
HINESVILLE
GEORGIA



"Home for a Day or a Lifetime"



City of Hinesville Contact Information

City of Hinesville Contact Information

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

Other Frequently Contacted Agencies

Animal Control	912-876-9191	Liberty Transit.....	912-877-1472
Birth Certificates/Marriage License/Gun Permit...	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		

Report to the Citizens of Hinesville

The City of Hinesville continuously strives to provide citizens with 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 eighteen 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, 2022

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, 2022. 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.

As your Mayor and a lifelong resident, I am profoundly honored to serve the city that has shaped who I am. Hinesville has been my home, my heritage, and now, my responsibility. With great pride and enthusiasm, I am eager to lead our community through continued growth and prosperity.

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 City of Hinesville millage rate has decreased by 0.55 mills in the past five fiscal years: making the current millage rate lower than 1985. Moreover in 2023, the City of Hinesville added 170 new businesses; an increase of 12% over last year and added over 300 new residential and commercial construction permits.

My primary focus is on nurturing this growth in a way that benefits all residents and preserves the unique character of our city. Together, we can enhance our infrastructure, strengthen our local economy, and build a more vibrant community where everyone can thrive.

To achieve these goals, I am committed to fostering an environment of transparency, collaboration, and innovation. I invite each of you to join me on this journey of growth and expansion. Your insights, your participation, and your dedication to our city are essential as we work together to realize our full potential. Let's collaborate to ensure that Hinesville continues to be a place we are all proud to call home.

I often say at our many local ribbon cuttings, "Hinesville is open for business," this is not just a call to investors and entrepreneurs, but a declaration of our readiness to embrace opportunities that stimulate our local economy, enhance our infrastructure, and enrich our community life.

Thank you for your trust and support. I am committed to making our shared vision a reality, and I look forward to what we will achieve together.

Sincerely,



Karl A. Riles
Mayor



Message from the City Manager

Dear Residents and Visitors,

It is with immense pride that I present to you the 18th Popular Annual Financial Report, more commonly referred to as the PAFR. Each year, our Finance Department submits this document to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). I am pleased to report that, for the 17th consecutive year, the City of Hinesville PAFR received the GFOA Popular Annual Financial Report Award for the fiscal year ending on October 31, 2022. This award is presented 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.

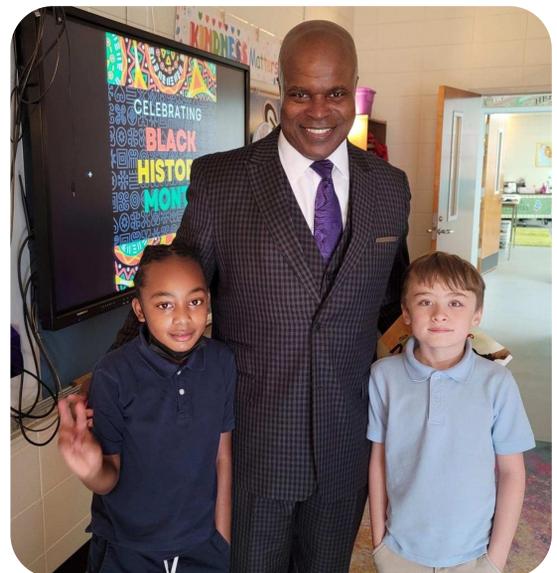
The information contained in this report has been taken from the 2023 City's Annual Financial Report (ACFR) and serves as a summary of the financial activities and operating results reported. Over the years, our PAFR has transformed into so much more than a financial report. Not only does it give citizens insight into the City's financial health, it highlights how our City departments serve you at the highest levels of professionalism and efficiency – something that we pride ourselves on each and every day.

During the fiscal year 2023, our financial position continued to improve as a result of economic growth and development. The City continues to attract new business, thereby increasing the number of amenities and available jobs in our area, as well as improving quality of life. 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 willingness to embrace change and your tireless efforts to contribute to its betterment have been the driving force behind our collective success.

Lastly, I want to express my deepest gratitude to my staff. Without their steadfast dedication to the City of Hinesville and the people who live here, we could not deliver the high quality of services we strive to provide on a daily basis and it is a pleasure to work with and lead them. I am honored to serve as your City Manager and I know that together, we will continue to build upon our strengths, address our challenges, and create a future that is even brighter and more prosperous than ever before.



Kenneth Howard
Hinesville City Manager





DIANA REID, DISTRICT 1
district1@cityofhinesville.org

From 2015-2024 GOD has continually blessed me to serve you as I pledged from day one. May GOD continue to get the GLORY is my story. Remember I'm a phone call text or email away! 912-432-9278 dianareid1@yahoo.com.

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, MAYOR PRO TEM
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."





DEXTER NEWBY, DISTRICT 4

district4@cityofhinesville.org

I am genuinely grateful for the overwhelming support and dedication of the constituents of District 4. Your unwavering faith in me fuels my determination to work tirelessly on your behalf. Together, we will continue to make positive changes and advancements to propel our district and city forward. Thank you.

JOSE ORTIZ JR, DISTRICT 5

district5@cityofhinesville.org

I am humbled and honored to be the first Hispanic elected to the Hinesville City Council. My deepest gratitude to God and to the people who have placed their trust in me. I am committed to serving with integrity, compassion, and dedication. Together, we will make Hinesville a place where our children will return to, a place where everyone has the opportunity to succeed, with safe and clean streets, excellent schools, and affordable living and working conditions. Let's work together to put Hinesville on the map. I am "YOUR VOICE TO THE CITY". "Tu voz a la ciudad". Let's "Be Hinesville"



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.

Department of Inspections

First Things First

The nature of a building's needs guides the 'occupancy type' requirements.

The occupancy types determine what building code requirements and City ordinances are applicable and must be met.



When initially constructed, every building has three (3) characteristics which mandate what function it can be used for:

- Occupancy Group Type
- Construction Type
- Maximum Occupancy Load

A few occupancy group types are:

- Residential (single family/multi-family)
- Assembly (church, restaurant, theaters)
- Mercantile (stores)
- Business (offices, banks)

A building may be initially built for one use and later, be converted for a different use. For example, a building initially built as a residence, is later converted to an office or small church.

Also, the use or ownership of a building may change without a change in the 'occupancy type.' A building may house a restaurant or clothing store for many years but may have had several owners or tenants. The risks remain the same, regardless of tenant.

The 'occupancy type' may also change during the life span of a building, which could involve a modification in the potential risk. In such an event, the building must be reclassified accordingly, and comply in all respects with the new classification - possibly impacting the tenant/ owner's initial budget.

When this occurs many factors must be considered. Several examples are listed below:



- Exits
- Fire protection
- Bathrooms
- Parking spaces
- ADA requirements
- The maximum occupancy load requirements may change as well.

This is especially true for 'assembly type' groups. For example, a building that was a store or an office with an occupancy load of 10 persons, now will be used or converted to an 'assembly use' with double the number of occupants - the potential hazard has changed with possible 'Life Safety' issues.

Our Team is Here to Help You

In an effort to be pro-active the City has implemented the "Business Assistance Team."

Our team is compiled with representatives from:

- Zoning Office (LCPC)
- Inspections Department
- Fire Marshal's Office
- Business License Office
- Hinesville Downtown Development Authority.

A Courtesy Walkthrough Inspection may be scheduled upon request. The Business Assistance Team can then review and analyze your potential location and inform you of what modifications may or will be required based on the potential use, all of which could significantly impact your budget.

For Courtesy Walkthrough Appointments please contact the Inspections Department at (912) 876-4147.

Our Goal - Is to ensure that your location is safe- for you and for everyone in it.

Hinesville Fire Department

While strolling through our local neighborhoods, you'll see one sooner or later, usually about every 800 feet. We're talking about fire hydrants of course. Our dogs love them but they're something that we give very little thought to until we need them. The City of Hinesville currently maintains 1,419 fire hydrants. These hydrants provide an instant supply of water to firefighters when needed for emergencies. All hydrants within Hinesville are supplied with water through 5 water towers located throughout the city.

Are Fire Hydrants Public or Private Property?

Who owns a fire hydrant? The city? Some private owners? That greatly depends on the location of the hydrant. When a hydrant is located on a public right of way or on public property it is considered to be owned by the city or entity in which it is located.

However not every hydrant you see is necessarily on public property. Hydrants that are in parking lots and apartment complexes are often considered private hydrants, even though they are supplied by city water mains and used by the city (fire department). The repair and maintenance of these hydrants are the responsibility of the private owners.

Testing and Repairs

All hydrants, whether public or private, are tested and inspected every year by your firefighters. You have probably seen firefighters flowing water in your neighborhood at one time or another. The fire department flow tests 1/5th of the hydrants every year and inspects and checks for proper operation, the remaining hydrants. During this testing and inspection problems are identified with hydrants and repairs are needed. City owned hydrants are scheduled for repair through the City Services Department (ESG) and repairs noted on private hydrants are forwarded to the appropriate owner, who will set up repairs and inform the fire department when the hydrants have been returned to service.

Conclusion

While fire hydrants may seem like the "spare tire" in the water system, they are a very important part of the system that must be maintained. This upkeep and maintenance requires much planning and cooperation that is seldom seen by anyone on the outside. The Hinesville Fire Department fosters this relationship with all involved and continues to work to ensure that the citizens do not have to worry when the threat of a fire emergency arises.



Community Development

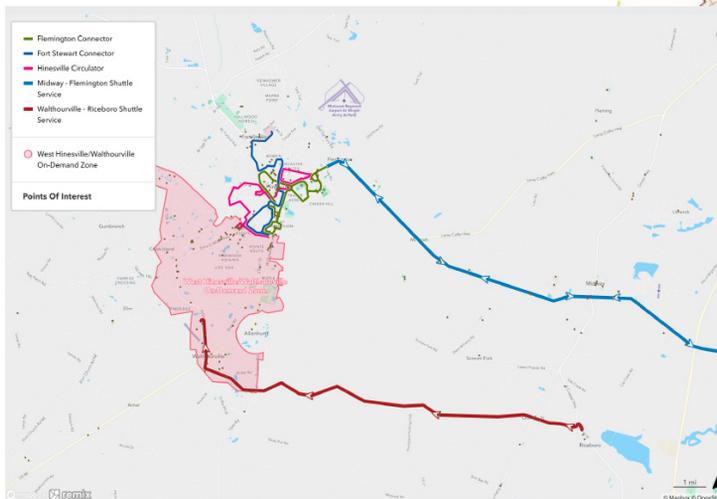
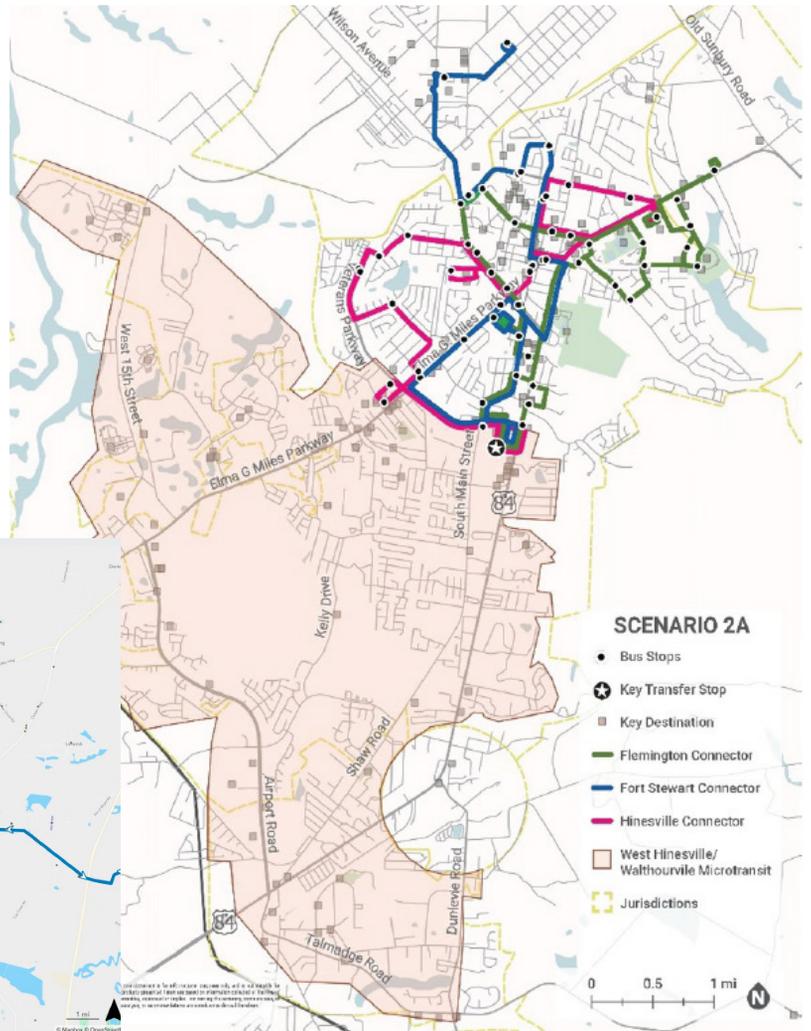


The Community Development Department pursues funding from public and private grant sources to help facilitate the strategic goals of the City of Hinesville. Over 2.4 million dollars was secured in the past year to develop and support projects including transit improvements, emergency operations, and economic development.

This summer the Community Development Department embarked on an in-depth study of the City's Public Transportation System to identify growing transit demands within the study area. The objective was to engage the local community in the planning process for Liberty Transit's future improvements, ensuring that the transit system aligns with the needs and expectations of its riders and potential riders.

The final results include utilizing a blend of micro transit and fixed routes to accommodate local transportation needs and

options for connecting residents with key employers in the region including the Trade Ports in Midway and manufacturing in Riceboro as well as options for creating a transportation hub to accommodate public/private partnerships with Greyhound, Uber/Lyft, Coastal Regional Coaches and other transportation carriers.

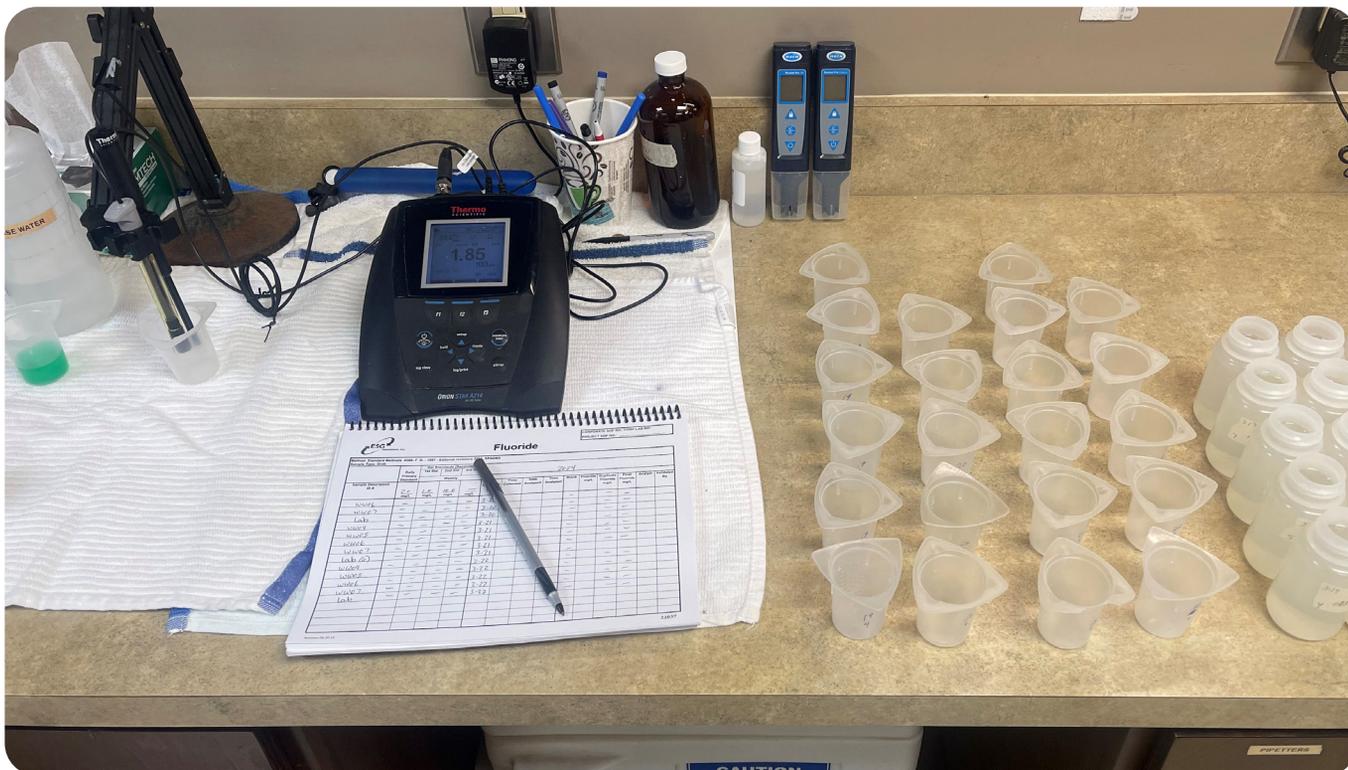


Where does my water come from? Hinesville's water supply comes from four groundwater wells that are at least 600 feet. The groundwater is stored in permeable rock layers called aquifers, which are like underground lakes. Our groundwater is supplied by the Floridan Aquifer. Before the water is distributed it is chlorinated to kill disease-causing organisms and eliminate odors. Unlike many water systems, we do not add fluoride to our water system as our natural fluoride levels meet the recommended levels set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). In order to ensure our citizens are protected, our team of water treatment professionals constantly monitor and test the drinking water to make sure it is safe to drink. Our water is tested regularly to ensure it is free of bacteria.

While 75 percent of the earth surface is water and our water supply levels remains stable, it is not unlimited. Only 1 percent of this water is available as renewable fresh water. We are a community with continually increasing needs for water. We are obligated as a community to exercise conscious water conservation measures to protect our water supply. There are many ways we can conserve our precious water resource. When it comes to conserving water, small changes can have a big impact.

Here are a few ways you can help conserve water:

- Turn off water when brushing your teeth and/or shaving.
- Take a shower instead of a bath.
- Only running washing machine or dishwasher with full loads.
- Periodically check for toilet and faucet leaks.
- Install water-saving shower heads, faucets, and toilets.
- Irrigate in accordance to "Georgia Water Restrictions" water schedules.



Hinesville Business Incubator:

In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at fostering local entrepreneurship, the City of Hinesville has partnered with Georgia Southern University and the Hinesville Development Authority to launch the Hinesville Business Incubator. This unique collaboration is poised to become a cornerstone of economic growth and innovation in the community.

The project was made possible by a substantial Economic Development Administration grant of \$750,000, secured by the City of Hinesville to cover construction costs. This financial boost underscores the city's commitment to creating an environment where new businesses can thrive.

The Hinesville Business Incubator is not just a building; it's a comprehensive support system for budding entrepreneurs. The facility is equipped to provide financial resources, technical assistance, and state-of-the-art technology infrastructure. These resources are crucial for entrepreneurs looking to expand their goals and transform their ideas into successful businesses.

"The Incubator is a reflection of our city's desire to

assist budding entrepreneurs with the space and support they need to develop and grow," said Karl Riles, a lifelong resident and advocate for community growth. "Hinesville is open for business; is more than just words. It's a promise of support and a call to action for entrepreneurs to join us on this journey of growth and expansion."

Strategically located in downtown Hinesville, the Incubator aims to enhance the small business landscape not only in the city center but throughout the entire community. This location was chosen to bolster downtown's economic vitality and create a ripple effect of



A Catalyst for Local Entrepreneurship

growth across Hinesville.

The Hinesville Business Incubator represents a significant step forward in the City's mission to support local businesses. By providing a nurturing environment for entrepreneurs, the Incubator is set to become a catalyst for economic development, innovation, and job creation in Hinesville. As new businesses flourish, the entire community stands to benefit from increased economic activity and a more vibrant downtown area.

"The partnership between the City of Hinesville, Georgia Southern University, and the Hinesville Development Authority exemplifies what can be achieved when local institutions work together towards a common goal. The Hinesville Business Incubator is a testament to the city's dedication to fostering a thriving business community and ensuring that Hinesville remains a place where innovation and opportunity are welcomed and encouraged," said Kenneth Howard, City

Manager.

The Hinesville Business Incubator is more than just a facility; it is a beacon of opportunity, a hub of innovation, and a key player in the economic future of Hinesville. With the support of the local municipality, academic institutions, and development authorities, this initiative is set to transform the entrepreneurial landscape of the city, ensuring that Hinesville is truly open for business.



For more information about the entrepreneurial opportunities available through the Hinesville Business Incubator, please contact Catherine Blake at 770-883-1117 or cblake@georgiasouthern.edu - for you and for everyone in it.

Financial Review - Fiscal Year 2023

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 2022	Fiscal Year 2023
Property Taxes.....	\$ 8,848,187	\$ 9,526,606
Sales Taxes.....	5,836,494	6,253,077
Franchise Taxes.....	1,865,432	1,758,271
Insurance Premium Tax.....	2,902,412	3,094,726
Alcoholic Beverage Taxes.....	446,269	436,287
Hotel/Motel Tax.....	251,515	255,438
Other General Revenue.....	47,692	40,731
Total General Revenue.....	20,198,001	21,365,136
Charges for Services.....	24,848,062	25,523,877
Operating Grants.....	2,322,432	5,082,421
Capital Grants and Contributions....	6,603,854	8,195,723
Total Program Revenues	33,774,348	38,802,021
Other Income.....	157,251	218,576
Investment Earnings.....	108,560	571,411
Total Other Income and Transfers...	265,811	789,987
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 54,238,160	\$ 60,957,144

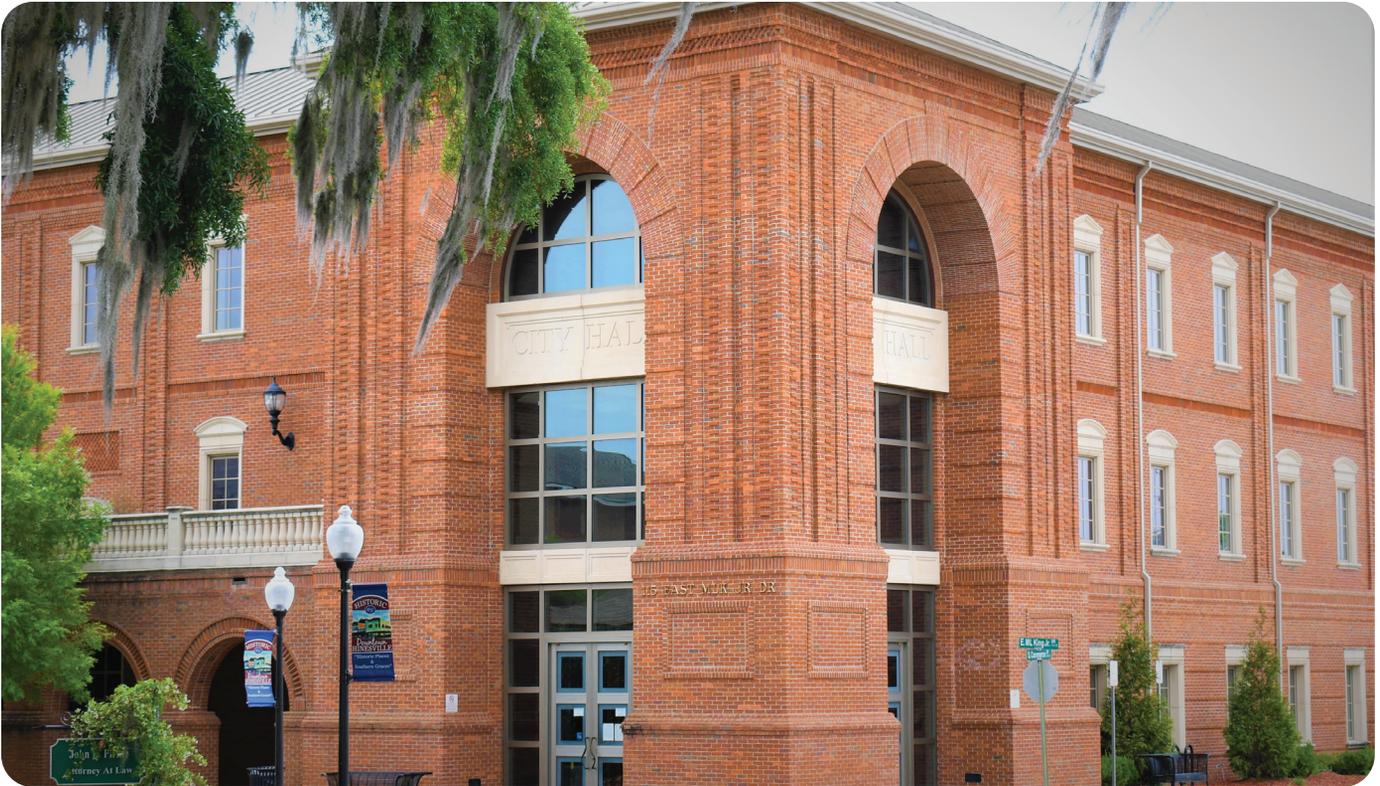
Where the Money Went...

	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Year 2023
General Government.....	\$ 3,186,890	\$ 4,329,611
Judicial.....	294,547	341,594
Public Safety.....	11,750,278	13,648,779
Public Works.....	3,981,546	4,168,207
Housing and Development.....	1,666,331	1,704,549
Health and Welfare.....	640,006	826,217
Culture and Recreation.....	1,068,997	1,093,749
Interest and Fiscal Charges.....	158,946	184,000
Total Governmental Activities.....	22,747,541	26,296,706
Water and Sewer.....	12,053,133	12,482,387
Sanitation.....	3,730,347	3,973,475
Stormwater Utility.....	1,616,092	1,645,631
Transit.....	1,333,033	1,166,348
Fort Stewart Grounds Maintenance..	2,980,876	3,239,513
Total Business-type Activities.....	21,713,481	22,507,354
TOTAL EXPENSES	44,461,022	48,804,060
Change in Net Position	9,777,138	12,153,084
Net Position-Beginning	111,413,132	121,190,270
Net Position - Ending	\$ 121,190,270	\$ 133,343,354

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 2023

The City's total net position is \$133,343,354 and is categorized as follows. The largest portion of the City's net position (\$85,714,905 or 64%) 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 (\$16,603,120 or 13%) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. Much of the City's restricted net position is restricted for capital projects. The remaining portion of the City's net position (\$31,025,329 or 23%) is unrestricted net assets and may be used to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.



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.

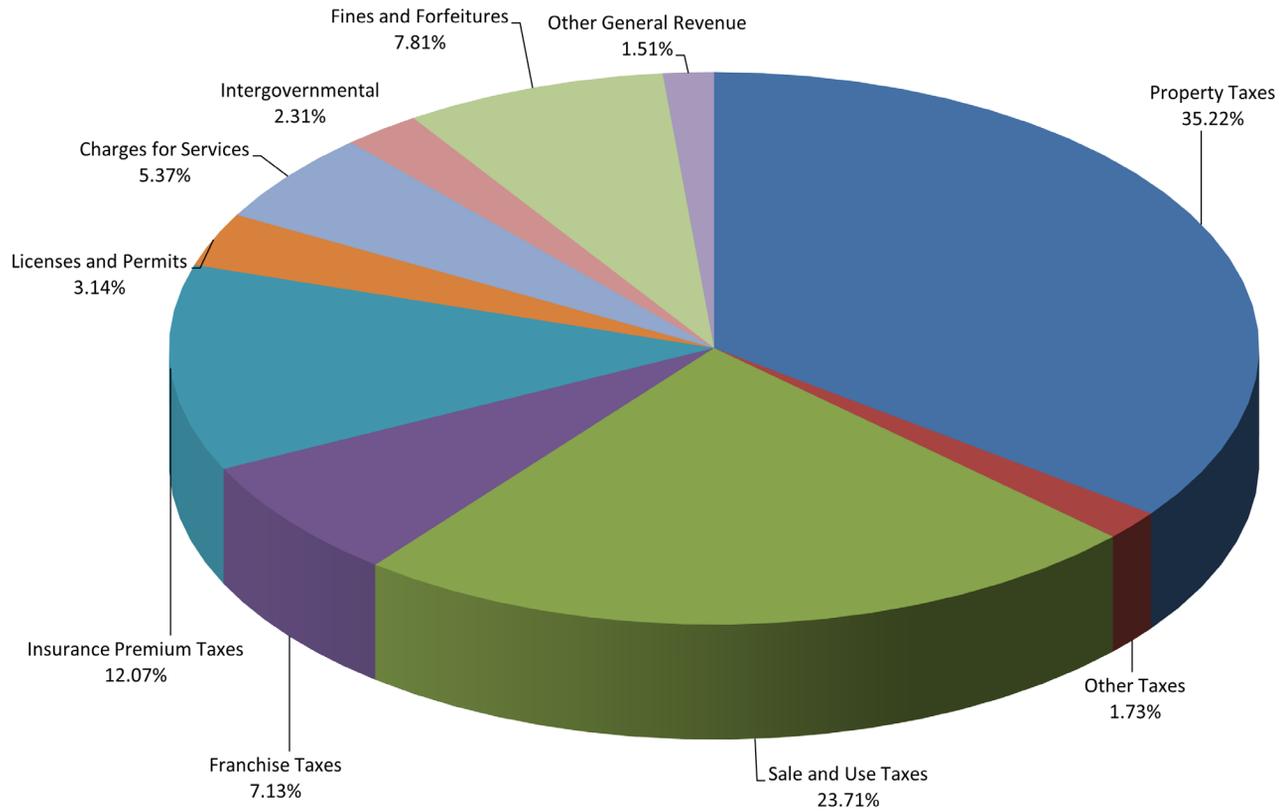
Net Positions Unrestricted

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

Financial Review – Fiscal Year 2023

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, the City of Hinesville received revenues for the General Fund totaling slightly over \$26 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 2023 Revenues



● **Property Taxes – 35.22%**

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 – 23.71%**

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 – 7.13%**

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

● **Insurance Premium Taxes – 12.07%**

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

● **Other Taxes – 1.73%**

Taxes not classified under any other taxes.

● **Licenses and Permits – 3.14%**

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 – 5.37%**

Fees collected for general government uses.

● **Intergovernmental – 2.31%**

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

● **Fines, Forfeitures and Fees – 7.81%**

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 – 1.51%**

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

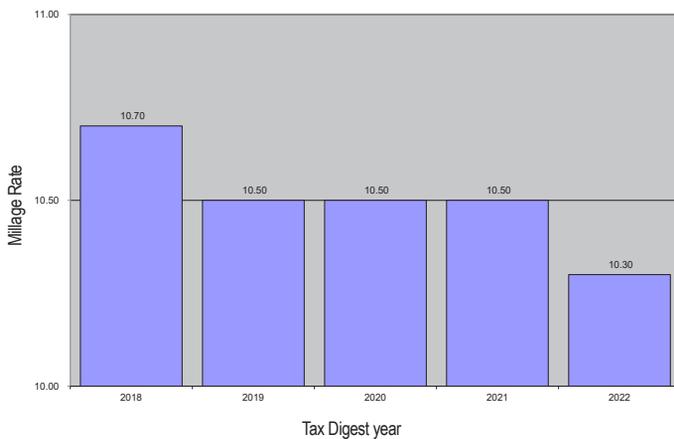
Financial Review – Fiscal Year 2023



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 \$0.23 of every \$1.00 collected from taxpayers in the City.

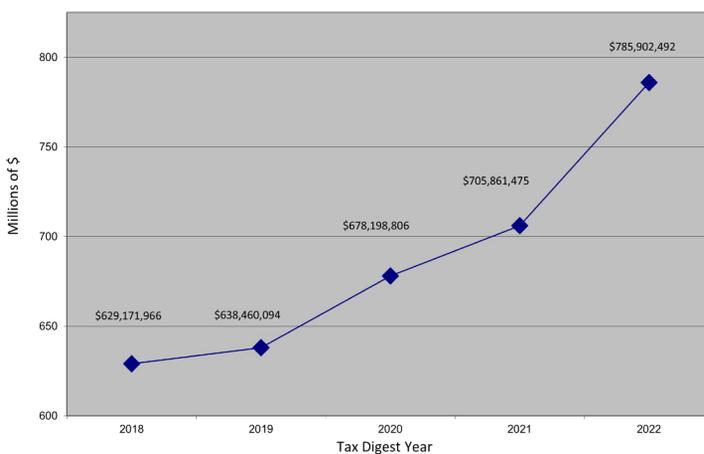
Five Year Millage Rate History



Property Taxes

Property tax is the City's single largest source of revenue. The City's millage rate decreased in fiscal year 2017 from 11.51 mills to 11.00 mills. It decreased in fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020 to 10.75 mills, 10.70 mills and 10.50 mills, respectively. It remained at 10.50 mills in the fiscal years 2021 and 2022. In fiscal year 2023, the millage rate was decreased to 10.30 mills.

Five Year Gross Digest History



Budget Process

The City of Hinesville operates on a fiscal year that runs from November 1-October 31. The City has a detailed budget process that spans over several months.

City Department Heads are responsible for preparing and submitting their proposed annual budget. This proposal includes operational and capital budget requests. Departments begin preparing their budget in April each year with their recommended budget due in July.

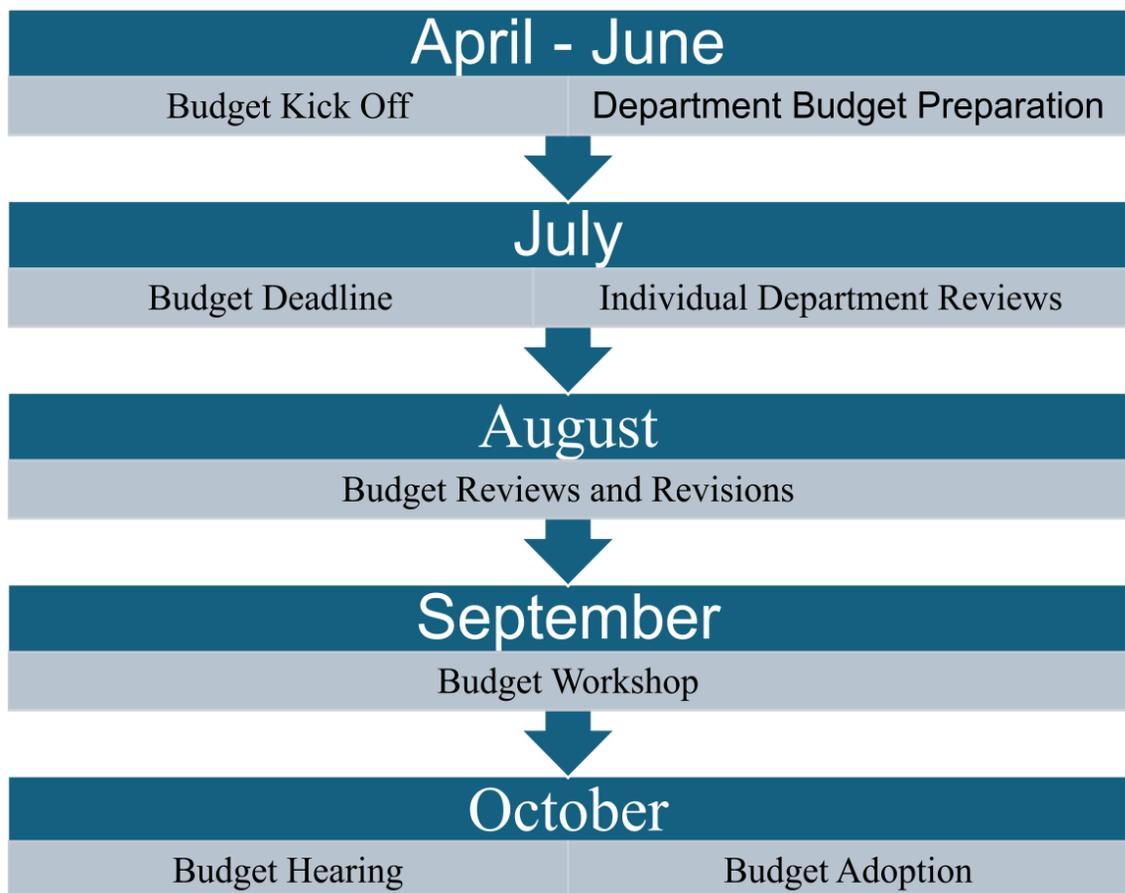
During the month of July, the City Manager, the City Council member assigned to the department and the finance staff meet with each department head to review the department's proposed budget. The purpose of these meetings is to go over each line item and review requests.

During August, the department heads are asked to review their budgets and make adjustments so the City can balance our expenditures with the anticipated revenues. Each department head meets at least once more with the City Manager and finance department staff to discuss the recommended adjustments.

In September, the City schedules a series of ½ day budget workshops with the Mayor and City Council. During these workshops, each department head presents his recommended detailed line-item budget to the Mayor and City Council members. These workshops are open to the public and the dates and times are advertised in the Coastal Courier. By the City's first workshop date, the recommended budget is available for review at City Hall and on the City's website.

Once the recommended budget has been reviewed by the Mayor and City Council, the City Council will hold a budget hearing. The budget hearing allows members of the public to comment and have input on the budget. Advanced notice to the public announcing the date and time of the budget hearing will be in the Coastal Courier and on the City's website.

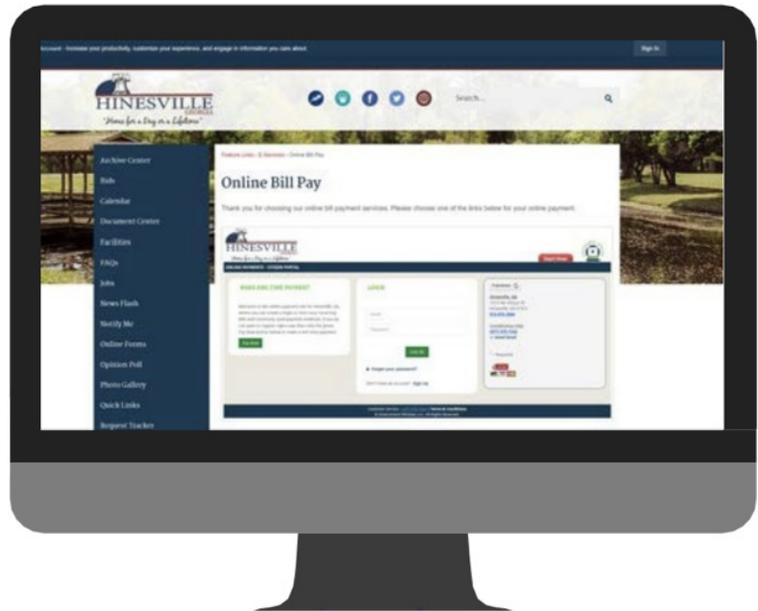
If needed, final revisions are made to the budget and it is prepared for adoption. The final step in the City's budgetary process is the adoption. The City has historically adopted our budget during a regularly scheduled City Council meeting in October.



- There are five (5) ways to pay your water bill with the City of Hinesville:
- In-person at Water Department located in Hinesville City Hall.
 - By mail 115 E.M.L. King Jr. Drive, Hinesville, GA 31313
 - Drop box located at Hinesville City Hall
 - Over the phone 1-470-617-9451
 - Via the City's website.

We are happy to bring a better platform to our customers to make online payment easier and faster. Working with Government Windows, the City has ensured a smooth experience for all with a readily accessible system. By using Government Windows, you can either create an account or make a one-time payment.

The website to make an online payment is www.hinesvillepayments.com. The phone number to make your payment is 470-617-9451; once you call just follow the prompts. Also with Government Windows, you can set up an automatic payment to come out of your account using a check or a card while choosing



the date you desire. The customer service number to set this up is 1-877-575-7233. All it takes is having your account number and house/street number.

If you have any questions, please call 912-876-3564 and ask to speak with the Water department or send an email to billsev@cityofhinesville.org.

Police Department

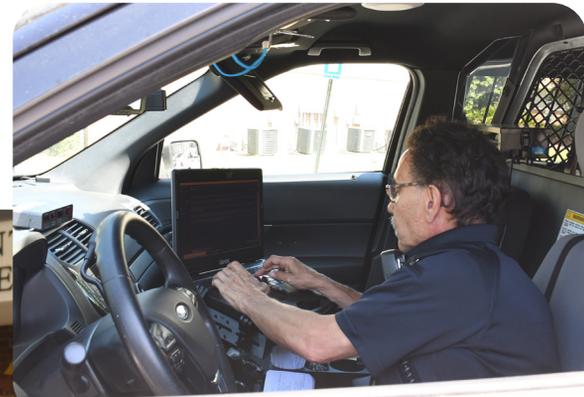
Not only does the police department provide effective, efficient, and professional law enforcement services to the citizens of Hinesville; we utilize state of the art equipment to get the job done. For over two decades our officers have adorned body worn cameras to capture audio and video footage of incidents. Even longer we have maintained in car camera video.

With continued advancements in technology, we have added MDT (mobile data terminals) allowing the officers to complete reports and run investigative checks from their patrol vehicles. LiDAR (light

detection and radar) is utilized to detect the speed of vehicles, and range distances. Digital Forensics allows our department to extract information from electronic devices to be utilized in the collection of evidence for criminal prosecution.

A drone not only provides aerial video, but also assists in the location, surveillance, and tracking of missing or wanted persons.

These are just a sample of the many tools utilized by the men and women of the Hinesville Police Department to help in providing a safe place for us to work, live and play.



Mobile Food Service Establishments, better known as Food Trucks, have become a growing business across the world, including the City of Hinesville. They offer a variety of sweet treats, food, and beverages. They cater to various cultures and taste buds. Food trucks can be found in parking lots or in Food Truck Parks around the City daily.

Don't think for one moment, that the City has not recognized this growing industry because we definitely have. The City of Hinesville has a Mobile Food Service Establishment Ordinance so that food trucks can operate in the City. The ordinance protects the public health, safety and general welfare of individuals and the community at large. It also established a uniform regulation for the operation of mobile food service units in the City.

Here are three must have items before a Mobile Food Service Establishment License can be issued.

1. There must be a base of operation, also known as a commissary. This location can be in a commercial space or separate space at your home.
2. A trailer, pushcart, vehicle vendor or any other similar conveyance operating as an extension of is considered a Mobile Food Service Establishment.
3. An inspection of the food truck must be passed by the Liberty County Department of Public Health and the Hinesville Fire Department Fire Marshal.

The application and Ordinance for Mobile Food Service Establishments can be found on our website, www.cityofhinesville.org. Applications are also available at City Hall in the business license department.



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



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