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City of Hinesville Contact Information

City of Hinesville Contact Information

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

Other Frequently Contacted Agencies

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

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.

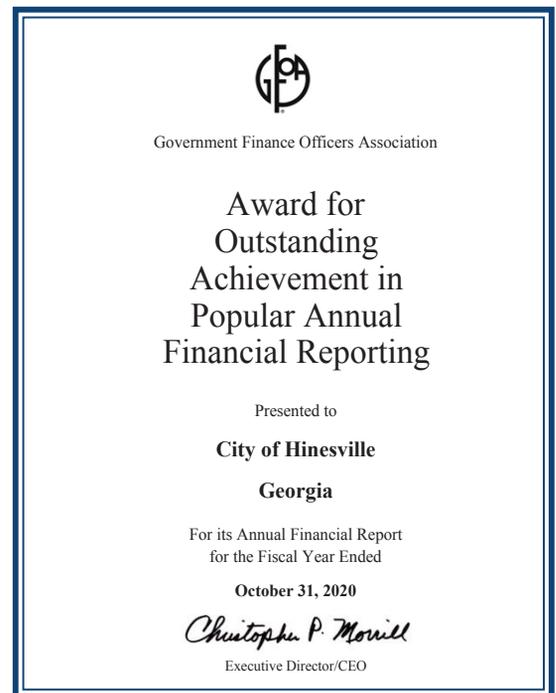
Throughout this report, you will find information about the elected officials, services and financial condition of your city.

The financial information contained within this report is extracted from the City’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). 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 sixteen years the City’s ACFR 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 ACFR 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.

You may obtain a copy of the ACFR on our website at 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, 2020. 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 Annual Citizens Report to you. I am proud to report that, once again, the City of Hinesville is in sound fiscal shape.

With no increase in the millage rate, citizens continue to enjoy high-quality services. As you can see in the financial section of this publication, the millage rate has decreased by 1.01 mills in the past five fiscal years.

Despite the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, the City has shown continued growth. Sales tax collections for the City's fiscal year 2021 increased by 10 percent over our fiscal year 2020 sales tax collections. Sales tax makes up 22 percent of our general fund budget and is the second-largest revenue source. This can be attributed to increased commercial activity throughout the entire City of Hinesville.

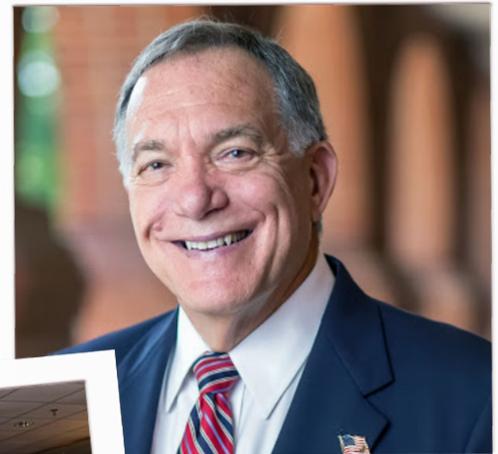
All in all, the City of Hinesville is continuing to grow and expand in terms of commercial activity and residents. In 2021, the City of Hinesville added 169 new businesses; an increase of 9% over last year, and added 155 new residential and commercial construction permits.

In my years of service, I have had the privilege of seeing this community grow in some amazing ways. The revitalization of neighborhoods. The humanitarian work of our citizens. The partnerships and relationships forged with our neighbors around Liberty County. As always, I am grateful to serve as the Mayor of the City of Hinesville and to be part of a community defined by its strength and integrity.

Sincerely,



Allen Brown
Mayor



Message from the City Manager

Dear Residents and Visitors,

2021 was a year of continued challenges from the coronavirus pandemic and the City of Hinesville met those challenges head-on. From adjusting our daily operations to maintaining an open, transparent government. Despite unforeseen challenges associated with COVID-19 the City continues to deliver fiscally responsible and highly dependable services to its citizens.

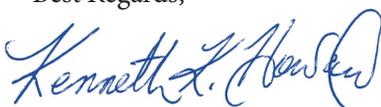
One of the biggest attributes of the financial state of the City, in addition to strategic leadership and a conservative stance on expense management, is the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). SPLOST is an optional one percent county tax used to fund capital outlay projects proposed by the county government and participating qualified municipal governments. In general, county and municipal governments may not use SPLOST proceeds for operating expenses or maintenance of a SPLOST project.

Utilizing SPLOST funding, we have moved forward on important projects throughout the City. A brand-new Krebs community park located on Airport Road, a state-of-the-art Fire Station on Commerce Street, and the completion of Bradwell Park Renovation is scheduled for this Spring. We can't wait for the gatherings that will soon be back in the center of Downtown. These projects are signs of your SPLOST dollars hard at work.

Even while closely monitoring the pandemic, we continued our work and the growth is apparent; amidst all of this, we remained fiscally constant. As you'll see in this report, the financial health of our local City government is sound. This report not only shows you in-depth detail about our expenditures and revenues, but it also highlights City departments that serve you with the highest level of professionalism and efficiency.

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

Best Regards,



Kenneth Howard



City Council



DIANA REID, DISTRICT 1

district1@cityofhinesville.org

“It’s my humble pleasure to serve you. Together we can strengthen our community! If you need me, be assured I am only a phone call away. I look forward to continue serving and to God be the Glory!”

JASON FLOYD, DISTRICT 2

district2@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 citizens and I hope you enjoy the Annual Citizens 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 councilmember.



VICKY NELSON, DISTRICT 3

district3@cityofhinesville.org

I’m grateful for the opportunity to not only serve the citizens of District 3, but 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 to make 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.”



City Council



KEITH JENKINS, MAYOR PRO TEM

district4@cityofhinesville.org

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. That's why I'm encouraging you to learn more about your City government. Let's work together to improve our district and our city.

KARL RILES, DISTRICT 5

district5@cityofhinesville.org

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent you on the City Council. Hinesville is a community built on many things and service to others is one of the cornerstones that stands out in my mind when I consider the style leadership best suited to my time in office. The city succeeds when we support and serve each other.



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Hinesville City Council meetings take place on the first and third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 115 E. M. L. King, Jr. Dr. Meetings are livestreamed to the City's Facebook account - @HinesvilleGA.

Public Works Department

Fats, oils and greases aren't just bad for your arteries; they're bad for sewers, too! As you may know, sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows and backups is sewer pipes blocked by GREASE. Grease commonly enters residential sewer systems through household drains.

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage into your homes or the environment is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place. There are several ways to do this:

- NEVER pour grease down sink drains, garbage disposals or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into the trash for disposal.
- Put strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the strainers into the trash for disposal.

There are many other things that can cause sewer backups. Here are things to consider for helping to

prevent sewer backups at your home or business:

- Do not plant trees and shrubs over the building sewer. The roots of trees will seek out the joints of the sanitary sewer and eventually clog the pipe.
- Do not put large amounts of food waste through the garbage disposal at one time. Even though these materials will go through the garbage disposal, they may clog the building sewer. This also applies to grease, which will build up in the building sewer over time eventually causing a blockage.

The City of Hinesville cleans the sewer system on routine schedules. This helps minimize the chance of sewer blockages and interruptions in your service. This type work requires specialized equipment including a jet truck. This truck uses water under high pressure to clean lines. Below is a photograph one of the City's sewer jet trucks dumping grease and debris that was removed from the sewer system.



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, a Judge Pro Tem, a Prosecuting Attorney, an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Clerk of Court, a Senior Deputy Court Clerk, and two full time Deputy Clerks. Municipal Court must stay informed of any changes to local and state laws. On May 3, 2021 Governor Kemp signed into law HB 534 which establishes Georgia's new Street Racing Law.

The new law establishes a harsh punishment for those involved in Reckless Stunt Driving 40-6-390.1 and those who promote illegal drag racing. The first conviction in 10 years has a fine between \$300.00 to \$750.00 plus sur charges and 10 days to 6 months of incarceration. The second offense within 10 years has a fine between \$600.00 to \$1000.00 plus surcharges and 90 days to 12 months of incarceration. The third conviction within 10 years has a fine between \$1000.00 to \$5000.00 and 120 days to 12 months of incarceration. Counts 1 to 3 are considered a high and aggravated misdemeanor. A fourth conviction within a 10-year period is a felony. The 10-year time frame is measured from dates of arrest.

Municipal Court is held on Wednesday mornings at 8:00 AM. Arraignments are held on the first three Wednesday's of the month with bench trials being held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.



Municipal Court is open to the public, citizens are encouraged to attend.

Citations can be paid in person, by mail, or online at thecityofhinesville.org. Cash, money orders, checks and credit cards are accepted. Municipal Court is located at 123 E MLK Jr. Drive or call 912-368-8206.



Reckless Stunt Driving in Georgia

This new charge comes with serious penalties. Here's what you need to know.

Police Department

Inspiring a Culture of Excellence

Community engagement can be a complex issue. Although enforcing the law is a substantial part of our existence, building partnerships based on trust, communication, and mutual respect is key for achieving our mission of establishing and preserving a safe environment. As a law enforcement agency, we are always trying to find ways to impact our community positively.

Today, the Hinesville Police Department continues to look for ways to build upon its community engagement skills by linking the principles of honesty and openness to our code of ethics. We remain committed to listening to, learning from, and growing with our citizens. For that reason, we strive to be transparent in our actions, decisions, and communications with our partners and those we serve.

The more you know about us, the more you know that it is our values of professionalism, respect, integrity, courage, and excellence that define our organization's personality and our motto.* These values define our culture and the mentality and behavior necessary for the Hinesville Police Department to exist and accomplish its mission.



Police Department

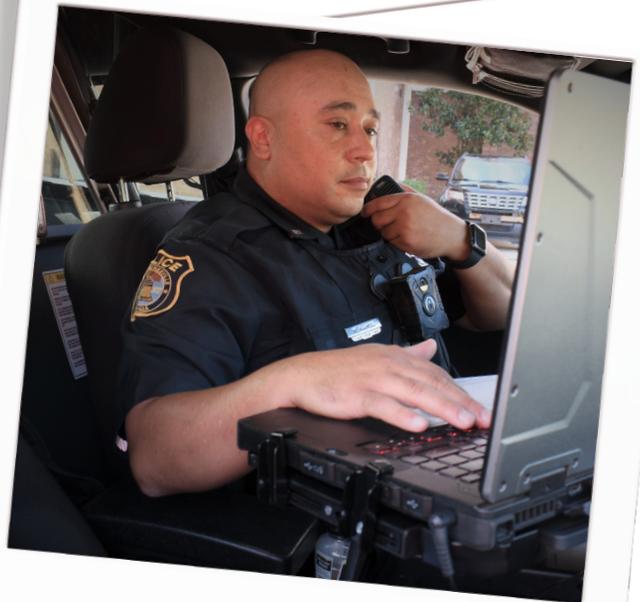
The values and culture that we cherish are exemplified by the following excerpts and pictures:

“Courage: *Intellectual, Moral, and Physical*

We strive to embody the intellectual courage to learn, unlearn and relearn with an open mind; the moral courage to stand up for what is right even when it is uncomfortable or unpopular; and the physical courage to act at the risk of our own bodily harm or death.”

“Excellence: *Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice*

Excellence is the pursuit of our highest quality selves. We define excellence as being our best and doing our best, consistently. It is when we demand more of ourselves than our citizens do and expect more of ourselves than others think is practical. Therefore, we strive to be better than the last time, every time.”



Bradwell Park

Our beloved Bradwell Park is undergoing a transformation, further enhancing its status as both a landmark and destination in Hinesville.

The City of Hinesville and the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority (HDDA) outlined the renovation of Bradwell Park as a top priority in the 2019 Renaissance Strategic Vision and Plan. The purpose being to create a vibrant downtown area with a diverse array of dining, family-friendly activities, and entertainment options. Through

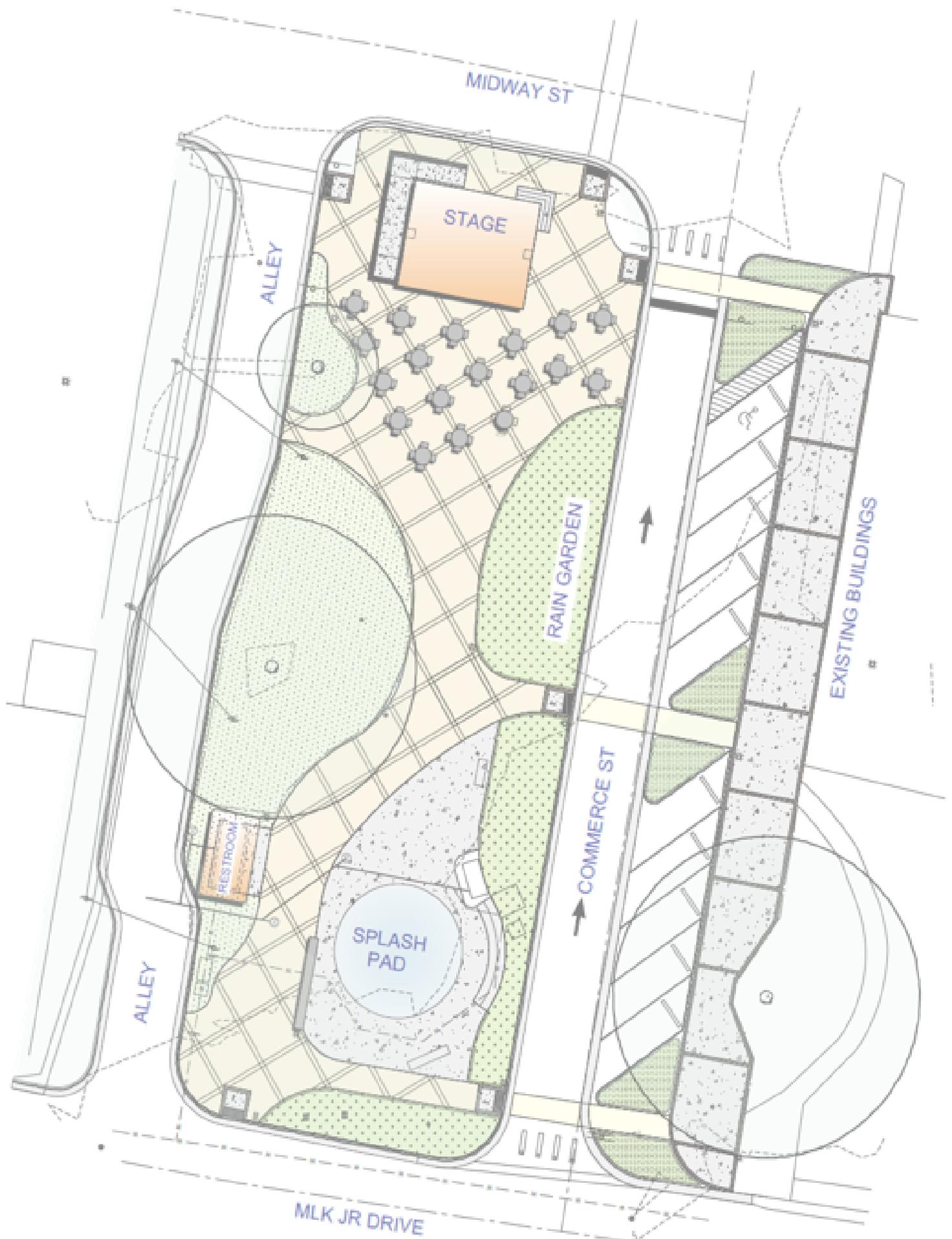
enhanced planning efforts involving the community and many of you, our local downtown business owners, a final design for the park was approved by the Hinesville City Council and HDDA Board in spring 2020.

The renovation project will include a performance stage, outdoor seating, public parking, a 17-foot sidewalk area, and more. It will also include public restroom facilities and an interactive splash pad. The park's new design will also feature rain gardens, helping aid stormwater runoff.

All these features will enhance the natural beauty of the park. Once complete, the newly renovated Bradwell Park will offer opportunities for community events, such as block parties, farmers' markets, community festivals, and the like. It will also help attract residents and visitors to the downtown area to enjoy dining, shopping, and leisure activities.

The Bradwell Park Renovation Project represents a \$1.3 million investment into Downtown Hinesville. It is funded through a variety of sources including grants and the special local option sales tax (SPLOST). Weather permitting, the newly renovated park is set to open in the Summer of 2022.





Financial Review – Fiscal Year 2021

The Financial Review section is designed to provide information on the financial health and stability of the City. This information should provide 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 Comes From”) and expenses (“Where the Money Went”).

Where the Money Came From

| | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Property Taxes..... | \$ 7,692,376 | \$ 8,784,223 |
| Sales Taxes..... | 4,936,583 | 5,431,626 |
| Franchise Taxes..... | 1,769,263 | 1,664,097 |
| Insurance Premium Tax..... | 2,678,147 | 2,762,681 |
| Alcoholic Beverage Taxes..... | 451,928 | 471,959 |
| Hotel/Motel Tax..... | 144,575 | 179,237 |
| Other General Revenue..... | 34,022 | 37,026 |
| Total General Revenue..... | <u>17,706,894</u> | <u>19,330,849</u> |
| Charges for Services..... | 20,103,088 | 22,574,833 |
| Operating Grants..... | 3,590,632 | 2,834,133 |
| Capital Grants & Contributions | 3,217,927 | 6,342,880 |
| Total Program Revenues..... | <u>26,911,647</u> | <u>31,751,846</u> |
| Other Income..... | 188,646 | 176,533 |
| Investment Earnings..... | 174,944 | 64,782 |
| Total Other Income | <u>363,590</u> | <u>241,315</u> |
| Total Revenues | <u><u>44,982,131</u></u> | <u><u>51,324,010</u></u> |

Where the Money Went

| | Fiscal Year 2020 | Fiscal Year 2021 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Government..... | \$ 3,181,179 | \$ 3,146,069 |
| Judicial..... | 293,311 | 337,142 |
| Public Safety..... | 11,385,046 | 10,804,520 |
| Public Works..... | 3,459,915 | 3,817,145 |
| Housing and Development..... | 1,941,082 | 1,891,517 |
| Health and Welfare..... | 1,053,405 | 1,368,403 |
| Culture and Recreation..... | 892,493 | 345,029 |
| Interest & Fiscal Charges..... | 113,504 | 103,913 |
| Total Governmental Activities. | <u>22,319,935</u> | <u>21,813,738</u> |
| Water and Sewer..... | 10,298,591 | 10,660,140 |
| Sanitation..... | 3,252,807 | 3,421,519 |
| Stormwater Utility..... | 1,399,288 | 1,578,910 |
| Transit..... | 921,360 | 1,055,519 |
| Fort Stewart IGSA's..... | 685,722 | 2,474,181 |
| Total Business-type Activities. | <u>16,557,768</u> | <u>19,190,269</u> |
| Total Expenses | 38,877,703 | 41,004,007 |
| Change in Net Position | 6,104,428 | 10,320,000 |
| Net Position-Beginning | <u>94,988,704</u> | <u>101,093,132</u> |
| Net Position - Ending | <u><u>\$ 101,093,132</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 111,413,132</u></u> |

For more detailed financial information, you can view the City’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at www.cityofhinesville.org or by contacting the Finance Department at 912-876-3564.

Financial Review – Fiscal Year 2021



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:

Net Investment in Capital Assets

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

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.

Net Positions Unrestricted

The remaining balance of net assets not reports under the other two categories of net postilions.

Financial Review

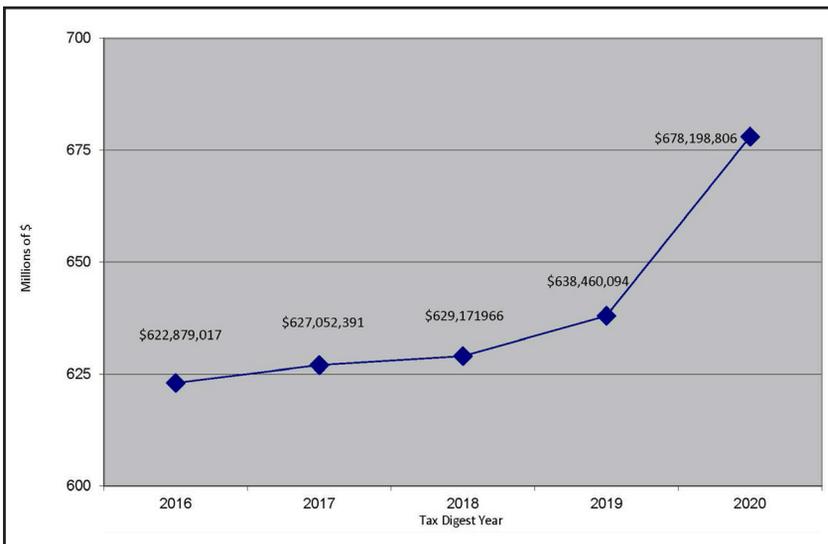
Property Tax Breakdown



Property Tax Breakdown

The illustration on the left depicts how each one dollar of property tax revenue collected is distributed to the various taxing entities. The City of Hinesville receives \$0.22 of every \$1.00 collected from taxpayers in the City.

Property Tax Digest



Property Tax Digest

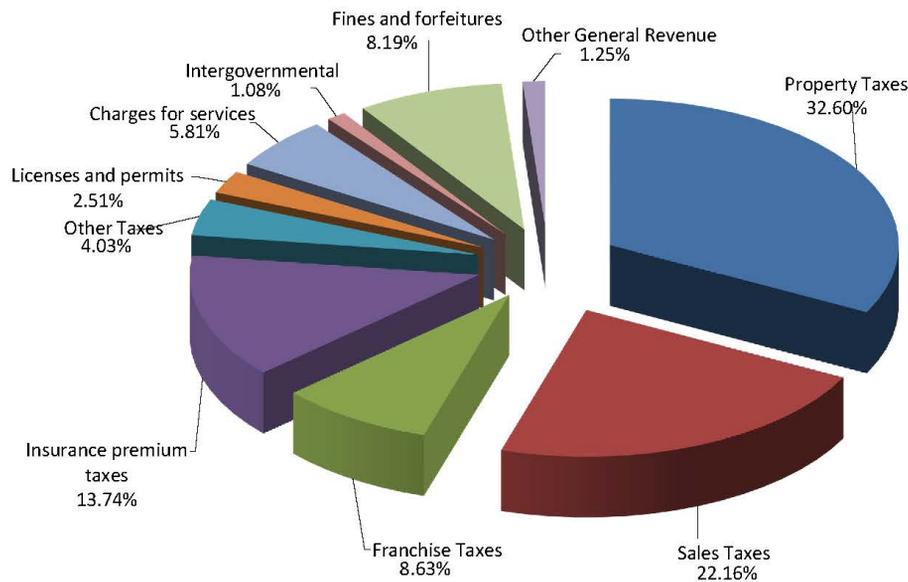
The graph on the left tracks the change in the tax digest over the past five (5) years.

* 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 City decreased the millage rate 11.00 mills in fiscal year 2017, 10.75 mills in 2018, 10.70 mills in fiscal year 2019 and 10.50 mills in fiscal year 2020. The millage rate for fiscal year 2021 remained level at 10.50 mills.

General Fund Fiscal Year 2021 Revenues

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2021, the City of Hinesville received revenues for the General Fund totaling slightly over \$22.5 million. The four (4) largest sources of revenues are Property Taxes, Sales Taxes, Insurance Premium Taxes and Franchise Taxes. This section provides a brief description of the City's revenue sources by

General Fund Fiscal Year 2021 Revenues



● **Property Taxes – 32.60%**

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 – 22.16%**

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 one (1) percent sales and use tax collected.

● **Franchise Taxes – 8.63%**

Taxes imposed on corporations or businesses for using public property on private purposes.

● **Insurance Premium Taxes – 13.74%**

Taxes levied based on the gross direct premiums collected by all insurance companies doing business in the City.

● **Other Taxes – 4.03%**

Taxes not classified under any other taxes.

● **Licenses and Permits – 2.51%**

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 – 5.81%**

Fees collected for general government uses.

● **Intergovernmental – 1.08%**

Revenue from other governments in the form of operating grants, shared revenues, etc.

● **Fines, Forfeitures and Fees – 8.19%**

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 – 1.26%**

Other revenue received from sale of surplus, investments or not otherwise classified.

Hinesville Fire Department

In years past, HFD recruits would spend eight to ten weeks at the Georgia Fire Academy in Forsyth, Ga. This meant time away from work and family. Also, there were limits on how many recruits one department could send to this basic training program. In March of 2021, a dream became reality out of necessity. We had six recruits that needed certification immediately. The Georgia Fire Academy could only accept two recruits from Hinesville per class. This meant it would take approximately 11 months to get all six of our recruits certified. The decision was made to train in-house and, nine days later, Hinesville Fire started our first recruit class.

The recruit school is 10 weeks. Each member receives over 400 hours of training in multiple disciplines. Upon completion, each recruit is state and nationally certified as Firefighter I, Crash Victim Extrication, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, and Emergency Medical Responder. While ensuring that the minimum standards for state and national certifications are met, our recruits also learn what it means to be a Hinesville Firefighter. Training in Hinesville reduces personal stressors because our recruits can spend every night at home with their families. Training in the community we serve allows our recruits to meet and interact with our citizens and creates a buy-in to the community that is lost when training three hours away. This also allows our

citizens to see the time and effort that their firefighters put in to make sure the city is well served.

Creating this recruit training program allows the department to further instill the culture that we desire. We want every member to live our motto of “Earn Your Seat”. From the first day on the job, Hinesville Firefighters are expected to live up to the standards our community has set for us. We vow to Earn Our Seat every day so that our citizens know that we are here to protect them and the city we all love.



Inspections Department - GIS Office

Geographic Information System (GIS) uses the location and spatial component of data to help decision-making and problem-solving. The mission of the GIS Office is to continuously improve our GIS services to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of services our government provides.

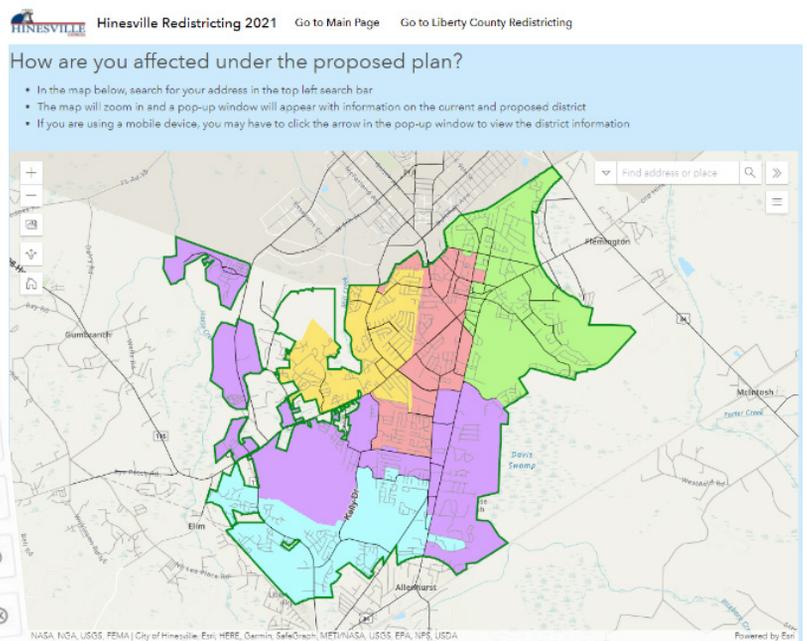
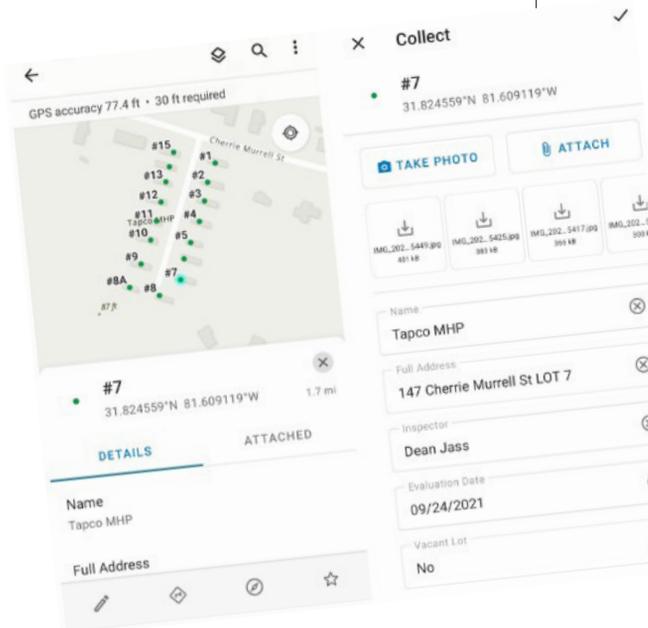
The GIS Office works closely with residents and various government departments, such as law enforcement, Public Works, Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission, and the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority. Current services provided by the GIS Office include performing analysis on spatial distribution, developing mobile apps for field data collection, creating online and printed maps, and maintaining GIS data.

Highlights

Online Maps – Various online maps and applications are available for the public at www.qrd.by/HinesvilleGIS. These applications allow the public to look up information on properties, zoning, flood zone, and developments in Hinesville and Liberty County. The applications also provide a one-stop-shop for road closure and weather information.

Redistricting - After Census data was released in late 2021, Hinesville was required to re-establish and redraw its Council Districts so that each district has similar population count. GIS played a critical role in the process as elected officials could view how demographics count and composition change with the district boundaries change. GIS is also used as a tool for public outreach effort, including map production and application development: www.qrd.by/Redistricting.

GIS Day - The Hinesville GIS Office, Liberty County Assessors Office and Liberty County GIS Office, co-host GIS Day every 3rd Wednesday of November. The event provides an opportunity for everyone to learn and explore the benefits of GIS and showcases the work from the 3 offices. In 2021, over 200 people participated in the virtual event. Visit www.qrd.by/GISDay2021 for the 2021 event page.



Community Development



The Community Development Department (CDD) pursues funding from public and private grant sources to help facilitate the strategic goals of the City of Hinesville. More than \$11 million has been secured in the past six years for planning, parks and recreation, homeless prevention, housing assistance, downtown revitalization, police and fire department equipment, and more. The Fair Housing Initiative is just one of several programs funded by dollars secured for various projects that benefit our community.

Fair Housing

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibits discrimination by direct providers of housing. This includes landlords and real estate companies as well as other entities such as municipalities, banks or other lending institutions, and

homeowners insurance companies whose discriminatory practices make housing unavailable to persons because of Race • Color • Religion • Sex • Handicap • Familial Status • National Origin. Refusing to rent or sell violates the statute when refusal is based on the person's membership in one of the seven protected classes.

Other unlawful housing practices include delay of application processing, discrimination of financing, establishing different terms and conditions, providing false statements of unavailability, discriminatory advertising or statements, as well as denial of brokerage services.

Fair Housing: it's not an option, it's the LAW!

Discrimination is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people and is prohibited in housing and lending. All individuals should have equal access to

Community Development

rental housing and homeownership opportunities as well as equal treatment during the process of locating and financing a home.

Housing discrimination is a persistent and severely under-reported problem nationwide. The U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that more than four million instances of housing discrimination occur each year, but less than one percent or 40,000 are reported.

Enlightening the Community

The Community Development Department has taken the initiative to inform Hinesville citizens of their fair housing rights. The guiding principle is to ensure that citizens can protect themselves by recognizing discrimination and having knowledge of the proper action to take if their rights are violated.

Every available opportunity is used to educate the community of their right to fair housing. Throughout the year, information is available on the City website and the CDD Facebook page, brochures are made available through

partnerships with the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority, and a billboard is maintained on Highway 84.

Fair Housing Month is observed annually in April with several events including Mayoral Proclamation Signing and an information booth available at the HDDA Farmer's Market all April. All events are free and open to the public.

Available Assistance

If you feel that your fair housing rights have been violated due to discrimination, local assistance is available. You may file a confidential complaint with the agency listed below free of charge. A time limit applies, and complaints must be filed within one year of an alleged violation; however, it should be filed as soon as possible.

JC Vision and Associates, Inc.
135 East MLK Jr. Drive - Suite G
Hinesville, GA 31313
(912) 877-4243



Flood Protection

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 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 kclcb@coastalnw.net

Flood Protection

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 (Click on the "Notify Me Signup" button).
- Visit 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

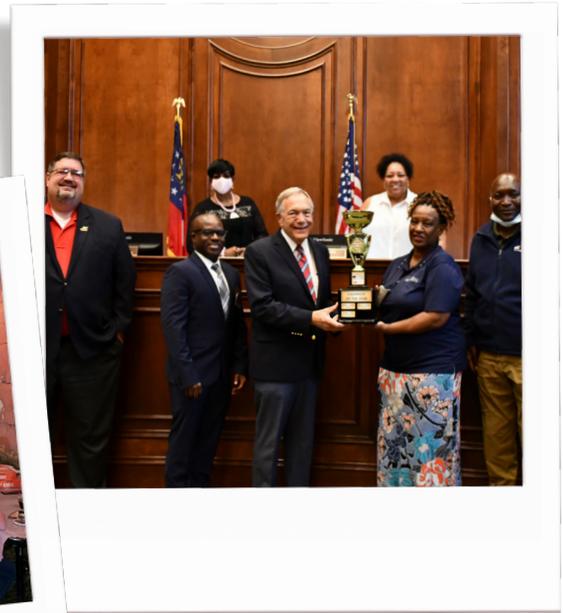
If the flood comes...

- 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



HINESVILLE

GEORGIA

"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 government 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
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/hinesvillega or search City of Hinesville
 Twitter: @HinesvilleGA