

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

Monday, November 1, 2021 – 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, November 1, 2021 at the City Municipal Complex, 203 Elbert Street with Mayor Guest presiding.

Present were: Council Members Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham and Prince; City Attorney Jenkins, City Manager Dunn and City Clerk Churney.

Mayor Guest called the Public Hearing to order. A Notice of Hearing was issued in accordance with the law for the purpose of receiving comments from businesses in violation of the City of Elberton's Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance.

Police Chief Marunich stated that the Georgia Department of Revenue conducted an underage sale of alcohol sting on October 12, 2021. One of the twenty-one visited violated the City's Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. The license holder in violation was Thomas Puthenpura of Bills Food Mart, Inc. located at 243 College Avenue. Mr. Puthenpura was present at the meeting and acknowledged the violation. Mayor Guest recommended that Mr. Puthenpura schedule to attend an Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance refresher training with the City of Elberton. Mayor Guest stated that Council will consider administrative penalties for the violation later in the meeting.

Mayor Guest closed the Public Hearing at 5:37 p.m. and called the regular 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 October 4, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Parham, Prince).

Mr. Charles Thornton of Elberton's Promise spoke to Council with regard to the City participating with community organizations and community policing. After speaking for the allotted time of three minutes, Mr. Thornton asked for additional time to speak. Council Member Prince motioned to permit Mr. Thornton additional time to speak, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed 4-1 (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince) with Council Member Colquitt voting against the motion. Mr. Thornton concluded after the two additional minutes.

Mr. Freddie Baker of the Concerned Men of Elbert County spoke to Council with regard to Burke Street Gym. Mr. Baker thanked Council for the new roof on the building and provided them with a list of events and activities that have been held in the Burke Street Gym over the past year. He stated that air conditioning would be beneficial in providing afterschool and summer school programs for the youth.

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

1. Approved the expenditures that exceed the city manager's purchasing authority.
2. Approved the calendar of regular meeting dates for the Mayor and Council for 2022.
3. Approved the calendar of holidays for 2022.

4. Authorized the City Manager to execute a Grant Contract and Terms and Conditions with the State of Georgia for Public Safety Officers.
5. Approved the FY 2022 Budget Amendment to include grant funds and to authorize supplements for all full-time employees.
6. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close the public square to vehicular traffic on Saturday, November 6, 2021 for Fall Festival as requested by Main Street Elberton
7. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close the pass through on the public square to vehicular traffic on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 for Candlelight Shop Night as requested by Main Street Elberton.
8. Authorized the issuance of a public assembly permit to close various streets to vehicular traffic on Sunday, December 5, 2021 for the Annual Christmas Parade as requested by Main Street Elberton.

City Manager Dunn presented the following reports:

- Financial Report ending September 30, 2021
- Monthly report on the activities of various departments as follows:

CITY CLERK:

The Clerk's office held advance/early voting for three weeks as required by the Secretary of State's Office. The Municipal General Election will be held Tuesday, November 2, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Alcoholic license renewal applications have been mailed. The deadline to submit renewals is November 15.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

The Fire Department responded to 45 Alarm Calls for the month of October, 2021. These calls consisted of 3 Vehicle Accidents, 27 Medical Emergencies, 6 False Alarms, 1 Aircraft Standby, 1 Cooking Fire, 2 Structure Fires, 3 Service Calls, 1 Outside Fire, and 1 Gas Leak. The department conducted 6 fire inspections, 2 Pre Plans, and issued 3 burn permits. The Fire Department conducted 489 hours of in-house training and 44 hours of out of station training.

BUILDING INSPECTOR:

The building inspection department issued 12 permits for the month of October, 2021. Permits issued: 7 Electrical permits, 3 Building permits, 1 Sign permit, and 1 Plumbing permit. During this same period there were 3 building inspections, 9 electrical inspections, 2 plumbing inspections, 1 sign inspection along with 9 site visits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

The Elberton Police Department released their monthly activity for the month of August 2021. The department recorded:

914 Calls for Service

- 265 Vehicle Traffic Stops
- 91 Incident Reports were filed
- 141 City Court cases made
- 19 Traffic accidents were investigated
- 38 People were arrested for various charges
- 5 Person was arrested for Driving under the Influence
- 84 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 June 2021 are as follows:

	Sept. 2021	August 2021
Kidnapping:	1	0
Rape Offenses:	1	0
Robbery:	0	0
Assault:	12	6
Arson	0	0
Burglary:	2	5
Larceny/Theft:	14	12
Motor vehicle theft:	1	2
Counterfeiting/Forgery:	1	1
Fraud Offenses:	1	1
Stolen Property Offenses:	0	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism:	10	13
Drug Offenses:	13	9
Weapons Violations:	0	0
Animal Cruelty	0	0
Sex Offenses	0	0
Prostitution Offenses	0	0

WATER & SEWER:

The crew repaired water leaks on West Clairmont Avenue and Campbell Street. The crew asphalted utility cuts that were made repairing water leaks in the system. The crew cleaned and inspected sewer laterals at 205 South McIntosh Street, 134 Burke Street and 209 College Avenue. The crew jetted a sewer main for the housing authority on Mattox Drive.

Construction continues at the Water Filter Plant on the new clearwell and high service pump station. A large section of concrete was poured on 10/21/21 for the new clearwell floor.

ELECTRIC:

During the month of October the Electric Department transferred 8 poles and pulled 5 of those poles. The department replaced a pole on Von Trina Road due to it washing out during all the rain. The department installed a new pole on Mineral Springs Road and connected a new service at that location and also installed a new service on Fairfax Circle. The department also had to relocate a service on Whiteside Drive due to a shed adding on to their building. The department finished up the month by installing new

underground primary and a transformer at the middle school for new lighting around the track.

PUBLIC WORKS:

The department performed routine maintenance and operations during the month. The street department put three sections of speed bumps and two speed bump signs on Clairmont Ave.

NATURAL GAS:

Ideal Gas Measurements completed the annual testing of the district stations and the large meter testing. The department installed service to new two poultry houses on Sand Hill Rd and to two residential customers.

MAIN STREET ELBERTON:

Main Street worked with ElbertonNET in preparing for the Swingin’ Medallions concert that was held on the downtown square on October 16 at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate ElbertonNET’s 20th anniversary. This event was free to the public and was very well attended. We have received a lot of great feedback from the event.

On Friday October 29th Main Street will host Halloween Downtown when the community can trick-or-treat with our downtown merchants and other businesses that would like to set up candy tables from 4pm-6pm. We will have a children’s costume parade at 5:45pm around the center of the square and will be giving out prizes for the most creative children’s costume, best family costume and best pet costume.

Applications, phone calls and emails are continuing for the 23rd Annual Granite City Fall Festival that will be held on Saturday, November 6th. We are looking forward to this being the biggest festival to date.

ELBERT HOTEL:

The latest occupancy statistics are as follows:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>
July	29.5%	38.8%	47.2%	31.4%	39.4%
August	33.8%	33.3%	50.2%	33.9%	40.0%
September	45.6%	36.3%	50.1%	31.5%	40.1%
October	42.8%	48.9%	39.5%	34.0%	
November	34.2%	29.9%	41.0%	31.5%	
December	32.5%	40.9%	30.3%	20.8%	
January	27.2%	35.5%	21.9%	28.9%	
February	29.0%	26.6%	33.1%	32.7%	
March	37.9%	35.0%	19.2%	32.7%	
April	32.3%	40.5%	4.7%	38.5%	
May	43.1%	52.7%	10.5%	43.7%	
June	36.4%	50.4%	19.8%	38.5%	
AVERAGE	35.4%	39.1%	30.6%	33.2%	39.9%

Occupancy for the late summer particularly rebounded among personal travel. Weekends in September and October were full which has been very unusual. Several family events and UGA football games impacted occupancy in September. October should finish the month slightly above 45% which is a pre-pandemic monthly level. Occupancy will likely diminish as the weather gets cooler.

The Quarry Plates and Pours launched two new dishes on the evening menu, a porterhouse pork chop and spaghetti and meatballs. Restaurant sales improved in October over the summer months.

Matters to be presented by the City Attorney:

- Dilapidated housing report.

Matters to be presented by Council:

- Consideration of administrative penalties to the business in violation of the City's Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance. City Manager Dunn stated that staff recommended an administrative penalty of \$500.00 and a bond forfeiture of \$250.00 totaling \$750.00 since this is their second offense in five years. Council Member Parham motioned to accept the recommendations as stated above, seconded by Council Member Butler and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Burton, Parham, Prince, Colquitt).

Mayor Guest asked for a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing future acquisition of real estate as permitted by O.C.G.A. 50-14-1. Council Member Colquitt motioned to close the meeting and move into executive session, seconded by Council Member Burton and the motion passed unanimously (Butler, Colquitt, Burton, Prince, Parham).

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

Mayor Guest stated that no action was taken during the discussion.

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