elbert Street	Bhargavkumar Shah	Retail	Beer, Wine
11	Flat Tire Bar & Grill, LLC	17 N. Oliver Street	Gerardo De Leon	On Premises Consumption	Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits
12	Georgia CVS Pharmacy, LLC dba CVS/Pharmacy # 3776	232 Elbert St	Jessica Carroll	Retail	Beer, Wine
13	Granite Nation, LLC dba Bills Minit Market	243 College Ave	Sadik Vadsariya	Retail	Beer, Wine
14	IAK, Inc. dba Richard's Restaurant	19 N. McIntosh St	Ivy Brooks	On Premises Consumption	Beer, Wine
15	Imperial Event Venue & Lounge, LLC	245 College Ave	Julieta Alegria Balatazar	On Premises Consumption	Beer, Distilled Spirits
16	Convenience Stores, Inc dba JP Elberton	604 Elbert St	Natalie Jones	Retail	Beer, Wine
17	Keshav Group, LLC dba Kenny's Korner Store	971 Elbert St	Kasyapkoumar Patel	Retail	Beer
18	Krupa Raj, Inc. dba West Elbert Package	255 College Ave	Bhavnaben Patel	Retail	Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits

19	La Fogata	235 Elbert St	Ramon Macias	On Premises Consumption	Beer, Distilled Spirits
20	Quickfill Food Mart, LLC	434 Elbert St.	Shabana Lalani	Retail	Beer
21	Reetixa, LLC dba Quickway of Elberton	883 Elbert St	Shailesh Amin	Retail	Beer Only
22	Reetixa, LLC 2	887 Elbert Str	Shailesh Amin	Retail	Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits
23	Samuel Elbert Hotel / DDA (Restaurant & Bar)	4 S. Public Square	Kevin Eavenson	On Premises Consumption	Beer, Wine, Distilled Spirits
24	Shakti Food Mart, Inc.	351 N. Oliver St	Mithilesh Desai	Retail	Beer Only
25	Taqueria Los Primos De Jalisco, LLC	220 Elbert St	David Lopez	On Premises Consumption	Beer, Distilled Spirits
26	The 81 Group, LLC dba Elberton Texaco	211 N. Oliver St	Ashraf Lalani	Retail	Beer, Wine
27	Walgreens #11166	18 College Ave	Clayton Schwindt	Retail	Beer, Wine
28	Wal-Mart #1701	955 Elbert St	Sarah Catherine Little	Retail	Beer, Wine
29	Zorain, LLC dba Super Gas	625 Elbert St	Hasib Ur Rehman	Retail	Beer, Wine

City Manager Eavenson presented the following reports:

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

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

The department attended the GLGPA Personnel Association training in Athens this month. The training focused on the fundamentals of personnel and updated participants of revisions to Title VII and other required reporting.

**CITY CLERK:**

The department submitted the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 to the Tax and Expenditure Center at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government as required by Georgia Law.

The department submitted the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) projects report for the year ending June 30, 2024. O.C.G.A. 48-8-122 requires this report to be published in the newspaper no later than December 31 of each year.

The department submitted alcoholic beverage license renewals for 2024 to council this month.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The Fire Department responded to 39 alarm calls for November, 2024. These calls consisted of one structure fire, one cooking fire, two trash-can fires, 18 medical emergencies, two vehicle accidents, three electrical shortages, one aircraft standby, ten false alarms and one citizen complaint. The department issued two burn permits for the month as well. The department conducted 648 hours of in-house training and 40 hours of out-of-station training for the month.

**BUILDING INSPECTIONS:**

The Building Inspections Department issued 17 permits from October 24 to November 25. Permits issued: five electrical permits, two plumbing permits, one re-roof permit, four building permits, one sign permit, and four mechanical permits.

During this same period, 44 inspections were completed; 13 electrical inspections, four plumbing inspections, 19 building inspections, one roofing inspection and seven mechanical inspections.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

- 781 Calls for Service
- 231 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 88 Incident Reports were filed
- 180 City Court cases made
- 18 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 51 People were arrested for various charges
- 6 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 159 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 **October 2024** are as follows:

	<u>October</u>	<u>September</u>
Kidnapping:	0	0
Rape Offenses:	0	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	8	15
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	2	1
Larceny/Theft:	10	6
Motor Vehicle Theft:	0	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	2	3
Fraud Offenses:	2	1
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	6	4
Drug Offenses:	4	6
Weapons Violations:	2	0
Animal Cruelty:	0	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

**WATER & SEWER:**

The crews repaired water leaks on Wilcox Heights, Taggart Street, and Jones Street. The crews installed water taps at 2482 Jaudon Road, 1252 Athens Highway, and 800 Brookside Drive. The crews poured utility cuts and prepared for asphalt.

The crews repaired sewer laterals at 224 Bartlett Street and 136 Carey Street. The crews replaced bearings on the belt press at the Fortson Creek Treatment Plant. The crews pulled and replaced the reuse pump motor at the Fortson Creek Treatment Plant. The crews performed preventative maintenance on the blowers at both wastewater treatment plants.

The crews drained and washed basins 1 and 2 at the Filter Plant. The crews repaired the surface wash arm on filter #4 at the Filter Plant. The crews ran the Filter Plant Belt Press.

Work continues on the Fortson Creek Sewer Main Replacement/Relocation Project. The new 18-inch sewer main has been completed and the sewer has been diverted to the new main. Work has begun on the creek bank stabilization at the Fortson Creek Treatment Plant.

### **ELECTRIC:**

The month of November, the Electric Department installed 3 new poles on Oglesby Blvd for the five new homes being built. The department replaced three bad 3-phase poles on the Calhoun Falls Hwy. The department replaced a pole at Lewis Transport and installed power to a larger panel that they had installed. The department installed a new service and replaced three transformers at Star Granite interiors. The department replaced two rotten poles on Snyder Avenue. The department finished up the month by installing the Christmas decorations downtown and on the four-lane.

### **GAS:**

Along with monthly routine maintenance, a new service was installed at 2207 Athens Hwy.

The right of way crew has completed the cutting and clearing of the 8" gas main ROW along Hartwell Hwy, which runs from Nancy Hart to Brewers Bridge road.

The gas line relocation project at the bridge on Hartwell Hwy near the county line is near completion. All that is remaining is the high pressure test, cathodic protection test, placing the valve vaults, and making the line active. The GADOT contractors are completing this project.

Surviv Field Services performed the annual business district gas leak survey in November with no issues reported.

### **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 Street Department worked to create an access road to the natural gas line that is located on the old bridge on Brewer's Bridge road for the gas department.

The concrete pad was completed around the fire training facility on Calhoun Falls Hwy. The final grading and erosion control will be completed next.

### **ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:**

There have been 31 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from Oct 24-Nov 21 including Encore Productions' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* rehearsals and *Spitfire Grill* auditions; *White Bird*, *We Live in Time* & *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* movies; ETF's trick-or-treat, Christmas movie field trip and paint class and E Matias' business meeting. Approximately 1,650 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between Oct 24-Nov 21.

### **MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

We held our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, November 2. With music provided by the band Big Teach, performances by local talent and tons of craft, food and children's vendors. This event was very well attended by not only by tons of vendors that were set up but also by shoppers! I spoke with the vendors and they said they all did very well with sales and plan on attending future events.

Main Street is also preparing for Candle Light Shop Night that will be held on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and the annual Cookie Crawl that will all be coming up on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. We currently have 30 local vendors that we have signed up for the Candle Light Shop night event along with food trucks, jumpies, the train and local entertainment that will be performing.

**ELBERT HOTEL:**

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>
July	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%	40.4%	62.8%
August	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%	47.0%	41.3%
September	31.5%	40.1%	48.0%	46.7%	55.3%
October	34.0%	46.7%	53.9%	55.3%	65.8%
November	31.5%	49.0%	53.6%	58.0%	44.8%
December	20.8%	36.3%	38.0%	32.7%	
January	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%	30.3%	
February	32.7%	39.2%	40.5%	46.0%	
March	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%	51.6%	
April	38.5%	46.8%	60.0%	53.8%	
May	43.7%	49.9%	59.7%	44.8%	
June	38.5%	41.5%	39.8%	50.8%	
AVERAGE	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	46.5%	

Guests of the Samuel Elbert Hotel continue to leave great reviews and are very complimentary to staff regarding their stay. They especially appreciate the hospitality station and the coffee offered this time of year.

In the Month of November The Quarry hosted its first Saturday Brunch during the Fall Festival on November 2nd. It was incredibly successful, and as a result, we will start hosting a monthly brunch from 10am-2pm the second Saturday of each month beginning in January.

The restaurant has also been busy booking holiday parties for local business including the Elbert County Primary School, Pinnacle Bank, and The Elberton Star. On several occasions, we have nearly reached capacity with our reservations.

City Attorney Jenkins stated he continues to work on dilapidated housing properties list, as follows:

- 327 S. McIntosh Street, hearing is scheduled for December 16
- 703 Old Mineral Springs Road, owners have been located
- 422 S. Oliver Street, met with family
- 626 S. McIntosh Street, met with owners
- 416 E. Gordon Street, met with owners

Mayor Graves recognized City Manager Eavenson for the successful audit report for FY24.

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