

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**FINAL MEETING OF THE 2025 MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, January 5, 2026 – 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, January 5, 2026 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 Assistant City Attorney Whetsel.

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and in prayer.

Council Member Butler motioned to approve the minutes of the December 1 meeting, seconded by Council Member Burton, and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Colquitt, Prince, Parham).

There were no speakers from the floor. Mayor Graves took the opportunity to recognize the Elbert County Raider Team, as follows:

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Honoring the 2025 Elbert County Comprehensive High School**  
**Raider Team**

WHEREAS: The Elbert County Raider Team has a long tradition of excellence, teamwork, and dedication; and

WHEREAS: Lieutenant Colonel Collie was hired as the Senior Army Instructor at Elbert County Comprehensive High School in 2024 and has since worked diligently to maintain and build upon this winning legacy as the Coach of the Raider Team; and

WHEREAS: LTC Collie has successfully done so, winning back-to-back Region Championships, and placing 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in the previous State Meets, and placing first in Rope Bridge at the 2025 All Service National Raider Meet in Molena, GA; and

WHEREAS: Since 2010, the Raider teams have had several titles and appearances, including 5 State Championships, numerous Region Championships, 1 National Championship in rope bridge; and

WHEREAS: We would like to recognize the Commanders of the Overall Second Place 2025 State Meet and the Region Champions for the 2025 Elbert County Raider team, Wyatt Stelter and Vivian Salazar; and

WHEREAS: We would also like to recognize the members of the 2025 National Champion Rope Bridge Team; Wyatt Stelter, Vivian Salazar, Alyssa Childers, Brytravious Harper, Ezra Adamson, Isabel Cruz, Colton Mabry, Jesus Mills, Tommy Beahringer, Dylan Anderson, Seeley Stelter; and

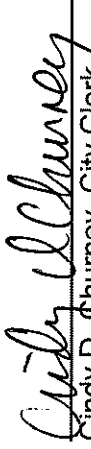
WHEREAS: We would also like to recognize the rest of the members of the 2025 Raider Team: Chasity DeJesus, Kylin Norton, Chloe David, Jacob Brown, Braiden Moreno, Daniella Govea, and Bethany Booth. Trainers for the Team were Lucas Fry, Landon Bowman, and Sayid Hernandez-Cruz.

THEREFORE: I, R. Daniel Graves, on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Elberton, do hereby proclaim our sincere congratulations and express our tremendous pride in their significant athletic and personal achievements.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Elberton to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

There being no further business to come before Council, upon proper motion and second the Final Meeting the 2025 Mayor and Council was adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
Cindy D. Churney, City Clerk



R. Daniel Graves, Mayor

**CITY OF ELBERTON**  
**ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
Monday, January 5, 2026 – 5:40 p.m.

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof the Organizational & Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council convened as stated above in 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 Assistant City Attorney Whetsel.

Mayor Graves called the meeting to order.

Mayor Graves administered the oath of office to Council Members Carey, Butler, Rick Prince, and Kyle Parham. Mayor Graves asked Council Member Butler to administer the oath of office for him as Mayor.

Mayor Graves asked for nominations for Mayor Pro Tempore for calendar year 2026. Council Member Parham nominated Council Member Carey Butler for Mayor Pro tem, seconded by Council Member Burton. Mayor Graves closed the nominations. Mayor Graves administered the oath of office to Mayor Pro Tempore Butler.

Mayor Graves asked for nominations for Municipal Court Judge for calendar year 2026. Council Member Colquitt nominated Robert A. Johnson as Municipal Court Judge, seconded by Council Member Butler. Mayor Graves closed the nominations. Mayor Graves stated he would administer the oath of office to Municipal Court Judge Johnson.

Mayor Graves asked for nominations for City Attorney for calendar year 2026. Council Member Parham nominated Steve Jenkins as the City Attorney, seconded by Council Member Colquitt. Mayor Graves closed the nominations. Mayor Graves stated that the oath of office for City Attorney Jenkins would be completed at a later date.

Mayor Graves asked for a motion to place Ordinance 2230 on second reading to amend Chapter 6, Animals as read in its entirety at the December meeting. Council Member Parham placed Ordinance 2229 on second reading, as follows:

**ORDINANCE 2230**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF ELBERTON CODE OF ORDINANCES,  
CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Council Member Parham motioned to waive the reading, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion to waive passed unanimously. City Manager Eavenson read the heading of the Ordinance. Council Member Parham motioned to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager’s purchasing authority.

|                                                                                                                                                                   |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Department: Utilities Department                                                                                                                                  |             |
| Ground penetrating radar locating device, related equipment, training and shipping. Location device to be shared with all Utility Departments. One source vendor. |             |
| Vendor:                                                                                                                                                           | Bid Amount: |
| Eastcom Associates, Inc.                                                                                                                                          | RECOMMENDED |
|                                                                                                                                                                   | \$18,019.00 |

|                                                                                                          |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Department: Economic Development                                                                         |             |
| Preliminary Geotechnical Exploration for the Elbert Industrial Park, Phase 1 Building 2 (9 SPT Borings). |             |
| Vendor:                                                                                                  | Bid Amount: |
| ECS Southeast, LLC                                                                                       | RECOMMENDED |
|                                                                                                          | \$14,000.00 |

2. Accepted the minutes, recommendations and decisions of the Elberton Planning Commission meeting of December 15, 2025.
3. Accepted the minutes of the Elberton Historic Preservation Commission meeting of December 16, 2025.
4. Authorized the issuance of a retail beer and wine license to Mr. Ameen Tejani at Bill’s Elberton, LLC located at 243 College Avenue.

City Manager Eavenson provided the following reports in the packets:

1. Financial Report ending November 30, 2025.
2. Monthly departmental report, as follows:

**CITY CLERK:**

The City participated in a joint meeting with Elbert County and Bowman to begin discussions on the update of the Elbert County Comprehensive plan. The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission facilitated the meeting, which provided a timeframe on activities that needed to be accomplished in order to update the comprehensive plan by the February 28, 2027 deadline. The next set will be the community input survey that will be open for a 30-day review period. The survey will gather feedback from residents and stakeholders about their vision, concerns, and priorities regarding future growth, land use, housing, transportation, and other community issues.

Renewal notices for licenses and permits are being mailed. The renewal deadline is April 1, 2026. Renewals have been steady for the past five years:

| Classification    | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Occupational Tax  | 299  | 316  | 295  | 304  | 287  |
| Regulatory Permit | 75   | 78   | 80   | 78   | 95   |
| Professional      | 24   | 21   | 23   | 24   | 21   |
| Financial         | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 3    |
| Insurance         | 264  | 255  | 289  | 275  | 285  |
| Vending           | 8    | 10   | 10   | 13   | 8    |

The Secondhand Dealer renewal notices will be mailed in January for calendar year 2026.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

The department will be participating in the Job Fair at the Elbert County Comprehensive High School January 21, 2026 along with a dozen other local businesses.

**BUILDING INSPECTIONS:**

| Permits     | Permits Issued | Inspections |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Electrical  | 3              | 8           |
| Plumbing    | 1              | 5           |
| Building    | 2              | 7           |
| Land        | 1              | 2           |
| Disturbance |                |             |
| Sign        | 0              | 0           |
| Demolition  | 1              | 2           |
| Mechanical  | 0              | 0           |
| Roof        | 2              | 2           |
| Pool        | 0              | 0           |
| Total       | 10             | 26          |

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Training efforts included 429 hours of in-house training; 40 hours of training center usage; 20 hours were utilized by a joint exercise by the city and county fire stations; and 14 hours of out-of-station training.

In December 2025, the department responded to 59 alarm calls and issued zero burn permits.

| Alarm Calls                             | December | November |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Building Fire                           | 1        | 0        |
| Passenger Vehicle Fires                 | 2        | 0        |
| Grass Fire                              | 1        | 0        |
| Medical Assists                         | 37       | 27       |
| Vehicle Accidents                       | 6        | 9        |
| Power Line Down                         | 0        | 1        |
| Smoke Removal                           | 0        | 1        |
| Overheated Motor/<br>Shorted Electrical | 4        | 0        |
| Aircraft Standbys                       | 1        | 3        |
| Water/Steam Leak                        | 1        | 0        |
| False Alarms                            | 6        | 6        |
| Citizen Complaints                      | 0        | 1        |
| Service Calls                           | 0        | 1        |
| Total                                   | 59       | 49       |

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

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

|                           | November | October |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|
| Calls for Service         | 801      | 1039    |
| Vehicle Traffic Stops     | 263      | 388     |
| Incident reports          | 74       | 76      |
| City Court Cases          | 260      | 413     |
| Traffic Accidents         | 24       | 29      |
| Arrests                   | 61       | 65      |
| DUI                       | 5        | 6       |
| Department Training Hours | 99       | 221     |

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 **November 2025** are as follows:

| Group A Crimes                     | November | October |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Kidnapping:                        | 0        | 0       |
| Rape Offenses:                     | 0        | 0       |
| Robbery:                           | 0        | 2       |
| Assault:                           | 9        | 7       |
| Arson:                             | 0        | 0       |
| Burglary:                          | 3        | 2       |
| Larceny/Theft:                     | 9        | 8       |
| Motor Vehicle Theft:               | 1        | 0       |
| Counterfeiting/Forgery             | 1        | 0       |
| Fraud Offenses:                    | 2        | 5       |
| Stolen Property Offenses:          | 0        | 1       |
| Destruction/ Damage/<br>Vandalism: | 3        | 6       |
| Drug Offenses:                     | 6        | 10      |
| Weapons Violations:                | 1        | 1       |
| Animal Cruelty:                    | 1        | 0       |
| Sex Offenses:                      | 1        | 1       |
| Prostitution Offenses:             | 0        | 0       |

**WATER & SEWER:**

The crews repaired water leaks on Mill Street, Lena Drive, Lexington Highway, Freshfield Drive, and Hamilton Street. The crews installed a 1 ½-inch water tap and meter at 313 Heard Street.

The crews cleaned and inspected the sewer laterals and mains on South McIntosh Street, Lake Forest Drive, and East Church Street. The crews made repairs to the sewer main on Lake Forest Drive. The crew cleaned and inspected the pumps and check valves at the Silk Mill Lift Station.

The crews made repairs to the Chlorine feed system at the Filter Plant. The crews ran the Filter Plant Belt Press.

**Clearwell Piping Project**

The contractors have completed core hole cuts into the # 2 Clearwell and the Filter Plant Building for new pipe installation. The contractors have installed the new # 2 Clearwell standpipe. The new piping tie-in for the new 20-inch bypass line to the # 2 Clearwell is scheduled for the week of January 26, 2026.

**ELECTRIC:**

The crew installed Christmas lights along Elbert Street and Heard Street.

Several poles were changed out and installed this month: Ruckersville Road, Hartwell Highway, Golf Course Road, Calhoun Falls Highway, Mercer Drive, and Mill Street. The crew also started setting poles on Petersburg Road.

The crew tested the switch gear at Bubba Foods.

New services were connected on Elm Street, Thomas Street, McIntosh Street, and Mercer Drive.

**NATURAL GAS:**

The crew performed distribution patrolling of the gas system for exposed piping and gas venting.

Jared Whiting successfully passed his annual welding examination and operator qualification requirements for welding distribution of natural gas pipeline and components.

The crew has performed routine maintenance around small regulator stations and replaced gas signs on guards, roads and creek crossings through-out the county.

The crew installed services at 239 Heard Street, 131 Edwards Street and 2328 Floyd Road. Additionally, a service was removed from 1324 Ward Drive.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

During the month, Terry Alexander assisted Zoning by inspecting eleven residential structures for dilapidated condition. He also continued window restoration and weatherization for several of the Downtown Development Authority properties. In addition, routine HVAC maintenance was conducted on various city properties.

Crews poured the base for a bench to be installed at the walking trail. The bench was donated in memory of Horace and Hilina Bond.

Crews continued routine maintenance of catch basins to remove debris, silt, and other blockage on various streets; finished up cleaning overgrowth at Hickory Drive Park; serviced equipment; and repaired the granite wall on the square that was loose.

#### **MAIN STREET ELBERTON:**

Main Street held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Crawl downtown on Tuesday, December 9. The event included local vendors, food trucks, jumpies, and the train for children to ride. Vendors reported a very good turnout, as did our downtown merchants and restaurants.

Main Street's Santa's letter mailbox was a hit again this year. Each letter received a return letter from "Santa". Lots of positive feedback from the community this year on the Santa's mailbox and return letter's from Santa!!

The Downtown Development Authority did not meet this month.

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

There have been 35 events at the Elbert Theatre & Arts Center from November 21, 2025- December 22, 2025 including the *Wicked: For Good & David* movies; Encore Productions' *Tuna Christmas* rehearsals and performances; the Elbert Theatre Foundation's Christmas movie field trips & paint class and the Police Department's Christmas gathering.

Approximately 3,209 patrons have visited the Elbert Theatre & Elberton Arts Center between November 21, 2025 - December 22, 2025.

There has been one rental quoted and zero confirmed during this period.

#### **ELBERT HOTEL AND QUARRY:**

##### **Quarry:**

The Quarry hosted a multitude of Christmas gatherings this month, including: breakfast with Santa with 115 in attendance; the Elbert County Primary School private Christmas dinner with 65 in attendance; a Christmas Pajama party with The Grinch with 65 in attendance; and a Christmas Karaoke & Ugly Holiday Sweater party with 65 in attendance.

The Quarry also participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Crawl downtown. The event brought many patrons to the restaurant.

##### **Hotel:**

December & January have been historically lower in regards to annual occupancy. In an effort to drive numbers for January, we will be offering our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Staycation option to locals.

The latest occupancy report is as follows:

|           | <u>FY21</u> | <u>FY22</u> | <u>FY23</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%       | 40.0%       |
| October   | 34.0%       | 46.7%       | 53.9%       | 55.3%       | 65.8%       | 54.7%       |
| November  | 31.5%       | 49.0%       | 53.6%       | 58.0%       | 44.8%       | 50.6%       |
| December  | 20.8%       | 36.3%       | 38.0%       | 32.7%       | 28.0%       | 29.0%       |
| 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 if there were any matters to be presented by the City Attorney. Assistant City Attorney Whetsel stated that they continue working on the dilapidated housing files.

Mayor Graves asked if there were any matters to be considered by Council. There being none, upon proper motion and second the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Cindy D. Churney  
Cindy D. Churney, City Clerk

A. D. Graves  
R. Daniel Graves, Mayor