

STATE OF THE CITY
HAPEVILLE, GA

Delivered by Mayor Alan Hallman
February 7, 2012



STATE OF THE CITY 2012

DELIVERED BY MAYOR ALAN HALLMAN

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

Good evening. Each year it gives me great pleasure to deliver the annual "State of the City" address highlighting the accomplishments of the previous year and exploring the goals for the current year. Last year when I delivered this message, it was a bit too wordy so this year, the message will be a bit more concise and more efficiently delivered.

We continue to operate the city efficiently while doing so within a challenging economy. The financial health of the city remains strong as we still maintain a fund balance reserve of over \$4 million dollars! Considering the difficulty of the current economy along with a shrinking tax digest, the city finds itself in a very strong economic position. We have been able to accomplish this goal by doing more with less. The "great recession" has certainly challenged many businesses, states, counties and cities. While the current economic climate shows some signs of stabilization and improvement, running a lean and mean operation has become a survival mantra for the American economy. My heart-felt thanks goes to each and every one of our city employees for rolling up their sleeves and facing the challenges with smiles on their faces. We have the most fantastic group of employees anywhere! Being in the business of delivering services to our citizens, the city must have dedicated and happy employees delivering these services and that is just what we have! In the face of yet another year with no raise, most of our employees continue to realize the dire nature of our global economy and accept the fact that the city has limited financial resources. They continue to deliver top notch services to our city and their efforts are greatly appreciated by us all. We were able to provide our employees with a one-time 2% (of their annual salary) payment at the end of last year and I thank City Council for supporting this payment. It was very important

for us to deliver a message of thanks and appreciation to our staff for a job well done!

I also thank and appreciate each member of our City Council for their dedication to Hapeville. This is not a council that just sits back and watches the game; this council is deeply engaged in the success of the city. They are seen at virtually every event hosted within and outside of the city. They are engaged through the volunteering of their time outside of their roles as council members and their dedication makes a tremendous difference in the health of our city. While our jobs as elected officials are “part time”, the duties and responsibilities of our jobs are certainly more akin to a full time position. I am also proud of the way in which our council works together as a team. We so often see our brothers and sisters from other communities in the media as they fuss and fight with one another, sometimes even suing each other or their own cities! A city cannot function properly when the leadership is divided so I am proud to be part of a team that “plays well together”. When council met for our annual planning meeting on January 28, our facilitator was frankly amazed at the cohesiveness of our government. Council, thanks for your dedication to and love for Hapeville! You are courageous and bold in your thinking and it shows in our accomplishments.

Council held its annual planning meeting On January 28th and during this meeting the following goals were discussed:

1. Economic Development Strategies
2. Desires for further sidewalk construction

3. Development Authority Properties with an emphasis on brainstorming when it comes to future uses of Authority held properties
4. HATT properties – use and marketing
5. Financial Policies
6. Better communications from Mayor and Council to residents and business owners
7. Information technology
8. Resident/Non-resident fees
9. Human Resources
10. Events and Reservations Assistant position
11. Employee evaluation framework
12. City Hall Work-Flow

This meeting was very helpful and allowed Mayor and Council to better crystallize our vision for the future. It remains important for the city to plan for her future, not just to sit back and let things happen as they will. We continue to emphasize the importance of our beautification efforts because these efforts send a very positive “open for business” message to potential business owners and future residents.

In last year's address, I informed you that there would be a breaking story of a major international headquarters on the Ford/Jacoby site. We were all excited to learn that Porsche had selected this site to relocate their North American Headquarters from Alpharetta to the Ford site and their plans include a very sleek “customer experience” track. This dream is now coming closer to reality and Porsche is currently “heavy” into the design aspect of this project. While the site is on the Atlanta portion of the Ford site, we know that Hapeville will enjoy a tremendous halo effect from this

project. Porsche also has some potential expansion plans for an additional 30 acres of the site on the Hapeville portion of the land.

Last year also brought the very unfortunate purchase of 52 acres of Ford land by the City of Atlanta. Your Mayor and Council worked very hard to hinder this acquisition by the City of Atlanta but at the end of the day, it was a transaction involving a willing seller/buyer. We remain disappointed in the unprofessional way in which this purchase occurred. Like you, we learned of this purchase by reading the newspaper. While we expect this cloak of secrecy from Atlanta, years of trust that we had developed in Jacoby Development was eroded over night. This purchase occurred with no knowledge or involvement by Hapeville. Over time, the pain of this will wane and we know that we must move forward with projects on the remaining land within the 120+ acre site. We remain confident that Porsche and other related uses will restore the economic vibrancy greatly needed to transform this barren site into a cash generating economic engine that Hapeville deserves. We look forward to the future as we partner with Porsche and others to fulfill the dream that we have for the former home of the Ford Assembly Plant.

City Manager, Bill Werner

City Manager 2011 Accomplishments

We have completed 4 years of operation under the City Council/City Manager government structure. Under this format of government, the Council functions much like the "board of directors" of a corporation

while the City Manager assumes the role of CEO. The job of Council is to establish the goals and direction of the City and Bill Werner's job as City Manager is to work with the Department Heads and staff to implement these goals. Bill has responded well to virtually every goal expressed by City Council. One of the first goals established by Council was to lead the city into a sound financial position. This has been accomplished as in 2007 we had a fund balance reserve of \$588,000 while the audited numbers of FY ending 6/30/11 shows the fund balance at \$4,005,925.00. Bill has continued to deliver results by working to assure that Hapeville has access to grant funds on county, state and federal levels. He has been very successful in these endeavors and has delivered \$850,000 within the last year. Two upcoming projects show these results; the Streetscapes around City Hall, \$455,000, and the I-75 beautification non-matching grant of \$400,000. Bill continues to listen to and respond to the goals and desires of City Council and works well with our dedicated staff and Department Heads to achieve these goals. In these lean times, as with all employees, Bill wears many hats. He is the front line of communications between the city and potential developers, business owners and residents. He interfaces daily with city council members and is constantly monitoring the pulse of the city.

Community Service Department – Lee Sudduth, Interim Director

Community Services 2011 Accomplishments

1. Completion of Master Park Walking Trails(CDBG)
2. Paved Birch St & Parkway Drive (LMIG)
3. Built Carriage House/ Completed Christ Church renovation
4. Completed Hoyt Smith Streetscape Project
5. Completed EECBG Energy Grant at City Hall Complex (GEFA)

Human Resources and City Clerk – Jennifer Elkins

Human Resources & City Clerk 2011 Accomplishments

1. Cost containment of health, dental, and life insurance – smallest premium increase in years!
2. The addition of vision insurance for employees.
3. Developed and implemented a Wellness Program for City employees.
4. Organized quarterly safety training for Departments.
5. Implementation of E-Verify and Save Programs.

City Clerk:

1. Attended countless meetings
2. Worked with Council to assure compliance with newly revised State Ethics reporting requirements
3. Served as Secretary for the Development Authority
4. Processed all Alcohol License requests

Fire Administration – Chief Tommy Morris

Fire Department 2011 Accomplishments

1. The fire department has partnered with the American Heart Association in their Mission Lifeline Program to advance the systems of care for acute myocardial infarction (AMI) patients. The

objective of the program is to reduce the time from first patient contact to the operating table.

2. In 2011, the Hapeville Fire Department personnel completed 6,727 hours of training.
3. We purchased a New KME Fire Apparatus and have placed the Engine in service. We have also purchased a new Ambulance for response to EMS calls.
4. We responded to 1,406 calls with an average response time of **02:37 minutes**.

Police Administration – Chief Rick Glavosek

Police Department's 2011 Accomplishments

1. Although the Hapeville Police Department is known for its responsiveness to the community. In 2011 the department added programs to improve community involvement. The Citizens Police Academy was a greater success than previous years with the addition of the Citizens on Patrol program. The department participates in all city sponsored events and assists with security and traffic enforcement for 5 and 10 k runs.
2. Additionally, the department opened its doors to host another community open house. This open house was geared toward local business and helped create dialog and networking between the business owners, their employees and the police department. Plus, the department sponsored several regional training classes and provided more in-service training for department employees which is much more cost effective and efficient.

3. The department continues to work within the schools to assist with mentoring and educating our community's children. In June 2011 the department held its first annual SafetyVille program which is an educational and interactive program that teaches young children how to be safe citizens.
4. The department continues to maintain safe and dependable equipment by adding or replacing items as needed. Last year the city purchased five (5) 2012 Ford Crown Victoria patrol cars, three (3) 2012 Ford Fusions and removed or repurposed the old ones. Additionally, the department added two new software modules for better efficiency. The first program is an electronic Accident report module and the second is an electronic traffic citation module. Both programs keep officers from having to hand write reports as was done previously. The department also purchased five (5) portable automated fingerprint machines called Rapid Id. The units give officers the ability to check suspects in the field for warrants by comparing their fingerprints against a national database. All three systems were purchased with federal grant funds which the department had successfully applied for.
5. Finally, the police department continues to improve other areas such as, a newly developed web-site and the adoption of new practices and policies that will help achieve an International Law Enforcement Accreditation.

Economic Development – Allie O'Brien, Main Street & Marketing Manager

Economic Development 2011 Accomplishments

1. Maintained and Expanded event program services for the community to include planning & hosting the Southern Arts Film Series--a South Arts granted series of 6 independent film screenings with the filmmaker.
2. Continued community identity/beautification process with additional landscaping beds in downtown and additional City signage projects, including installations of City Signage for City Parks and renovated municipal buildings including Master Park, Hoyt Smith Center, and Historic District Signs.
3. Received Hapeville Opportunity Zone Designation, allowing for maximum new job creation tax benefits, to businesses located within the district, a rich incentive to businesses considering locating or expanding their business operations in Hapeville.

Recreation Department – Tod Nichols, Interim Director

Recreation Department 2011 Accomplishments

1. Awarded a non-matching grant from the State of Georgia's Bright from the Start program that enabled us to provide free breakfast and lunch to our summer campers as well as provide funding for two employees.
2. Launched the Hapeville Youth Soccer League. In our first year we had over 75 participants that were converted into 11 teams.

3. Held the First Annual Cinco de Mayo celebration that attracted over 200 people to Hapeville Memorial Stadium. Festival goers were able to take part in Hispanic cultural activities as well as taste various kinds of Mexican cuisine.

4. Received three awards from the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association for our High – Stepping Hornets senior citizen program, the Cinco de Mayo celebration and a Volunteer of the Year award.

Finance Department – Mike Clark

Finance Department 2011 Accomplishments

1. Payroll outsourced
2. Biometric time clocks in use
3. Court services' office moved/Back-up person in place
4. Completion of phase one of Vehicle Replacement Program
5. Dialog started with City of Atlanta Watershed Management
6. Finance Department Enhancement Plan approved
7. Audit process completed by December 31, 2011. (February, 2011 – previous year)

IT and Communications

IT and Communications 2011 Accomplishments

1. Roll out of full city coverage of the City Wide Wi-Fi network
2. Installation of fiber optic “back bone” from City Hall to the Police Department. This will enhance the bandwidth of the wi-fi network

and assist in the finalization of the Iron Sky camera system within the city.

3. Continues to assist employees with IT issues and working to assure that we are utilizing our existing technologies to their fullest extent.

As you can see, the city is running very well. I continue to marvel at our employees that take such pride in their jobs and their genuine love for this city shows in the highlights that I mentioned tonight. I am very much honored to be part of a team that refuses to be blinded by pessimism; a team that continues to press forward with unwavering faith and hope for the future of Hapeville. I have said for a while that the current economic challenges that our Country faces, while painful, are very cleansing for our Nation. I also believe that those, whether business owners, workers or municipalities, that weather this storm will come out on the other side stronger and better than they were before. I feel that this is true for the City of Hapeville. We continue to move forward even in the midst of one of the worst economic times in recent history; holding on to our dreams and pursuing them at every corner. Thank you for placing your trust in us as your elected leaders. This is a job that we all take very seriously and we know that you have placed a tremendous amount of trust in us – we will not let you down!

Thank you and may God Bless America and may God Bless Hapeville.

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