

CITY OF ELBERTON
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Monday, September 8, 2025 – 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, September 8, 2025 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 Public Hearing to order. A Notice of Hearing was issued pursuant to violation of Elberton Code of Ordinances Section 10-43.1(1)(2). The purpose of the hearing was to inform the public of the need for improvements to the City's water system; comply with the requirements of Georgia's Rules for Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Environmental Review Process; and to encourage public involvement in the development of a plan to improve the water system.

Mayor Graves asked if anyone wished to speak on the City's water system improvements. There being none, Mayor Graves adjourned the Public Hearing and Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 5:32 p.m.

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. A guest to the meeting, Rev. John Donaldson of Elberton First Methodist Church, led the assembly in prayer.

Council Member Burton motioned to approve the minutes of the August 4 meeting, seconded by Council Member Parham, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

Mr. Tyler Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, gave an update on the financial condition of the Elbert Memorial Hospital.

Council Member Butler motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda, seconded by Council Member Prince and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Parham, Prince). City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the City Manager's purchasing authority.

Department: Elbert Theatre	
Installation of new TPO roof system above marque and gutters. Funded by SPLOST.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
TradeMark Roofing RECOMMENDED	\$13,975.25
Kellogg Roofing	\$25,630.00

Department: Utilities	
Purchase of two new bucket trucks. Purchase order was issued 9/2022, but trucks were never delivered.	
Vendor:	Bid Amount:
Altec RECOMMENDED	\$316,276.00
Terex	\$390,076.00
Palfinger Equipment	\$261,435.12

2. Authorized the execution of a contract with Southern Fibernet in the amount of \$63,650 to provide a new streaming platform for ElbertonNET.
3. Accepted the minutes, recommendations and decisions of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting of August 18, 2025.
4. Authorized the issuance of an on-premises consumption of beer/malt to Mr. Kasyapkumar Patel for 1004 Calhoun Falls Highway.
5. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to SafeHouse Ministries on Saturday, November 1, 2025 for the 30th Annual 5-K Walk-a-Thon.
6. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to the Martin Luther King Parade Committee on Sunday, January 18, 2026 for the Annual Parade.
7. Accepted the outcome for the City of Elberton Municipal General Election for 2025, as follows:
 - Mayor –R. Daniel Graves (Incumbent)
 - Council Member Ward 1 – Carey D. Butler (Incumbent)
 - Council Member Ward 4 – L. Rick Prince (Incumbent)
 - Council Member Ward 5 – Kyle Parham (Incumbent).

City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

1. Financial Report ending July 31, 2025.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The department submitted the City's annual budget for the fiscal year 2026 to the Tax and Expenditure Center at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government as required by TED House Bill 122.

CITY CLERK:

Qualifying was held August 18 through August 20, 2025. On August 20, 2025, Mr. Henry McCalla qualified as a candidate for Ward 1, but subsequently withdrew his candidacy on August 25th. On August 18, 2025, Mr. Derrell A. Lawrence qualified as candidate for Mayor, but was subsequently disqualified on August 28th. Pursuant to OCGA 21-2-291, notice is hereby given that the Municipal General Election for the City of Elberton for November 4, 2025 is cancelled. The following candidates qualified for office and are unopposed.

- Mayor –R. Daniel Graves (Incumbent)
- Council Member Ward 1 – Carey D. Butler (Incumbent)
- Council Member Ward 4 – L. Rick Prince (Incumbent)
- Council Member Ward 5 – Kyle Parham (Incumbent).

The above-unopposed candidates shall be deemed to have voted for themselves.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 38 alarm calls. Training efforts included 848 hours of in-house training, 28 hours of training center usage, and 133 out of station training.

Cooking Fire (Confined to container)	1
Medical Calls	30
Arching, shorted electrical equipment	1
Dispatched and canceled in route	1
False Alarms	4
Citizen Complaint	1
Total	38

BUILDING INSPECTIONS:

	Permits Issued	Inspections
Electrical	4	5
Plumbing	2	3
Building	9	10
Sign	0	1
Land Disturbance	1	1
Demolition	3	0
Mechanical	3	3
Roof	2	2
Total	24	25

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of **July 2025**. The department recorded:

1018 Calls for Service
394 Vehicle Traffic Stops
102 Incident Reports were filed
303 City Court cases made
28 Traffic accidents were investigated

- 77 People were arrested for various charges
- 6 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 59 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 **July 2025** are as follows:

	<u>July</u>	<u>June</u>
Kidnapping:	1	0
Rape Offenses:	0	2
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	18	12
Arson:	0	0
Burglary:	3	1
Larceny/Theft:	12	5
Motor Vehicle Theft:	2	1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	3
Fraud Offenses:	0	0
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism:	3	3
Drug Offenses:	14	10
Weapons Violations:	1	1
Animal Cruelty:	1	0
Sex Offenses:	0	0
Prostitution Offenses:	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crews installed an irrigation meter at Splash Island. The crews repaired water leaks on Forest Avenue, West Tate Street, Old Middleton Road, and Carey Street. The crews repaired damaged fire hydrants at 1014 Old Middleton Road and 117 Highland Avenue. The crews cut grass at all water tanks and pump stations in the water system. The crews distributed and collected 20 lead and copper samples as required every 3 years by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

The crews cleaned and inspected the sewer lateral at 138 Carey Street. The crews cut grass at all lift stations in the sewer system.

The crews pulled and cleaned the reuse pump at the Fortson Creek Treatment Plant. The crews pulled and repaired the helisieve motor at the Falling Creek Treatment Plant.

The crews drained and cleaned the basins at the Filter Plant. The crews ran the Filter Plant Belt Press. The crews installed a new raw water flow meter for flow pacing of chemicals at the Filter Plant.

SPLASH PARK PROJECT:

The splash park construction was completed, and Splash Island Elberton was officially opened to the public on August 30, 2025. During the last month of construction, irrigation and sod was installed. City crews installed a catch basin and a 12-inch drain at the end of the south parking

lot. Contractors finished up the punch list items. Contractors completed start-up and operational training of equipment with city employees.

ELECTRIC:

- Christmas lights and E lights have been repaired and tested
- Installed E lights
- Installed an underground service on Valley View Court
- Installed new underground service on Locklin Street
- Replaced eight poles on Second Street and Elberta Court
- Replaced eight poles on the Calhoun Falls Hwy.
- Pulled five poles
- Installed lighting at the splash pad
- Cleaned up trees on Hartwell Hwy, Calhoun Falls Hwy and Elbert Street
- Installed a new pole on Willow Street
- Installed new repeaters and collectors for our meter reading system
- Removed a large tree off the line and fixed downed lines on Church Street
- Checked all street lamps in the downtown and walking trail areas and replaced bulbs

GAS:

- Completed service install at 1929 Cold Water Road.
- Removed gas service at 225 McKinley Street.
- Cut grass around all district regulator stations and all poultry house meter sets
- Crew assembled large regulator station for Brewers Mill Road poultry farm.
- Crew began installation of four inch gas main on Brewers Mill Road.
- Public awareness letters were mailed out to customers and non-customers for PSC compliance.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- The street department installed a catch basin and a 12 inch storm drain pipe at the end of the south parking lot of the splash park.
- Leaf and Limb crew continued to clean overgrowth around the perimeter of the splash park property
- The street department repaired sink holes on Edwards Street, Myrtle Street, and Auld Avenue.
- Pulliam Street, Edwards Street, and Brookside Drive have been paved.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street held its August First Friday event on Friday, August 1st. Entertainment was provided by Second Strings All-star band.

Main Street attended the 2025 Georgia Downtown Conference in Gainesville on August 25-27th. We were able to sit in on several different training opportunities such as historic preservation training, leveraging your zoning ordinances in favor of downtown revitalization and many others.

The City of Elberton's 2025 Rural Zone application was completed and mailed in on August 13th and we are looking forward to hearing back for that application in late October.

The ribbon cutting was held for the highly anticipated opening of Elberton's Splash Island on Saturday, August 30, 2025.

ELBERT THEATRE & ELBERTON ARTS CENTER:

There have been 48 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from July 25, 2025-August 28, 2025 including the Elbert Theatre Foundation's *Matilda Jr* performance and paint class; Encore Productions' *Puffs* rehearsals & performances, *Kong's Night Out* rehearsals, *Beetlejuice Jr* auditions & rehearsals and *Tuna Christmas* open reading; *Freakier Friday* and *Sketch* movies; Advantage Behavioral's movie field trip and B Scoggins' bridal shower.

Approximately 883 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between July 25, 2025-August 28, 2025. There have been two rentals quoted and one confirmed during this period.

ELBERT HOTEL AND QUARRY:

Hotel:

- The 100th Anniversary Gala Celebration of the Hotel will take place on Saturday, September 6th, from 6:00-8:00 pm. We anticipate 100 in attendance to celebrate this milestone. The night's event is co-sponsored by Blue Cielo Winery, Pinnacle Bank, and Northeast Georgia Bank.
- The hotel has steadily increased its rental of the conference/banquet room for private rentals such as bridal showers, business meetings, and baby showers.

Quarry:

- Chef Tony Schmidt with Performance Food Group has curated a menu for the 100th Anniversary Celebration and will be on-site to prepare and instruct our staff, making 1920s-themed hors d'oeuvres for guests to enjoy during the celebration.
- The Quarry has catered numerous events in-house throughout the month, including our first wedding reception dinner consisting of 67 guests.

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>FY 23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u>
July	31.4%	39.4%	23.8%	40.4%	62.8%	47%
August	33.9%	40.0%	37.2%	47.0%	41.3%	40.2%
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%	28.0%	
January	28.9%	23.5%	40.6%	30.3%	30.3%	
February	32.7%	39.2%	40.5%	46.0%	37.0%	
March	32.7%	41.0%	51.9%	51.6%	36.0%	
April	38.5%	46.8%	60.0%	53.8%	50.5%	

May	43.7%	49.9%	59.7%	44.8%	44.3%
June	38.5%	41.5%	39.8%	50.8%	39.0%
AVERAGE	33.2%	41.1%	45.6%	46.5%	44.6%

Mayor Graves asked to move into executive session to discuss the future acquisition, disposal, or lease of real estate, including authorizing negotiations (O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6)).

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

Council Member Butler motioned to move out of executive session and reconvene the regular meeting, seconded by Council Member Parham, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

Mayor Graves stated that no action was taken.

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