



January 2018

City Hall Opens at New Location

In mid-December City Hall relocated from leased space to a permanent new building at 310 Technology Parkway. The new City Hall is 1/2 mile west of its former space. The telephone number and all other contact information remains the same.

In April 2017 city leaders announced plans to purchase a two-story building which would serve as the new city hall.

The decision to purchase was based on several factors. Remaining at its current location, the city would be facing a significant rent increase. Conversely purchasing property would be a more fiscally prudent option. The new building had more square footage and would also allow the city to lease out a portion of the building, providing additional income to offset the monthly mortgage.

"The city was paying a monthly lease which means there is no accumulation of ownership equity," said the City Manager Brian Johnson. "Renewing the lease at the current location would be less favorable as the lease rate was set to rise substantially. It simply a smart economic decision for the city to own rather than to continue leasing space."

The city had been operating out of the leased space at 147 Technology Parkway since January 2013. The 12,500 square-foot office space, located in a building that is tucked behind another building, made it difficult for visitors to locate city hall.

Security concerns and lack of public meeting space were also factors in the decision to relocate. Another factor was that the old building was built in the 1970s, and did not provide public restroom access and was not fully ADA compliant.

The two-story building purchased by the city is located at 310 Technology Parkway and offers road frontage and clear visibility from the street. Each floor is about 30,000 square feet. City Hall is located on the first floor, the additional square footage will accommodate a larger council chambers and additional meeting space.

A tenant for second floor has been secured and is expected to occupy the space this spring. Purchasing the two-story building and leasing out the second floor will result in the city only paying approximately \$600 more per month. The additional space in the new building more than offsets the additional cost of owning rather than leasing space.

The cost of the building is \$4.5 million and is financed through the Georgia Municipal Association. The loan will be paid off in 15 years.

“Purchasing a building in Technology Park represents an investment in the city itself,” said Mayor Mike Mason. “The purchase will lend itself to our economic development plans to transform Tech Park into an innovation hub. It is taking a vacant building that was in foreclosure and returning it back to a productive use.”

Please visit the new [City Hall](#) to obtain a building permit, business license, attend council meetings or to conduct other city business. Parking is available in the front and rear of the building.

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