

CITY OF ELBERTON
PUBLIC HEARING & CALLED MEETING OF THE ELBERTON MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Monday, June 16, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Public Hearing and Called Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton convened at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2025, at Municipal Complex, 203 Elbert Street, with Mayor Graves presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, and Prince; City Manager Eavenson and City Clerk Churney. Absent was: Council Member Parham was out of town.

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order, led the assembly in Pledge of Allegiance, and gave the invocation. A notice of the meeting was issued in accordance with law for the purpose of discussing the FY26 proposed budget and any other matters that may properly come before Council.

Mayor Graves asked if anyone wished to speak on the FY26 proposed budget. Former Mayor Larry Guest asked to speak on the proposed budget. He expressed concern over the increase in water base rates and the seven percent increase in the overall budget. There being no additional comments, Mayor Graves adjourned the Public Hearing at and began the Called Meeting at 5:40 p.m.

City Manager Eavenson began the meeting by stating that the original draft budget has been adjusted to \$44,078,309, which is 1.6 percent over the current budget of \$43,389,457. He added that several adjustments had been made, including the removal of one investigator at the police department, a reduction in staff for the splash pad to three workers, a reduction in the natural gas base charge to \$12.50, an increase in the water base rate to \$11 per month, and an increase in the sewer base rate to \$10.84. Mayor Graves stated that the 1.6 percent increase was a very modest increase compared to the national inflation rate of 2.4 percent.

Mayor Graves asked Council if they would like to comment on the proposed budget. Comments were as follows:

- Council Member Colquitt stated that he was opposed to the splash pad from the beginning. He added that it will ultimately cost \$6M and that it would only be open 3-4 months each year as well as only cater to a small portion of residents. He also reminded Council that the City had relinquished recreational services to Elbert County.
- Mayor Graves stated that the current expenditure on the splash pad was \$2.7M.
- Council Member Prince stated that he was pleased with the 1.6 percent increase with the budget since the national inflation rate was much more. He added that the splash pad and the walking trails were passive recreational services.
- Council Member Butler stated that he did not vote for the splash pad originally; however, the walking trail was considered recreation as the splash pad. He added that he was pleased at Council's progress in working together to make adjustments that were needed in the budget.
- Council Member Burton stated that he was pleased with the overall budget and that he voted for the splash pad. He added that people come to your town if you are doing something good for the community and the splash pad would bring people to the community.

After discussion was complete, Council Member Butler introduced the following Resolution for consideration:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Mayor and Council of the City of Elberton on June 2, 2025, and on June 16, 2025, after due and legal notice, reviewed the Annual Budget estimate for Fiscal

Year 2026 as prepared by the City Manager in accordance with Section 33 of the charter; and

WHEREAS: The General Fund budget is proposed at \$6,705,358; and

WHEREAS: The Solid Waste Fund budget is proposed at \$1,204,276; and

WHEREAS: The Combined Public Utilities System Fund budget is proposed at \$25,673,889; and

WHEREAS: The ElbertonNET Technology Services Fund budget is proposed at \$7,687,987; and

WHEREAS: The Special Purpose and Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Capital Projects Funds are budgeted at \$1,698,000; and

WHEREAS: The Non-major Funds of the City are budgeted at \$1,108,799; and

WHEREAS: The rates and fees schedule of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget is hereby included as Attachment “A”; and

WHEREAS: The total combined Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 is \$44,078,309; and

WHEREAS: The Downtown Development Authority of the City of Elberton has presented a budget in the amount of \$1,135,695 to the Mayor and Council for the operation of the Samuel Elbert Hotel for Fiscal Year 2026 as prepared by the City Manager.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, and it is hereby resolved that the Mayor and Council do officially approve and adopt the aforementioned Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 as submitted including the rates and fees schedule designated Attachment “A”.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council do approve, adopt and accept the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 as submitted for the Samuel Elbert Hotel as operated by the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Elberton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, City Manager, and/or City Clerk are authorized and directed to execute the necessary documents in order to enact actions authorized by Council with the adoption of this Annual Budget.

This 16th day of June, 2025.

City Manager Eavenson read the Resolution in its entirety. Council Member Butler motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously 4-0 (Butler, Burton, Prince, Colquitt).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a motion duly made and seconded.