



HINESVILLE

GEORGIA



"Home for a Day or a Lifetime"



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Governmental Structure * Performance Highlights * Financial Reviews

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 seventeen 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.



Government Finance Officers Association

**Award for
Outstanding
Achievement in
Popular Annual
Financial Reporting**

Presented to

**City of Hinesville
Georgia**

For its Annual Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

October 31, 2021

Christopher P. Morill

Executive Director/CEO

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, 2021. 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.

During my eight years as your Mayor, I am happy to report that there has been no increase in the millage rate. With no increase in the millage rate, citizens continue to enjoy high-quality services. We have invested in infrastructure projects, ensuring safer roads and upgraded public facilities. We have worked to attract new businesses and promote entrepreneurship, fostering economic growth and providing job opportunities. Together, we have built a thriving local economy that benefits us all.

But beyond the tangible accomplishments, what truly makes our City exceptional is the indomitable spirit of its people. Your resilience, passion, and dedication have been a constant source of inspiration to me. I have witnessed firsthand your unwavering commitment to community service, volunteering countless hours to make a positive impact in the lives of others. Your compassion and kindness have made our hometown a place where everyone feels valued and supported.

Upon relinquishing the role of Mayor, I have full confidence in the future of our City. We have a talented and dedicated team of public servants who will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf. Remember, progress is a collective effort, and your involvement in shaping Hinesville's future remains crucial. Stay engaged, voice your opinions, and work together to build upon the solid foundation we have laid.

As I bid farewell, please accept my heartfelt thanks once again for your unwavering support, trust, and cooperation. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as your Mayor. I am forever grateful for the friendships forged, the memories made, and the lasting impact we have created together.

Though I may no longer hold the title of Mayor, I will always be a proud citizen of this remarkable City we call home. It is my hope that our paths will continue to cross, and that our shared love for this community will unite us in future endeavors.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for allowing me to be a part of this incredible chapter in Hinesville's history.

Sincerely,



Allen Brown
Mayor



Message from the City Manager

Dear Residents and Visitors,

2022 has been a testament to our collective resilience and unwavering determination. Despite the challenges and uncertainties, we faced following the COVID-19 pandemic, our city has continued to flourish, thanks to the remarkable efforts of our dedicated staff and the steadfast support of our residents. Together, we have overcome obstacles and forged a path toward prosperity, one that we can all take pride in.

I am pleased to report that our economic growth has continued to climb, with an increase in business investments, job opportunities, and overall success. This remarkable achievement is a direct result of the combined efforts of local government, our local businesses, entrepreneurs, and the community at large. By supporting local establishments, participating in community events, and showcasing the resolute spirit of our city, each one of you has contributed to this phenomenal achievement.

Our city has always been known for its welcoming atmosphere, vibrant culture, and unparalleled community spirit. It is these qualities that attract new businesses, residents, and visitors alike, fostering a thriving and diverse economy. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our extraordinary city staff, whose tireless dedication and commitment have been instrumental in achieving this steady growth. Their dedication to providing top-notch services and their ability to adapt to changing circumstances have been pivotal in positioning our city as an economic engine in the coastal region.

However, I believe it is crucial to acknowledge that none of this would have been possible without the continued support and active participation of our residents. Your belief in our city, your willingness to embrace change, and your tireless efforts to contribute to its betterment have been the driving force behind our collective success. Your passion, resilience, and commitment to creating a thriving community have set an inspiring example for others to follow.

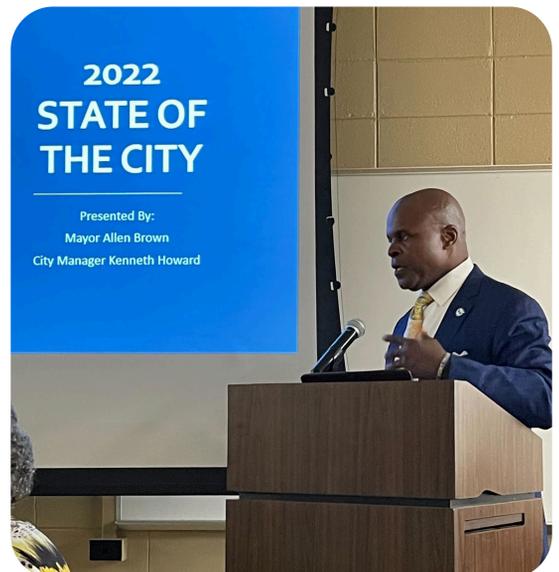
Let us use this outstanding achievement as a launching pad for even greater accomplishments. Together, we can continue to build upon our strengths, address our challenges, and create a future that is even brighter and more prosperous than ever before.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest gratitude to each one of you. It is through your unwavering support and unyielding determination that we have achieved this incredible milestone. I am honored to serve as your City Manager and look forward to witnessing the unlimited potential of our city unfold in the years to come.

Best regards,



Kenneth Howard
Hinesville City Manager





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.”





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.

City Clerk

City Clerks are the backbone of local government. Although they usually do their job without much fanfare or recognition, they are an essential part of any effective local government. The City Clerk's office has the responsibility of recording and securing many laws, regulations, ordinances, and documents created by City Council and the community. Clerks are also charged with providing this information to the public. If you have questions pertaining to elections, ethics filings, code of ordinances, record requests, public meeting schedules, or results of a vote taken by City Council; the City Clerk can assist.

In recent months, the City Clerk's office has worked diligently to enhance practices pertaining to open meetings, open records and records retention.

Open Meetings:

We have implemented an agenda and minutes management software. We now utilize CivicClerk to offer a faster and intuitive way to automate meeting agendas on the web for public viewing.

Open Records:

The implementation of JustFOIA enables our staff to better serve the community by simplifying the management of public record requests.

Records Retention:

We have created and designed processes for the proper destruction of City records according to local government record retention schedules.

The role of the city clerk varies depending on the size and structure of the local government municipality. In the City of Hinesville, the City Clerk manages the Clerk's Office, Business License Office, Water Department, and Maintenance Department.

Get to know this vital part of your local government. Whether or not you need the services they can provide, it is likely that at some point, you will need to contact your local City Clerk.



Take a moment to preview the City Clerk's webpage for these incredible updates. www.cityofhinesville.org/96/City-Clerks-Office

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 April 25, 2022 Governor Kemp signed into law HB 1216 which enhanced the penalties for the violation of fleeing/attempting to elude a police officer.

The new law establishes a harsh punishment for those involved in Fleeing /Attempting to Elude a Police Officer 40-6-395. The fine for first conviction increased from \$500 to \$1,000 and carries a minimum of 30 days imprisonment. The second offense within 10 years has an increased fine from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and carries a minimum period of 90 days imprisonment. The third conviction within 10 years has an increased fine from \$2,500 to \$4,000 and carries a minimum period of 180-day imprisonment. The first 3 convictions are considered a high and aggravated misdemeanor. A fourth conviction within a 10-year period is a felony and carries a fine of \$5,000 to \$10,000 and imprisonment of not less than 12 months or more than 10 years. Fine amounts listed do not include surcharges. The 10-year time frame is measured from dates of arrest.

Anyone fleeing the police who causes an accident, passes a school bus camera, drag racing, or is driving reckless is guilty of a felony punished by a minimum fine of \$5,000 but not more than \$10,000 plus surcharges and imprisonment of not less than 12 months or more than 10 years.

Municipal Court is held on Wednesday mornings at 8:00 AM and is open to the public, citizens are encouraged to attend.

Citations can be paid in person, by mail, or online at the cityofhinesville.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.



Police Department

Employee engagement is an integral part of the Hinesville Police Department's business practice. It is more than just having happy employees who are satisfied with their jobs. Employee engagement is the emotional connection employees have to the agency, its mission, and its values, and it drives the employees to go above and beyond their jobs' basic requirements.

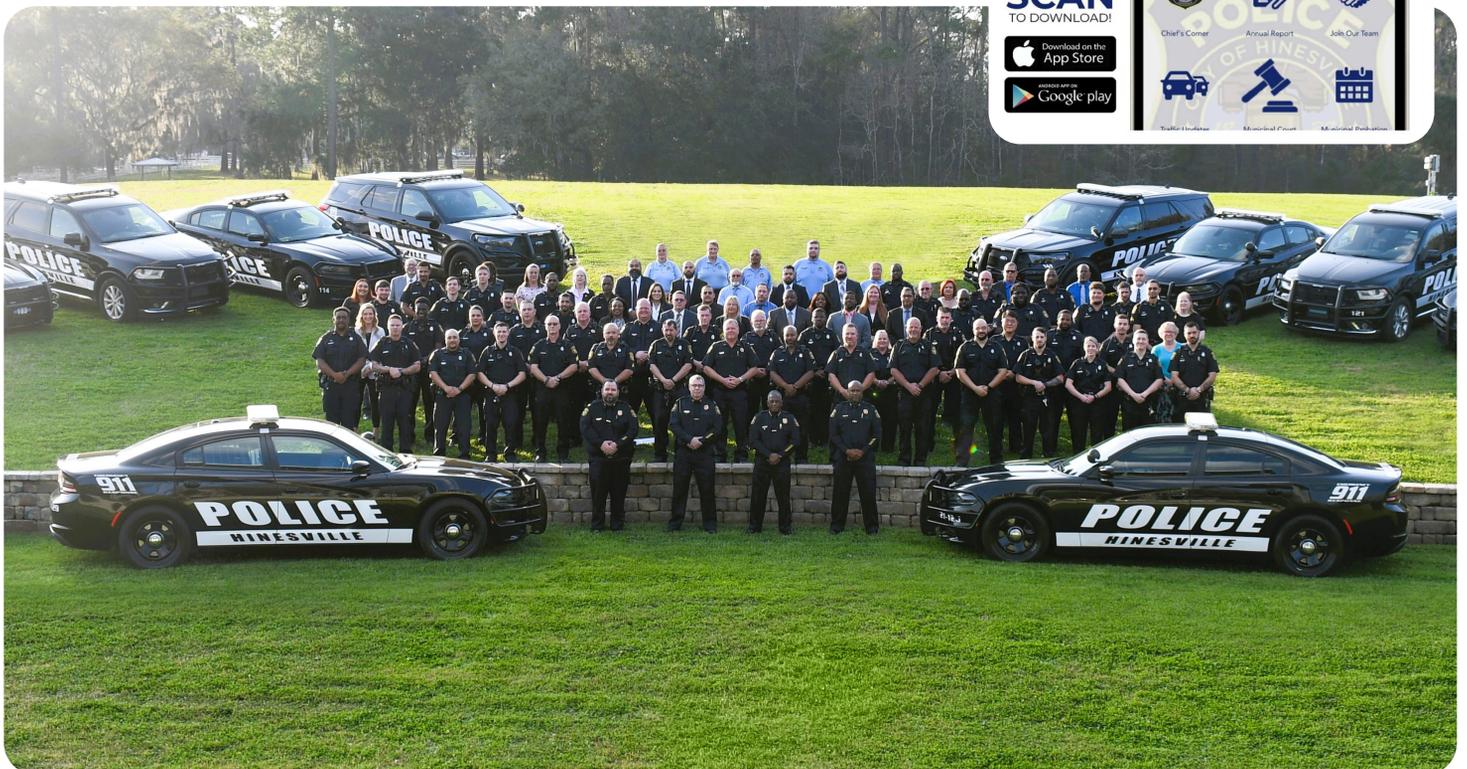
In January 2023, the police department conducted its second annual Employee Engagement Survey. The survey covered professional demographics, leadership, motivation, job satisfaction, workplace culture, empowerment, training, and career development.

One of the questions asked survey respondents whether they felt employees of different backgrounds interact well in the department, and 98 percent replied "Yes." When asked if they had a good working relationship with their supervisors, 97.5 percent responded positively. When asked if they felt employees treated each other with respect, 95 percent agreed. When asked if they were proud to work for the HPD, 98 percent said "Yes." When asked if they felt the organization makes investments to make employees more successful, 97 percent replied "Yes." When asked if they were satisfied with the leadership at the HPD, 97 percent answered favorably. Moreover, when

asked if they would recommend working for the HPD, 98 percent responded "Yes." Those results are encouraging.

For context, a healthy organization will have a favorability level of 70 percent or higher. I am pleased to report that the Hinesville Police Department has an overall employee favorability level of more than 95 percent and is in excellent organizational health.

The Hinesville Police Department is also proud to announce its New Smartphone App. The mobile app is a free mobile app designed to help improve communication in real time. The app allows our agency to send important and emergency push notifications to residents about incidents and events important to your family's safety. Citizens and visitors can also connect directly with the Hinesville Police Department by providing anonymous tips, reporting crimes, request records and reports, get traffic updates and other interactive features. The Hinesville Police Department app is available for download for free in the App Store and Google Play by searching: Hinesville Police Department, GA.



Public Works

The City of Hinesville is committed to the protection of our most valuable natural resource, water. Over the years many programs have been implemented to control waste of treated drinking water within the City. In 1996, the City adopted its water conservation and drought contingency plan. This plan adopts many practices that are aimed at reducing water usage through methods such as building construction codes and outdoor water schedules. Examples of conservation conscious building construction codes would be the requirement of low flow toilets, low flow showers, sinks, etc. You may not realize this but replacing an old toilet with a low flow version can save as much as 4 gallons of water per flush. Changes to outdoor watering schedules are designed to accommodate properly prescribed agronomic watering rates for lawns. This helps prevent over watering and is healthier for your landscape.

To further promote water conservation, the City of Hinesville constructed a water reclamation facility that is designed to treat wastewater to re-use standards. The purpose this serves is to alleviate the use of potable (drinking) water for irrigation purposes. This will allow for growth within the City to be served by our limited availability of drinking water.

This water reclamation facility uses a series of high-quality treatment processes that produce water suitable for irrigation use. The treated water is stored in a 2 million gallon concrete tank and is pumped into a Non-Potable Re-Use or “purple pipe” piping system for irrigation consumer use. This system is pressurized by a booster pump system allowing customers to easily run their irrigation system for landscape maintenance. Our current design and permitting for this facility allows us to treat and distribute up to 2 million gallons of re-use quality water per day.



Hinesville Youth Council

Youth are often overlooked during public engagement processes for various reasons. They are not old enough to vote, own property, or pay taxes. However, they represent the future of our community and local government. Youth councils are a unique way in which local governments can work with school districts to engage with the next generation.

Hinesville's Inaugural Youth Council was formed, September 9th, 2019, with the Honorable Judge Nancy Aspinwall administering the Oath of Office. Councilmembers are selected in the Fall each year through a rigorous application process which includes writing a 500-word essay detailing an issue currently affecting youth in Hinesville and how to best address the concern. After careful review of all applications and a panel interview with the Youth Council Advisory Board, students are selected to collaborate and serve as one united voice for local youth.

The Hinesville Youth Council is focused on gaining knowledge of municipal government, developing leadership and public speaking skills, as well as promoting a means where youth can share their perspective. Members include students from First Presbyterian Christian Academy, Bradwell Institute, and Liberty County High School. While most Youth Council meetings are closed working sessions, there are several



opportunities for youth to address the Youth Council during open sessions.

“It takes a village to raise our children,” says youth advisor and City Clerk Lia Jones. Our community has an essential role to play in the growth and development of its young people. Students who become involved in community activities or volunteering can boost confidence and aid in building lifelong skills. Community activities are a part of civic responsibility. It's much about getting involved and staying engaged while giving back to the community. When young people become involved in community activities and volunteering, they acquire personal rewards such as feelings of achievement.



Other benefits to joining the Hinesville Youth Council include identity and connection. This organization helps to instill a sense of belonging and the opportunity to network and develop new friendships. Community activities and volunteering are also great opportunities to improve initiative and develop workplace skills. It can also be a great foundation for mental health, self-confidence, and well-being.

Hinesville Youth Council will continue to seek collaboration and participation. They have established a platform for youth engagement by creating opportunities for youth to express themselves, voice ideas, and provide input for projects or community programs. By creating community connections, other youth will be inspired to advocate changes that young adults would like to see in the City of Hinesville.

Applications for Youth Council are accepted during the start of each school year in August. For more information about the Hinesville Youth Council or eligibility requirements, please visit the Youth Council webpage or contact City Clerk, Lia Jones.



Financial Review – Fiscal Year 2022

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 2021	Fiscal Year 2022
Property Taxes.....	\$ 8,784,223	\$ 8,848,187
Sales Taxes.....	5,431,626	5,836,494
Franchise Taxes.....	1,664,097	1,865,432
Insurance Premium Tax.....	2,762,681	2,902,412
Alcoholic Beverage Taxes.....	471,959	446,269
Hotel/Motel Tax.....	179,237	251,515
Other General Revenue.....	37,026	32,967
Total General Revenue.....	19,330,849	20,183,276
Charges for Services.....	22,574,833	24,848,062
Operating Grants.....	2,834,133	2,322,432
Capital Grants and Contributions...	6,342,880	6,603,854
Total Program Revenues.....	31,751,846	33,774,348
Other Income.....	176,533	157,251
Investment Earnings.....	64,782	108,560
Total Other Income and Transfers..	241,315	265,811
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 51,324,010	\$ 54,223,435

Where the Money Went...

	Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2022
General Government.....	\$ 3,146,069	\$ 3,186,890
Judicial.....	337,142	294,547
Public Safety.....	10,804,520	11,750,278
Public Works.....	3,817,145	3,981,546
Housing and Development.....	1,891,517	1,666,331
Health and Welfare.....	1,368,403	640,006
Culture and Recreation.....	345,029	1,068,997
Interest and Fiscal Charges.....	103,913	158,946
Total Governmental Activities.....	21,813,738	22,747,541
Water and Sewer.....	10,660,140	12,053,133
Sanitation.....	3,421,519	3,730,347
Stormwater Utility.....	1,578,910	1,616,092
Transit.....	1,055,519	1,333,033
Fort Stewart Grounds Maintenance....	2,474,181	2,980,876
Total Business-type Activities.....	19,190,269	21,713,481
TOTAL EXPENSES	41,004,007	44,461,022
Change in Net Position	10,320,003	9,762,413
Net Position-Beginning	101,093,132	111,413,135
Net Position - Ending	\$ 111,413,135	\$ 121,175,548

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 2022



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 positions.

Financial Review

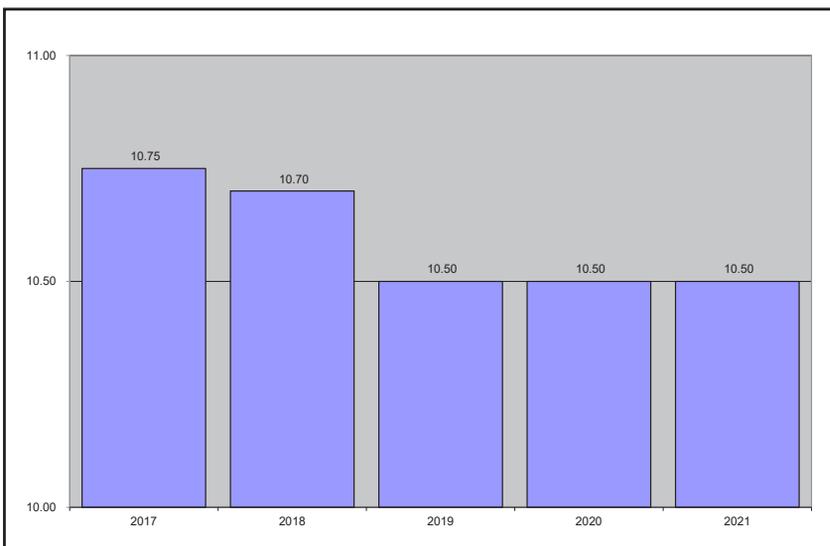
Property Tax Breakdown



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.

Five Year Millage Rate History



Millage Rate

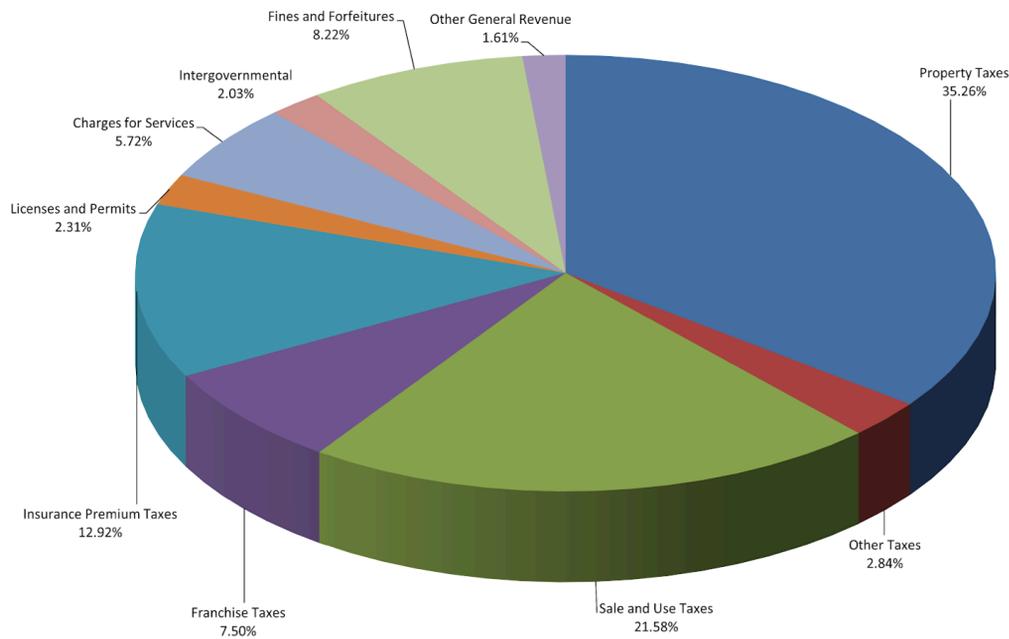
The graph on the left tracks the change in the millage rate over the past five (5) years.

* 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 to 11.00 mills in fiscal year 2017, 10.75 mills in 2018, 10.70 mills in fiscal year 2019. The city decreased the millage rate by .20 mills to 10.50 mills in fiscal year 2020. It remained 10.50 mills in fiscal year 2021.

General Fund Fiscal Year 2022 Revenues

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2022, the City of Hinesville received revenues for the General Fund totaling slightly over \$22.8 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 2022 Revenues



● **Property Taxes – 35.26%**

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 – 21.58%**

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 – 7.50%**

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

● **Insurance Premium Taxes – 12.92%**

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

● **Other Taxes – 2.84%**

Taxes not classified under any other taxes.

● **Licenses and Permits – 2.31%**

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 – 5.72%**

Fees collected for general government uses.

● **Intergovernmental – 2.03%**

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

● **Fines, Forfeitures and Fees – 8.22%**

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 – 1.61%**

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

Hinesville Fire Department

The Hinesville Fire Department welcomed Engine 4 on June 16, 2022 with several “firsts” accompanying it.

This apparatus is the first Custom Cab fire engine to grace the streets of our beloved city. The department has historically purchased what is known as “Commercial Cab” apparatus, meaning the Cab, drivetrain, and frame are the same as one would find on any other commercially available heavy duty truck, for example a U-Haul. The commercial cabs are then retrofitted with a fire pump, water tank, and rear fire truck body. The reason for this was initially to save the citizens money, as commercial cab apparatus was at one time significantly less expensive than custom cabs. Those days are over and the price difference is now minimal. Custom Cab apparatus are designed from the ground up as a fire truck. It is a purpose-built machine that provides many advantages over commercial cabs, such as improved safety factors, advanced suspension systems, and design elements that are specific to our department. All of this, and many more features, combine to assist us in continuing to provide our citizens with efficient and professional service.

The next first was members of the Hinesville Fire Department and City Officials participated in a traditional push-in ceremony when Engine 4 was received. This pays homage to the early days of the fire service when fire engines were horse drawn. When those early firefighters would return from an incident, they would have to unbridle their horses, take them to the stable, then “push in” the fire engine that was carried on a wagon.

Another first was the addition of a “Q” siren. Federal Q’s are known across the fire service as a top tier warning device for emergency vehicles. Implementing this device improves the roadway safety of our personnel during emergency response due to its increased ability to notify surrounding traffic over other available warning devices. All future apparatus will include them.

The purchase of Engine 4 was possible through SPLOST funding and is a direct reflection of how important the penny sales tax is to keeping our community safe.



Business License

Every business in the City of Hinesville requires a business license that pertains to the type of business they are operating. The process of starting a new business can be exhilarating. It can also feel daunting and overwhelming. Before you throw in the towel, we've got you covered.

The Business License Office assists in the completion of business license applications and in obtaining other City-required clearances and permits. The Business License Office also coordinates the process for transient merchant licenses, peddler's licenses, and the newly formed mobile food service establishment license. Permits for yard sale, car wash, flea market, and outdoor event permit may also be obtained through the Business License Office.

Please reach out to the City of Hinesville's business license coordinator to determine which license or permit is right for you.

In recent months, we have adopted a well-crafted streamlined approach which offers the general public clear application submittal requirements that consists of one centralized location for receipt to improve clarity and

productivity for both the applicant and coordinator, quick reference information pertaining to code requirements, convenient and innovative electronic fillable applications, and easy to navigate procedural checklist that are all located on the City's webpage. Prices for licenses and permits vary based on location and nature of the business or activity.



For more information regarding business licenses, permit procedures, or fee schedules, please visit the Business License Office webpage. www.cityofhinesville.org/86/Business-License-Office

Community Development

The Community Development Department pursues funding from public and private grant sources to help facilitate the strategic goals of the City of Hinesville. Over one million dollars was secured in the past year to develop infrastructure projects including: Bradwell Park construction, transit improvements and infrastructure to support affordable housing.

In July of 2022, the City of Hinesville completed its plan to redevelop the historic downtown Bradwell Park. This plan prioritizes an inviting flexible space to encourage re-investment in downtown Hinesville that balances economic development with environmental restoration through green infrastructure implementation including pervious pavers, rain gardens, and bioswales. Four rain gardens, totaling more than 2,500 square feet, and pervious pavers filtrate an estimated 90% of the water that falls on the park and surrounding roadways. Thereby increasing water

quality entering into Peacock Creek. The benefits associated with this project support and spur economic development through private investment in downtown spaces. The Park's rain gardens, bioswales and pervious pavers serves as a demonstration of community improvement for private investors. In conjunction with the City's Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development (GI/LID), this project will encourage appropriate replication throughout Hinesville, and quite possibly the region.

This opportunity is unique in that not all locations in Hinesville can accommodate the use of all of these measures and it is designed to be part of a larger effort to incentivize nature-based infrastructure solutions around the Peacock Creek watershed.

Completion of Bradwell park's pervious paver system and rain gardens funded through the Georgia Power Foundation and the State of Georgia Environmental Protection Department Storm Water Grant program.



Department of Inspections

An illicit discharge refers to any direct or indirect nonstormwater discharge to the City's separate storm sewer system that occurs due to spills, improper drainage connections from residential dwellings, commercial business activities and processes.

These discharges can adversely affect public health and safety.

Discharges to the City's separate storm sewer system that are not composed entirely of stormwater runoff can contribute to increased nonpoint source pollution and the degradation of receiving waters.

These illegal discharges can cause obstructions to current rainwater runoff flows that route rainwater into storm water drain systems. These illegal dischargers can lead to flooding on commercial streets, residential streets, sidewalks and vehicle parking areas.

The City of Hinesville regulates the contribution of pollutants into the storm sewer system by any person by prohibiting illicit discharges and/or illegal connections to the system.

An illegal connection is any pipe, open channel, drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows an illicit discharge to enter the storm drain system, including but not limited to any conveyances which allow any nonstormwater discharge such as sewage, process wastewater, and wash water to enter the storm drain system.

Pollutants may include, but are not limited to: paints, varnishes, automotive fluids; cooking grease; detergents; degreasers; cleaning chemicals; non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes, yard wastes; rubbish, garbage, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, dissolved and particulate metals; animal wastes; wastes and residues that result from constructing a building or structure, concrete and cement.

What could you do to prevent illegal discharges and connections?

- Do not discharge chlorinated or saline pool water into the street or gutter because this water drains into creeks, lakes, and rivers without being treated (dechlorinated) first.
- Don't open sewer cleanouts to allow sewage to freely flow upon ground surfaces and/or city streets.
- Don't blow leaves or grass clippings into street drains.
- Educate yourself and others about the risks of illicit discharges into storm water drainage systems.



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 for proper drainage.
- Build a small floodwall or earthen berm.
- Make your exterior walls waterproof.
- Place watertight closures over the doorways.
- Elevate the house above base flood levels.
- Consult with a licensed plumber about open sewer clean-out openings to contain contaminants during flooding conditions.

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 klcb@coastalnow.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

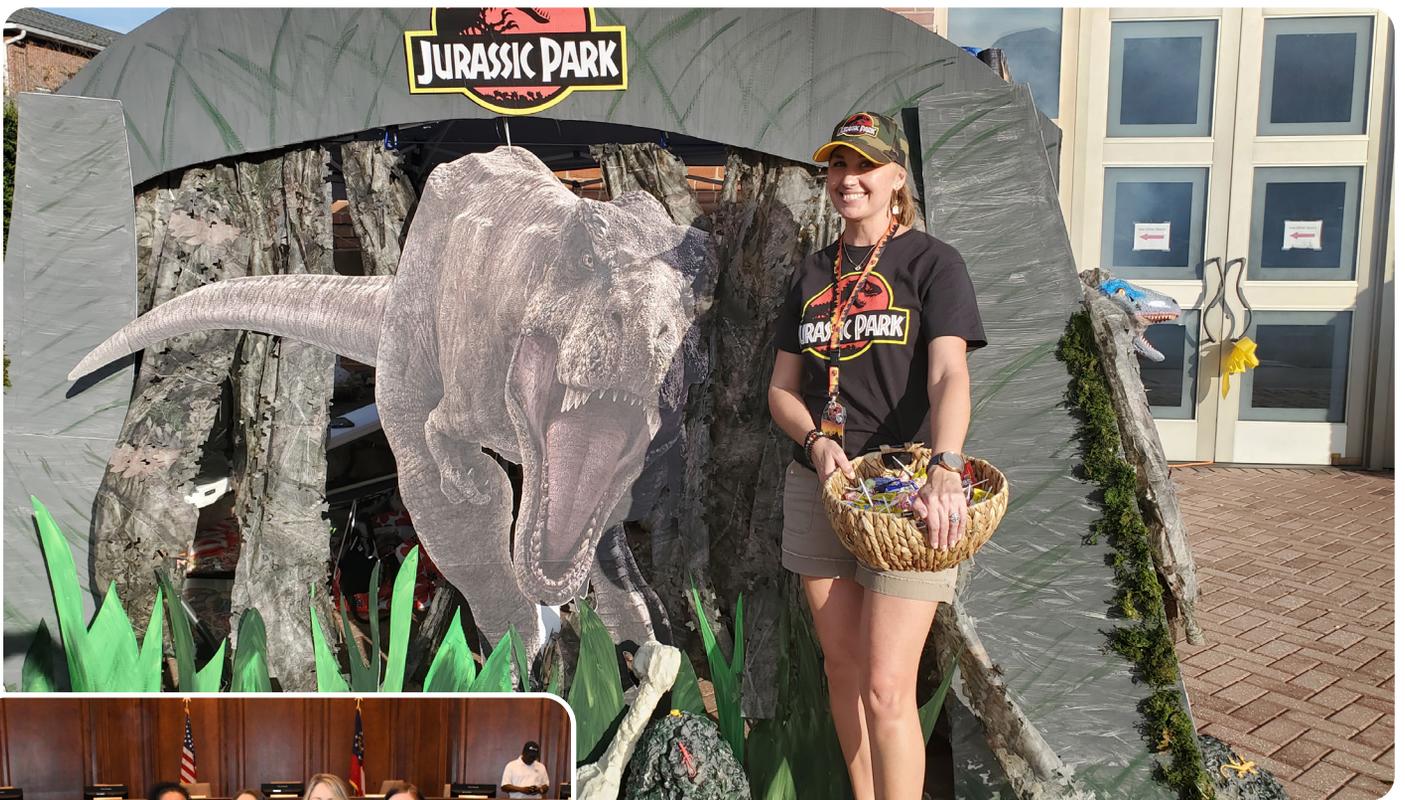
If the flood comes...

- 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



"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