

# HINESVILLE

GEORGIA



*"Home for a Day or a Lifetime"*



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# Report to the Citizens of Hinesville

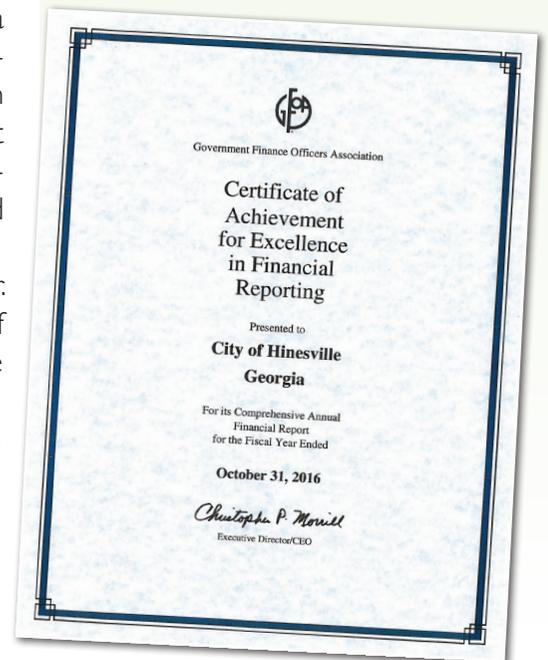
The City of Hinesville continuously strives to provide citizens information about their city. As part of that effort, we have proudly published our Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) or “Citizens Report” since Fiscal Year 2006. Throughout this report, you will find information about the elected officials, services and financial condition of your city.

The financial information contained within this report is extracted from the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). In order to provide a comprehensive condensed overview, financial statements are presented in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Further, city funds, which are presented within the Financial Condition and Reporting section, disclose the appropriate fund in which the detail was derived. Component units are not presented in this report.

For the past twelve years the City’s CAFR was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of only one year. We believe that our current CAFR continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program’s requirements and we have submitted it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

The City’s CAFR contains more detailed financial information than this report. You may obtain a copy of the CAFR on our website at [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) or by contacting the Finance Department at (912) 876-3564.



**The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to the City of Hinesville for its Citizens Report for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016. The award is a prestigious national honor recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. The published reports must reflect the program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.**

# Letter From The Mayor

Dear Friends of Hinesville,

It is my pleasure to present the 2017 Annual Report to you.

I am proud to report that the City is in sound fiscal shape. The City's fiscal year 2018 General Fund budget is \$19.79 million. This is only about \$37,000, or 0.18 percent, higher than our fiscal year 2017 budget, which demonstrates that while we have not experienced a reduction in our expenses, we continue to do more as a city without spending more.

In fiscal year 2017, the City's millage rate was decreased by .51 mills to 11.00 mills. Additional information about the millage rate can be found in the financial section of this publication.

One of the biggest attributes to the financial state of the City, in addition to strategic leadership and a conservative stance on expense management, is SPLOST. We have worked on some important projects with SPLOST funds, including paving Mattie and Gibson Streets and re-striping 26 miles of City streets and we plan on making some critical purchases for our first responders.

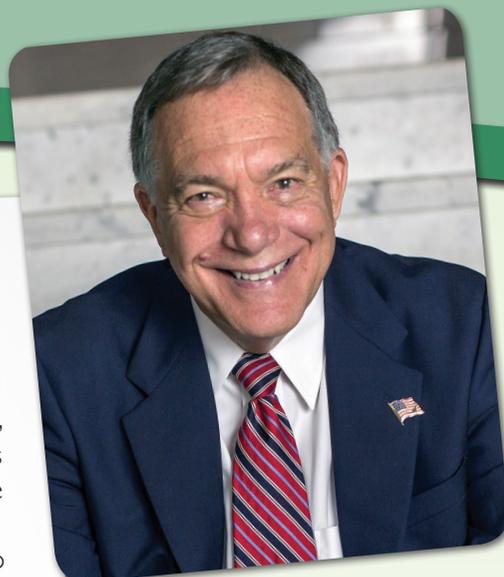
Sales tax collections for the City's fiscal year 2017 increased by 5.30 percent over our fiscal year 2016 sales tax collections. Sales tax makes up 20 percent of our general fund budget and is the second largest revenue source next to property taxes. This can be attributed to a boom in new commercial activity throughout the entire City of Hinesville.

All in all, the City of Hinesville is in incredible shape and is continuing to grow and expand in terms of commercial activity and residents, which I feel strongly, will be reflected in the 2020 census. I am grateful to serve as the Mayor of the City of Hinesville and once again, here's to a prosperous year ahead.

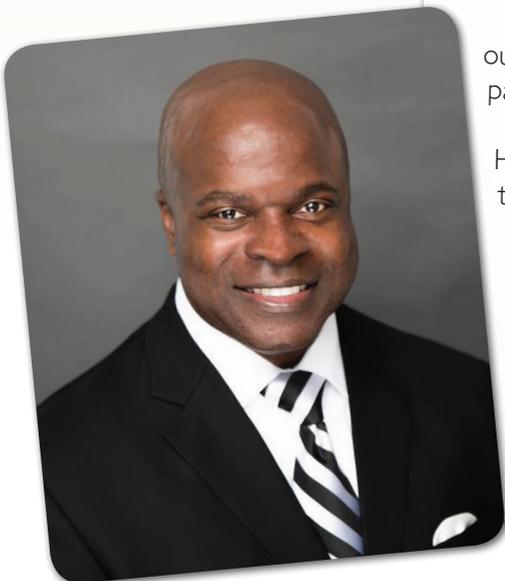
Sincerely,



Allen Brown  
Mayor



# Message From The City Manager



Dear Residents and Visitors,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 12th Popular Annual Financial Report, more commonly referred to as the PAFR. For the 11th consecutive year, the City of Hinesville PAFR submitted by our Finance Department to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for fiscal year ending October 31, 2016 received the GFOA Popular Annual Financial Report Award. This award is given to those governments that produce high-quality reports designed to provide the general public with readily accessible, easy to read information relative to the governmental entity's financial position.

The information contained in this report has been taken from the 2017 Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR) and serves as a summary of the financial activities and operating results reported. However, over the years, our PAFR has transformed into much more than just a financial report. It is truly a publication that highlights how all of our City departments serve you with the highest level of professional integrity and efficiency. Considering this is my first year releasing the PAFR as Hinesville's City Manager, I carry a particular sense of pride for this very issue.

During the fiscal year 2017, our financial position continued to improve as a result of careful expense management and a 5.3 percent increase in sales tax that can be attributed to a boom in new commercial activity in Hinesville.

If you would like to review the City's financial documents in greater detail, our annual CAFR is published on our website under the Finance Department page at [cityofhinesville.org](http://cityofhinesville.org).

Lastly, I want to express my deepest gratitude to my staff. The City of Hinesville is truly served by the most competent and dedicated individuals that I have ever had the pleasure to work with and lead.

Best regards,

Kenneth Howard  
Hinesville City Manager

# City Council



"It is my humble pleasure to be able to continually serve you and the city that I love. It hasn't been easy, but it has been well worth it! We have made great strides towards strengthening our community, but we still have a lot of work ahead us. If you need me, be assured that I am only a phone call away. As always, to God be the Glory!"

**District 1 • Diana F. Reid** [district1@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district1@cityofhinesville.org)

"I would like to thank the Citizens of Hinesville for their continued support of the City. The City is proud of the services they provide the Citizens and I hope you enjoy the Annual Financial Report so you can see how your tax dollars are put to work. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as a council member."



**District 2 • Jason Floyd** [district2@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district2@cityofhinesville.org)



"I am grateful for the opportunity to not only serve the citizens of District 3, but of all of Hinesville. I let the voices of my constituents drive me and I feel confident that my work thus far has been a reflection of that. Together we have accomplished a lot in the various neighborhoods throughout the district and I am honored to represent our district and to be a member of the City's leadership team. Collectively we will continue to work daily making Hinesville a better place for everyone. Thank you for your continued confidence and support."

"A gem is not polished without rubbing nor a person perfect without trials."

**District 3 • Vicky Nelson** [district3@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district3@cityofhinesville.org)

# City Council

"Greetings Constituents of District Four, It has been a distinct privilege serving you for over eight years. Our district is diverse and with promising growth for the future, it is my desire to advocate for new development and infrastructure upgrades. This is why I am encouraging you to learn more about SPLOST and various initiatives through things like community meetings. Let's work together to improve our district and our city."



**District 4 • Keith Jenkins** [district4@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district4@cityofhinesville.org)



"I am blessed to serve you and all citizens of Hinesville. Behind the success of every great city are great citizens that get involved and show interest in their community, which is why I will continue to remain accessible through my participation in neighborhood watches. With your support and with God by my side, I will continue to serve and do the right thing for our city."

**District 5 • Kenneth Shaw, Mayor Pro Tem**  
[district5@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:district5@cityofhinesville.org)

**The City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m.**



# Inspections

One thing recent hurricanes and tropical storms have taught us is the need for code compliance. Some residents may have developed a new respect for codes and ordinances after returning home from evacuation and finding their shed blown away into the neighbor's yard or across the road. Others may have experienced this same impact to items they store outside in the yard.

Roadways, ditches and storm drains can be obstructed by more than just blown over trees or broken tree limbs during high winds. Trash containers and basketball goals are a concern too. In an effort to reduce obstructions and scattered trash, the City asks that you not leave trash containers by the road after they are emptied and to keep basketball goals away from roadways. Properly storing these items now may better prepare you for the next storm and help keep the city free of obstructions and litter.

One of the many objectives of our code enforcement officers is to reduce the amount of junk and clutter that sometimes can accumulate in our yards, as well as reducing the amount of obstructions and scattered trash throughout the City. Other objectives of these public officers are to enforce a variety of codes to include nuisance



concerns, property maintenance, temporary signs, zoning issues and even property assessments following a disaster such as hurricanes and tropical storms.

Code Enforcement doesn't just focus on aesthetics. Though, statistically, a clean and neat neighborhood benefits by protecting property values and decreasing crime, these officers are also concerned with the safety and wellbeing of the public by being alert to obstructions that could cause an accident, controlling pests that enable disease, and protecting our environment from illicit discharge.



# Inspections



Hinesville's code enforcement cases are generated by complaints received or by observations in assigned neighborhoods. It is the officer's duty to address the violation(s) by notifying the occupant or owner of the property, let them know what they need to do to correct the violation and allow a reasonable amount of time to do so. Where some cities issue citations imposing an immediate fine for certain violations, Hinesville issues courtesy notices allowing the occupant or owner to correct the violation without penalty first. This is a much friendlier approach that has proven successful in our city. However, those who fail to comply after receiving notices from code enforcement may be summoned to appear in municipal court or may have a lien placed on their property. Don't let this happen to you. Let's work together for the greater good.

We all have rights and responsibilities; whether as a local government, property owner or tenant. We all need to work together as a community to support, protect and even enhance our quality of life in Hinesville. We should each do our part to better Hinesville whether it is home for a day or a lifetime.



# Hinesville Fire Department



The fire service shares a tradition of its members remaining in the profession for their entire career. It is not uncommon for people to have a 30-plus year career as a firefighter.

The length of tenure is in part due to the unique individual that it takes to be a firefighter. An individual has to have a willingness to serve as well as the ability to run into what everyone else is running away from. This also brings a strong sense of dedication to the service that lends to the long lengths of careers.

The Hinesville Fire Department is no stranger to the length of service usually associated with a firefighter. The Department has members ranging from less than six months to over 38 years



**Lieutenant Jerry Heath and his son, Senior Firefighter Trey Heath.**

with an average tenure of almost 12 years. Of the 47 members, 17

have over 15 years, 6 over 20 years, and 1 over 35 years of tenure.

The long tenure also allows the fire service to maintain its legacy well into the future. The overlap in years of service breeds a strong environment to ensure that the Department will continue on its path well after the leaders are gone with a strong mentorship that occurs from the senior members to the junior members.

With tenure in the fire service comes also legacy. Young boys and girls throughout the world want to grow up and be a firefighter. Sometimes that takes hold at home and the sons or daughters follow in the parent's footsteps. The fire service has a tradition of family mem-

**Captain Anthony Fowler and son, Firefighter Dylan Fowler.**

bers following in their footsteps, sometimes even within the same department.

The Hinesville Fire Department is no stranger to this. Currently, there are three members with fire service legacies and two of those are with the Hinesville Fire Department. Chief Lamar Cook has a son, Tyler Cook, that is currently employed with Pooler Fire Department; Captain Anthony



with an average tenure of almost 12 years. Of the 47 members, 17 have over 15 years, 6 over 20 years, and 1 over 35 years of tenure.



**Chief Lamar Cook and his son, Firefighter Tyler Cook with Pooler Fire Department.**

Fowler and his son, Joshua Fowler, is currently employed with Hinesville Fire Department; and Lieutenant Jerry Heath and his son, Trey Heath, is currently employed with the Hinesville Fire Department.

Most communities share in this legacy as well, some of which extend through several generations and not just one or two.

# Public Works

In 2017, the City of Hinesville, in conjunction with Fort Stewart, completed operational construction on the new Fort Stewart Water Pollution Control Plant. The new facility is an AquaSBR design that allows Hinesville to meet the more stringent limits. This design requires less foot print and is capable of producing reuse quality water, just like the city's other facility, the Hinesville WRF, if the need arises.

Put into service in 1984, the now demolished wastewater plant had reached the end of its useful life and could no longer meet the Environment Protection Agency's new ammonia criteria. Now equipped with up-to-date equipment and technology, including a computer operated call out and monitoring system, the staff at Fort Stewart could monitor the plant from anywhere in the world provided an internet connection is available. The cost for the facility once complete will be around \$22 million with the city being responsible for 47 percent of that and Fort Stewart paying the remainder.



# Hinesville Downtown

In the fall of 2017, The Home Depot Foundation, along with their Supply Chain vendor partners, selected Bryant Commons Park as a location to impact veterans, military families and Liberty County residents. As part of their commitment to improve the homes and lives of U.S. military veterans and their families, the park was chosen after several site visits and numerous in-depth telephone interviews with local stakeholders.

The Home Depot Foundation brought approximately 250 volunteers for 4 hours to help transform the park with four main projects to include: plants and mulch for the Veterans Memorial Walk; the full build out of Cisco's Dog Park; the creation of Bramble's Playground and about two-dozen benches with shade structures scattered throughout the park.

The Liberty County Chamber of Commerce/CVB served as both the liaison between the City of Hinesville and the Foundation, as well as Project Coordinators, organizing volunteers, arranging for food and beverages,



**The Home Depot Foundation volunteers plant 1,200 jasmines along the Alley of Honor at the Veterans Memorial Walk.**

.....  
serving on site every day and numerous other tasks. The local volunteers handled preparation before the other partners arrived, and they were also instrumental in completing projects that needed more work after the park build day.

After more than 20 deliveries and a great deal of preparation, the big day arrived. Local volunteers arrived



**Bramble's Playground has a thick base of rubber mulch to keep children safe when they explore the new play area.**



**The 2.5 acre Cisco's Dog Park provides a lot of room for pets to run and play. The benches and landscape are for the owners to enjoy.**

# Development Authority

before the sun came up to make sure supplies for each section were ready. When the buses came through the gates holding 250 excited people thanks to The Home Depot Foundation and their Supply Chain vendor partners, everyone was ready to get to work. A tremendous amount was accomplished in just half of a day, and the best was all of the visitors who walked away with a better understanding of our community and how we all support one another.

The surprises did not stop after the volunteering did, before leaving Hinesville, they provided three full-color signs that identify each of the new areas of the park, de-

signed by the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority. And even after project day the generosity continued. Thanks to Kirsch Transportation, one of the Supply Chain vendors, a \$10,000 additional donation was made to complete the paving for the Veterans Memorial Walk.

Veterans who have service dogs donated time to help build and install the shade structures throughout the park. Volunteers from the Liberty County Chamber/CVB came back over the course of several weekends as well to paint benches and shade structures before they were installed. In the end, everyone pitched in, and the park grew by leaps and bounds.

The Home Depot Foundation specifically looks to impact communities with a large military presence, in large part because 35,000 of their associates are former service members. The Foundation's investment of a quarter-of-a-million dollars in our community is certainly being put to good use as park visitation is expected to be approximately 90,000 vehicles during 2018 – which means more than 200,000 people and pets will enjoy the 156-acre park in downtown Hinesville.



**A sea of orange could be seen on the park build day!**



**Volunteers build two dozen wooden benches which have been placed throughout the park.**

# Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2017

The Financial Review section is designed to provide information on the financial health and stability of the City of Hinesville. This information should provide the reader with an increased level of understanding of how available resources are utilized to provide services. The following charts summarize the City's largest sources of revenues ("Where the Money Came From") and expenses ("Where the Money Went") for the government as a whole.

## Where the Money Came From...

	Fiscal Year 2016	Fiscal Year 2017
Property Taxes.....	\$ 7,905,591	\$ 7,738,266
Sales Taxes.....	3,191,466	3,530,019
Franchise Taxes.....	1,675,154	1,580,576
Insurance Premium Tax.....	2,086,879	2,220,793
Alcoholic Beverage Taxes.....	415,999	422,537
Hotel/Motel Tax.....	206,998	201,508
Other General Revenue.....	62,720	57,706
<b>Total General Revenue</b>	<b>15,544,807</b>	<b>15,751,405</b>
Charges for Services.....	15,986,518	16,924,195
Operating Grants.....	847,449	1,421,796
Capital Grants and Contributions	403,131	1,630,934
<b>Total Program Revenues</b>	<b>17,237,098</b>	<b>19,976,925</b>
Other Income.....	42,700	7285
Investment Earnings.....	21,445	34,960
<b>Total Other Income and Transfers</b>	<b>64,145</b>	<b>42,245</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 32,846,050</b>	<b>\$ 35,770,575</b>

## Where the Money Went...

	Fiscal Year 2016	Fiscal Year 2017
General Government.....	\$ 2,655,291	\$ 2,905,460
Judicial.....	497,030	505,069
Public Safety.....	9,655,137	9,852,898
Public Works.....	3,111,754	2,812,958
Housing and Development.....	1,664,079	2,129,339
Health and Welfare.....	669,871	701,923
Culture and Recreation.....	832,611	941,725
Interest and Fiscal Charges.....	160,528	142,853
<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>	<b>19,246,301</b>	<b>19,992,225</b>
Water and Sewer.....	9,420,497	8,945,220
Sanitation.....	2,854,564	2,902,614
Stormwater Utility.....	1,380,540	1,339,530
Transit.....	687,820	787,852
<b>Total Business-type Activities</b>	<b>14,343,412</b>	<b>13,975,216</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>33,589,722</b>	<b>33,967,441</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>(524,855)</b>	<b>1,870,759</b>
Net Position - Beginning	84,672,858	84,148,003
<b>Net Position - Ending</b>	<b>\$ 84,148,003</b>	<b>\$ 86,018,762</b>

## Definitions of Key Terms

### General Revenue

All revenue that is not required to be reported as program revenue. All taxes, even those that are levied for specific purpose, are general revenues and should be reported by type of tax.

### Program Revenue

Revenue derived directly from the program itself or from parties outside the City's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole. Program revenues reduce the net cost of the function to be financed from the City's general revenues.

### Business-Type Activities

One of two classes of activities reported in the government-wide financial statements.

Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. These activities are normally reported in enterprise funds. The City currently has three business-type funds.

### Governmental Activities

Activities generally financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

### Net Position

Refers to the difference between assets and deferred outflows and deferred inflows of the City as a whole. Net positions may be shown in the following three major categories:

### 1. Net Investment in Capital Assets

The component of net position that consists of capital assets less both the accumulated depreciation and the outstanding balance of debt attributable to the acquisition of those assets.

### 2. Net Position Restricted

The component of net position that consists of assets with constraints placed on their use by either external parties or through enabling legislation.

### 3. Net Position Unrestricted

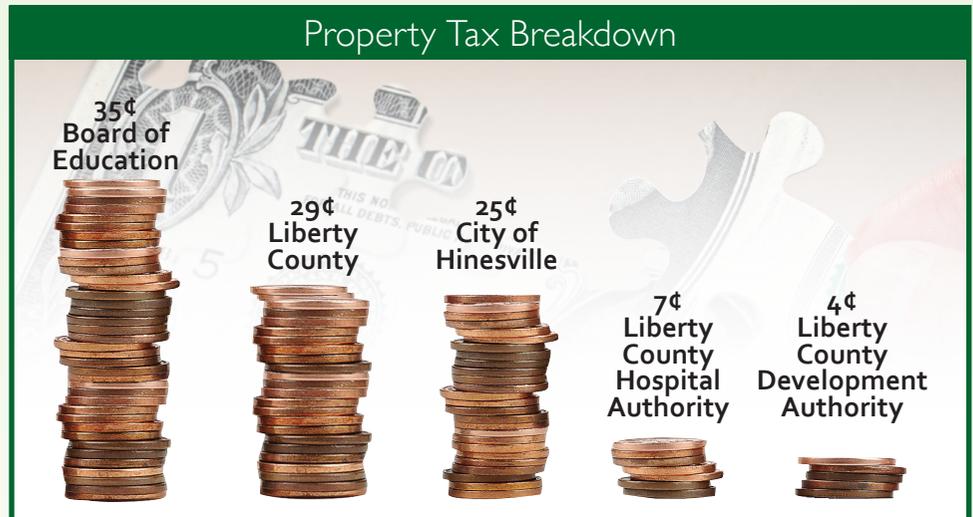
The remaining balance of net position not reported under the other two categories of net position.

# Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2017

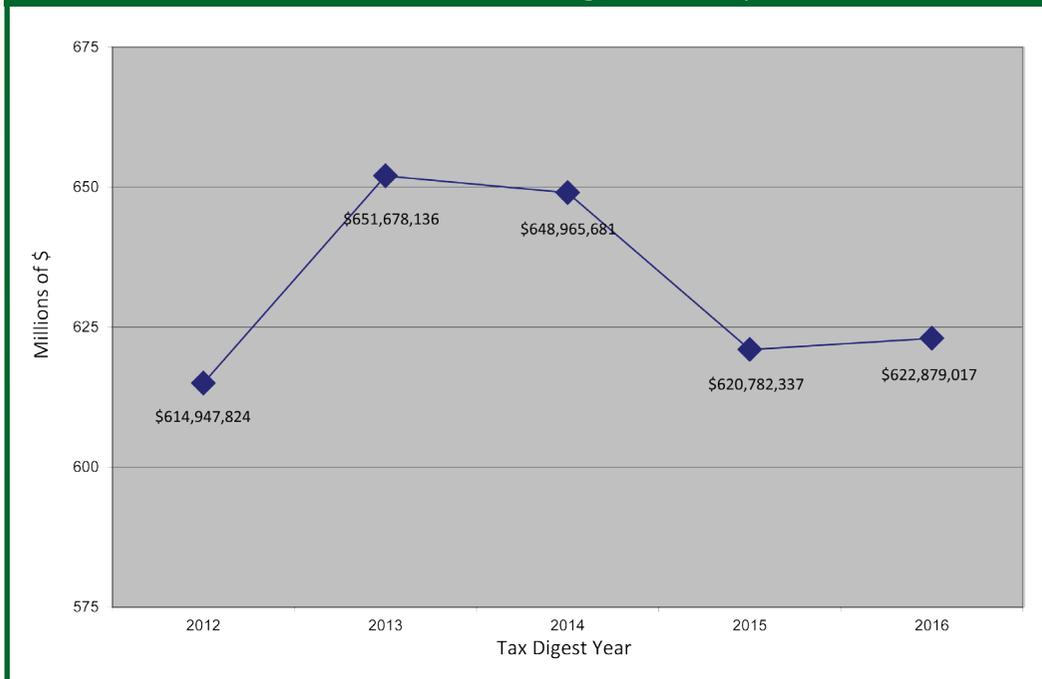
The City's total net position is categorized. The largest portion of net position (\$80,640,436) is net investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, infrastructure, machinery and equipment less any related outstanding debt used to acquire these assets). An additional portion of the City's net position (\$1,079,388) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining portion of the City's net position (\$2,428,179) is unrestricted and may be used to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

## Property Tax Breakdown

The illustration to the left depicts how each one dollar of property tax revenue collected is distributed to the various taxing entities. The City of Hinesville receives 25¢ of each \$1.00 collected from taxpayers in the City.



## Five Year Gross Digest History



## Property Tax Digest

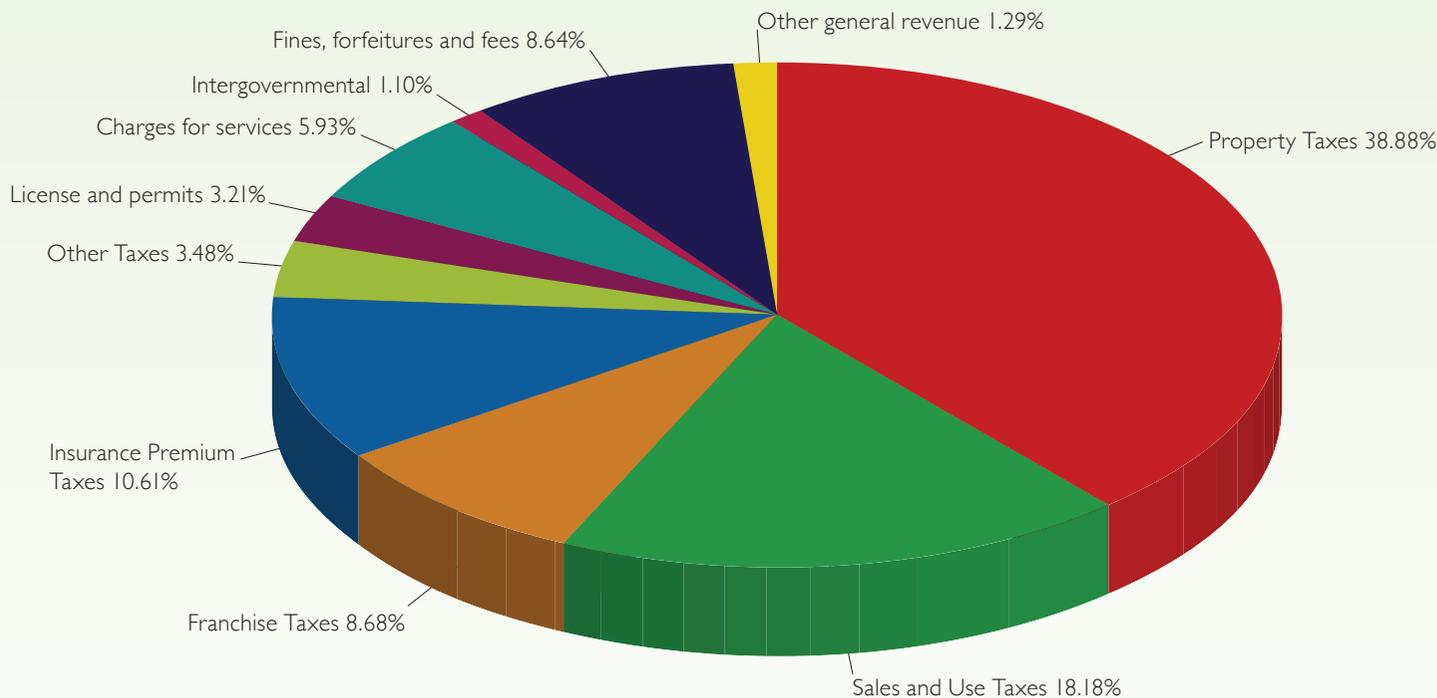
The graph on the left tracks the change in the tax digest over the past five years.

Property tax is the City's single largest source of revenue. The City's millage rate remained level at 11.30 mills from 1997 to 2005. In 2006, the City decreased the millage rate to 10.90 mills. In 2007 the City again decreased the rate to 9.50 mills, where it remained level through fiscal year 2012. The City increased its millage rate to 10.50 in fiscal year 2013 and increased to 11.51 in fiscal year 2015 and 2016. The rate was decreased to 11.00 mills in fiscal year 2017.

# Financial Review of Fiscal Year 2017

For fiscal year ended October 31, 2017, the City of Hinesville received revenues for the General Fund totaling slightly over \$18.5 million. The four largest sources of revenues are Property Taxes, Sales Taxes, Insurance Premium Taxes and Franchise Taxes. The Following section provides a brief description of the City's revenue sources by category:

## General Fund Fiscal Year 2017 Revenues



**Property Taxes 38.88%**  
Taxes collected from property owners based upon an assessed valuation and tax rate. The dollar amount received is to be used to fund governmental services and debt service on voter approved general obligation bonds.

**Sales and Use Taxes 18.18%**  
Taxes imposed on the purchase, sale, rental, storage, use or consumption of tangible personal property and related services and are subject to voter approval. Specifically represents the City's portion of the 1% sales and use tax collected.

**Franchise Taxes 8.68%**  
Taxes imposed on corporations or business for using public property for private purposes.

**Insurance Premium Taxes 10.61%**  
Taxes levied based on the gross direct premiums collected by all insurance companies doing business in the City.

**Other Taxes 3.48%**  
Taxes not classified under any other taxes.

**License and permits 3.21%**  
Fees collected for the issuance of licenses and permits by the City. One of the large components included in this is business licenses.

**Charges for services 5.93%**  
Fees collected for general government services.

**Intergovernmental 1.10%**  
Revenue from other governments in the form of operating grants, shared revenues, etc.

**Fines, forfeitures and fees 8.64%**  
Revenue derived from fines and penalties imposed for the commission of statutory offenses, violation of lawful administrative rules and regulations, for the neglect of official duty, etc.

**Other general revenue 1.29%**  
Other revenue received from sale of surplus, investments, or not otherwise classified.

# Community Development Department

Young people are the future for any economy, not just as consumers but also as workers. Globally, there is evidence that youth ages 15-24 years of age are experiencing challenges in gaining access to the workforce. In 2016, the International Labor Organization (ILO) reported that the youth unemployment rate had risen to 13.1 percent. This increase is largely contributed to a lack of education, employment readiness and training opportunities, which causes severe and subsequent difficulties for obtaining employment in the future.

Recognizing the importance of connecting the City's youth with professional opportunities, the City of Hinesville established the Summer Youth Enhancement Project (SYEP). The program was designed to serve as a true learning experience, with targeted lessons about how to obtain, keep and thrive in the workforce. The program is a careful, thought-out strategy that ensures the youth of Hinesville will gain valuable workforce experience aimed at cultivating their professional and personal career aspirations. The Community Development Department (CDD) administered the program for youth between the ages of 14 and 18 with paid



summer employment for up to four weeks in June and July. The participants worked in entry-level jobs within City and County departments, local businesses and non-profit organizations. Each participant attended a mandatory Trainee Life Skills Development Week which included workshops such as College Readiness, Health and Financial Readiness, Dress for Success, Team Building and Public Speaking. In addition to working 20 hours each week, SYEP employees attended weekly sessions that focused on interview skills, resume building, career exploration and community engagement. These sessions were facilitated by the CDD staff, community partners and local businesses.

The City of Hinesville maintains a long-standing commitment to promote and advocate for enhanced opportunities for our city's youth. It is our hope that through the Summer Youth Enhancement Project, the youth in our community will gain independence, develop additional skill sets and become well-adjusted, contributing members of our society.



# Hinesville Police Department

Starting in February, 2018 the Hinesville Police Department Citizens Academy began a 10-week program designed to provide citizens who live in the city a unique opportunity to learn more about the Hinesville Police Department (HPD). The academy offers classroom instruction, with presentations by HPD personnel from multiple divisions; and a variety of learning experiences outside of the classroom as well. Participants will gain firsthand knowledge about the inner workings of the department and see what officers and communications personnel experience on a daily basis by visiting the Liberty County Public Safety Communications Center. Participants will also have the opportunity to go on a ride-along with an HPD Officer.

Classes are designed to give citizens



an overview of the department and permit an inside look at the daily operations of a full service police department. Topics to be covered include: emergency communications training and recruitment, municipal court and probation, patrol operations, Georgia traffic law and traffic accident investigation, Georgia Family Violence act, gang awareness, Georgia criminal law and investigations, crime suppression unit and drug investigations, response to resistance, shoot don't shoot scenarios, social media and crime prevention. Classes are held at the police department every Tuesday from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. and participants must attend eight out of ten blocks to graduate. The course is free and class size is limited to approximately 20 participants in a class. Applications will be accepted for future classes once the registration period for the next class is opened.

In addition to the adult class, the department will be holding a police academy for high school seniors who live in the Hinesville-area beginning on June 12-19, 2018. This police academy is a unique part of the HPD's new

# Hinesville Police Department

recruitment efforts and is intended to build interest in policing, but also, serves as an opportunity for our officers to build a personal relationship with the citizens throughout our community.

The Juniors Police Academy is a two-week program designed to provide high school juniors with a unique opportunity to learn more about the HPD. The academy features both a classroom setting with presentations by HPD personnel from multiple divisions and a variety of learning experiences outside of the classroom.

Participants will gain firsthand knowledge about the inner workings of the department and see what officers experience on a daily basis. They will also participate in a Crime Solvers exercise with a real HPD detective.

If you are interested in attending an upcoming class please remember space is limited. Contact Cpl. Kevin Remillard at (912) 408-8242 or [kremillard@cityofhinesville.org](mailto:kremillard@cityofhinesville.org) for more information.



# Flood Protection Information

In 2013, the City of Hinesville voluntarily began participating in a FEMA program administered by the Insurance Services Office to improve floodplain management services that results in savings to its residents. Since entering the program, over \$158,000 of savings has been realized by property owners in Hinesville through CRS Premium Discounts on their Flood Hazard Insurance Premiums.

## *Flooding can happen to you... Are you prepared?*

Many people don't consider the likelihood of flooding in our city but it can happen! Several sources of flooding exist in our city, and our goal at the City of Hinesville is to ensure you are safe from the potential damages of flooding. Even if your property is not in a special flood hazard area, take a look at these checklists to make sure you're safe.

### **Build Responsibly**

- Get a permit from the Hinesville Department of Inspections before you build to ensure your structure is up to code and safe from flooding. For example, all projects should be at least 10 feet from the property line so you don't alter the drainage between homes.
- Improvement requirements and procedures as well as information on enforcement can be found online at [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) in City of Hinesville Code of Ordinances, Part II, Sec. 5-276 or by contacting the Hinesville Department of Inspections.
- The NFIP requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must be brought up to the same standards (e.g. a residence damaged so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value before it was damaged must be elevated above the base flood elevation).

### **Protect Your Property from Flooding**

- Regrade your lot
- Build a small floodwall or earthen berm
- Make your walls waterproof
- Place watertight closures over the doorways
- Raise the house above flood levels
- Talk to a plumber about overhead sewers or a backup valve for deeper sewer backup flooding

### **Know Your Local Flood Hazard**

- Check your flood hazard by viewing flood maps and flood protection references in the Hinesville Department of Inspections at (912) 876-4147. Information regarding Floodway, approximate depth of flooding and possible presence of wetlands can be provided if applicable to the site.
- If you are in a Special Flood Hazard Area or have had flooding issues, drainage, or sewer backup problems or would like information about local flood hazard maps and permit requirements, visit or call the Hinesville Department of Inspections at (912) 876-4147.
- Request for the Hinesville Public Works Department to visit your property free of charge to review flood problems and explain ways to stop flooding or prevent flood damage. Call Public Works at (912) 876-8216.

### **Protect the Environment**

- Do not litter and make sure you properly dispose pollutants so they will not be sent down the storm drains.
- Report damaged storm drain covers to Hinesville Public Works. This will help keep our waterways clean.
- For more tips on how to protect our natural floodplains, contact Keep Liberty County Beautiful at (912) 880-4888 or email [kccb@coastalnow.net](mailto:kccb@coastalnow.net)

# Flood Protection Information

## Protect Yourself from Flooding

The City of Hinesville works closely with the Liberty County Emergency Management Agency to share information about flood warnings as well as keep our community safe during emergency situations. Notification is available via text, phone, and email.

- Sign-up for emergency alert information from the City of Hinesville at [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) (Click on the “Notify Me Signup” button).
- Visit [www.libertycountyga.com/alertliberty](http://www.libertycountyga.com/alertliberty) to complete the Citizen Alert Notification Signup from Liberty County EMA.
- Have a plan in place for your family to gather when an evacuation order is issued

## Flood Safety

### Before the flood...

- Purchase flood insurance for yourself and encourage renters to buy flood insurance for their content. Take advantage of a low-cost Preferred Risk Policy.
- List all your personal property
- Keep your policy and your list of personal property in a safe place
- Learn the safest route from your home or place of business to a high, safe ground

### If the flood comes...

- Keep a battery-operated radio tuned to a local station and follow all instructions
- Turn off all utilities at the main switch, if time permits
- Move valuable contents to a higher level, if time permits
- Avoid already flooded areas. Do not attempt to cross any stretch of flood waters on foot if the water is above your knees

- Do not drive where water is over the roads. In floods, cars can become coffins!

- If by mistake you find yourself driving in water and the car stalls, get out of the car and climb to high ground immediately

- If you are caught in the house, move to the second floor and/or, if necessary, the roof. Wait for help; do not try to swim to safety

### After the flood...

- Call your insurance agent or broker
- Have your insurance policy and your list of possessions to simplify the adjuster's work
- Be sure that the structure is not in danger of collapsing before you enter
- Open windows and doors to let air circulate
- Do not strike a match or use a flame when you enter the structure
- Begin clean-up as soon as possible
- Make any temporary repairs necessary to stop further losses from the elements or from looting

# Hinesville Municipal Court



The Municipal Court of Hinesville represents the judicial branch of government. The Municipal Court staff currently consists of the Presiding Judge, an Associate Judge, Judge Pro Tem, two Prosecuting Attorneys, Clerk of Court and two Deputy Court Clerks. The Court works closely with the Probation Department which consists of a Probation Supervisor, two Probation Officers and a Community Service Supervisor.

Municipal Court is responsible for keeping all of the court records. The Court enters the citation information into the court system, prepares the docket for court, accepts bond and fine payments, issues subpoenas, issues warrants, notifies the State of Georgia when a defendant fails to appear in court, when the court has been satisfied on that failure to appear, records the dispositions from court, reports the required dispositions to the Georgia Department of Driver Services and to the Georgia Crime Information Center, to complete certified disposition requests for cases heard in Municipal Court, to assist court personnel, Attorneys, Police Agencies and the general public.

For the Fiscal year of 2017 the Municipal Court processed 10,951 citations. Of the citations issued, 6556 were bond forfeitures which means, that the defendant chose to pay the citations without attending court. The City of Hinesville received revenue of fines and forfeitures of \$1.2 million dollars. A portion to the money collected goes to pay funds established by the State of Georgia, Liberty County, and other agencies as add on monies to the base fine.

Municipal Court is held on Wednesday mornings at 8 a.m. Arraignments are held the first three Wednesdays of the month with bench trials being held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Citations can be paid in person at the Municipal Court Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may pay by cash, Visa, Master Card, Money Order or Personal Check (no starter checks). You can also pay online at cityofhinesville.org. Select online bill pay and follow the prompts. Please note, when paying online, citations for the current court date must be paid by 6 p.m. the Tuesday prior to the court date.

## TOP VIOLATIONS FOR 2017

Speeding.....	2636
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device.....	852
Failure to Stop @ Stop/Yield Sign.....	420
Window Tint.....	368
Failure to Appear.....	349
Expired Tag.....	334
Safety Belt Violation (Adult).....	321
Driving While Suspended/Revoked.....	306
Using Private Property as Thoroughfare.....	284
Driver to Exercise Due Care.....	231
No Insurance.....	204
Improper Left/Right Turn.....	197
Improper Use of Central Lane.....	195
Driving without Tag.....	192
Probation Violation.....	186
No License on Person.....	172
Passing in No-Passing Zone.....	161
Following Too Closely.....	159
Lic: 60 Days to Change Name/Add.....	155
Safety Belt (Child 0-7 years of age).....	143
Possession of Marijuana < 1 oz. ....	138
DUI.....	137
Improper Lane Usage.....	125
Lighted Headlights/Other Lights Req.....	124
Shoplifting.....	117
All others.....	< 100 per violation

## 2017 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Restitution.....	.11
Peace Officers' Annuity & Benefit Fund.....	4.17
Law Library.....	1.13
Peace Officer, Prosecutor, & Indigent Defense	6.58
Peace Officer, Prosecutor, & Ind Def Fund Training	5.97
City Governing Authority.....	61.37
Jail Construction & Staffing Fund.....	6.38
GA Crime Victims Emergency Fund.....	.07
Drug Abuse treatment & Education Fund.....	.95
Local Victims Assistance Program.....	3.17
Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund.....	.29
Driver Education & Training Fund.....	.69
Probation Fees.....	4.72
GCVEF.....	1.44
DAF.....	.15
Court Software.....	2.24
Other (Non Mandated) .....	.56

# City of Hinesville Contact Information

## Contact Information

City Hall (Direct Line).....	912-876-3564	Downtown Development Authority.....	912-877-4332
City Hall (Hearing Impaired).....	912-876-4229	Finance Department.....	912-876-3564
Mayor's Office.....	912-876-3564	Fire Department.....	912-876-4143
City Council.....	912-876-3564	Police Department.....	912-368-8211
Administration.....	912-876-3564	Human Resources.....	912-876-3564
Business License.....	912-876-3564	Municipal Court.....	912-368-8206
City Clerk.....	912-876-3564	Planning & Zoning Office.....	912-408-2030
Department of Community Development.....	912-876-3164	Public Relations.....	912-876-3564
Department of Inspections.....	912-876-4147	Public Works Department.....	912-876-8216
		Water Department.....	912-876-3564

## Other Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control.....	912-876-9191	Liberty Transit.....	912-877-1472
Birth Certificates/ Marriage License/Gun Permits.....	912-876-3635	Passports.....	912-876-3625
Board of Education.....	912-876-2161	Public Health Department.....	912-876-2173
Driver's License.....	912-370-2604	Social Security Administration (Savannah).....	800-772-1213
Emergency Management Agency.....	912-368-2201	Soil Testing (County Extension Service).....	912-876-2133
Georgia Department of Labor.....	912-370-2595	Vehicle Registration & Car Tags.....	912-876-3389
Homeless Prevention Program.....	912-876-6573	Voter's Registration.....	912-876-3310
Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission.....	912-408-2030		



**City Council Meetings** held 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the Council Chamber at Hinesville City Hall beginning at 3 p.m. Contact Hinesville City Clerk's Office at (912) 876-3564.

**Hinesville Military Affairs Committee Meetings** held 4th Monday of each month at the LaQuinta Inn at 7 p.m. Contact Hinesville Military Affairs Committee at (912) 368-8211.

**Hinesville Farmer's Market** held every Thursday March through October from 3-7 p.m. in Bradwell Park. Contact Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at (912) 877-4332.

Visit [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org) for detailed information on Annual City Events. Information on community events can be found at [www.libertycounty.org](http://www.libertycounty.org)

## 2018 Annual Hinesville Events

**Peanut Butter & Jelly Collection for Food Pantry** held Thursday, June 7, 2018 from 3-7 p.m. in Bradwell Park at the Hinesville Farmer's Market. Contact the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at (912) 877-4332.

**U.S. Army's Birthday Party** held Thursday, June 14, 2018 from 3-7 p.m. in Bradwell Park at the Hinesville Farmer's Market. Contact the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at (912) 877-4332.

**Back to School Supply Giveaway** held Thursday, August 23, 2018 from 3-7 p.m. in Bradwell Park at the Hinesville Farmer's Market. Contact the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at (912) 877-4332.

**National Night Out** will be held on August 7, 2018 from 5-8 p.m. at Bryant Commons. Contact Hinesville Police Department at (912) 876-8211.

**Tied to Success** held Saturday, August 25, 2018 at 10 a.m. at the Liberty County Performing Arts Center. Contact the Community Development Department at (912) 876-6573.

**Blues and BBQ Festival** held Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 2-11 p.m. in downtown Hinesville. Contact Hinesville Area Arts Council at [www.hinesvillearts.com](http://www.hinesvillearts.com).

**Pumpkin Patch** will be held on October 13, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bryant Commons. Contact Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at (912) 877-4332.

**Scarecrow Stroll and Beggar's Night** held Friday, October 26 from 5-7 p.m. in downtown Hinesville. Contact Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at (912) 877-4332.

**16th Annual Mayor's Thanksgiving Service** held Sunday November 19 at 6 p.m. (Location to be determined). Contact the Public Relations Office at (912) 876-3564.

**Veterans Salute** will be held November 3, 2018 at Bryant Commons. Contact Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at (912) 877-4332.

**3rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration** will be held on November 29 at 6 p.m. in Bradwell Park. Contact the Public Relations Office at (912) 876-3564.

**22nd Annual Illuminated Christmas Parade** held on November 30, 2018 in downtown Hinesville at 6:30 p.m. Contact Liberty County Chamber of Commerce at (912) 368-4445.



*"Home for a day or a lifetime"*

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide the highest quality of life, nurture a strong business community, and maintain efficient **governance** for the residents of Hinesville.

### Vision Statement

Our vision is to be the coastal "southern living" community of choice in Georgia for a day or a lifetime. We are committed to serving our residents with superior organization that demonstrates excellence, responsiveness and efficiency.



### Find us Online!

Website: [www.cityofhinesville.org](http://www.cityofhinesville.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hinesvillega](http://www.facebook.com/hinesvillega) or search City of Hinesville  
Twitter: @HinesvilleGA