



HINESVILLE GEORGIA



"Home for a Day or a Lifetime"



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REPORT TO THE CITIZENS OF HINESVILLE

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

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

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

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

You may obtain a copy of the CAFR on our website at www.cityofhinesville.org or by contacting the Finance Department at (912) 876-3564.



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of
Achievement
for Excellence
in Financial
Reporting

Presented to

City of Hinesville
Georgia

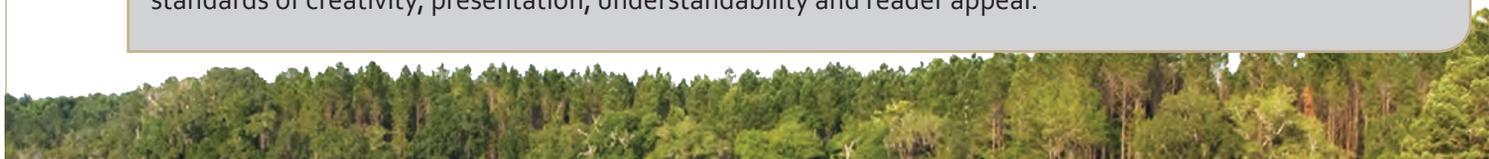
For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

October 31, 2014

Jeffrey R. Grew
Executive Director/CEO



The (GFOA) of the United States and Canada 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 Oct. 31, 2014. 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 2015 Annual Report to Citizens. This year is the tenth anniversary of this report, as well as our great City's centennial, marking ten decades since Hinesville was chartered.

While celebrations such as these remind us of how far we have come as we reflect on our accomplishments, I can't help but also use this as an opportunity to look to the future.

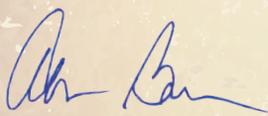
As one of the fastest growing cities in Georgia, Hinesville is always looking for opportunities to expand. In March, we broke ground on the MidCoast Regional Airport runway extension, which will increase the runway by 1,500 feet so that it can accommodate bigger planes that will help bring bigger industries and new jobs to our City. In May, I had the pleasure of attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the Oglethorpe Square project, a new development that will bring national retailers, an estimated \$40 million in retail sales in the first year and more than 250 full-time equivalent jobs to our community.

There is much to look forward to on the road ahead, but I would be remiss if I did not also mention the obstacles that are before us. While we are in sound fiscal shape, we are still experiencing flat revenues and ever increasing expenses. Our fiscal conservatism that has anchored our efforts has resulted in holding off on a lot of capital purchases that would otherwise aid our City in continuing its impeccable service to our citizens.

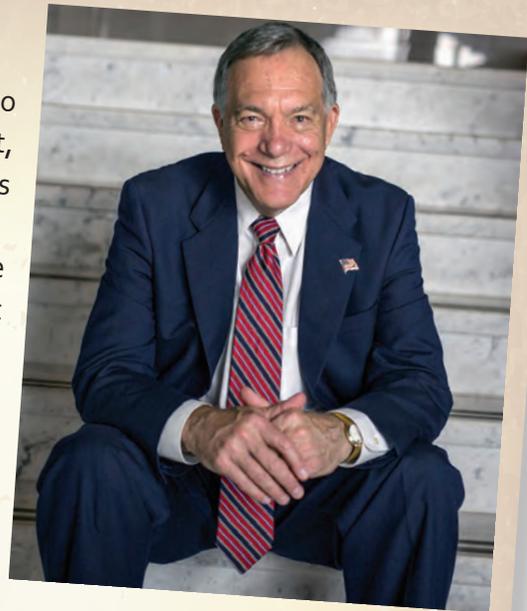
To this point, I am asking all of you to do two things:

1. Diligently review this report which will provide you with an overview of the current financial condition of the City.
 2. Educate yourself on the importance of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), a fair, one cent tax that will ensure that everybody pays something to enjoy the improvements made to our City, including visitors who pay over 30 percent of it.
- If we work together, just imagine where we could take Hinesville in the next 100 years. I look forward to serving you through this journey.

Sincerely,



Allen Brown
Mayor



CITY COUNCIL



District 3

Vicky Nelson

district3@cityofhinesville.org

"I appreciate the opportunity to represent and serve the citizens of Hinesville District 3. It gives me great pleasure to say that for the past 5 months I have heard the "voices" of the people and we are making a difference! Thank You!"

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



District 4

Keith Jenkins

district4@cityofhinesville.org

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



District 5

Kenneth Shaw

District 5, Mayor Pro Tem
district5@cityofhinesville.org

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Dear Residents and Visitors:

It is with great pleasure that we present to you this the 10th Popular Annual Financial Report, more commonly referred to as the PAFR. Although there have been strains on our budget and finances, in short, your City is in sound financial condition.

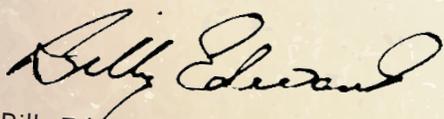
All of us recall the Great Recession that began in 2008 with the burst of the real estate bubble and continued for several years affecting many sectors of the economy. Many of you suffered these times and had to make unwanted sacrifices. So did your City. However, we are coming back as I will illustrate below with some boring statistics so please bear with me.

Good municipal financial policies call for a fund balance of approximately 25 percent of the non-capital portion of the annual budget. In 2008 we had a General Fund Balance of \$9,113,263 with a General Fund budget of \$18,315,640 excluding capital expenditures. Our 2015 budget was \$19,542,358, excluding capital expenditures, and we finished the year with a fund balance of \$2,932,413. As you can see our fund balance in 2008 was well above the targeted 25 percent of budget value, so we purposely started using the fund balance to provide City services with a primary focus of funding non-recurring expenditures from the fund balance. As we moved forward from 2008, we were experiencing a relatively flat growth in property values and an overall decrease in sales tax receipts. The above two circumstances were major factors in the decision to begin using our fund balance for operational purposes. This led to a point where our fund balance bottomed out at \$2,333,059 in 2012. The good news is that our fund balance is recovering and has grown every year since 2012. This is a sign of a recovering economy and a fiscally healthy community. Again, your City is in a sound fiscal condition. Please review this PAFR for more detailed information.

Although the primary purpose of the PAFR is to communicate information about the City's financial condition I want to also let you know that the City will be celebrating the centennial of our incorporation by the Georgia General Assembly. Don't let this confuse you because we were founded by Charlton Hines and others in 1837, but our community was not incorporated by the State of Georgia until 1916. We are planning some events this year to commemorate that event in our history and we hope that you will join us in that celebration. The center piece of this PAFR is a brief review of the last 100 years of our history so take a look and stay tuned.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Sincerely,



Billy Edwards,
City Manager



POLICE DEPARTMENT

CERTIFICATION

The Hinesville Police Department first achieved recognition as a Certified Law Enforcement Agency in 2006. Since then, the department has undergone three recertification assessments and has maintained its certified status. Over the years, the program standards have changed to meet the requirements of new case law and changing professional standards of law enforcement. When the department was first certified, there were 118 standards that had to be met and now there are 129 standards. These standards are being constantly vetted by the State Certification Committee to ensure that they meet the needs of agencies from across the state. There are currently 1,145 recognized law enforcement agencies in the State of Georgia, and of that number, 124 are certified. The Hinesville Police Department is proud to continue to be one of those certified agencies.

Every three years, assessors associated with the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) are sent to the police department to confirm the agency is complying with each standard. These assessors are impartial and come from agencies of all sizes from across the state. The assessment team tours the department to inspect various functions including evidence and property, records, communications, investigations, training and personnel. Each standard is in a separate file and each file is reviewed, along with supporting documentation, to ensure the department's practices meet agency policy and state law. Compliance is not easy, but it is attainable and the department has done so for the past ten years. Hinesville PD Lieutenant Bill Kirkendall, the department's certification manager, currently serves as president of the GACP organization.



Being a certified agency means policies, rules, and procedures are under constant review. Members of the department network with other agencies and share policies and information

that assist the department in staying current with recent decisions of the courts and trends in law enforcement. Annually required training is conducted for all personnel, not just sworn peace officers. The training allows the department to receive a reduction of liability insurance costs which saves tax dollars. Over the last five years, the fact that the Hinesville Police Department is a certified agency has saved the citizens of Hinesville \$31,621.00 in liability insurance costs.

Management of the certification program requires cooperation from all areas of the department to include the Patrol Division, the Criminal Investigation Division and the Administrative Services Division as well as the civilian employees of the department. The whole department takes an active role in ensuring the Hinesville Police Department continues to provide the highest level of professional law enforcement possible. The next recertification assessment is due by Jan. 2018.



HINESVILLE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In February 2013, the City Council approved the resolution to activate the Hinesville Development Authority and appointed the original Board of Directors in March. The Hinesville Development Authority is committed to making Hinesville and the surrounding environment a distinctive living, working and playing community that will stimulate and maintain sustainable economic vitality.

Justin McCartney, Chairman	Paul Johnson
Justin Frasier, Vice Chairman	Donald Lovette
Robert Bell, Secretary	McKesson Stafford
Jim Thomas	Kenneth Howard, Executive Director

Working in cooperation with the Liberty County Development Authority and the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority, the Hinesville Development Authority is charged with helping to create an environment in which people are drawn to Hinesville as a distinctive and attractive place to live, work and play.



THE OGLETHORPE SQUARE PROJECT

The Hinesville Development Authority contracted with the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED) at Georgia Southern University to complete an Economic Impact Analysis to determine the estimated economic impact of the Oglethorpe Square shopping center. This public/private partnership development includes two separate developments on a 24.68-acre site. The primary development will contain 155,000 square feet of retail space. This is enough space for approximately seven national retailers. In addition, five outparcels will be developed. These outparcels will add a total of 24,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space. This could accommodate five new businesses. In total, the Oglethorpe Square development will add approximately 12 new businesses, housed in 179,000 square feet of newly constructed retail space.



Estimated Annual Project Benefits	
Retail Sales	\$ 55 Million
Local Option Sales Tax Revenue	\$ 550,000
Property Tax Revenue	\$ 307,000
Full-Time Equivalent Jobs	250+
Payroll	\$ 17 Million

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Community Development Department oversees many programs and projects that assist the citizens of Hinesville. This department is tasked with identifying and applying for local, state and federal funding to further initiatives approved by the Mayor and Council.

The Grants Administration Office currently manages \$1.5 million of grant funding which is used to facilitate numerous assistance, service and educational programs.



Assistance to the public is provided via the Homeless Prevention Program, Police and Fire Departments, Liberty Transit, Homeowner Rehabilitation Program, as well as the Irene B. Thomas Park and Azalea Street Redevelopment Projects.

A portion of funds are sub-granted to local 501(c)(3) designated nonprofit organizations that provide public services. Some funding is used to increase awareness of fair housing rights and lead-based paint hazards as well as market the various services and programs available to the community. In order to maintain and improve programs, the grant writer is continuously seeking funding opportunities that align with City of Hinesville goals and the needs of its citizens.

HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Homeless Prevention Office is a division of the Community Development Department that focuses on providing assistance to the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless. As funding is available, various types of help are offered including

emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid re-housing. Although street outreach is performed regularly, concerned citizens are encouraged to direct persons facing difficulties to this office to apply for assistance. Staff can then explain the process, requirements and conditions of receiving federal assistance.

The Homeless Prevention Program has assisted many people and families facing financial difficulties by maintaining rent and utilities, as well as providing hotel accommodations while developing a long-term solution. Over that past three years, \$375,504 of grant funds have been used to assist 574 adults, 483 children, and 69 veterans.



Grant Funding 2013-2015



■ Rapid Re-housing \$100,000	■ Emergency Shelter \$77,000
■ Transitional Housing \$198,504	

HINESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The role of a fire department within a community is to protect lives and property from fire. This is not only in residential buildings, but also in non-residential buildings. With this in mind, the Hinesville Fire Department has established the Fire Marshal's Office to ensure that the community is safe in non-residential buildings.

Over the years there have been several fires throughout the country that have led to the deaths of hundreds of people while patronizing establishments for food, entertainment and sleep. Some fires of note are the Iriquois Theater, Chicago, Ill. in 1903 that killed 602 people, the Coconut Grove Nightclub, Boston, Mass. in 1942 that killed 492 people; and the Station Nightclub, West Warwick, R.I. in 2003 that killed 100 people. From 2003 to 2013 there was a national average of 85 deaths and an average of almost \$3 billion in loss by fire in non-residential buildings.

Partly as a result of these fires, the National Fire Protection Association and the International Code Council produce codes and standards to be followed, if adopted, to prevent fire loss and death. These codes include such areas as construction requirements, exits, emergency lighting, sprinkler systems, fire alarms and more. The codes are written by these entities through a process and provided to the public for adoption. A code or standard is not a law until it is adopted as law.

The State of Georgia has tasked the Office of Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner with establishing a board to review the codes and determine which should be adopted as law. The Office also reviews the codes to determine if there should be any changes made. If so, the changes are published for view in the state Minimum Fire Safety Standards. The State has currently adopted and made changes to over 170 codes and standards to make up the state Minimum Fire Safety Standards.

In order to stay current and consistent with other communities and the State, the City of Hinesville adopts the state's standards. The adoption is done by ordinance with the approval of the mayor and council. The ordinance is written so that the City uses the most

current copy of the minimum standards.

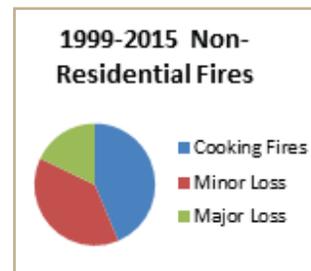
The Hinesville Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office consists of two persons, a Fire Marshal and a Deputy Fire Marshal. The Fire Marshal is Earnest "Moe" McDuffie and the Deputy Fire Marshal is Jerry Heath. They are tasked with inspecting over 707 non-residential buildings and businesses within the City limits of Hinesville and Flemington on an annual basis. If any deficiencies are found, follow-up inspections are scheduled to allow the building or business owner to make corrections.



In 2015, the Fire Marshal's Office conducted over 1060 inspections. These inspections included annual inspections, follow-ups, fire protection systems, business license, etc. More often than not, buildings and businesses have very few or no deficiencies.

Since 1999, there have been 39 fires in non-residential buildings in the cities of Hinesville and Flemington, an average of 2 fires a year. Of those, 17 were cooking fires that were extinguished before the Fire Department arrived and only 7 of the remaining 22 fires involved major loss or damage. There also have been no fire deaths in non-residential fires.

This being said, the national average in 2014 was 70 non-residential fires in communities in the population range of the City of Hinesville, putting the City well under the national average. Due to the tremendous efforts of the Fire Marshal's Office, the community is a very safe place to work and shop.



BUSINESS LICENSES



Do you want to open a business in the City limits of Hinesville, but do not know where to start? Contact the City of Hinesville to schedule a meeting with the Business & Development Assistance Team. The Business & Development Assistance Team is comprised of employees from the Business License Office, Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission, Inspections Department and the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority. Our purpose is to provide information to make the process easier for potential business owners. Appointments to meet with the Business & Development Assistance Team are scheduled upon request.



Business & Development Assistance Team

Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission

- ◆ Comprehensive Planning
- ◆ Design Guidelines
- ◆ All Zoning Approvals
- ◆ Flood Determinations
- ◆ Survey Plat Approvals
- ◆ Site Inspections & Approvals

Hinesville Downtown Development Authority

- ◆ Low Interest Loan Programs
- ◆ Façade Rehabilitation Grant
- ◆ Historic Preservation Guidelines
- ◆ Tax Credit Programs
- ◆ Available Properties

Inspections Department

- ◆ Occupancy Determinations and Requirements
- ◆ Title III ADA Requirements for Businesses
- ◆ Building Safety Requirements
- ◆ Permits & Inspections For Renovations

Business License Office

- ◆ Commercial Business Licenses
- ◆ Alcohol Beverage Licenses

Appointments to meet with the Business Assistance & Development Team are scheduled upon request.



*Located in the Liberty County Courthouse
100 Main St. | Hinesville, GA 31313*

Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission (2nd Floor)

Phone: (912)-408-2030
Email: ghartage@thelcpc.org
Website: www.thelcpc.org

*Located in the City Hall of Hinesville
115 E ML King Jr. Dr. | Hinesville GA 31313*

Hinesville Downtown Development Authority (2nd Floor)

Phone: (912) 877-HDDA (4332)
Fax: (912) 877-9132
Email: HDDA@coastalnow.net
Website: www.hinesvilledowntown.com

Inspections Department (1st Floor)

Phone: (912) 876-4147
Fax: (912) 876-4770
Email: insp_contact@cityofhinesville.org
Website: www.cityofhinesville.org

Business License Office (1st Floor)

Phone: (912) 876-3564
Fax: (912) 369-2658
Email: businesslic@cityofhinesville.org
Website: www.cityofhinesville.org

THE CITY OF HINESVILLE

Happy Birthday to the City of Hinesville! While the City is older than she might look, having been founded in 1837, it wasn't until July 24, 1916 that the General Assembly of the State of Georgia incorporated Hinesville as a City. Since then, it has been quite a century.

1920's

A turbulent decade, the City experienced two hurricanes in 1928 and 1929, as well as a declining population at the onset of the Great Depression. In 1920, the population was just 315.



1930's

The City had just survived the Great Depression and on Oct. 28, 1937, Hinesville held its first centennial celebration with the first-ever Liberty County Fair to commemorate the town's founding.



1940's

Camp Stewart in 1940 (later to be named Fort Stewart in 1956) spurred tremendous growth for the City of Hinesville. People and businesses flocked to the City to capitalize on the influx of soldiers.



1950's

After the post-World War II economic boom, City buildings get air conditioning.



CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

1960's

On Dec. 3, 1961, Liberty Memorial Hospital opens its doors as a 28-bed acute care hospital. The name would later be changed to Liberty Regional Medical Center and it would become a full-service medical facility which sees over 50,000 patients each year.



1970's

On March 3, 1970, the old Liberty County Jail on Main St. was sold to the Liberty County Historical Society. It closed after the new county jail opened the previous year. The Historical Society later donated the jail to the City of Hinesville and it is now on the National Register of Historic Places.



1980's

Throughout the 1980's, Hinesville experienced a rapid period of growth and expansion. In 1980, the City's population stood at 11,309 people, which accounted for 29.8 percent of Liberty County's population. During this decade, City Hall had 12 employees, a growth of 8 people from the previous decade.

1990's

By 1990, the City of Hinesville's population grew by an astounding 91.02 percent to 21,603, which accounted for 41 percent of the county's population.

2000's

In 2008, Mayor James Thomas makes history by being elected as the City's first African-American mayor.

2010's

In the last six years, the City of Hinesville has experienced tremendous growth and improvements. In 2010, the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority launched the Hinesville Downtown Farmer's Market and quickly became one of the City's signature events.

In August of 2011, a new, 48,000-square-foot City Hall building was opened.

The downtown area continued to grow in 2015 with new additions such as the beautifully built Armstrong State University Liberty Center on Memorial Dr.

This year, the Hinesville Development Authority brought one of the City's most momentous projects to date when they broke ground in May on a 24.58-acre shopping center located on Highway 84. The Oglethorpe Square shopping center will feature major national retailers in 179,000 square feet of new retail space. It is slated to open in spring of 2017.



With more to celebrate than just a birthday, the City of Hinesville is excited to gear up festivities in honor of our centennial and an impressive span of century-long achievements. Follow us on Facebook and on Twitter @HinesvilleGA to stay up-to-date with events and activities that will soon be announced for July.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2015

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

Where the Money Came From...

	FY 2014	FY 2015
Property Taxes.....	\$7,186,584	\$7,727,647
Sales Taxes.....	3,479,310	3,446,617
Franchise Taxes.....	1,495,060	1,709,285
Insurance Premium Tax.....	1,803,525	1,926,770
Alcoholic Beverage Taxes.....	381,311	394,123
Hotel/Motel Tax.....	183,377	180,136
Other General Revenue.....	69,198	60,070
Total General Revenue.....	14,598,365	15,444,648
Charges for Services.....	15,133,413	15,449,538
Operating Grants.....	1,338,935	1,110,977
Capital Grants and Contributions	2,287,199	527,784
Total Program Revenues	18,759,547	17,088,299
Other Income.....	327,298	45,943
Investment Earnings.....	24,367	20,942
Transfers.....	-	-
Total Other Income & Transfers	351,665	66,885
TOTAL REVENUES	\$33,709,577	\$32,599,832

Where the Money Went...

	FY 2014	FY 2015
General Government.....	\$2,787,319	\$2,671,074
Judicial.....	489,298	473,800
Public Safety.....	9,927,371	9,245,840
Public Works.....	2,581,340	3,047,557
Housing and Development.....	2,255,583	1,829,571
Health and Welfare.....	743,587	682,611
Culture and Recreation.....	864,952	821,679
Interest and Fiscal Charges.....	334,092	354,345
Total Governmental Activities.....	19,983,542	19,123,477
Water and Sewer.....	9,285,371	9,170,103
Sanitation.....	2,756,948	2,726,225
Stormwater Utility.....	1,317,097	1,320,860
Transit.....	862,768	892,172
Total Business-type Activities.....	14,222,184	14,109,360
TOTAL EXPENSES	34,205,726	33,232,837
Change in Net Assets	(495,461)	(578,594)
Net Assets-Beginning	89,922,847	85,251,452
Net Assets - Ending	\$89,427,386	\$84,672,858

Definitions of Key Terms

General Revenue

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

Program Revenue

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

Business-Type Activities

One of two classes of activities reported in the government-wide financial statements. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. These activities are normally reported in enterprise funds. The City currently has three business-type funds.

Governmental Activities

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

Net Position

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

Net Investment in Capital Assets

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

Net Position Restricted

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

Net Positions Unrestricted

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

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2015

The City's total net position is categorized. The largest portion of net position (\$82,414,517) 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 (\$956,060) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining portion of the City's net position (\$1,302,281) is unrestricted and may be used to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

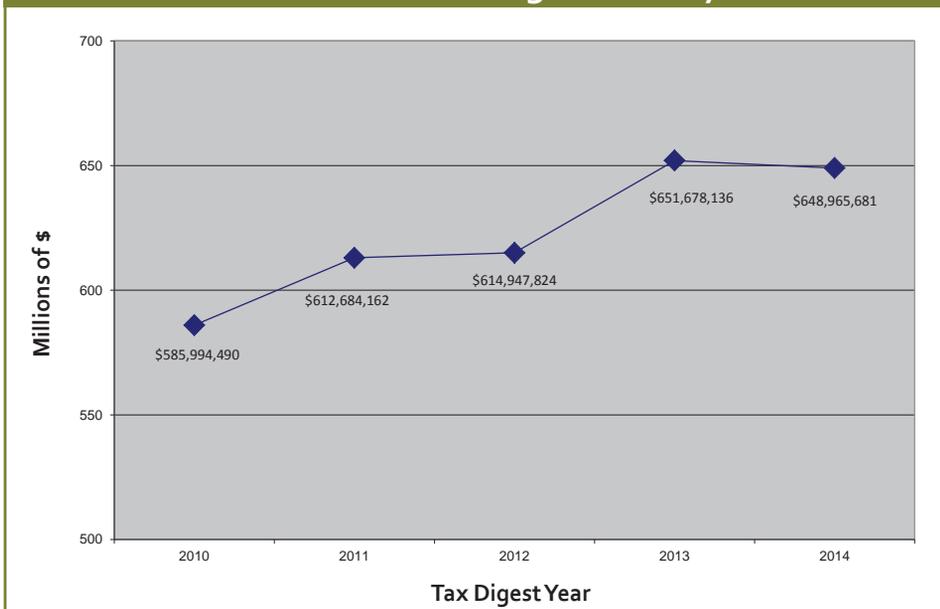
Property Tax Breakdown



Property Tax Breakdown

The illustration to the left depicts how each one dollar of property tax revenue collected is distributed to the various taxing entities. The City of Hinesville receives 26¢ of each \$1.00 collected from taxpayers in the City.

Five Year Gross Digest History



Property Tax Digest

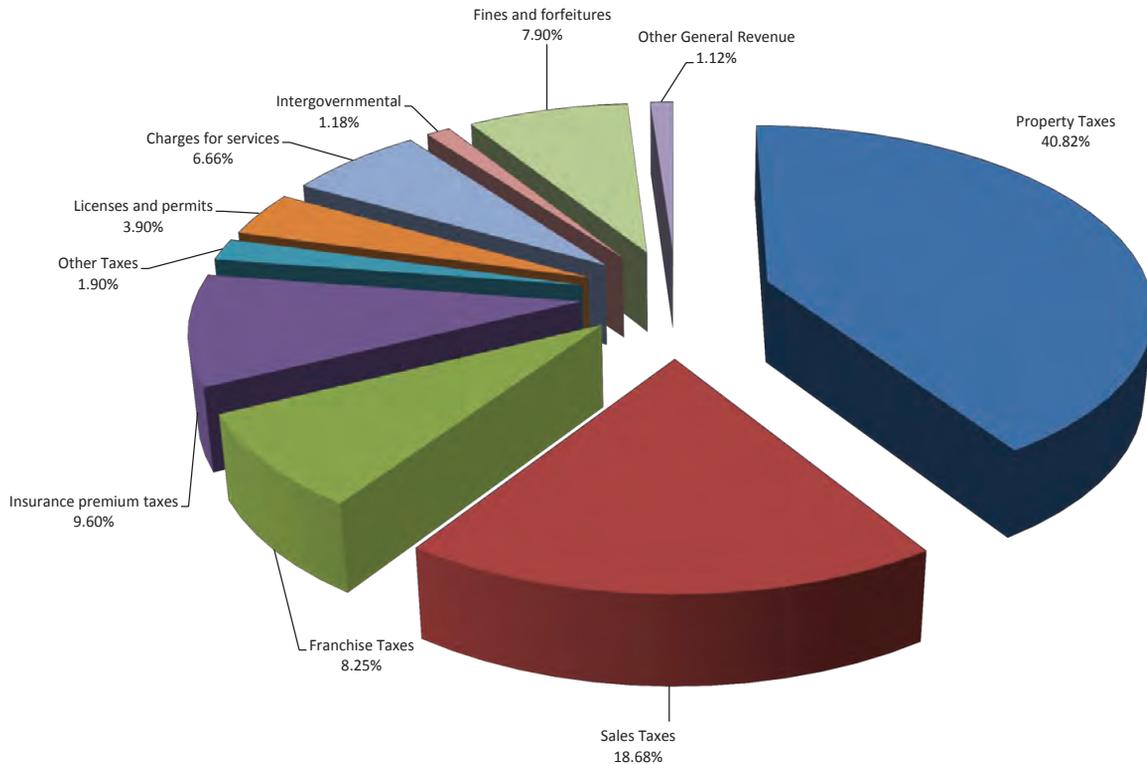
The graph on the left tracks the change in the tax digest over the past five years.

Property tax is the City's single largest source of revenue. The City's millage rate remained level at 11.30 mills from 1997 to 2005. In 2006, the City decreased the millage rate to 10.90 mills. In 2007 the City Again decreased the rate to 9.5 mills, where it remained level through fiscal year 2012. The City increased its millage rate to 10.50 in fiscal year 2013 and increased it to 11.51 mills in fiscal year 2015.

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2015

For fiscal year ended October 31, 2015, the City of Hinesville received revenues for the General Fund totaling slightly over \$18.4 million. The four largest sources of revenues are Property Taxes, Sales Taxes, Insurance Premium Taxes and Franchise Taxes. The Following section provides a brief description of the City's revenue sources by category:

General Fund Fiscal Year 2015 Revenues



- Property Taxes 40.82%**
 Taxes collected from property owners based upon an assessed valuation and tax rate. The dollar amount received is to be used to fund governmental services and debt service on voter approved general obligation bonds.
- Sales and Use Taxes 18.68%**
 Taxes imposed on the purchase, sale, rental, storage, use or consumption of tangible personal property and related services and are subject to voter approval. Specifically represents the City's portion of the 1% sales and use tax collected.
- Franchise Taxes 8.25%**
 Taxes imposed on corporations or business for using public property for private purposes.
- Insurance Premium Taxes 9.60%**
 Taxes levied based on the gross direct premiums collected by all insurance companies doing business in the City.
- Other Taxes 1.90%**
 Taxes not classified under any other taxes.
- License and permits 3.90%**
 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 6.66%**
 Fees collected for general government services.
- Intergovernmental 1.18%**
 Revenue from other governments in the form of operating grants, shared revenues, etc.
- Fines, forfeitures and fees 7.90%**
 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 1.12%**
 Other revenue received from sale of surplus, investments, or not otherwise classified.

INSPECTIONS

What You Should Know Before You Buy or Lease a Building for Commercial Use

First Things First

There's more to it than what you might think and it's more than the proper zoning. The nature of your 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.

Every building at the time of its initial construction 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)



What it was initially built for may later want to be converted into something else.

For example, a building initially built for a residence, later wishes to be converted to an office or small church.

A 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 hazards remain the same.

On the other hand the 'occupancy type' may change during the life span of a building which could involve a modification in the potential hazard. In such an event, the building must be reclassified accordingly, and comply in all respects with the new classification, possibly highly impacting what you had budgeted.

When this occurs many factors may come together such as the possible need for additional – but not limited to:

- Exits
- Bathrooms
- ADA requirements
- Fire protection
- Parking spaces

The maximum occupancy load requirements may change as well.

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



Most Importantly

Our main goal is to ensure that your location is safe, for you and for everyone in it.

So, before you make a final decision on a building for your endeavors make sure you have all of the facts. . . before you sign on the dotted line.

A Team is Here to Help You

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

The team is compiled of representatives from the:

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

Appointments to meet with the Business License Assistance Team may be scheduled upon request.

They can 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 Business Assistant Team appointments please contact the Inspections Department at (912) 876-4147.

MUNICIPAL COURT

How do I pay a citation and not have to appear in court?

When you receive a citation from the Hinesville Police Department, it has your court date and time. If you intend to pay your before your court date, you may do so by paying the citation anytime up until 7 a.m., the morning of court. If not paid by 7 a.m. you must appear in court at 7:45 a.m. Payments are accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but after 4:30 p.m. you must have exact change if paying with cash. You may also pay by mail.

Method of payments

- Cash
- Online by going to www.cityofhinesville.org/municipalcourt or www.cityofhinesville.org on left side click online bill pay and follow instructions on the page.
- No starter checks. All checks must be preprinted and proper ID is required and made payable to the City of Hinesville. No checks accepted over \$200 after 4 p.m.
- MasterCard, Visa or American Express with proper ID (We also accept payments over the phone by owner of the card)
- Money order
- Cashier's check

If you have posted a cash bond for an offense that does not require a court appearance and you do not appear in court, your bond will be forfeited and your case will closed as guilty by bond forfeiture.

MANDATORY APPEARANCE

- Curfew
- DUI
- Excessive Noise (2nd)
- Loud Music (2nd)
- Suspended License (2nd)
- No License or Suspended License (2nd)
- Suspended Registration (2nd)
- Shoplifting
- Vicious Dog
- Window Tint

What the Court Staff can and cannot do to help

We can help you with the following:

- Explain and answer questions about how the court works.
- Give you general information about court rules, procedures and practices
- Provide court schedules and information on when a case is scheduled for a hearing
- Give you information from your case file
- Usually answer questions about maximum punishments allowable by law
- Provide you with fine information for offenses for which the judiciary has adopted a fine schedule

We cannot help you with the following:

- Cannot advise whether or not you should bring your case to court.
- Cannot tell you what words to use for preparing motions or other court papers.
- Cannot recommend what you should say to the judge in court
- Cannot speculate about what decision the judge might make or what sentence the judge might impose in your case
- Cannot change an order signed by a judge or override any decision rendered by a judge
- Cannot talk to the judge in your behalf
- Cannot let you talk to the judge outside of court
- Cannot give you information on background checks



More frequently asked questions may be found on the city website at cityofhinesville.org/municipalcourt

PUBLIC WORKS

Hinesville's Water Quality Report for Water Treated in 2015

Your water meets state and federal regulations for safety. Last year we conducted more than 500 tests for over 80 drinking water contaminants. This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water we provided in 2015. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. We are committed to providing you with the information because we want you to be informed. For more information about your water call 912-876-8216 and ask for Robert Norby.

Drinking water sources

Your water comes from four groundwater wells withdrawing water from the Upper Floridian Aquifer. Source water assessment information may be obtained from contacting Robert Norby at 912-876-8216.

Contaminants in water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals - and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, pesticides and herbicides, radioactive contaminants and organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals.

Water quality monitoring

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants

in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water quality data

The table in this report lists all the drinking water contaminants we detected during the 2015 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Terms & abbreviations

- **AL:** Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **AVG:** Average.
- **LRAA:** Local Running Annual Average - The average of samples taken at a particular monitoring location during the previous four calendar quarters.
- **MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants
- **MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter -- (corresponds to one minute in two years)
- **ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter --(corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years)

Substance	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Range of Detection	Sample Date	Violation (Y or N)	Typical Source of Contamination
Disinfectants and Disinfectant By-products							
Chlorine – measured as Cl ₂ (ppm)	4 MRDL	4 MRDLG	1.1 AVG	0.6 – 1.7	2015	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	80	0	8 LRAA	ND – 10.3	2015	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	60	0	0.9 LRAA	ND – ND	2015	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Inorganic Contaminants							
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.8 AVG	0.5 – 1.0	2015	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Copper – action level at consumer taps (ppm)	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.14 90 th percentile	0 of 30 Sites exceeding AL	2013	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
Lead – action level at consumer taps (ppb)	AL = 15	0	4.3 90 th Percentile	1 of 30 Sites exceeding AL	2013	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.

This water quality report was prepared by CH2M as a service to the City of Hinesville.

FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION

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

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

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

Know Your Local Flood Hazard

- Check your flood hazard by viewing flood maps and flood protection references in the Hinesville Department of Inspections and Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission offices.
- 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 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

Protect Your Property from Flooding

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

Build Responsibly

Get a permit for 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).

FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION

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 protection our natural floodplains, contact Keep Liberty County Beautiful at (912) 880-4888 or email klcb@coastalnow.net.

Flood Safety

Before the flood...

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

If the flood comes...

- Keep a battery-operated radio tuned to a local station and follow all instructions
- Turn off all utilities at the main switch, if time permits
- Move valuable contents to a higher level, if time permits
- Avoid already flooded areas. Do not attempt to cross any stretch of flood waters on foot if the water is above your knees
- Do not drive where water is over the roads. In floods, cars can become coffins!
- If by mistake you find yourself driving in water and the car stalls, get out of the car and climb to high ground immediately
- If you are caught in the house, move to the second floor and/or, if necessary, the roof. Wait for help; do not try to swim to safety



After the flood...

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

HINESVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Hinesville Downtown Development Authority balances focus on economic development, community events and leisure opportunities.

The Hinesville Downtown Development Authority's effects on the City center's growth and progress during fiscal year 2015 were evident across a variety of economic and community-based categories.

In January 2015, Hinesville officially became a nationally accredited Main Street community, falling under the umbrella of the HDDA's authority. According to the program's 2015 Community Impact Report, the Main Street Program's recruitment efforts contributed to a net gain of eight businesses and 75 new jobs. The report, issued at the state level by Georgia Main Street and the National Main Street Center, was generated using data the HDDA submits monthly as one of several requirements for maintaining accreditation.

In addition, the total amount of private and public investment in downtown exceeded \$7.5 million. More than 46,000 people attended about 50 downtown Hinesville events last year, including the Farmers Market, Small World Festival, Easter Egg Roll, Pumpkin Patch, and Scarecrow Stroll. The Farmers Market, which runs from 4-7 p.m. every Thursday in Bradwell Park from March through November, has an impact of \$200,000 per season on the local economy. EBT is an accepted form of payment at the market, and many individual vendors accept credit and debit cards in addition to cash. The heart of the City is experiencing noticeable growth, especially along the recently developed Memorial



Anka and David Hinze felt community support as they cut the ribbon and officially opened Speisekammer German Grocery in downtown.

Drive corridor. Two of the larger operations that began welcoming customers and clients in the past year are Armstrong State University's Liberty Center Campus and Renaissance Park Senior Village. The new county library also just recently opened.

Thanks to the impact made by these new operations, activity on Memorial Drive and Main Street is picking up. The HDDA fields many inquiries each month about available entrepreneurial spaces and new business opportunities within the area. The authority's professional three-person staff is more than happy to offer guidance, support and advice to those looking to start businesses, longtime business owners and potential investors.

The HDDA maintains a diverse focus and, in addition to its economic accomplishments, the staff works tirelessly to promote downtown Hinesville's leisure offerings and resources. The authority manages Bryant Commons, the City's newest passive park. The 156-acre tract, which sits just off Highway 84 in downtown Hinesville, boasts walking trails, two fishing ponds, modern restrooms, the International Telephone Pioneer Association museum, 75 acres of protected wetlands and, soon, a dog park. The Veterans Memorial Walk at Bryant Commons is under construction and organizers hope to dedicate the monument on or around Veterans Day 2017.

For more information on the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority, their events and programs, please call 912-877-4332, visit www.hinesvilledowntown.com and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.



The Hinesville Farmers Market is from 4-7 p.m. every Thursday in Bradwell Park. Shoppers can find fresh produce and other staples, such as bread, milk and eggs. The market has an impact of \$200,000 per season on the local economy.

CITY OF HINESVILLE CONTACT INFORMATION



Contact Information

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

Other Frequently Called Numbers

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

2016 SAVE THE DATES

City Council Meetings

Held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. in the council chamber on the first floor of Hinesville City Hall. Contact the City clerk's office at (912) 876-3564.

Hinesville Military Affairs Committee Meetings

Held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Hinesville Police Department squad room. Contact the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee at (912) 368-8211.

Hinesville Downtown Farmer's Market

Held from March through November, every Thursday from 4-7 p.m. in Bradwell Park. Contact the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at (912) 877-4332.

National Night Out

Saturday, July 30 from 5-9 p.m. Location TBD.

Blues & BBQ Festival

Saturday, September 24 from 1-11 p.m. in downtown Hinesville. For more information, visit the Hinesville Area Arts Council online at hinesvillearts.com.

4th Annual Healthy Hinesville 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, October 8.

Scarecrow Stroll and Beggar's Night

Friday, October 28 from 5-7 p.m. in downtown Hinesville. Contact the Hinesville Downtown Development Authority at (912) 876-3664.



14th Annual Mayor's Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 20 at 6 p.m. Location to be determined. Contact the Hinesville Public Relations Office at (912) 876-3564.

10th Annual Christmas in the Park

To be announced by the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce. Visit libertycounty.org for news and event updates.

20th Annual Illuminated Christmas Parade

Friday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. in downtown Hinesville. Contact the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce at (912) 368-4445.

Ready to serve you!

115 East M.L. King, Jr. Drive, Hinesville, GA 31313 | (912) 876-3564

www.cityofhinesville.org | www.facebook.com/hinesvillega | Twitter @HinesvilleGa