



HINESVILLE

GEORGIA



"Home for a Day or a Lifetime"



City of Hinesville Contact Information

City Hall (Main Line).....	912-876-3564	Downtown Development Authority....	912-877-4333
City Hall (Hearing Impaired).....	912-876-4229	Finance Department.....	912-876-3564
Mayor's Office.....	912-876-3564	Fire Department.....	912-876-4143
City Council.....	912-876-3564	Police Department.....	912-368-8211
Administration.....	912-876-3564	Human Resources Department.....	912-876-3564
Business License Office.....	912-876-3564	Municipal Court.....	912-368-8206
City Clerk.....	912-876-3564	Planning & Zoning Office.....	912-408-2030
Community Development.....	912-876-3164	Public Works Department.....	912-876-8216
Inspections Department.....	912-876-4147	Water Department.....	912-876-3564

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.....	912-876-2604	Police Department.....	912-368-8211
Emergency Management Agency.....	912-368-2201	Social Security Administration (Savannah).....	912-772-1213
Georgia Dept. of Labor.....	912-370-2595	Soil Testing (County Extension Office).....	912-876-2133
Homeless Prevention Program.....	912-876-6573	Vehicle Registration & Car Tags.....	912-876-3389
Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission.....	912-408-2030	Voter's Registration.....	912-876-3310

Report to the Citizens of Hinesville

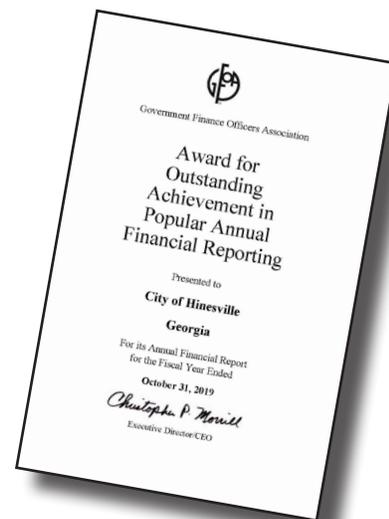
The City of Hinesville continuously strives to provide citizens with information about their city. As part of that effort, we have proudly published our Popular Annual Financial Report or “Citizens Report” since Fiscal Year 2006. Throughout this report, you will find information about the elected officials,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

The financial information contained within this report is extracted from the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Annual Report). 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 fifteen years, the City’s Annual Report was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Financial 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 (1) year. We believe that our current Annual Report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program’s requirements and we have submitted it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

The City’s Annual Report contains more detailed financial information than this report. You may obtain a copy of the Annual Report 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 in October 31, 2019. 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.

Message 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 the City of Hinesville is in sound fiscal shape.

With no increase to 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 .81 mills in the past three fiscal years.

All in all, the City of Hinesville is fiscally sound and continues to grow and expand in terms of commercial activity and residents.

Despite the challenges of the past year, we came together as a community and formed deeper partnerships as we weathered the coronavirus pandemic. One of those relationships that grew stronger in the face of adversity was our partnership with the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield installations. We support our military partners, and they support us. Together, we entered into an intergovernmental support agreement, which outlined an expanded partnership where the City would provide ground maintenance services to roughly 5,000 acres of the installation. This newly expanded partnership, along with other programs and services provided to our military neighbors, led to Coastal Georgia receiving national recognition by being named a Great American Defense Community. I'd like to recognize Col. Bryan Logan's leadership in this effort and wish him and his family well on his next tour. At the same time, I'd like to welcome Col. Manny Ramirez to our military-friendly community.



“*The City is fiscally sound and continues to grow and expand.*”

As always, I am grateful to serve as Mayor of the City of Hinesville and, once again, I am humbled to be in this position. Despite all the hardship and confusion brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am proud of Hinesville's response in the face of these strange times. We, as a city, have risen to the occasion and I am proud to be a part of such a vibrant, caring and strong community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Bannister".

Mayor

Message from the City Manager



Dear Residents and Visitors,

2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, and the City of Hinesville met those challenges head-on. From adjusting our daily operations to maintaining an open, transparent government, the City continued moving forward.

Adapting to ever-changing situations, we sought to protect our City family and our Hinesville neighbors. We changed how we did business. From a renewed vigor to livestream our Council meetings to providing employees with personal protective equipment, we

took to heart our charge to lead our community through our challenging times.

While we closely monitored and adapted to the coronavirus pandemic, we continued our work, accomplishing many of our goals including moving forward on a project to renovate the Main Fire Station and construct a new burn building to train our firefighters, breaking ground with our partners at the Hinesville Development Authority and Georgia Southern University on our community's first and only small business incubator and hiring a new Police Chief, Fire Chief and City Clerk.

To support our community, we contributed nearly half a million dollars to residents and businesses. Working with federal and state entities, we helped with shelter and housing assistance, ensuring residents had a safe place to live, and created grant programs to help business owners continue to employ staff and provide them with safety equipment. All in all, we worked tirelessly to keep our community going.

“2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, and the City of Hinesville met those challenges head-on.”

Throughout everything, we remained fiscally stable. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth L. Howden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

City Manager

City Council



DIANA REID, DISTRICT 1

district1@cityofhinesville.org

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

JASON FLOYD, MAYOR PRO TEM

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, DISTRICT 4

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.

Hinesville Fire Department



“Our Hinesville firefighters train hard, work hard and perform to the best of their abilities. They care about the community and they care about every life under their charge. Expanding training opportunities with a live-fire burn building will help them make the most of every second.”

– Chief Robert Kitchings





Firefighters to Train in New Burn Building

When every second counts, the Hinesville Fire Department is working to ensure that its firefighters can make the most of a split-second through enhanced training provided by a brand-new burn building. After many years of traveling to various training facilities across the southeast, firefighters will now be able to stay in Hinesville to receive critical live-fire and search and rescue training – training that can make all the difference in a life or death situation.

As the largest fire services provider in Liberty County, firefighters with the Hinesville Fire Department (HFD) must train year-round to ensure that they can adequately handle any

fire emergency. Firefighters are required to attend 256 hours of annual training to maintain necessary certifications, a requirement that was difficult to accomplish this past year due to COVID-19 safety precautions and travel restrictions. Realistic, live-fire training provided by a burn building teaches firefighters how to safely and effectively fight fires in a controlled setting. Live-fire training drills are crucial in teaching firefighters how to think clearly and behave calmly under the extreme stress of an emergency where lives may be at stake.

Construction of the burn building is set to begin soon. The 1,760 square-foot building

will be three stories tall and constructed of six modular steel structures. The cost to construct the burn building will total \$150,000 and will be fully funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Local, on site training opportunities provided by the burn building will be invaluable – not only to Hinesville firefighters, but to firefighters beyond our community. It's anticipated that in due time, training courses will be made available to other agencies across the state, generating additional revenue for the City of Hinesville, as well as our local business community.

Hinesville Police Department

Unwavering Commitment to the Community



The Hinesville Police Department (HPD) first achieved recognition as a Certified Law Enforcement Agency in 2006. Since that time, the department has worked diligently to maintain its certification, which is assessed through the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP).

Being a Certified Law Enforcement Agency means that HPD has attained the highest level of professional standards set forth by the state. Every three years, outside assessors perform an extensive audit, requiring proof of HPD's adherence to 139 standards, as well as its own departmental policies. Approximately 140 agencies out of over 700 agencies in Georgia have earned the prestigious Certified Law Enforcement Agency designation. When Chief Lloyd Slater took the helm of HPD earlier this year, he reaffirmed the department's commitment to pursuing the highest professional and ethical standards possible.

As the first African-American Chief of Police, Chief Slater has a clear vision for moving the department forward. That vision includes community awareness through education, engagement and trust.

Reaching this goal will require HPD to strengthen community relations by creating programs that will produce long-term benefits in the form of greater accountability and transparency. One planned initiative to achieve this goal is the implementation of a citizens' review board. This police-community collaboration will provide transparency and civilian oversight and serve as an excellent example of HPD's commitment to promoting positive community change. Immense progress in our community can be gained by working together to achieve common goals of empathy, understanding and mutual respect.

"I look forward to facilitating a collaborative and innovative work environment that will not only uphold the highest law enforcement principles and practices, but also propel the Hinesville Police Department into a new era of community relations."

- Chief Lloyd Slater



HINESVILLE GEORGIA
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CITY OF HINESVILLE

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ViewSonic



BREAKING GROUND: SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR

Earlier this year, leaders from the City of Hinesville and the Hinesville Development Authority (HDA) broke ground on a new small business incubator in Downtown Hinesville. The new small business incubator, which is the first and only of its kind for the Hinesville community, will help local entrepreneurs develop and grow business in the area. Construction of the 5,000 square foot building that will serve as the small business incubator will begin this summer and represent a \$1.5 million investment into the community.

“At the City of Hinesville, we are committed to supporting our local business economy by investing in tools and resources that our local entrepreneurs need to launch and maintain a successful thriving business, thereby benefiting the community as a whole through job creation and adding to our community’s quality of life,” said City Manager Kenneth Howard.

The small business incubator, which will take 18 months to construct, will serve a central hub for entrepreneurs to receive the necessary technical assistance and infrastructure needed to develop and grow a business in the area. Not only will the small business incubator give entrepreneurs a physical space to operate, it will also give them access to services that will help them refine their business model and access capital.

The construction of the small business incubator is the culmination of a communitywide initiative to grow business in Hinesville. At the request of public, the City and HDA first began pursuing the idea in 2016. With Georgia Southern University onboard as a partner, leaders purchased a .72-acre parcel at 207 W. Memorial Dr. that same year to serve as the small business incubator’s home site. The site is located across from the Georgia Southern University – Liberty Campus and minutes away from City Hall.



HDA Board Members

*Justin McCartney
Kenneth Howard
Robert Bell
James Thomas, Jr.
Donald Lovette
Paul Johnson
McKesson Stafford
Patricia Jackson*





Financial Review

Fiscal Year 2020

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 2019	Fiscal Year 2020
Property Taxes.....	\$ 7,633,019	\$ 7,692,376
Sales Taxes.....	4,278,560	4,936,583
Franchise Taxes.....	1,688,485	1,769,263
Insurance Premium Tax.....	2,537,800	2,678,147
Alcohol Beverage Taxes.....	423,927	451,928
Hotel/Motel Tax.....	169,812	144,575
Other General Revenue.....	41,688	34,022
Total General Revenue.....	16,773,291	17,706,894
Charges for Services.....	19,947,949	20,103,088
Operating Grants.....	2,256,471	3,590,632
Capital Grants and Contributions...	2,938,429	3,217,927
Total Program Revenues.....	25,142,849	26,911,647
Other Income.....	157,593	188,646
Investment Earnings.....	285,506	174,944
Total Other Income.....	443,099	363,590
Total Revenues	\$ 42,359,239	\$ 44,982,131

WHERE THE MONEY WENT

	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Year 2020
General Government.....	\$ 2,921,312	\$ 3,181,179
Judicial.....	299,009	293,311
Public Safety.....	10,734,917	11,385,046
Public Works.....	4,014,287	3,459,915
Housing and Development.....	1,917,074	1,941,082
Health and Welfare.....	953,307	1,053,405
Culture and Recreation.....	892,926	892,493
Interest and Fiscal Charges.....	122,836	113,504
Total Governmental Activities.....	21,855,668	22,319,935
Water and Sewer.....	9,592,558	10,298,591
Sanitation.....	3,069,620	3,252,807
Stormwater Utility.....	1,461,797	1,399,288
Transit.....	904,230	921,360
Fort Stewart Grounds Maintenance...	-	685,722
Total Business-type Activities.....	15,028,205	16,557,768
TOTAL EXPENSES	36,883,873	38,877,703
Change in Net Position	5,475,366	6,104,428
Net Position-Beginning	89,513,338	94,988,704
Net Position-Ending	\$ 94,988,704	\$ 101,093,132

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

The City's total net position is categorized. The largest portion of net position (\$72,670,195) 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 (\$5,943,016) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining portion of the City's net position (\$22,479,921) is unrestricted and may be used to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.



DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

General Revenue

All revenue that is not required to be reported as a 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 directly derived 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 taxed, intergovernmental revenues or 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 major three categories.

Net Investment in Capital Assets

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

Net Position Restricted

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

Net Position Unrestricted

The remaining balance of net position not reported under the other two (2) categories of net position.

Financial Review

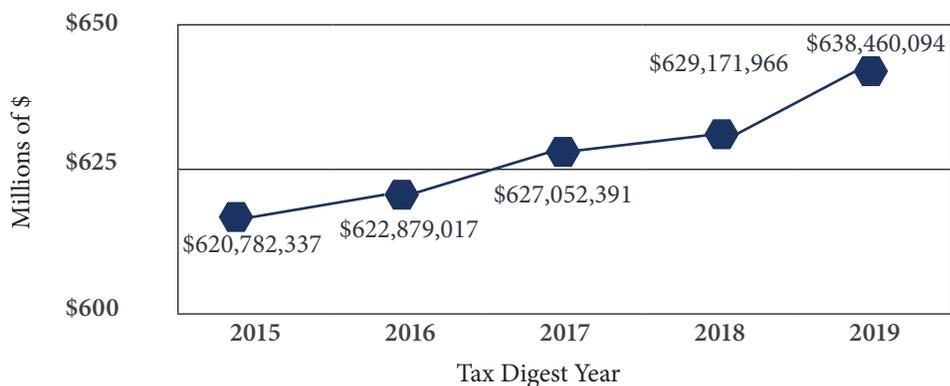
Fiscal Year 2020

PROPERTY TAX BREAKDOWN

The illustration below 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

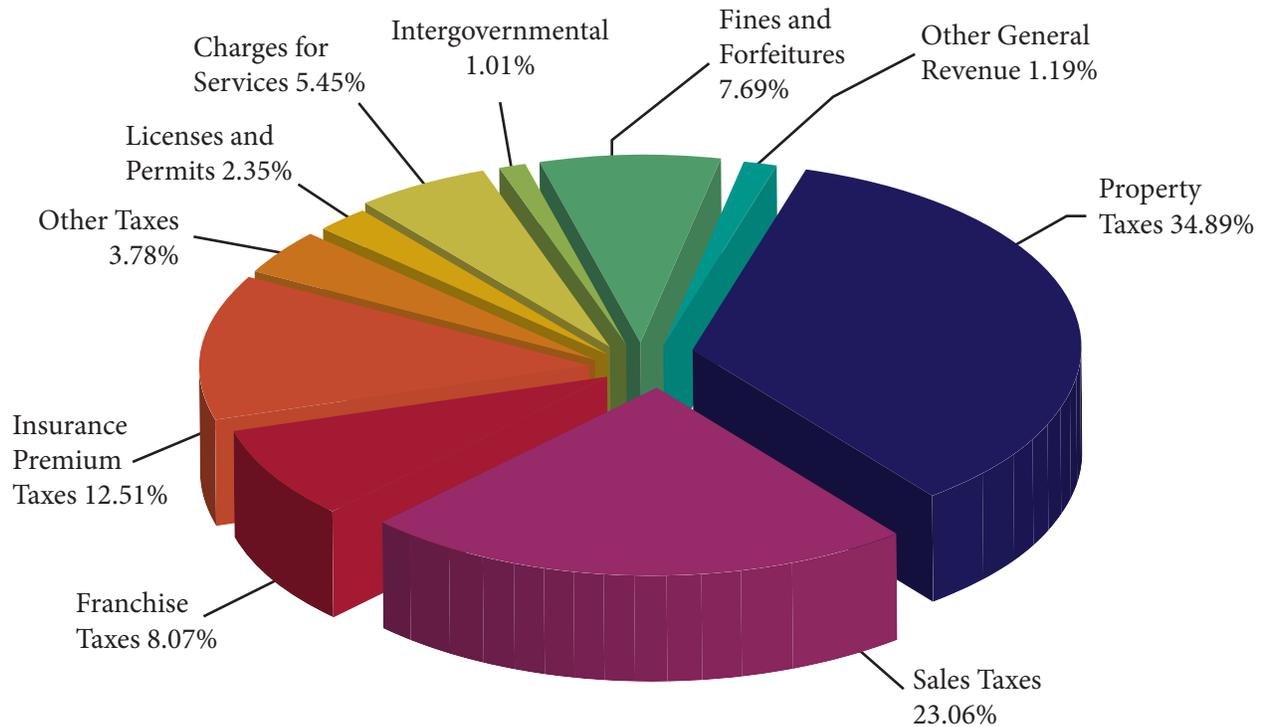


The graph on the left tracks the change in the tax digest over the past five (5) years.

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 the past four (4) years to 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.

GENERAL FUND FISCAL YEAR 2020 REVENUES

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2020, 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



● **Property Taxes - 34.89%**

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 - 23.06%**

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 - 8.07%**

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

● **Insurance Premium Taxes - 12.51%**

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

● **Other Taxes - 3.78%**

Taxes not classified under any other taxes.

● **Licenses and Permits - 2.35%**

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 - 5.45%**

Fees collected for general government uses.

● **Intergovernmental - 1.01%**

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

● **Fines, Forfeitures and Fees - 7.69%**

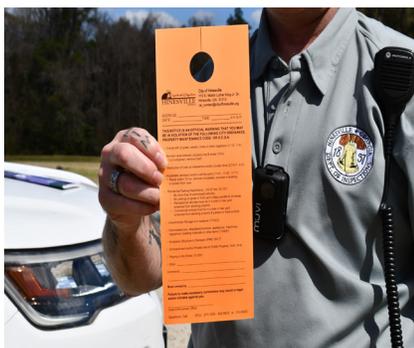
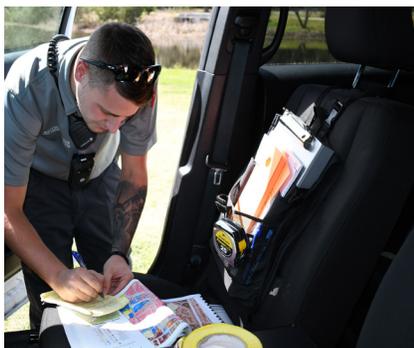
Revenue derived from fines and penalties imposed for the commission of statutory offenses, violation of lawful administrative rules and regulations, for the neglect of official duty, etc.

● **Other General Revenue - 1.19%**

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

Inspections Department

Protecting the Character of Our Neighborhoods



You might not realize it, but every single day, the City of Hinesville's Code Enforcement division plays a critical role in protecting the health, safety and welfare of our community – especially this past year when health and safety were at the top of everyone's mind.

In 2020, our Code Enforcement Officers investigated approximately 750 cases. Of those, 712 were closed, totaling a 95 percent resolution rate.

In any municipal Code Enforcement division, resolution is the goal. This means that the issue was resolved, and that safety standards and property values were upheld.

Many of Hinesville's common code violations include property maintenance issues, overgrown lawns and inoperable vehicles or illegal parking. Each of these items can be easily resolved and help protect the character and vibrancy of our neighborhoods.

While it may seem small, code violations can lead to big issues. For example, property issues can lead to unsafe living conditions for residents, and abandoned houses can become home to illegal activity.

In working with homeowners and tenants, Code Enforcement Officers look for ways to remedy issues through education and assistance.

This past year, Code Enforcement Officer Matthew Hoffman worked with local agencies to rehome 30 animals that were living in one residence. This collaborative effort resulted in a win-win situation for all involved and helped bring the homeowner into code compliance.

To learn more about the City's Code Enforcement division, call 912-876-4147 or visit www.cityofhinesville.org.

Since Hinesville's establishment in 1837, we have grown in our size and population. With that, our commitment to better serve our residents has also grown. Part of our mission as a local government is to provide the highest quality of life for our residents, businesses and visitors. The community and environment we live in affect our quality of life as much as individual efforts. City of Hinesville Code Enforcement Officers strive each day to improve our community.

Hinesville Municipal Court

Coronavirus and the Rule of Law

When Georgia Governor Brian Kemp issued a state of emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Hinesville's Municipal Court had to adjust its policies and procedures to protect staff and the community. Following "Best Practices and Guidelines for Municipal Courts," the number of people allowed in the Municipal Court room at one time was limited and a new scheduling system was put in to place. This new scheduling system allowed defendants to schedule a specific date and time in which to see the judge, keeping staff and the public safe, while also increasing the efficiency of court.

Along with the new scheduling system, the Municipal Court implemented enhanced safety procedures, including mandatory face coverings, daily temperature screenings and social distancing measures. These increased safety and efficiency protocols ensured that court could continue when much of the country was shut down. To help matters further, the Judge authorized the reduction of fines on specific violations upon proof of the infraction being corrected and allowed defendants to come to the Clerk's Office on non-court days to request a Bench Trial,

Points of Reduction and fill out a request for an indigent defense attorney. Upon Municipal Court direction, prosecuting attorneys also worked with defendants to find resolutions for minor charges to avoid lengthy wait times and the need to appear before a judge.

These safety practices are still in place as our community continues to weather the pandemic. If you or someone you know needs to attend court, call 912-368-8206 to reserve an appearance time. Municipal Court Arraignments are held on the first, second and third Wednesday of the month and Bench Trials on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Citations can be paid in person, by mail or online at www.cityofhinesville.org. Cash, money orders, checks and credit cards are accepted.

The Municipal Court of Hinesville, which is located at 123 E. M.L. King, Jr. Dr., represents the judicial branch of government. The Municipal Court staff consists of the Presiding Judge, an Associate Judge, a Judge Pro Tem, a Prosecuting Attorney, an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Clerk of Court and three full-time Deputy Court Clerks.



City Clerk

Open and Transparent Governance



In recent years, the City of Hinesville has worked diligently to foster the public's trust through transparent governance. In early 2019, the City began livestreaming its Hinesville City Council meetings to its Facebook.com/HinesvilleGA page.

This move to enable real-time viewership from afar and better engage with the public proved invaluable in 2020, when many public meetings were closely monitored for capacity due to safety concerns. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the City has continued to livestream its Council meetings and will continue this practice into the future.

An informed, engaged citizenry helps strengthen the community and the ways residents receive and share information continues to evolve. The City works to provide accurate and timely information to the public across a variety of platforms, including web, social media, email, television, billboards and more.

This year, the City initiated the Mask Up campaign to keep the public aware of the changing situation related to COVID-19 and to encourage residents to follow CDC guidelines for reducing the spread of the

coronavirus. The City also joined Liberty County in hosting bi-weekly COVID-19 Updates, which have been and continue to be livestreamed to its Facebook page. Between the pandemic and updates to operational changes, the City has continued to communicate with residents openly and regularly throughout the year.

To learn more about City business, including Council meetings and the current status of COVID-19 in our community, visit cityofhinesville.org and follow @HinesvilleGA on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.



*Sarah Lumpkin, Retired City Clerk
Thank You for 30 Years of Service*

Community Development Department

Supporting Our Most Vulnerable

The coronavirus pandemic has been difficult for us all. For some, however, it's simply been devastating. To help support our community's most vulnerable, the City of Hinesville secured funding through its Community Development Department to implement several programs to assist residents and businesses through challenging times.

Despite federal eviction moratoriums, the Homeless Prevention Program encountered an unprecedented increase in need for shelter and housing assistance this past year. Funds were earmarked for emergency shelter as a temporary measure to quickly stabilize individuals and families, while permanent solutions were pursued. Monies were also allocated for rental deposits to obtain housing, as well as rental, mortgage or utility arrears in order to maintain housing and prevent utility disconnection. Additionally, we partnered with the parallel organizations of United Way and the Coastal Georgia Area Community Action Authority to provide multiple access points throughout the community for individuals to receive rent, mortgage and utility assistance. All in all, these programs helped provide essential housing and shelter accommodations to our

residents, ensuring that each night they had a safe place to sleep.

Keeping residents working was just as important as keeping them sheltered. Consequently, contributing to the recovery of our local business community was a priority. Two grant programs were implemented to provide financial assistance to businesses. Funds were allocated to address operating expenses of rent, mortgage and utilities. Funds were also available for the purpose of maintaining payroll and obtaining personal protective equipment to keep residents employed in safe working conditions. Small businesses are a vital component of the community, and the City worked to ensure that many of our businesses could continue their operations safely.

The City's Community Development Department is committed to serving the citizens of Hinesville under familiar circumstances, as well as in seasons of uncertainty and recovery. Overall, the City contributed nearly half a million dollars to help keep your community moving forward throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Downtown Development Authority

A New Way to Meet, Shop and Dine



Nearly every aspect of our daily lives was different in 2020. Looking back, our Main Street Report will show that nearly 50 planned events in Downtown Hinesville were cancelled. In what some would consider a bleak time, our community hosted two large events that took place safely and successfully. With COVID-19 mitigation efforts in place and a fresh perspective on event coordination, the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority planned the Pumpkin Roll and Scarecrow StROLL. To keep the public safe, event vendors wore face coverings and handed out prepackaged candy and activities. Families remained in their vehicles to participate in these events.

Many businesses in Downtown Hinesville adapted, too. Even though some businesses had to close shop for at least a month, business continued. Company websites were updated, and online shopping platforms were created. Suddenly, shopping online became big business for small businesses and large retailers alike. Local business owners focused on marketing their locally-made, hand-crafted products and customers sought those products in droves. Online auctions even helped boost sales.

When customers came into stores in small numbers to pick up their online purchases, they saw complementary pieces and other gift items for loved ones.

Several Downtown Hinesville businesses also began curbside delivery. Customers called in or placed orders online. Then, scheduled a time to pick up their purchases without entering the store. Outdoor dining options helped local eateries keep up numbers, too, while restrictions on restaurant capacity were enforced.

Some shoppers wanted to come in Downtown businesses where they could see and touch merchandise. Donning masks and hand sanitizer, solo-shoppers visited their favorite stores for private viewings in 30-minute increments. Business owners carefully sanitized surfaces between appointments.

Now, on the other side of 2020 but still dealing with some effects, many Downtown retailers have expressed appreciation toward residents for helping support their businesses. Most said that some inventory continues to be difficult to acquire, but, all in all, sales are strong!

Public Works Department

Supporting Our Military Partners

Last year, the City of Hinesville and the United States Army entered into an intergovernmental support agreement (IGSA) outlining an expanded partnership between the local Hinesville government and the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield installations.

This expanded partnership outlined an agreement where the City would provide ground maintenance services to roughly 5,000 acres, 54 cemeteries and 25 training ranges located between the two installations.

To accomplish this task and to provide the best service possible to our military neighbors and partners, the City expanded its service agreement with its public works contractor, ESG Operations, Inc. With an expanded service area between two different Army installations located 30 miles apart, the City and ESG Operations hired more staff, creating 50 new jobs. Together, the organizations also purchased additional equipment to keep up with all the mowing and trimming.

The intergovernmental support agreement was officially executed on Aug. 1, 2020, during the height of the growing and mowing season. Staff, new and seasoned, sprang into action

quickly. Using a tried and true scheduling system and having a keen sense of detail, the crew were able to make a noticeable difference in the installation's grounds – grass was mowed on time, shrubbery was trimmed back regularly and new flowers bloomed.

The City has a long history of partnering with our neighboring Army installation at Fort Stewart. In recent years, these partnerships have centered on utility services in the Hinesville area.

The partnership for ground maintenance services is funded in total through the intergovernmental support agreement and is not subsidized by the City of Hinesville.

“We are always looking for ways to show our support for our local Army installations, and to provide quality services to those individuals who serve our country,” said Mayor Allen Brown.





City of Hinesville

The City of Hinesville was established in 1837 and is recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Georgia in both size and population. As the largest city in Liberty County, it serves as the county seat and is home to more than 35,000 people.

Each day, a devoted workforce of over 200 employees come together to ensure the needs of the community are met through municipal service. To guide this effort, the Hinesville City Council has adopted a clear mission and vision for our government and community.

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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



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