The University of Georgia
Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Listening Session Report
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for the
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at the
University of Georgia
Introduction

Hawkinsville High School hosted Hawkinsville and Pulaski County community leaders and interested residents to discuss issues relevant to their partnership with the University of Georgia. The Archway Partnership is a joint venture between Public Service and Outreach and Cooperative Extension at UGA and the local governments of the counties where Archway is located. Current partnerships exist with Moultrie/Colquitt County, Sandersville/Tennille/Washington County, Brunswick/Glynn County, Clayton County, Hart County and Sumter County.

The Archway Partnership delivers the full range of university resources to cities and counties facing significant issues, especially those related to growth. Archway provides access to subject matter, programs and resources not traditionally addressed by Cooperative Extension’s core program areas or Public Service and Outreach units. It implements priorities identified by communities, in meetings such as this one, by providing a single access point to UGA and other University System of Georgia institutions. Archway also provides an arena for faculty and successful business people to serve as both teachers and learners, and opportunities to engage students in active roles addressing community needs. The Archway partners collaborate with local community entities as well as state government entities on a sustained, long-term basis to create solutions to community problems.

In an attempt to get at issues confronting Hawkinsville and Pulaski County, facilitators from across UGA led discussions of three questions by small groups of participants. The following report presents the results of the session. The first section presents a summary of the discussion results, and an appendix contains the results captured by facilitators as well as a transcription of individual written comments. Results have not been edited except for spelling corrections.

Discussion Summary

What are the trends, forces and factors that will impact the community, your organization, agency, etc.? Think in terms of increasing, decreasing or cyclical trends.

- Hawkinsville and Pulaski County are losing jobs due to industry closings. Small firms and farms are disappearing, replaced by larger ones. Fewer retail options force residents to drive outside of Pulaski County to shop at Wal-Mart.

- Houston County, in particular federal government operations in Warner Robins, influences Hawkinsville-Pulaski County’s local economy. While positive because of its relative stability in the current economic downturn, the question for Hawkinsville-Pulaski County is how to best capitalize on it.

- The local population is aging while young, educated people are leaving to find jobs elsewhere. The Hispanic population is growing in Hawkinsville-Pulaski County.

- The tax base is decreasing due to loss of industry and retail businesses. Sales tax revenue is declining as residents shop outside the county. State fiscal policy has increased the burden on the local
governments, which have increasingly had to rely on property taxes in what is still a predominantly agricultural community.

- The K-12 student population is decreasing as students are attending private schools outside the county. Good teachers are leaving the system for better opportunities elsewhere, and schools are struggling to make annual yearly progress (AYP). On the other hand, parents of the students who remain are becoming more involved in the schools, and as a result, the graduation rate is increasing.

- The hospital is becoming more regional, drawing people from surrounding areas to take advantage of the health care resource. However, there is a high turnover in medical personnel, and the aging population threatens to overwhelm the hospital's ability to provide quality healthcare.

**Based on the trends, forces and factors that you identified, what are the specific things that need to be done in order to adapt to the change? (Start with a verb.)**

- Recruit industry and other businesses with tax incentives. Likewise, recruit teachers and other professionals to create an educated population that will entice industry. Support existing businesses and industry by educating residents about the importance of shopping locally. Offer incentives ("Chamber checks") to encourage people to buy from local sources, extend the hours of local retail establishments, and provide small business loans to encourage young college students to come back and establish businesses here. More retail options, including a second grocery store and other restaurant options, are also needed.

- Advertise the positive aspects of the school system. Recruit and retain qualified teachers. Improve the offerings at school such as better math and science, more arts programs, better counseling, more gifted programs, and English for Hispanic students. Integrate courses with those offered at the technical college. Involve the community and businesses in school improvement, including training for board of education members.

- Market and promote the community’s assets such as our small town atmosphere, quality of life, harness horse racing, the river, health care, agritourism, Opera House, etc. Increase the recreational/tourism options already in place. Ideas include purchasing more land for conservation, creating a “blueway” that ties in with the riverwalk, establishing a Rails-to-Trails corridor from Hawkinsville to Cochran, and constructing a hunting lodge somewhere in the county.

- Consider consolidation of city and county government operations.

- Continue cleaning up dilapidated housing. Provide incentives to upgrade substandard rental housing and owner-occupied housing. Increase the availability of affordable apartments.

- Create comprehensive strategic plans for marketing/tourism, downtown revitalization, and upgrading the fire department.

- To bolster leadership development efforts, reinvigorate Leadership Hawkinsville-Pulaski through the Chamber of Commerce.
What are the opportunities, assets, etc. that we need to be aware of that would assist our work in Hawkinsville-Pulaski County?

- The community is a small one with friendly people who care about their neighbors. People are involved in the community and interested in improving it. It's a strong religious community with many churches that work well together. It's also a safe community with good law enforcement.

- Pulaski County has a number of attractions: the harness racing facility, the Opera House, the Ocmulgee River, good hunting and fishing areas, Southern Hills Golf Course, historic downtown Hawkinsville. The climate allows for year-round enjoyment of the outdoors.

- Despite its problems, the school system is an asset, with a higher graduation rate than the state average. The Sam Way Learning Center of Middle Georgia Technical College and the dual enrollment program increase options for post-secondary education.

- The healthcare system is an asset: Taylor Regional Hospital, the wellness center, cancer treatment center, and trauma center.

- The county is in a good location, with major highways and an airport (that needs upgrading).

- There are good restaurants, local banks, and other notable establishments.

- Telecommunications services are second to none through ComSouth.
Appendix A

Table Responses
What are the trends, forces and factors that will impact the community, your organization, agency, etc. (increasing, decreasing, or cyclical)?

Trends

Economy

- Community driving to larger communities to go to Wal-Mart
- Trends of small towns losing mom and pop businesses and the ones in business are not generating enough income to stay in business
- No opportunities to keep young people, lost local business, decrease in retail
- Losing mom and pop pharmacies to larger drug stores
- Decrease of local businesses due to big businesses
- Decreasing number of small businesses retail opportunities
- Small businesses are declining—due to 1 (perhaps) big-box retail in adjacent counties AND lack of community support
- Closely tied economically to defense spending (follows federal spending)
- Heavily dependent on AFB—as military expands or contracts, we follow the trend
- Private industry slowing to invest in sister projects related to military
- Likelihood of increased federal funding is likely to increase industrial opportunities
- Growth of Robins Air Force Base—how can Pulaski Co. capitalize?
- Decreasing reliance on agriculture
- Small farms and farmers are continuing to decline
- Students tend to drop out to work on the farm but number of farms is decreasing
- Becoming harder to make a living farming—increasing costs of labor, inputs and smaller markets (traditionally been an agricultural community)
- Decreasing industrial base
- Cutbacks by industry affecting availability of jobs
- Losing jobs
- Decrease in jobs due to closures and layoffs
- Decrease in job opportunities
- Unemployment going up
- Decrease in manufacturing jobs.
- Unemployment, breakup of homes increasing, spirit reaction, moral deterioration
- Increasingly difficult to find top talent that wants to work in Pulaski
- New workforce development center, slow to start going well
- Increased demand for skilled workers for industry
- Decrease of workforce—folks leave the community
- Decrease in sales in real estate both commercial and residential
- Land prices going up, maybe due to people coming from Florida
- Size of personal real estate holdings amongst a small number of people is increasing... detrimental to the county… causes property values to increase
- Rental market is stable
- Decreasing real estate values in surrounding counties along with supply is hurting the county
- Increase jobs in private sector
• National downturn in economy increasing uncertainty
• Limited new business recruitment to county over the last several years
• Recreational dollars are going out of the county
• Downtown businesses stagnating.
• Lack of restaurant diversity
• Stigma of "Southern community"—nepotism is increasing as jobs get fewer
• Increased reliance on the "regional economy"
• Economic development—difficulty drawing people here due to increase population in Houston Co
• Stock marketing decreasing affecting retirees
• Increasingly customers do not stay in Hawkinsville overnight but neighboring community with more restaurants and better motel
• Development of all kinds is stagnant
• Participation from community is decreasing because of economy
• Developing tourism and marketing as it relates to the river

Population
• Aging population—increasing demand on hospital
• Aging population increasing
• Increasing older population, younger people leave for job opportunities
• Increasing demand on resources with increase in aging population
• Increasing aging population require more resources for support
• Rising average age of population due to lack of jobs for young, educated or skilled populations
• Increasing aging population and decreasing young population
• Increasingly popular retirement community
• Increasing #s of retirees especially from Florida attracted to small community, walking downtown.
• Aging population
• Decrease in young population: no jobs, no social opportunities
• Decreasing youth population because no job opportunities
• Decrease in population due to the lack of jobs keeping the younger generation in Hawkinsville-Pulaski
• Decrease in young population due to lack of jobs, unless farming or govt position
• Minority population has decreased over time—Hispanic is increasing; Black is decreasing
• Increasing Hispanic population
• Increasing Hispanic population
• Increasing uninsured population and increasing chronic illness
• Middle-class declining
• Continuing, increasing illegal problem in community because of jobs opportunities, easy money
• Losing education population because no job opportunities
• Warner Robins base folks are coming here less but may change because of taxes being raised in Houston Co.—4 lane coming so folks may move here
• Population is staying pretty much at historical levels
• Population increasing

Revenue
• People are not spending money locally... SPLOST revenues are going down.... straining the already stretched budget
• County revenues are getting slim—state resources, taxes, etc. are down
Decreasing funds to operate county government and schools
Losing taxes that would be generated in Pulaski vs. the sales going to Houston Co. and Crisp Co.
Declining tax base due lack of industry
Legislature is pushing more and more to the local level ... putting a greater tax burden on the land owners... many of those in Pulaski county are elderly and on fixed income
Stagnant growth—need new sources of revenue
Pillotex closing represents loss of about 25% of City revenue.
Decreasing sales tax as in spending outside the community
Decline in tax revenues with no new industry
Decrease in sales tax revenue
Tax base going down.
Losing tax base to out of county spending
Decrease in industry to share in tax burden
Increase in ad valorem taxes—still predominantly agricultural community
Property taxes are increasing—particularly hard on retirement community.
Decreasing state funds to the community
Continued shifting of expenses to local government by state and fed government
State funding decreasing unfunded mandates
Sales are down so SPLOST is down—those programs are left unfunded
Strong visual blight that needs to be taken down, no land-use planning, lots of junkyards and mobile homes, crucial to tax base, tax base going down.

Education

Increasing enrollment in private schools
K-12 public schools students going to private schools out of county
K-12 students also going to surrounding counties
Student population is slightly decreasing
Too many of the better students are going to private schools and to schools outside the county
Two private schools—one in Perry, and one in Fullerton. Private students from this community are going elsewhere for education.
Students leave public schools and go to private school because of real or perceived difference in quality of education—increasing trend
Schools not meeting AYP
Standardized test scores are decreasing
Perception of "poor quality" school system—AYP numbers are not as high as other counties. Accreditation scores have declined over time.
Teacher quality/commitment is apparently declining
Highest qualified teachers are leaving for other counties/opportunities
Teacher availability/qualifications affecting course offerings
Graduation rate is increasing. In the last four years it’s gone from 58% to 77%.
Drop out rate may increase as folks worry more about money and focus less on helping children with education
Aging school facilities may be discouraging attendance
Decrease in educational funds
Decreasing number of jobs available with Board of Education
Parent involvement is slowly increasing in school system
• Increased awareness for need of workforce development through MG Technical College—Sam Way Learning Center
• Technical college enrollment increasing

Health care
• Hospital is becoming more and more regional
• Increase in visitation from other communities for quality health care available here
• Availability of health care is better than most counties—regional medical center; can attract good quality health providers—increasing
• Increasing quality of medical facilities.
• Increasing turnover in medical profession—grant or scholarship is over, then leave, or lack of amenities like restaurants, etc.
• Increased need for public health resources
• Aging population—health care
• Decrease in income resulting in loss of healthcare for children—loss of insurance
• Increase in fees placed on hospital will hurt rural hospitals
• Emergency equipment is becoming outdated—this important for insurance rates, ISO rates

Crime
• Drop-outs tied to drug trade
• Illegal drug activity on the rise (meth, crack cocaine)—40 dealers arrested in the last two weeks
• Increase in drug activity: specifically meth
• Perception of increased drug use among young black males—lack of good role models
• Increase in crime and drugs
• Increasing drug use
• Increase # of people in the criminal justice system.
• Positive—increased law enforcement of late

Housing
• Dilapidated housing within the last three years.
• Increase in vacant housing
• Housing stock has deteriorated; some being forced to tear down poor housing/slums
• Working to reduce blighted houses in the city
• Decreasing number of derelict homes (eliminating blight)
• Increased effort to renovate dilapidated housing and bring in more affordable housing.
• Older adults own home but younger ones can't find jobs to buy homes—lots of older housing stock
• Housing construction is down

Single parents
• Increase in teen pregnancy
• Rising teen pregnancies rates
• Increasing numbers of teen pregnancies
• Increase in unwed numbers across the board
• Continuing problems with teen pregnancy, unwed mothers, alcohol & drug use
• Increasing numbers of single parents and unsupervised kids
Infrastructure
- Deteriorating infrastructure—water & sewer, roads and highways—state sometimes offers projects (armory) without providing the support through infrastructure.
- Streets and sidewalk infrastructure not keeping up and quality work is not supervised.
- Straining resources of the community by over-developing
- Increasing trash and litter on roadways—no process in place to clean up
- Road system has been improved over last few years
- Increasing pressure for water resources—worries that metropolitan areas will take over the local resources

Leadership
- Aging leadership—need to continue to groom and train the younger generations
- Decreasing number of young people in leadership roles
- Decreasing leadership base, same folks do everything, apathy
- Increase in leadership working together.
- Decreasing political influence—no Hawkinsville representatives

Government
- Increasing government
- Increasing desire for more pork
- Continuing to be disconnected to the legislature... any pork that comes this way ends up in neighboring counties where the reps live
- Increasingly becoming a bedroom community and retiree community due to cheaper land values than surrounding communities, but residents want the same level of services
- Increasing interests in consolidating city and county

Social services
- Increasing need for social services with declining revenues
- Cost of public services increasing
- Decreasing local and state funded programs for Meals on Wheels, etc. (may get federal funds but don't know what that is)

Other trends
- Very little interest in politics and community involvement with younger generations
- Younger population wanting to embrace the community
- Harness Festival is no longer the attraction it once was; not supported by community
- Harness festival once a year—cyclical
- Some churches have traveling pastors, harder to see local need.
- Have increased awareness of importance of downtown revitalization and historic preservation.
- Lack of grants for increasing recreation in the community
- Opera house attraction of people is increasing

Other forces and factors

Economy
- Lack of restaurants and shopping
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- Retail stores not available to customer after 5:00, Thursdays and Saturday's
- Lack of retail resources
- Lack of retail businesses
- Citizens work and shop outside of county
- Financial drain—folks go outside the community to spend money because of more stores
- Lack of efforts by local governments to retain "home grown" industries
- Students looking for jobs outside of city
- Brain drain—college graduates don't come back to the community
- Lack of job opportunities for 1) retention of young adults post-college; 2) teenage part-time work
- Occupational opportunities to attract more professionals are not here—students leave and seek employment elsewhere
- Dependent on Warner Robins AFB and agribusiness and health care industries
- Poorly educated and motivated workforce
- People looking for jobs are unskilled and just out of jail.
- The price of fuel here is .15 more than the neighboring counties
- Lack of retail business opportunities
- Limiting logistical factors—not close to an interstate or rail
- Missed business opportunities because of housing blight

**Government**
- Good local government, progressive
- Not progressive enough—sole county commission
- Sole county commissioner not bad if good person in the position; goes back to apathy because no one will run, uncontested
- Small number of people who wield a lot of power in the community
- Need more people to step forward into a leadership
- Not lots of people who are willing to hold public office, but very willing to gripe.
- Legislature not interested in rural GA
- Lack of political clout on state and federal levels
- Neighboring counties have very strong political connections

**Education**
- Drop-out rate is high
- Pretty high drop out rates in education system
- Higher drop out rate that desired
- Perception of broken education system makes recruiting to community difficulty
- State test scores at the schools are low—math and science specifically
- Too much emphasis placed on athletics over academics in school
- Opportunities to enhance education go unsupported

**Apathy**
- People don't do things within the community... ex. eating, shopping, schooling
- Lack of support for events—Opera house, Harness Festival
- Not a lot of support for the arts
- Tendency to accept status quo rather than get involved
- Apathy is alive and well and nobody cares
- The community has many cliques which tend to isolate people and discourage community interaction.
- Community comes together when needed

**Funds**
- Lack of grant money.
- Lack of capital to invest in costs associated with health care: recruiting physicians
- Lack of capital formation
- Good Samaritan fund
- Grant money to Pulaski is small compared to surrounding counties

**Appearance**
- Strong disregard for community appearance
- Only one entrance into town that is not a mess
- How a community looks is important to attracting new residents to Pulaski Co.
- Need to improve appearance of entryways into community

**Youth**
- Lack of recreational resources for young, nothing to do
- Kids get in trouble because there is nothing to do.
- Lack of positive influence for youth and break down of family
- Place for youth to go. No facility for youth to use

**Housing**
- Earnings are not enough for folks to be able to pay rent
- County zoning limits ability to build a house—look at intense agriculture of 10 acres—puts hardship on people to afford land and build
- Lack of moderate income housing
- Too much poor rental housing

**Crime**
- Drugs overlooked by certain agencies
- Slums and dilapidated housing serves as a place for crime and drug activities
- Law enforcement agencies not generating enough revenue to cover costs

**Other**
- No environmental sustainability—just throw away, no recycling
- No recycling, lack of environmental, green awareness
- Single-parent families doing two to three jobs
- Bedroom community to Warner Robins and Houston Co.
- Lack of viable local news entity (all media) in community
- Lack of unity within community—lack of minority represented
- Perception of our education system and entertainment options, etc. keeps families of physicians and other professionals from wanting to locate in Pulaski Co.
- Difficulty in recruiting and retaining physicians due lack of social activities for adults and children
- High turnover in physicians
- Limited services for residents in the county
- Strong personal touch
• Lack of opportunities to spend resources in the community
• After hour summer recreational programs
• Income level is skewed because of a small number (11 or so) of families who have most of the money in the county—need to interest them in helping the community.
• High per capita income for community puts in tier for job creation tax credits, tier 3 community, unreasonable.
• Services to serve retirement community need to be increased such as Senior Center (which is full) due to limited funds.
• Resistance to change!
• Many people like to live in a SMALL town—we have not promoted this well
• A perceived shortage in childcare facilities in the area
• Community is more prone to focusing on negative than positive... for example they focus on drop out rate rather than the increasing graduation rate
• Difficult for outsiders to break into the social fabric
Based on the trends, etc. that you identified, what are the specific things that need to be done in order to adapt to the change? (Start with a verb.)

**Improve the economy**

- Motivate business growth
- Recruit new industry successfully
- Develop special interest or niche to attract tourists/businesses, etc
- Attract industry to create more job opportunities in the community.
- Seek outside investments
- Recruit/attract industry for increased jobs
- Encourage industry and jobs by being more appealing to bigger industries with skilled workforce
- Give tax and other incentives to recruit industries and work with state agencies to do this
- Grow the industrial base
- Provide tax incentives or grants to rebuild downtown city center to attract businesses
- Tax base incentives to attract industry
- Provide incentives for the recruitment of business/industry
- Need better supplements to entice teachers and other professionals and thereby entice industry with educated population
- Offer tax incentives/credits to attract new business
- Recruit big industry to impact tax base
- Bring in businesses that trend to the focus of the community to make it more attractive
- Shop in local stores
- Support homegrown industry efforts
- Increase support existing businesses advertising and encouragement to shop locally.
- Support local business
- Implement shop at home programs by educating the community on the importance of tax savings of shopping at home
- Encourage downtown shopping and hours extension
- Promote local businesses to 1) attract out-of-towners, and 2) be supported by locals
- Offer incentives to spend locally, local businesses—chamber checks, spend local; restaurants, food, gas
- Promote a buy-local program
- Partnerships with industry and high school, youth apprenticeship program
- Create a school-community collaborative to identify skills needed in workforce and mentor student toward that
- Encourage business to hire high school and college students for part time and summer jobs, hopefully to encourage to come back
- Attract diverse industries so that younger generation can stay and raise their families here
- Develop industry to gain young people—jobs, jobs, jobs
- Encourage young college students to come back and establish businesses here by providing small businesses loans
- Provide more incentive for skilled workers to come to Hawkinsville
- Develop a business incubator.
- Increase the variety of shops.
• Recruit a second grocery store
• Recruit businesses (stores) in the community so don't have to go to Warner Robins, Perry or Eastman
• Establish additional grocery store.
• Generate a more diverse retail area
• Tax incentives to attract retail/entertainment and restaurant businesses
• Need additional grocery store
• Increase variety in offerings re: fast food restaurants
• Must increase hours of retail availability
• Look for businesses that would attract an older population (i.e. Sr. Day or discount)
• Develop community market.
• Need better food source, true farmers market.
• Focus on bio-fuels, changing energy sources.
• Improve relationships with merchants (no merchants association)
• Increase job opportunities for all segments of the population including the seniors.
• Create jobs—economic development; need better structure, strategy, execution and personnel (zero job growth)
• Fill the spec building
• Enhance opportunities to grow tourism.
• Capitalize on the river
• Tie in River with Go-Fish Program
• Promote growth of hospital & health care industry

**Educate**

• Need to advertise the positive facts about our school system
• Increase positive media coverage of the good things going on in schools.
• Need a positive marketing campaign for the school system
• Need to change the perception of high turnover rate for teachers... it's actually very low
• Integrate high school with technical school to train students on needs specific to the community to keep them here in the community
• Coordinate the high school, industry, tech school, and workforce development programs to see them from beginning to end
• Expand programs that are offered locally through the technical colleges
• Training for students for industries that are local to the community
• Increase knowledge of technical training opportunities that are available
• Have additional career days in the school system
• Strengthen vocational programming
• Hire more quality teachers as opposed to coaches
• Recruit quality educators into county system
• Increase retention of competent educators
• Establish more programs in high school related to health careers
• Improve counseling of students
• Go back to ability grouping in school system
• Make available more gifted programs in school system
• Add choral, theatre, music to offerings at schools system, increase community ownership of system
• Develop a stronger education emphasis in Pulaski Co. Schools, specifically around math and science
• Implement ability grouping in schools
• Develop workforce in math and science.
• Develop programs to help to teach English as a second language to Hispanic population
• Help minority and disadvantaged citizens improve life skills such as financial literacy, career readiness, literacy, etc.
• Educate young parents on money issues.
• Find and elect competent members for Board of Education
• Strengthen school board capabilities, training of board members, etc
• Elect leaders to the school board who will lead and not follow status quo
• Involve community in improving schools
• Great divide on education, public here, private out of county, public needs some way to respond. Work on drug problems hindering the public schools. Need stronger family unit for public school children. Poor parenting.
• Increase the business community's involvement in the school system
• Focus on drop out problem
• Entice students attending out of county schools back into county schools
• Improve relative performance of schools to attract new folks
• Need buy-in from teachers who are working in public system who send their kids to private schools
• Compare performance of Pulaski schools to area schools and set goals
• Make real improvements in AYP

Promote the region

• Market our strengths: health care, etc
• Utilize and promote the positives in our community: small community atmosphere; willingness to work together; desire to improve education system
• Accept the fact that we are a bedroom community and find best practices to embrace—market our assets as such and improve where necessary—this is a great place to raise a family
• Promote quality of life
• Promote positive aspects of community to attract businesses and industry
• Need a positive marketing campaign for the community as a whole
• Better packaging and marketing of community assets
• Promote tourism
• Promote community events/facilities that encourage spending/use by non-community residents
• Promote, harness, and attract people based on the assets of the community (e.g. horse training facility).
• Develop a "sales team" that's on board with economic development
• Enhance river marketing and attraction for bringing outsiders in
• Promote agritourism.
• Promote the arts with the Arts Council and Opera House.
• Show off farm community
• Market slower pace of life

Consolidate

• Consolidate governments
• Consolidate governments and all services
• Consolidate government, more commissioners
• Consolidate city and county government including law enforcement
• Consolidate city/county government
• Consolidate law enforcement—coordinate services and information—more effective
• Consolidate City and County governments.
• Consolidate city and county government including law enforcement.
• Evaluate consolidation of services to lower overall cost of government
• Consolidate law enforcement city and county
• Need consolidated government including law enforcement agencies.
• Figure out what the right form of government is—consider consolidated government and other forms to determine what is best for our community. Need more effective government regardless of cost.

**Upgrade housing**

• Remove dilapidated housing and enhance energy efficiency of homes.
• Continue progress with dilapidated housing
• Continue to clean up lots, debris, take down derelict housing units
• Provide incentives to upgrade substandard rental housing
• Improve quality of housing stock
• Increase the inventory of good quality affordable apartments.
• Encourage poor housing owners to invest in clean up and repair. Compliment those who make great improvements.
• Encourage, develop incentives for investing your own money in your properties (homeowners or investor owned rental properties)
• Homestead to restrict use of mobile homes, impacts tax digest. Zoning needs to be dealt with.
• Develop a professional housing needs assessment.
• Work with existing agencies to increase sales of homes—especially first time home buyers (ask DCA to work on program with lenders and realtors)
• Support the GICh team and make the program known in the community

**Plan**

• Develop a marketing plan for economic and tourism development
• Create strategic plan (long-term) for local governments to include expansion of capital campaign to attract industries
• Develop and implement a tourism marketing plan to take advantage of assets such as harness racing and the riverfront.
• Develop task forces for identified problems and have these groups assess available resources and identify possible solutions, get priorities
• Have city and county leaders sit down together and develop a comprehensive plan so that people are looking beyond the obvious—Ex: zoning map, land use for the future; anticipate development that is going to come
• Develop regional and statewide marketing plan for our upcoming farmers market at old cotton mill.
• Develop long term planning based on needs using local resources
• Develop downtown revitalization plan and prioritize projects.
• Develop a plan to upgrade fire equipment, structures and training.

**Involve youth**

• Build a partnership between youth and those already in power positions (shadow day or similar program)
• Implement ACCG's Youth Civic interest program
• Create more opportunities for positive youth engagement
• Increase opportunities for youth community service
• Train the youth for leadership positions
• Junior achievement needs to more active with youth
• Support 4-H and other youth activities
• Need to hear what young people want
• Encourage more local funding for youth organizations (4H)

**Expand recreation/tourism**
• Develop a blueway that ties in with riverwalk.
• Increased recreational and social opportunities for youth and all age groups
• Buy/acquire conservation/recreation lands
• Expand recreational facilities (although we do have good facilities for this size town)
• Establish Rails to Trails program through the county (Cochran to Hawkinsville). Would also enhance access by Middle Georgia College students.
• Add more recreation and entertainment for everyone so that people stay here and spend money here
• Increase recreational activities for younger generation to attract to area
• Dam up the river for recreation—draw for tourism, energy production, water concerns and development opportunities.
• Capitalize on Ocmulgee River as an outdoor recreation area to attract water sports, fisherman
• Build hunting lodge to draw people to area, open to the public, affordable.

**Raise funds**
• Create more grants, etc. for land
• Become proactive in seeking all funding (loans & grants) for upgrading infrastructure—hire somebody devoted to grant writing.
• Raise local sales tax for community improvements.
• Hire a full time excellent grant writer.
• Need to work with legislators to provide equal tax distribution to small communities
• Hire a fulltime grant writer to improve law enforcement, recreation, schools (increase in technology)
• SPLOST money needs to follow the transaction
• Actively seek grants to bring funds into the community to support recreation, activities for young people, etc. and keep them here
• Improve ability to collect sales taxes from all sources
• May need professional grant writer

**Clean and beautify**
• Make community more attractive to live in
• Clean up blighted areas
• Clean up roadways, clear away empty dilapidated buildings by enforcing property upkeep ordinances
• Establish effort to police area, litter problem, dilapidated building.
• Improve the appearance of downtown

**Decrease crime**
• Increase law enforcement
• Enforcement to fight drug issues
• Need to develop a plan to go after drug king pins as well as distributors
• Police school system, keep down drug abuse, safety.
**Mentor**

- Enhance and expand our mentoring program for trouble youth.
- Volunteer to be a mentor through Family Connection
- Provide mentors for at-risk children, Boys and Girls Clubs, need mentors like Family Connection.
- Find mentors in community, maybe through faith-based organizations.

**Recycle**

- Increase revenue through recycling
- Develop recycling programs
- Establish local recycling center.

**Other**

- Reduce redundancy of services
- Streamline government services to take advantage of economies of scale and remove duplication of effort.
- Educate yourself on city and county politics—understand how process work.
- Need programs to cut back teen pregnancy, push the programs we have.
- Need to quit rewarding unwed mothers having numerous children with increasing government checks
- Survey community regarding opinions about what we should do—inclusive process
- Involve the youth and elderly in increasing the arts organizations
- Protect environmental resources and capitalize on that quality of life.
- Implement Fanning Community Leadership program
- Establish an adopt the highway program
- Convince DOT to create angle parking on Commerce Street.
- Need to be aware of the consequences of the issues we are discussing tonight
- Develop infrastructure to have community desired including retail services
- Establish more clubs for volunteers and services such clearing litter
- Be sure services are competitively priced
- Elect better representation to state and federal offices and increase advocacy by community in political arena
- Develop a program to utilize retired/volunteer health professions
- City and county government enforce ordinances
- Develop new subdivisions.
- Support Robins during times of BRAC (largest employer in region)
- Promote opportunities for positive social interaction
- Develop program to assist lower and middle elderly to stay in home, homemaker assistances, etc.
- Build on strengths of community hospital
- Leverage strengths of community communications infrastructure
- Encourage political climate in zoning laws and government structure to be more inclusive of everyone in community—re-examine districts
- Continue to enhance the arts and encourage greater attendance to maintain viability
- Evaluate relationship between education achievement, incarceration rate and quality of workforce (appoint a task force?)
- Need to connect churches to the school system, Sheriff's dept., etc... to work together on social problems... churches have resources
- Work to make river navigable from Macon to Darien.
- Create incentive programs for the kids, community support
• Leverage strengths and utilization of the river
• Have a place for youth to go so they don't have to leave town.
• Encourage civic clubs to step up participation and take ownership for "feel good" events that truly make the community "home."
• Privatize city and county services.
• Expect better performance from city/county officials.
• Enforce city and county ordinances
• Need to take advantage of the small community atmosphere
• Increase openness of community
• Need more than one natural gas supplier. Competition.
• Use local telecommunication resources (internet, tv, etc.) as local communication mechanisms
• Get more diverse group of young leaders to lead the community
• Must strengthen airport for corporate aircraft
• Increase retention of competent physicians—working with the community on this
• Promote establishment of Boy Scouts.
• Storm water infrastructure needs regular maintenance schedule.
• Create a diverse task force to work on community issues so that everyone is present at the table for the discussion and decision on the solutions
• Development needs to be wisely managed or it will be harmful to the community and will become a qualify of life issue
• DOT needs to turn Commerce St. into a business friendly street.
• Key for trend in telecommunications, made sure we have the best technology available.
• Need to take advantage of Riverfront and Historic assets as economic driver.
• Major financial institutions need to cooperate with each other
• Need for more postal service workers, wait time is high
What are the opportunities, assets, etc. that we need to be aware of that would assist our work in Hawkinsville-Pulaski County?

Community

- Small town friendly folks.
- Friendly, cooperative environment
- Small town atmosphere.... tight knit community
- Small town living (quality of life)
- Everyone knows everyone
- Friendly, caring people—care about neighbors
- Caring for other people
- Small town feel—quality of life
- People genuinely care about their community.
- Good sense of community
- Strong closeness of community
- Good community support, will rally around issues because it is a small community and they know each other, very good personal connection.
- United Community
- The people are very involved—community pride
- Willingness to come together (good turnout for Archway tonight) to talk about community—we are interested
- We see each other at recreational activities—kids play together
- Good churches and places of worship
- Strong faith-based community that works together for common causes
- Good faith-based community—offers choices and quality
- Church relationships
- Strong religious community
- Good faith base community, 50 active churches.
- Churches work well together
- We have a strong religious community, local churches strong, work well together
- Capable people and many volunteers.
- Good citizen participation in specific activities

Attractions

- Harness training facility is great facility
- Horse training facility
- Harness racing
- Horse training facility
- Horse training facility, annual harness race festival
- Harness track training center
- Harness facility—promote it
- Horse track.
- Harness track, festival
- Horse training activities need to be supported. Facilities could be privatized.
- Harness horse training facility
• Off-track betting.
• Financial benefits from harness training facility
• Opera House
• Opera House
• Opera house
• Opera house
• Opera House
• Opera house
• Opera House
• Opera House
• Opera House
• Opera House
• Opera House
• Opera House
• Opera House
• Have better variety of arts and culture than most counties—one of 4 opera houses in the state with 40 events or more every year
• Tourist attractions—harness racing, opera house
• Orchestra!

**Education**

• Graduation rate is higher than the state average
• Resources from school system
• Good public education system
• School system puts students first
• Dual-enrollment with technical colleges other institutions
• Relationship between local school system and Middle Georgia Tech and Middle Georgia College
• Sam Way Technical College
• Middle Georgia Tech
• Middle GA Tech.
• Aviation education program at Middle GA Tech.
• Technical college
• Technical college
• Access to higher ed opportunities within 50 miles
• Near lots of secondary educational opportunities
• Work force development center
• Workforce Development Center
• Certified literate community
• Proximity to private schools in area
• Some excellent teachers
• Good library
• Library, though it needs additional financial support
• Lots of retired educators

**Recreation**

• Outdoor activities (river, hunting, nature activities)
• Hunting/outdoor recreational opportunities
• Good hunting and fishing opportunities
• Hunting and fishing opportunities
• Hunting and fishing opportunities
• DNR 100 acre lake—public fishing area
• Ocmulgee Banks Hunting Preserve
• Hunting and fishing
• State fishing lake—180 acres
• Southern Hills
• 4 1/2 star golf course (Golf Digest)
• Country Club, golf course—as good as any middle GA
• Southern Hills
• Great golf course and inexpensive.
• Golf course
• Southern Hills Golf Course
• Top golf courses in the country
• Golf course
• Recreation department, strong and growing.
• Sports programs have enhanced diversity

Health care
• Good hospital in allied services
• Fantastic Hospital!!!
• Good emergency management system 911, etc.
• Taylor Regional Hospital
• Wellness center
• Cancer treatment center
• Good number of health care providers and have special centers
• Good regional hospital
• Good hospital
• Cancer treatment center.
• Great healthcare system/hospital
• Wellness center at hospital, rehab and fitness, pool, weight room, etc.
• Hospital ranks high among rural hospitals
• Positive—Taylor Regional Hospital
• Trauma center is really good because of great administrator.
• Very good 1st responders
• Quality nursing homes

Natural Resources
• Access to a river
• River
• The RIVER
• River
• River, natural resources, beauty
• The river
• Located on the Ocmulgee River.
• Presence of the river
• River (with possible development of a spillway) and abandoned rail lines (rails to trails) could enhance recreational opportunities.
• Very good forest resources and river asset
• Good water and lots of it
• Good water resources—on an aquifer
• Good water resources attracts industry
• Great climate
• Mild weather
• Year round outdoor recreational climate

**Good location**
• Good location... middle Georgia
• Central location—highway hub
• Highway Hub—Golden Isles, River Crossing
• Geographic location, hub city, mountains, ocean, centrally located
• On Hwy 341 from coast and need to capitalize
• Excellent mid-state location.
• Ideal geographic location
• Central Location in State
• On the route between I-16 and I-75
• Proximity to Atlanta airport, port cities
• Proximity to retail opportunities
• Close proximity to state fair grounds

**Establishments**
• For a small town we have a large # of restaurants and a good hotel.
• Adequate lodging
• Good restaurants
• Good restaurants
• Hometown banks
• Good community banks
• Strong community banks
• Adequate mortuary services
• M&T Meat Company—best meats around!
• M&T Meats
• Kimberly Jewelry

**Telecommunications**
• Good telecommunications
• ComSouth
• Telecommunications infrastructure
• Good telecommunication systems
• Resources provided to the home, i.e. ComSouth Broadband providing fiber to the home
• ComSouth
• Fiber optics in 90% of county, Comsouth, good cell coverage.
• State of the art fiber optic telecommunication system and fastest internet capabilities
• Up-to-date telecommunications with broadband for 90% for residents of community.
• Very good telecommunications systems

**Organizations**
• Rivers Alive organization
• Rotary Club
• Civitan Club
• Excellent Chamber of Commerce
• Rivers Alive Organization
• Civic organizations
• Active arts council for a small town
• Arts council.
• Arts Council
• Arts Council

**Transportation**

• Number of highways
• Excellent highway
• Several US highways, transportation system, need to get bridges replaced.
• Highway—center hub for transport
• Good highways
• Convergence of several major highways
• Have an airport, but need a bigger runway
• Airport.
• Opportunity—upgrade airport

**Safe**

• Healthy, safe community for raising children
• Relatively safe community—you can still walk the streets at night
• Low crime rate
• Quality law enforcement
• Effective law enforcement
• Low crime rate
• Safe community / good law enforcement

**Agriculture**

• Very good farmland and water resources
• Good farmland and great farmers!!!
• Ag center.
• Cotton, peanut, and pecan production
• Ag industry local leaders bringing in industry
• Very good agricultural system

**Historic Preservation**

• Historic attractions
• Preservation of historic homes
• Historic walking downtown (great architecture!)
• Historic neighborhoods
• Beautiful historic downtown buildings
• Historic area
**Development Opportunities**
- Storefronts and other locations that could support entertainment and other attractions.
- Spec building
- Industrial park with adequate infrastructure and a 100,000 SF spec building
- Affordable real estate
- Available land
- Potential for agritourism.

**Leadership**
- Accessible local officials
- Enough well-connected people at state and national level who can make things happen
- Strong leaders—Board of Regents, good political leaders.
- City Manager & County Commissioner are wonderful assets
- Good community leaders

**City/county cooperation**
- Good cooperation with City and County
- Good cooperation of city and county government
- Best spirit of cooperation between city and county government
- Good cooperation from county and city government

**Rural**
- Rural environment
- Clean country life
- Not many billboards— bucolic countryside.
- No traffic concerns

**Youth**
- Youth involvement
- Strong youth leadership program
- Good 4-H programs, opps to get out of Pulaski county.
- 4-H program

**Good race relations**
- Racial harmony is pretty good
- Good racial relations, but no relationship with Hispanics
- Good race relations

**Other**
- Private/public development authority
- Lot of very bright, experienced seniors have moved to town, but we aren't using their talents
- We are tearing down dilapidated housing
- Strong infrastructure for small town, i.e. Comsouth, water, sewage
- Positive newspaper coverage available
- Good newspaper, radio
• Great women’s prison. No escapes, vet tech program for inmates. Raised population 12% when opened doors.
• Women’s prison—generates jobs and indirect business opportunities
• WARFB
• Great fire department—mostly volunteer
• Good athletic programs
• Southern hospitality/charm
• Better hometown designation
• Good land use plan
• Quality of life
• Good judges/court system works well
• Only one city in the county
• Vet services
• Strong relationship with DCA, Middle GA RDC, National Park Service, GICH, UGA
Appendix B

Individual Written Responses
What are the trends, forces and factors that will impact the community, your organization, agency, etc. (increasing, decreasing, or cyclical)?

- Jobs—loss of them
- Declining taxes (sales and property)
- Too much duplication of services
- Increase in crime
- Pop—loss of youth—moving out
  - Increase of retirees
- Economy- increasing cost of government operations
  - Decrease in revenue
  - Cost escalation in healthcare
  - No growth
- Merchants not meeting community needs
  - Services—when community needs (hours of operation)
  - Grocery
  - Variety of merchants
  - Skilled workforce
  - Appropriate skill sets
- The number of newcomers to the community has been increasing for the past several years. There is reluctance from the “natives” to accept the thoughts and ideas for the newcomers.
- Too many times, changes for the good of the community are not allowed to occur because it may not benefit the “powers to be” in the community.
- The local community does not support cultural and other clients in the community.
- This community has a lot to offer; however, it is not allow to prosper because of internal politics.
- The city and county government need to be consolidated. For a county this size, it does not make sense to have two separate governments.
- Bad economy, lack of sales tax, foreclosures on property, lack of new businesses coming into town! Because of the economy!
- I think I’m optimistic about our economy I think it will get better in the future!
- Youth involvement
- Interests in business
- Economy—R/E market
- Stability of ag community
- Decreasing education
- Decreasing job availability
- Increasing population
- Jobs decreasing failing small businesses
- Education decreasing—high school grad. not improving
- Housing market slow due to economy
- Environment protection increasing
- Increasing population
- Decreasing city revenue due to slower industry
- Decreasing salaries
- Job loss
• Bank lending more conservative
• Sales tax down for county
• Need private sector jobs—high percentage of government jobs, school, base, etc.
• Funds for county decreasing to operate county government and schools
• Decreasing agricultural impact—children
• Increase population
• Factors—organizational—lacking proper leadership—dup. of efforts
• Need Wal-mart
• Decreasing revenue—sales tax
• Increasing expenses
• Healthcare—hospital
• Education
• Unemployment
• Declining sales tax revenue
• Increasing gasoline prices
• Dilapidated housing brings down property values. Contributes to rising drug use. Sellers operate openly on city streets. Recent crack down is making a difference.
• Dilapidated houses are being torn down. The better the community looks the more attractive it will be to new industry
• Declining economy
  • Sales tax
  • Housing values
• Loss of retirement income
• Increasing demand on existing resources
• Increasing cost of living for those on fixed income
• Population
• Hospital
• Healthcare
• Losing doctors
• Economy
• Crime
• Speed bumps
• Business loss
• Clique (creates isolation). If you do something it is suspicious as an affront
• Increasing senior population
• Decreasing = industry—loss of cotton mill 2000
• Decreasing downtown business—state grant funding sources
• Increased awareness of the need for higher test scores—some students attending neighboring school systems
• Increased need for higher education and workforce development—we now have Middle GA Tech College, Sam Way Learning Center
• Increased awareness of the need for downtown revitalization through our BHT program—designated in 1999
• Increased awareness of the importance of historic preservation efforts—through our HPC, Preservation Educational programs
• Increased medical facilities—uniquely good here—Taylor Regional and Cancer Treatment Center
• Becoming a bedroom community
  • Retired
• people from FL and NE looking for a small walking town with history, charm, culture, and recreational opportunities—also looking for friendly close knit community
• Cannot bring in manufacturing jobs so far
• Education is not up to good standards—especially for the minorities
• Our 2 riverfront parks and proposed river walk between 1 mile long starting at our downtown main street and cotton mill lofts—our best economic development for a beautiful, active downtown community
• Strong community involvement—all races and incomes
• Need a beautiful gateway into our community
• Need 1 government
• School—education—AYP?
• Employment—lack of—industry—lack of
• Recreation—city teens and preteens—no meaningful use of time for this group outside of school and church (if they’re involved)
• Inability to get grant money as compared to neighboring counties of similar economic need
• Leadership that works together
• Unemployment
• Drug use among young males—black
• Single parent homes
• Teenage pregnancy
• Lack of responsible male role models
• Hispanic population with no organized activities for them
• Need diversification in tax base—increase sales tax revenues. Is there an indication that retirees are moving in—how max. their involvement in community
• Housing will be part of trend—does the community have a broad enough “offering” of different housing types—multi-family, single, duplex, senior development, rental, owner occupied, etc.
• Expansion of WRAFB and indirect/direct industries
• Community growth stagnant but has potential
• Cotton mill project may be dead, certainly on hold. This impacts River Walk: increased tourism, economic opportunities
• Improve downtown business, sales tax growth
• Old hospital renovation: needs tenants
• Separate city and county governments and law enforcements need to be combined
• We need help to convince DOT
• If we had more county activities
• Better job opportunities
• Kids going in the community doing research about community
• Unity, among community
• Age group—more of a bedroom community
• Young people don’t have a reason to stay in the community
• Look at the group here tonight—you see very few minorities. Looks like there is two parts of Pulaski County
• We must be able to unify—if we are going to grow we must grow together
• State department cutting funding to schools, therefore a possibility of reduction in teachers, resources for county
• Unemployment increasing
• Less money for families
• Businesses closing
Decrease in families ability for health care
Less students attending college
Widening gap in our school system
What can be done to increase minority population
How can jobs related industry be given incentives
Local zoning (county) does not allow for any business except mom and pop stores. Also, size of lots required to build inhibits affordable housing in county (2 acres, 5 acres are minimum). Along with this, there is an absolute refusal by the county to enforce zoning regulations to protect people’s property values.
Population not increasing rapidly
Lack of resources (i.e. services)
Occupational opportunities to attract professional
Decreasing ales tax
Decreasing young/middle age population
Decreasing jobs/economic development
Loss of jobs over the years
School dropouts?
Lower revenue
Decreasing jobs—declining to stable
Decreasing economic growth
Decreasing HS dropout rate and scores vs. other school systems
Decreasing governmental structure/ effectiveness issues
Decreasing national housing market
Increasing healthcare cost, healthcare availability
Decreasing housing stock
College grads are not coming home—respect of parents/peers
Downtown—no business
Increasing school dropout rate
More double-wides than houses being built
Development of agricultural land—loss of soul of the community
Unemployment
Breakup of the homes
Moral deterioration in community
Education
Drug abuse
Crime
Lack of jobs, losing jobs, lack of industry
Economic status
Schools
Elderly population increasing
Teenage pregnancy increasing
Drug use increasing
Manufacturing jobs decreasing
Stable family structure decreasing
State finding for meals on wheels decreasing
State funding for local education decreasing
• Heavily dependent on Warner Robins Air Force Base for employment. Large percentage of people commute to Warner Robbins—as military base expands/contracts so does employment in Hawkinsville.
• No new jobs coming to Hawkinsville to employ high school grads or tech school grads
• Very good healthcare facility—good trauma care, physicians, facility—cancer treatment, wellness facility—active in community
• Economy—tax cuts—funding education without raising taxes or cutting jobs. Being able to provide the best education possible
• County and city services
• New business in community for population and tax income
• Areas of interest work together
• Our community I think is not retaining our young people. No job opportunities for whatever reasons
• Losing a lot of retail business
• Increasing Hispanic population
• Increasing older population
• Decreasing leadership base—some people do everything for the community
• Increasing illegal drug activity
• Decreasing retail activities
• Stagnant economy
• Poorly educated and poorly motivated work force
• Lack of unified focus and goals for the community
• Youth leave for better jobs and higher incomes
• Operating cost of business—farming, retail are increasing, wages are decreasing—i.e. shorter hours, layoffs
• Taxes are increasing—property taxes yet land values are decreasing
• Forces: population
• Factors: education > funds
• Housing > influx of people
• Infrastructure for: i.e. 1) roads, 2) healthcare, 3) public safety, 4) recreation, 5) available goods/services
• Many Baby Boomers!
• Negative trends—economy, ad valorem tax—growth in government
• Positive trends—quality of life somewhat easier paced, hospital—good healthcare, Robins AF Base, Southern Hills—lead to job opportunities
• Increasing population
• Increasing crime/gangs
• Decreasing population? Not really moving because...
  • Employment
  • Gathering
  • positive environment (morale)
  • resources/programs that help teens—example: there is nothing for the teens to do
• Option—sports and education
• The vitality of Robins Air Force Base
• The vitality of Taylor Regional Hospital
• The growth... or lack thereof... of the retail business district
• What is happening with the harness training community
• The strengths/weaknesses of the public school system
• The condition of agribusiness in the county and surrounding area
• The potential of the Old Opera House
• Changing demographics—decrease in middle class
• Household income decreasing
• Public assistance increase
• Greater percentage on Medicaid—general population
• Declining public education
  • dropout rate
  • teen births – single parent
  • lack of job opportunities
• Traffic increases
• Increasing taxes
• Increasing drug traffic
• Older population and facilities to handle taking care of them
• Lack of top notch education
• Lack of government consolidation
• Pair a member of the community with new/potential businesses to remove red tape
• Unemployment—lower amounts of income due to furloughs—layoffs
• The increasing amounts of substandard housing and buildings
• Less tax money resulting in higher burdens for property owners
• Out of town Wal-Marts draining local economy
• State has split county in terms of legislative representatives. Need to be a whole.
• Increasing population
• Decreasing trained health care workers
• More layoffs
• Less tax money for county and city
• Decrease wealth
• Decreasing real estate values
• Decreasing tax base
• Increasing costs (health insurance)
• Increasing mobility (phone, Wal-Mart)
• Decreasing business downtown
• Need more industry/jobs
• No jobs for young people
• Population
• More Spanish (language)
• Housing
• School
• More law enforcement (language)
• Larger jail
• Jobs are on the decrease
• Revenue is not coming in
• Pay scale is too low and people are leaving for other jobs
• Gas prices too high. People going to other towns.
• Increasing population
• Decreasing resources
• Losing "downtown" to surrounding larger cities
• Increasingly a "bedroom community"
• Purchases out of county do not generate taxes for local government
• Education “excellence” allows graduates to be prepared
• Trends for small towns of course is the loss of mom and pop businesses to the mega stores
• Impacts of development population growth pressure on rural setting and culture of the community, also increased impacts to the natural environment, especially water quality
• Decrease in outdoor recreational opportunities as land becomes more valuable. Lack of public/conservation land in county
• Maintain or increase overall quality of economy without the necessity of increasing population growth
• *Development*—needs to be wisely managed or it will have very negative effect on the community due to strain on resources and quality
• Increasing industry
• Decreasing rural jobs
• Increasing big business (Walgreens, restaurants, etc.)
• Decreasing local business (local agencies)
• Increasing spending to big business
• Decrease spending locally (less money stays in community)
• No incentive to stay in Hawkinsville for graduating seniors
• Increasing demand for services (garbage, trash, water distribution)
• Decreased sales tax revenue
• Lack of jobs in community
• Lack of diverse industry
• Lack of youth activity center
• Great community participation in most projects
• Significant financial impact from Harness training center
• ? and furloughs—possible closing would effect negatively through community
• Business closing—vacant buildings
• Buildings slowly being fixed up
• Participation in youth 4H
• Need for higher bandwidth to support new technologies—positive
• Competition from wireless networks—supplanting traditional land lines—possible negative
• Reduced job opportunities as Pulaski County misses industry opportunities—negative impact
• My interest—rejuvenate lower scale housing
• Increasing—unemployment, economic strains on families and businesses
• Decreasing—funding for city and government, school systems, loans available for farmers, new home purchases, new construction jobs
• Young people (students) with no guiding factors, positive influence
  • left to raise themselves
  • given no responsibilities
  • adults in their lives have no integrity or are bogged down with issues of their own
  • not being held accountable for their actions
  • Lots of students extremely stressed by their parents’ situations
  • As a result increase in juvenile crime
• Slow/no industrial growth
• New employment opportunities
• Small town communities/businesses drying up due to not being able to compete with larger communities. Buying power. Not able to profit
• Non-funded mandates
• Higher taxes
• State federal laws, regs and overrides
• Economy
• Non-local ownership—both people and companies
• Education rates
• Jobs—local students returning?
• Change from an industrial society to technology society
• Single parent families
• Increased crime and drugs
• Unstable world situation
• Internet commerce affects sales tax revenue
• Aging population
• Continued shifting of expenses to local level by State and Fed governments
• Decreasing sales tax base due to fewer businesses and retail outlets
• Increasing burden on property owners due to the above two issues
• Pressure by interchange carriers on revenues of local exchange carriers
• Legislative comfort with two Georgias.
• Continued inability to attract professional staff to small community
• Constant request for more and more donations due to fewer businesses
• Job opportunities
• Population—population growth in Macon/WR/Perry—people moving to this area
• Education needs—better education achievement
• Business growth/expansion—few
• Housing needs
• Increased crime and drugs
• Loss of integrity of families/positive role models
• Taxes increasing
• Revenues are more diversified—per capita income decreasing
• Leadership is growing older
• Fewer jobs—limited entry levels (employment)
• Jobs
• Housing
• Education
• Retail resources
• Increasing age population
• Decreasing young population
• Jobs
• Education
• Housing
• Recreation
• Postal service
• Arts
• Increased (aging) elderly population
• Decreased job opportunities
• Decrease resources—i.e. few grocery stores, limited eatery establishments, stores
• Decreased housing (affordable)
• Health resources—public health, need more personnel (RNs, etc.)
• Too much poor quality housing causing bad appearance to a whole neighborhood
• Shortage of people who own the poor housing using their own resources to correct the problem
• Too much talk without follow up action
• Population—close to WRALC
• People moving in from Florida
• Safe and pleasant community
• Churches—located in Bible Belt
• Lower interest rates, great time to buy
• Trained skilled workforce to attract new business and industry and expand tax base
• Continuing to not recycle glass, plastics, paper, etc.
• Health care and keeping good doctors
• Decrease in business in area
• Decrease in funds from those businesses used in marketing, public relations, and advertising
• Dollars going to outside companies to do business instead of local businesses
• Trend of lack of resources here in Hawkinsville such as retail stores
• Lack of viable news entity
• Increasing demands on education
• Increasing retired population—student population not increasing
• Decreasing resources—tax revenues available to reach mandates
• Related to school system/community
  • Decreased state funding
  • Growing segment of special needs students including language skills
• Greater burden imposed on local tax payers to fund school
• Less working (higher paid workers) related to low-pay or retired workforce
• Greater demands on schools to perform regardless of particular socio-economic conditions
• People are not spending money locally (or at all for that matter) and this is causing our SPLOST proceeds to go down. This decrease is straining the already stretched budget
• Many of the children are sent to private schools and these children usually have a strong home life and early education opportunities. This takes the upper crust off the education spectrum. In other words, for every student that is sent to a private school is 1 percentage point that could increase our Graduation Rate, Test Scores, or other DATA could increase
• Drop-out rate
• Drug use
  * Divorce/family breakup
• Teen pregnancy (health issue, economic issue)
• Unwed mothers (health issue, economic issue)
• Teen alcohol use (crime issue)
• Dilapidated housing
• Spending money locally—revenue going down
• High school dropouts
• Drugs
• Racial involvement
• Residents working together for common good
• Youth things to do
• Children things to do
• Activities of all kinds in decline
• Family values declining
• Moral fabric declining
• Lack of interest in local and state government
• Lack of pride in community appearances
• Parents not supporting children in school activities
• Not supporting local businesses
• Controlled substance abuse increased
• Nothing to keep young people here!
• No young people moving into community!
• Lack of opportunities for growth
• Please check statistics about education and schools—AYP, dropout, graduation—I believe these are perceptions not facts
• Education—graduation rates/dropout rates, education facilities (high school for example)...funding?
• Professional talent that want to work and live here
• Retirees coming to our community
• Loss of income due to our economy and the stock market
• Need to improve our schools
• Beginning to take more pride in our appearance
• Housing
• Lack of downtown shops
• Citizens
• HURA
• More cooperation city county
• Retirement aspects
• New business
• River development
• Golf course
• Increased aging population
• Decreased youth
• Decreased local employment
• Decreased tax base
• Decreased industry
• Decreased jobs
• Decreased sales tax revenue
• Increasing tax burden on seniors
• Bedroom community to Houston Co.
• Pulaski county population increasing—on account of unleashed development in neighboring Houston County
• Budgets of local governments are tight
• Creative thinking will need to be used to balance area budgets
• Instability of job market, re: trying to cope with the crazy economy
• Dwindling budgets, increasing budget cuts on top of budget cuts
• Trying to cut expenses to the bone without sacrificing quality of products/services delivered
• Increasingly difficult to attract top professional talent who want to work and live here
• Increasingly difficult to hire production associates who can read, write, and perform basic skills such as reading a tape measure (fractions/decimals)
• Decreasing industrial base, this increased pressure on remaining industry
• “Drug babies” entering our school systems
• Farming community shrinking
• Fewer downtown merchants
• No manufacturing left
• Drug problem in general
• Houston County booming—overflow coming to Pulaski
• Taylor Regional staying strong
• Military base and related industries
• Agriculture
• Education
• Transportation
• Positive force in cleanup and affordable housing. Apparently increasing
• Good leadership emerging
• New communities—Southern Hills
• Finally some affordable housing
• Poor local education
  • producing an unemployable workforce
  • those who maybe employable can find few good jobs locally
  • large number of good students go out of town to private schools
• Limited government services
  • lack of tax base to effectively produce revenues for services needed
• Increase in population and growth of business in the community due to overflow from Houston Co.
• Growth of RAFB will bring high paying jobs to the area... Funding for GRAMP
• Advancements in medical technology that enable patients to receive treatment closer to their homes. Advancements in information technology in medicine that will give patients better access to their health information. Increase in the access to computers for all people.
• Technology, stable employment for the younger population
• Location of the community
• Access to higher education or lack of
• Increasing
  • Population
  • Cost of public services
• Decreasing
  • Farm population and labor
  • Local industry
  • Local business
  • Support for public schools
  • People with power and money do not support the public schools. Good public schools are vital to community growth and development
• Increasing population
• Decreasing money
• Divided education—public vs. private schools. Public school system perceived as NO GOOD! (not enough discipline, not good leadership at lower levels)
• Not enough worker bees—lots of talk not enough people willing to take action “let someone else do it”
• Generally good race relations in the community
• Merchants association—lack of a general cooperation among merchants
• Our community is experiencing on influx of tech-related jobs. Unfortunately, most of these positions are located outside of the community.
• Jobs are disappearing along with companies. Most of our young graduates are forced to seek employment elsewhere.
• As a result, the “core” of our community is also disappearing, and we are losing our “base” on which to build the future of our community.
• Economic downtown—tax revenue across the state
• Population growth vs. revenue decline
• Federal funding for RAFB/military/DOD
• GRAMP—private industry support of aerospace maintenance workload—bringing more workload to Robins
• Farm subsidies legislation
• Educational funding declines—dual enrollment funding proposed
• Teacher shortages—math/science/special ed
• Spec building concerns
• Education SAT, grad, teachers leaving
• Jobs decreasing
• Small businesses
• Population
• Decreasing education (getting worse—test scores, etc.)
• Decreasing jobs
• Increasing population
• Decreasing money
• Decreasing small businesses (jobs)
• Increasing environmental concern (going green)
• Increasing population
• Increasing concern for environment
• Decreasing money
• Education getting worse
• Decreasing jobs
• Education decreasing—no child left behind, reading first
• Population increasing
• Wildlife
• Green increasing
• Small business decreasing
• Crime increasing
• Drugs increasing
• Base
• Harness festival decreasing
• Community service decreasing
• Number of teachers decreasing
• Unemployment cyclical
• Drugs increasing
• Loss of small business
• Loss of work/job opportunities
• Conception or misconception that Hawkinsville is an agricultural community
• (Decreasing)
  • Unlivable housing
  • Decreasing education
- Small business
- Jobs
- (Increasing)
  - Population
- (Remaining the same)
  - Lack of experience for some teachers
- Increasing
  - Drug usage
  - Teen pregnancy
  - Population
  - Small business
  - Police force
- Decreasing
  - Education
  - Big business
  - Teacher employment
  - Community parks
- Economic downturn increasing
- Increasing uncertainty
- Uninsured population increasing
- Health care costs increasing
- Local and state funded programs decreasing
- Federal stimulus money increasing but how to access?
- Increasing chronic illness
- Increasing age of population
- Increasing unemployment
- Decreasing non-profit funding
- Increasing population in need
  - food banks
  - shelter
  - etc
- Lack of growth/new business development
- Large tracts of undeveloped land
- Inconsistent land use regulations at city/county line
- 4 lane of 341/Golden Isle Parkway
- Downtown disinvestment/vacancy
- Strong community/volunteering/citizen support
- Farming influence
- Increased
  - Population
  - Property taxes
- Decreased
  - farming and byproducts
  - Sales taxes
  - Jobs
  - Graduates coming back to the community
  - Development—housing and commercial
• Local business opportunities—new businesses

• Cyclical
  • Stalled local projects due to the economy

• Increasing
  • Population
  • Aging
  • Economics tools
    o Opp ent zones
    o Work force
    o GHIC

• Resources decreasing
• Jobs decreasing
• Farming decreasing
• Retail business decreasing
• Older leadership decreasing
• Interest in politics or community involvement decreasing
• County revenue decreasing
• Economic disadvantages
  • Market strategies
  • Resources
  • Services

• Unfunded mandates
• Losing farm and farm land
• Develop new leadership
• Increasing age of population will need increased medical and paramedical professionals
• Future concern about water = usage state wide
• Apparent significant illegal drug usage

• Negative
  • Decreasing job market
  • Local businesses on decline i.e., stores such as clothing and needs for households
  • There’s very little incentive for young folks who are educated or skilled to stay in our community
  • As an ag community it’s becoming harder to make it work

• Positive
  • Tech college offers advancement in skills needed for good jobs
• Stagnation—very few new developments happen in Hawkinsville
• Growth helps my business, but should be smart growth. Growth in the right places.
• Population has not grown in recent years. Expected to decline in next few years
• Economy (of course)—recession does not negatively impact our community as much as others because we have not had much activity in the past
• Jobs—stability
• Tax revenue—without places to shop revenues decline, slow down of money causes less shopping
• Availability of someone to lease spec building
• Aging
• Taxes are increasingly becoming more of a problem for the workforce of this community, i.e. landowners, business men or women. Some type of industry is needed to help lower some tax relief for most working families.
• Growth in county as being same for past 35 years
• Taxes have increased because of low growth in county
• Families are forced to move large community with higher paying jobs
• Lack of water resources
• Loss of tax base
• Climate
• Abundant supply of water
• Location in state
• Ability to grow wide range of crops, food, and fiber
• Quality of education
• A good hospital system
• Having access to quality water resources
• Lack of good jobs
• Increase drug use
• Increasing city awareness toward community clean-up, old houses, etc
• Decreasing jobs, housing building
• Out of state people moving to town
• Small business closing up
• Mexican people moving to town
• Infrastructure can’t stay up
• Drugs are getting to be bigger problem
• My organization can’t stay up with changes (equipment, supplies, technology)
• Money—state relegating responsibility for financing local government and schools to the local district. That will increase tax burden on homeowners—many of whom are elderly and living on fixed incomes.
• Less money for schools = fewer teachers = larger class sizes = also means more unemployed people
• Decrease in funds to improve roads
• Decrease in jobs due to lack of business
• Lack of childcare facilities
• Stasis in economic development
• Reducing skills in work force
• Deteriorating education
• Struggling business climate
• Reflected in tax revenues, property values
• Reducing investment by private sector
• Major exports: money and children
• Population
• Resources
• Better support of ____ at hand jobs _____
• Economically, Pulaski county is a small, poor county with "little" in place to change the direction
  • Less than 10,000 population
  • - 25% average wage compared to GA—which itself, ranks low nationally
  • - 25% household income
  • + 25% poverty level
  • + 33% government transfer payments per capita
  • - 40% per capita assessed property value
• Education decreasing
• Job decreasing
• Criminal justice system increasing—too many in jail, parole
• Poverty rate increasing
• Low tax base increasing
• Economic development flat
• Commuting mentality
• Size of personal real estate holdings
• Legislative not connected
• Uninformed people in the forefront
• Attitude
• I am for our community and area
• Concerned for education
• I am concerned for our country world affairs
• Decreasing number of people in roles of leadership
• Increasing cooperation of our city government with our county government
• Increasing number of school dropouts
• Decreasing state support (financial) for education
• Increasing number involved in drug traffic
• Decreasing revenue from our law enforcement
• Leadership: more public involvement
• School system
• Revitalization of local businesses
• Future of hospital
• Local business help
Based on the trends, forces and factors that you identified, what are the specific things that need to be done in order to adapt to the change? (Start with a verb.)

- Increase youth involvement
- Implement incentives in downtown shopping
- Rebuild public education
- Encourage and assist sale oriented businesses
- Consolidate most efficient use resources
- Discover why we are eliminated in site selection process in industrial recruitment
- Increase jobs (private sector)
- Continue drug arrests
- Consolidate city/county
- Consolidate
- Educate
- Use tax based incentives to attract industry
- Consolidate
- Consolidate local government
- Motivate business growth
- Incentive for external investments (manufacturing/service)
- Reduce redundancy (duplication of law enforcement)
- Increase revenue through recycling and other
- Eliminate the control struggle among the “powers to be” in the community
- Consolidate city and county government
- Inform the citizens of the benefits afforded our community by Robins AFB. Without the base, our economy would go to the “dogs.”
- Listen to thoughts and ideas of newcomers. They have a lot to offer
- Enforce city and county “codes”
- Affordable apartments in all areas
- Fun park in the inner city limits
- Develop better economic development strategies
- Support school system to increase quality of education
- Better support existing businesses, will bring more businesses to come in
- Attract more industry
- Develop new subdivisions
- Consolidate city and counties/services. i.e. Pulaski, Wilcox, Bleckley, Dodge.
- Eliminate police or sheriff
- Establish rail to trail from Cochran to Hawkinsville
- Replace speed breakers with on duty law enforcement
- Continue strong efforts to increase awareness for need to raise the bar in education. i.e. through students and parents demanding it, focus on positive
- Develop business incubator
- Develop regionally and statewide, marketing plan for the upcoming farmers market at the old cotton mill
• Assist developers (MDI—Coley) market the rehab—Old Taylor hospital for an end use/user.
• Need a new city hall—possible to build out East Wing of Old Hospital (Commerce Street) for city hall
• Hire an expert grant writer
• Consolidate county and city governments
• Have DOT change our commerce street parking to angled parking
• Have DOT create a passive/slow down island at the end of the bridge coming into downtown for parks, river walk, and walking downtown
• Attract manufacturing into the area
• Create program to help underprivileged—blacks, Hispanics to speak, dress, balance check book, learn about saving, buying a house—basic life tools
• Promote agritourism
• Create signage to allow community to know about existing stores, shopping, and cultural activities and events
• Raise local tax for community improvements
• Combine city/state governments
• Consolidate law enforcement
• Attract new industry
• Legalize betting at the track (harness track)
• We must try to locate some industry here that will create jobs—job creation is the source of life for a community like Hawkinsville
• Make the river navigable both ways
• Increase positive media about schools
• Provide opportunities for students to do service learning—need ideas from the community
• Address education dilemma from management down. Research ways to fix the problem. Visit neighboring county doing a better job. Expect accountability.
• Hire a full time grant writer
• Consolidate some county jobs—have a pool of support workers to go from
• Expect better performance from city/county positions. Non or under achieving needs to be counseled, then replaced if not up to speed
• Appoint task force to look into recreation center for teens
• Send surveys out into the community and get opinions
• Do surveys in school among different groups of kids
• Develop a community recreation area in the town for kids to go to on the weekends
• Provide more job opportunities
• Increase improvements in schools
• Generate ways to create interest in the community
• Develop affordable housing
• Beautify community
• Lure businesses, give incentives for company to come here: utilities, tax, etc.
• More recreational/entertainment
• Restaurants/options
• City and county needs to get together with some experts from Archway to develop a joint city/county plan for growth. i.e. coordinate zoning regulations and merge them together: develop a joint future land use map (city zoning map as it is now exists is on an 8 x 12 piece of paper with about 10 pages of typed updates).
• Develop ways for college graduates to earn the respect of peers/parents/etc.
• Renovate downtown into mixed use—apartments upstairs, retail downstairs, and give a discount to college graduates on the apartments
• Boardwalk restaurant row along river between Commerce and Broad Streets
• Do partnerships between local employers and high school/students
• Farmers market/food co-op
• Put geocaches in county to draw people
• Focus on science and math to improve skills entering the workforce
• Teach young parents money management skills
• Provide wireless coverage in Hawkinsville
• Provide mentors for at risk children
• Encourage faith based community to provide activities for the youth (upward bound, basketball, AWANA, etc.)
• Establish organized effort to police, clean up litter
• Organize and remove dilapidated structures
• Teach responsibility and commitment
• Police the schools to keep down drug abuse
• Develop new economic development team to attract business—can’t continue to do the same thing as we have always done and expect a different result. UP—United Pulaski is “ineffective club.”
• Expose school board members to “best of the best” school systems to see what is happening and move towards excellence. We don’t know what a great system looks like.
• Restrict/eliminate mobile homes or trailers in the county as a homestead—this negatively impacts the digest
• Find ways to supplement our educational process—grants, private foundations, etc.
• Combine efforts with schools, churches, businesses to address moral, social, and educational issues
• Create more job opportunities by attracting industry
• Develop and enhance our natural resources
• Eliminate two government system
• Bring in a name grocery store
• Promote “anti drug use” among youth
• Support the “Rec Department” efforts to provide sports activities for youth
• Help the community find ways to fund the county school systems
• Need technical capability in “Photoshop” for the small town newspaper
• Add language educational classes to help Spanish speakers better English
• Need more police and deputies to fight drugs
• Need more people to help us write and get grant money
• Build a Zaxby’s
• Increase opportunities by opening more businesses
• Create places for youth to hang out so that they will stop going out of town
• Attract new businesses
• Build more youth facilities
• Hire better qualified teachers
• Create more job opportunities
• Attract new business and industry,
  • Jobs
  • Housing
• Provide hope and future for our youth
• Remove unqualified, lazy teachers and have them replaced with capable and committed educators
• Discourage the sale of illegal drugs with more arrests and less “slum areas”
• Provide the community with activities that are appealing to ALL age groups and promote them in a way that will attract participants
• Quit making athletics a primary area; HHS should be acknowledged for its academics as well
• Build middle income industries (jobs)
• Hire more quality teachers instead of coaches
• Provide teachers
• Build more businesses by attracting them
• Promote community activities
• Build industry—more jobs/recruit—attract
• Supply entertainment for young adults
• Prepare for the future of the now present young adults and etc.
• Build—industry—jobs
• Encourage youth involvement
• Attract and recruit businesses
• Build—industry
• Hospital
• Community service
  • Youth
  • Activities
• Entertainment
• Build
• Increase community partnership
• Create youth activities
• Youth involvement
• Town needs to adjust to circumstances of the economy, to get more revenue!
• Business needs to stay open longer during the week and on Saturday!!
• Increase and consolidate law enforcement
• Increase hotel/motel tax!!
• Identify/develop a building rehabilitation plan for downtown, either by block, prioritize.
• Identify new ways to use harness track area—may tourism potential
• Make area more attractive so more industry, people and retail business moves in:
  • Clean up area from trash
  • Remove dilapidated structures
  • Provide more things for seniors and children to do
  • Advertise the positive of the area
• Remove dilapidated houses, and build decent, affordable houses in their place
• Build senior apartments
• Improve public transportation—current bus only available to welfare recipients
• Establish task force(s) to evaluate interrelationships of 1) education quality 2) number of people under “supervision” of the criminal justice system, i.e. incarcerated, probation, parole and 3) qualified work force—note trends and corrective actions
• Education, for all young people—the one that have dropped out of school
• Develop communications between all groups in the community
• Combine our law enforcement, consolidate the city and county government
• Build on our infrastructure
• Encourage community leaders to come together to brainstorm possible solutions
• Addressing the unemployment issue head on by actively recruiting industry
• Actively seeking grants etc. to bring funds into the community for recreation center, entertainment, job for young people for an incentive for young people to stay
• Create more supplements for recruiting the best teachers in order to have the best work force to entice industry
• Develop some type of industry to gain young people.
• Encourage political climate, enforce laws and government structure
• Develop—jobs
• Improve (education)
• Utilize and promote positives (small community, willingness of general population to work to improve, etc.)
• Maintain government facilities, properties
• Develop after school programs (i.e. Boys and Girls Club)
• Create more jobs/better economic development strategy and staffing
• Improve school system
• Reevaluate governmental structure
  • Cheaper is not always better
  • Better sometimes costs more
• Develop affordable housing
• Recreation improvements
• Encourage industry, jobs, etc.
• MONEY!!!
• Develop more activities for kids after school/summer
• Make Hawkinsville more appealing to younger crowd
• Offer incentives to spend money locally
• Protect and enhance our extremely desirable natural environment and resources. Capitalize on our natural quality of life opportunities
• Develop a unique and ongoing method of recruiting and retaining the brightest and most talented young professionals to our community (esp. teachers and physicians)
• Consolidate city/county government
• Evaluate prioritizing city/county services
• Create county wide police department
• Vigorously pursue dilapidated buildings
• Develop consolidated marketing plan for the community
• Create more $s, grants, etc. for law enforcement to fight drugs—officers, equipment, etc.
• In our downtown historical district ease property taxes to business owners
• Encourage government offices to shop locally
• Use hotel-motel tax more efficiently
• Political support—strong politicians in adjacent counties
• More tax base
• Skilled jobs
• Attract new industries—this will help with unemployment and increase tax base
• Clean up the community
• Clean and paint or tear down dilapidated houses and buildings in need of repairs to improve appearances of community (enforce codes)
• Consolidate local government to streamline progress—decisions and state tax monies
• Find an operator for spec. building to increase jobs, tax base and take payments of building off taxpayers
• To answer development pressure: establish strong county and city cooperation. Develop ordinances that are pro-active and that anticipate business, industrial development, and that wisely manage natural resources and protect quality of life. This needs to be carefully nurtured and planned for now, rather than a reactive approach. Establish citizen advisory councils to promulgate policy and let this become the basis for ordinances.

• Buy/acquire conservation/recreation lands (attract non-resident $$). Probably will require partnering (state or county)

• Develop and implement ordinances that structure development in the least damaging locations/methods.

• Promote community events/facilities that encourage spending/use by non-community residents

• Develop/implement more regions environmental protection methods

• To help education
  • Make ad valorem public school tax an education tax. Money could be sent to private schools.
  • Give power back to local school boards

• Tell Atlanta (legislature) after they get to the point they can run their own business, then they can have the ability to tell us how

• Consolidate county and city governments

• Have better representation through state officials

• Attract more industry for employment whereby our kids can raise their kids here as well!!

• Eliminate unnecessary spending at all levels, government, schools, public safety

• Establish strong characters!!

• Let the board rotate until the problem is solved

• Consolidate governments

• Market our strengths:
  • Health care
  • Residential facilities (bedroom community)
  • Personal service

• Attract a large chain grocery store

• Reduce increases in property taxes until economy is better i.e. jobs/incomes are more stable

• Apply for grants/matching funds for improvement of roads, streets

• Consolidate local—city and county governments

• Sourcing capital formation for local business

• Creating a long range plan—local governments

• Breaking an egg—to make a omelet

• Support—home grown industries that are successful—to create new jobs

• Encourage young people to come back to the community after graduation from college

• Build more affordable houses

• Get more involved in your local and county officials (who you select as a candidate)

• Consolidate city and county government

• Establish more clubs and organizations to volunteer to help with litter

• Build more affordable houses

• Encourage young people to come back to community after graduating from college to try and start their own businesses

• Develop services—retail—eateries—at competitive pricing to out of county services

• Build job opportunities and train youth for these opportunities

• If we are to be a “bedroom community” build the infrastructure to support it

• Improve appearances—get rid of urban slums and litter

• Merge city and county law enforcement
• Combine/merge city and county governments
• Increase recreational/social opportunities for ALL youth
• Support arts council, symphony, Opera House, harness track activities
• Establish task force reflecting diverse population of the county to address lack of recreational resources for youth in Hawkinsville/Pulaski County
• Seek grant funds to provide additional personnel for the health department
• Develop a program to utilize retired/volunteer RNs, NPs, at local health department
• Develop programs to assist the elderly to remain in homes
  • Home makers assistance
  • Partner with church/civic groups
  • Telephone reassurance program (daily contact—elderly couples, people who live alone)
• Establish an adopt a highway program for businesses and organizations
• Promote and establish a recycling program
• Promote a buy local program
• Promote high school and college students DECA type program
• Encourage local businesses to hire high school and college students for part time and summer jobs
• City develop recycling programs
• Give tax incentives to build or attract businesses such as retail, entertainment, and dining
• Provide and use tax incentives to fix up downtown buildings to be used for retail and restaurants
• Capitalize on Ocmulgee River as an outdoor recreation area
• Clean up roadways, clear away empty dilapidated buildings
• Enforce property upkeep ordinances
• Develop taskforces centered on major needs from increase #1 individuals and those involved in related organizations/activities. These taskforces should develop goals, assess grassroots needs/resources to address work with Archway leadership
• Encourage poor housing owners to invest in clean up and repair. Compliment those who make great improvements.
• Action—find investors plus government funds to build more restaurants and entertainment places such as bowling alley or skating rink
• Drugs—have neighborhood watch to report too many activities. Small reward to reporters.
• Consolidate law enforcement—city/county
• Develop local long term plans—economically based on needs—that will generate manufacturing (producing) utilizing local resources, land, labor, management, money
• Create industry, jobs to support and raise families, places for local people to spend funds, to work in
• Provide services needed for older generation
• Discover services or opportunities to interest younger generations
• Tear down and rebuild very poor housing owned by landlords (slumlords). Invest in the community if they want to be landlords!
• Recognize the positives and acknowledge them—good schools, as an example
• Send children to local public schools
• Quit rewarding unwed mothers having numerous children with increasing government checks
• Develop a plan to go after drug kings as well as the distributors
• Build a place for teenagers to go so they don’t have to leave town
• Utilize the Chamber incentives for our local businesses
• Make our town presentable to the younger generation
• Advertise for support. The Pulaski Progress and Hawkinsville Dispatch are very good sources.
• Set up mentoring for troubled youth
• Develop a community action plan (we’re starting tonight)
• Continue to clean up drug traffic
• Educate yourself on city and county politics—understand how processes work—be a participant instead of a critic
• Provide more incentive for younger workers/skilled workers to work in Hawkinsville
• Inspire more spread out local funding (people donate all money to arts council whereas it could go to arts council and 4-H)
• Create more opportunities for local business to be successful
• Provide entertainment opportunities for people to stay in town vs. going out of town
• Provide tax base opportunity to draw industry for employment
• City wide effort to clean up dilapidated housing
• Jobs, jobs, jobs
• Develop recreational/social activities
• Study consolidated services
• Did I mention jobs?
• Fund mentoring programs for at-risk youth
• Expand opportunities at horse arena
• Develop community market
• Coordinate with legislature to develop economic opportunities in rural areas
• Promote positive aspects to attract business, i.e. no traffic, great technology access, good healthcare, good schools
• Evaluate consolidation of services to lower overall cost of government
• Recruit new industry successfully
• Continue progress with dilapidated housing
• Shop in local stores
• Explore means to tear down dilapidated housing/rebuild affordable housing
• Promote shopping locally
• Increase incentives for businesses to move to area
• Develop—education—have local schools be as good or better than neighboring counties and bring private school students back
• Grow—job opportunities locally—fill spec building
• Build—partnerships between youth and experience
• Enhance—river and other local
• Training youth for leadership positions
• Look for businesses that accommodate older population
• Use of resource the river
• Coordinate the high school with industry and workforce development
• Educate community to community needs to shop at home
• Promote the arts
• Promote harness horses
• Develop and implement marketing plan for economic development
• Build a sales team that represents cross section of population/business community/education and train them
• Complete the GICH process to address housing issues
• Identify ways to consolidate services of local government
• Develop special incentives to attract businesses
• Make community involvement more attractive
• Concentrate on education
• Develop a stronger education emphasis and graduation level in Pulaski schools especially in math and science
• Develop goal oriented leadership focus for middle age and younger citizens
• Develop a more diversified retail market area
• All out effort to create jobs!
• Continue to improve and expand cultural events, Opera House—River Park, etc.
• Increase new programs at tech center
• Seek new industry using resources such as DCA
• Give tax incentives for upstart businesses or new industry
• Find funding to help home buyers to get affordable money
• Apply for outside funding (infrastructure) water, sewer, roads
• Provide activities for: young people—recreation—good but room for improvement
  • Young adults
  • Older adults
• Entice businesses (restaurants, shopping) to Hawkinsville by tax breaks
• Enforce the law about dilapidated houses
• Establish a council on drugs, using law enforcement, teens, teachers, community leaders
• Develop a plan to upgrade fire equipment, building and training
• Give businesses more incentive to move here
• Increase law enforcement to handle drugs
• Vote for change in community!
• Grow opportunities so younger generation can live in communities
• Apply for grant or funding
• Consolidated law enforcement county and city
• Accountability—be aware of an individual promising, change, help, cooperation, etc. promising and not delivering, especially in a time of need hurts in the long run.
• Bring in more industry
• Develop some long-term goals for community—more funds, grants etc.
• Increase law enforcement
• Consolidate city and county law enforcement
• Look for other ways to spread out tax base
• Find ways to bring new jobs to county
• Seek accurate data before you take the positive of criticizing. We have a very good school system. As every other school system we have areas to improve. We are working on those. Let's talk about the positive.
• Communicate positives about schools, healthcare systems, etc. through newspaper, television etc. Shop Hawkinsville!
• Support local business
• Support community but being a positive spokesperson outside community—ex. Education, businesses
• Positive facts should be advertised
• Break cycle of services/shopping out of town by focus effort of business people to provide desired products at competitive pricing and for public to understand and factor in the added cost of not utilizing local services
• Support legislative efforts to provide equal tax distribution to small communities ex. purchase greater than 1000 go to purchaser resident location if in Ga
• Support growth locally by shopping locally
• To promote industry, need to know how to promote our community
• Take an active role in promoting leadership to promote youth involvement
• Increase involvement in schools (parents, retirees, churches)
• Provide study hall through churches
• Develop programs for youth to become more involved in community
• Clean up—trash, etc.
• Encourage people to support hometown
• Crack down on all illegal activities
• Stop high school drop-out by creating a possible mentor volunteer system
• Enforce city and county clean-up and prosecute trash mongers
• Encourage private enterprise and industry
• Make ordinances and rules same for all people—black and white—especially city cleanup
• Must improve public school leadership beginning with Board of Education. Possibly beyond into operational leadership
• Stem dropout rate
• Reduce drug consumption/dependence
• Change the perceptions about the community
• Attract/keep bright minds and talented people
• Attract a new skill/manufacturing industry
• Change the perceptions about having more than one community (black/white/Hispanic)
• Consolidate city/local government
• Recruit quality educators into the school system
• Establish task force to identify and seek major company or industry for employment
• Improve education (real or perceived)
• Encourage more students to MGT
• Clean up community—keep attractive
• Improve retail
• Work to support arts/cultural activities, introduce students to arts
• Improve education, test scores. Must be able to compete with neighboring school systems
• Infrastructure
  • Communications—good
  • Roads—good
  • Medical
• We need “buy-in” from those teachers that are employed by the public school but send their children to private school. There must be an effort made by those that benefit from the public school system to “improve” the public school system.
• We need to make Hawkinsville more “attractive” to young people in order to get them to want to live here and have families. Therefore building up the “base” of the community
• Gifted programs
• Ability grouping in school system
• More gifted programs in school system
• Improve airport
• Consolidate city and county governments
• Bring back secondary school students who attend out of county schools
• Attract a new chain super market
• Update the airport
• Consolidate city/county government
• Recruit retail businesses to Pulaski County
• Get marginal students that might drop out involved in a technical program
• Bring industry jobs to local community to keep workforce in the county
• Get community involved to stop drug use
• Establish programs for high school students that will give an opportunity to learn more about healthcare careers and medical technology careers closer to Hawkinsville
• Take action to “sell” the community to the community
• Consolidate the government
• Add music an theater to public school offering—put the schools in the center of focus and sell it to the community as “owners”
• Add more gifted programs to schools
• Update airport
• Attract one industry into spec building
• Sales tax collections!
• Hire a specialist in grant writing
• Offer incentives for people to open or improve motels and restaurants
• Clean up entrances to Hawkinsville
• Enforce litter laws. Increase funds in coffers by imposing fines for litterers.
• Come into the 21st century—i.e. stay open for business on Thursday afternoon
  • post office
  • banks
  • all businesses
• Create school and community collaboration initiatives to encourage or foster dialogue as to skills needed for graduates and to show a genuine interest in educating our community
• Grow the industrial base
• Develop the downtown retail/restaurant/attractions
• Clean up the blighted areas
• Improve the relative performance of the school systems (attractive to perspective home buyers/businesses)
• Increase the “packaging” of Southern Hills GC, Harness Festival, Opera House with hotels and restaurants—destination
• Consolidate government
• Improve school system
• Focus on drop-out problem in the community
• Consolidate city and county services, particularly law enforcement
• Compare Pulaski County school system with area school systems
• Involve entire community in assisting our school teachers and administration
  • Develop dialogue between schools and parents to improve dropouts—community—show interest
• Secure a grant writer to seek help in critical areas
• Involving the community in finding ways to improve school system
• Consolidating city and county government
• Eliminate dilapidated buildings, unsightly properties, litter
• Establish decent housing, bustling downtown
• Encourage working to better improve education, job development skills and improving opportunities for young people
• Retain good things already here
• Insist that city and county government enforce ordinances
• Pave streets
• Clean off property—sewage draining, old cars removed
• HURA Hawkinsville Urban Redevelopment Agency
• We need
• stores (clothing)
• apartments (affordable)
• healthcare
• grocery store
• Become well knowledge of deep rooted problems and consequences
• Raise sales tax (fairest of all taxes)—monies collected will be used to improve community and county seat Hawkinsville, GA—parking, paving parking lots, etc.—to improve the image of city
• We could use lots more space coming into Hawkinsville that would be attractive to people passing through—give them something to stop—look at.
• For DOT: Direct through traffic over to Broad Street. Restore angle parking and remove parallel parking spots (safer and more parking places). Reduce the speed limit to 25-30 MPH.
• Develop river for barges
• Promote local business
What are the opportunities, assets, etc. that we need to be aware of that would assist our work in Hawkinsville-Pulaski County?

- River
- People
- M & T meat company
- Hospital
- Telecommunication—ComSouth
- Good Rec. Dept.
- Fire Dept.
- Hometown banks
- Ag sector
- River
- Hospital
- Schools
- Telecommunication
- Horse facility
- Emergency management system
- River need to utilize all its potential
- Hospital a great facility, lots of people come and use it!! a great asset
- Communication facility a great asset, high tech
- Opera house events
- Historic homes, agriculture, horse training facility—opportunity to promote tourism
- 1st responders
- Health care facility
- Excellent telecommunications
- Great hospital and allied services
- Historic attractions
- Opportunity to develop a unique “not all pavement and lights” community of diversified businesses and residences
- Renewed cooperation between law enforcement agencies
- Schools are above average
- Access to our county is abundant
- Off track betting
- Harris Grocery—meats and others
- Old Opera House
- Southern Hills Country Club
- Harness racing training facility
- River
- Opera house—Symphony Orchestra
- Library—needs to be longer
- Hospital
- People who care about their community
- Increase use of Opera House, more and different shows
- Increase tourism
- Need a casino
• Rails to trails—Hawkinsville to Cochran—Would bring in people from 50+ miles
• Dam up the river! (build spillway)
• Great people
• Communications/high technology—strong infrastructure for a small town
• Good weather
• Good mid-state location
• “Eager” community
• Kimberly Antiques (c. 1912)
• Ocmulgee River (riverfront)
• Historic downtown; old buildings—good condition
• Capable people
• Arts community
• Telecommunications infrastructure
• Good city-county government working relationship
• Good zoning and land use plan
• Healthcare
• Opera house—great board
• Hospital/wellness center
• River
• Very good affordable golf course
• Man power—willing and able volunteer work force
• Harness racing facility
• Affordability/housing, taxes, etc.
• Attractive entrance into city E—W—N—S
• River and proposed riverwalk
• City park, county park
• Hospital and wellness center
• Walking downtown
• Strong citizen volunteers
• Strong faith community
• Government leaders and influential citizens working together
• Strong relationships with GA Department of Community Affairs, Middle GA RDC, National Park Service, Christine Rodick and UGA students
• Historic Neighborhoods
• Potential for agri-tourism
• Hospital—cancer treatment center, kidney dialysis center, orthopedics, etc.
• Located on Ocmulgee River
• City and county government work well together
• Recent increases in Sheriff’s Department, City Police and Drug Task Force to combat drug dealers to put them in jail—the jail is now full
• Good location
• Southern Hills—golf course and community
• Airport
• Certified local government—we have a National Register Historic District and local Historic District—Historic Preservation Ordinance and an appointed Historic District Commission
• GICH
• National Park Service and UGA involved with our river projects—we have over 20 collaboratives working together
- Number of restaurants
- Willing student volunteers
- Young people return
- Arts Council—Opera House
- Recreation Department offerings
- ComSouth works well with school system—cable channel (free access)
- M&T Meat Company—does large business—small business too
- Recreation/river—Blueway, tie in with Go Fish program
- Architecture of downtown buildings
- Good "volunteer group" of people—"get em done" attitude
- The future of this county is in the healthcare industry: encourage it and develop it. The governor wanted to give the old National Guard Armory to the hospital, but it didn't happen.
- Small town community/quality of life
- Hospital
- Harness facility
- River
- Utilize government facilities
- Utilize highways/traffic flow
- Charities
- Hospital
- Most people
- Arts
- Churches
- Harness track
- Arts/culture
- Quality of life
- Hospital/medical
- Bright capable folks moving here
- Racial harmony
- Everybody knows everybody
- Safe community to raise kids
- Religion is not a big factor
- Fair roads and streets
- Good health community to raise a family
- Safe community
- Hard working people in community
- Good farm community
- Good water resources
- Great opportunity for housing
- Great opportunity for community development
- Our people are our greatest asset
- Safe community
- Racial harmony
- Faith-based community (great)
- Harness Festival
- School system always puts students first
- The river runs through it
• Community relationship
• Recreation department
• River is a plus
• Places of worship
• Hunting locations
• Fishing areas
• Land availability
• Rural appeal
• Crime rate is low
• Telecommunication system
• Churches/religious community
• Good people
• Hospital
• Strong leaders
• Racial relations
• Our people
• Our leaders
• Our climate
• Our location
• Work force available
• Terrific natural resources and outdoor environment
• Good race relations
• Healthcare—Taylor Regional
• ComSouth Telecom—fiber optics in 90% of the county
• Small town—friendly, cozy, great place to raise kids
• Natural resources—hunting, fishing, boating, hiking
• Major highway system—"Hub City" transportation
• Opera House—Arts Council
• Hospital
• Community as a whole—very caring
• Education—opportunities are available but it is your choice—you get out of it what you put into it
• Opera House/Arts Council
• Horse track
• Hospital
• Weather
• Recreation
• Churches
• Location
• MGT offers good computer education
• Wellness center
• Cancer center
• Faith based community is strong
• Cellular coverage
• 2hrs from Atlanta Airport
• Opportunity—improve interracial relations
• Hospital
• ComSouth telecommunications
• Great funded organizations (Family Connections, etc.)
• Health department, DFCS, Juvenile Dept.
• Law enforcement
• Broadband connectivity
• Hospital
• River
• Horse track
• Opera House
• Really talented farmers/good farmland
• Quality of law enforcement
• Miles Branch River Park
• Good law enforcement
• 4-year college 10 mi. away
• Law enforcement
• Tech school
• Local business
• Rivers Alive organization
• Rotary Club
• Civitan Club
• Historical "touch" to families and facilities
• "Laid back" casual lifestyles
• Mostly clean town and efforts by city and county governments help
• Friendly welcoming citizens
• Harness track attracts 350 horses along with people and $$$ that support their training
• Excellent Chamber of Commerce
• Hospital
• ComSouth—Broadband—fiber to the home
• 20 minutes from WRAB
• Affordable real estate
• Friendly people
• Low population density
• Natural resources abundant
• Community willing to act
• Relatively good civic infrastructure
• Community cooperation including city and county leaders
• Unique resources from community
• Great resources from school system
• Small town is good! Friendly, neighborly, helping, caring, etc.
• Hospital high quality and adds to quality of life
• Youth recreation improving
• Cooperation of local and county governments would be easily obtained
• Positive newspaper coverage available
• Assistance of key community leaders could be obtained if approached
• The need for improvement is recognized
• Friendliest community in GA, build on this—promote this as an asset and incorporate it into quality of life issues
• Taylor Regional Hospital Network—best regional hospital in GA
• Southern Hills Golf Course and subdivision—Golf Digest recognition 6 years straight
• Proximity to Robins AFB
• Highway system
• Caring community when people are in crisis
• Taylor Regional Hospital
• Wide range of church/religious opportunities/options
• A relatively safe community
• Employment opportunities at Robins Air Force Base
• Southern Hills Golf Course
• Opera House
• River
• Hospital
• Healthcare
• Opera House
• Highway hub
• Golf course
• Southern Hills Subdivision
• Very low crime rate compared to Macon/Atlanta
• Great place to raise children
• Friendly helpful people
• Beautiful productive farm land
• River
• County has great water—taste, availability, ponds, streams, creeks—many natural resources
• Weather is pleasant
• Golf course
• Regional hospital
• Cultural—Opera House
• Transportation—many, 13 state highways go here
• Low crime rate
• Education—quality teachers are here—system needs changing
• Great hunting—deer, turkey, wild hog
• Harness horse racing training facilities
• River
• Health facility
• Opera House (arts)
• Centrality of Hawkinsville in the state
• School system
• Golf course—Southern Hills
• More public involvement, i.e. awareness of hospital
• River
• Hospital
• Training facility
• Healthcare
• School and churches
• River
• Golden Isles
• State of the art telecommunication—fiber optic digital and HDTV, high speed internet
• Low crime rate
• Cross roads of middle Georgia
• Safe community
• Have high tech fiber optics telecommunications already in place
• Great sense of community and hometown feeling
• Beautiful downtown buildings
• Ocmulgee River
• Strong faith based community that works together for common causes
• Low crime rate
• Historic
• Major roadways all intersect in town
• Downtown historic—great potential
• Quality of life
• Hospital
• Tight knot communities (ethnic/racial)—need to bring together more
• Natural beauty—the river
• History
• Technical college
• Rural environment
• Rural environment
• Friendly atmosphere/people
• Health care facilities: hospital wellness center, h.c. providers
• River, numerous ponds
• Many churches
• Technical college
• Many churches
• Horse training facility
• Telecomm communications
• Top rated regional hospital with doctors located here and in nearby towns
• Riverfront—easy access to Ocmulgee River for recreation and education
• Training center for horses: trotters and pacers
• Abundant supply of underground water—for use—for farming
• Local talent—Opera House for talent and musicians
• Friendly greetings in all areas!
• Ability to laugh at ourselves
• Friendly "open" people
• Many churches
• Good hospital
• River for recreation
• Center of state
• Excellent roads
• Close to beach
• Large number of residents active at state, national, international level—civic, government, etc.
• City-county relationship
• River
• Horse training
• Telecommunications/ComSouth
- WRAFB
- Hospital
- Churches relationships
- Workforce development center
- Spec building
- Southern Hills
- Opera House
- Prison
- Harness track
- Hospital
- Prison
- Workforce development center
- Some excellent teachers
- Hospital
- Telecommunications system
- Convenience of facilities
- Assets—or maybe liability—proximity to almost all of the "things" that people want (notably all the larger towns and what they provide near us)
- Community spirit of cooperation
- Natural resources—river
- Current asset of harness horse training facility
- Strong faith community
- Very good transportation—routes traverse US
- Our Chamber of Commerce has provided the incentives, etc.—we need to enhance
- Our 4H office and school system has mentoring and activities for youth
- Our recreation department is growing
- We have youth that want to be involved
- Arts Council is growing
- Community involvement (unity)
- Youth involvement, involved youth (club presidents, working youth... youth with career goals and mind)
- Local donations
- Local business
- Prison is a great asset
- 4-H
- Arts Council
- Horse/harness training facility
- Hospital
- River
- Churches
- Hunting areas
- Opera House
- History of area
- Great rural hospital, best in area
- Low crime/safe environment
- Great rural area within short drive to larger cities
- Close knit community, supports family in need
• City and county government works well together
• United community
• Private/public economic and industrial development authority
• Good hospital
• Small-town friendly folks
• Very easy to do business in community
• Lowest tax rates around
• Large number of major highways coming to our town
• Library
• Hospital
• Opera House
• River
• Highways
• Hunting and fishing
• Golf—dining room
• Quality of life
• Caring people
• Good cooperation city, county government
• Taylor Regional Hospital
• ComSouth communications
• Two good community banks
• Work force development center
• Good race relations
• Available land
• Good water resources
• Good highways
• First class golf course and club facilities
• Good recreation program city and county
• Ocmulgee River
• Pulaski/Bleckley PFA
• Industrial park 235 acres 100,000 sq. ft. spec building
• Rivers Alive organization
• Hospital
• Work force development center
• Arts council
• River projects—teach canoe, teach fishing
• Harness facility
• Conservation—DNR, Lake, community development
• Spec building with industrial park with infrastructure
• Country club—with bar
• Availability of fresh water
• Maintain health care local hospital
• River access
• Small town living
• Maintain and help our local hospital be self-reliant and be able to stand alone without as much help from federal assistance!
• Quality hospital
• Abundant supply of water
• Good highway system
• Small town life—quiet, slow-paced
• Good hospital and doctor base
• Telecommunication
• Highway hub—because of river crossing and Golden Isles Parkway
• River
• Hospital
• River and hunting and fishing
• Love of community, closeness
• Airport
• River
• Small town atmosphere
• River
• Airport
• We have a great knowledge base of older citizens that are well versed in family values and strong community health
• A sense of family
• Cooperation in all efforts to improve
• Belief in God
• Love of community
• Desire to do good
• Land
• Healthcare
• Ease of access—highways
• Location on Golden Isles Parkway—great for traffic going to the coast
• Hospital
• Library
• Highways
• Local telephone company
• Harness track facility
• Plentiful land for development
• Good and abundant water
• Ocmulgee River
• Proximity to Robins Air Force Base
• Many highways run through Hawkinsville center hub for travel
• Bedroom community—good place to raise a family
• Good hospital, golf course, Opera house
• Good rec program for small kids (5-10 yrs)
• Good community involvement from local churches
• Low crime rate
• Harness training facility
• Hunting/fishing outdoor activity
• Highways
• Hospital
• Telecommunications
• Opera House
• Library
• Tech College
• Better Hometown designation
• River
• Golf course
• Harness track
• Communications
• The river
• The land
• Harness track (horse training)
• MGTC (Sam Way Workforce)
• Location
• River/natural beauty
• Hospital
• Highways
• Telecommunication
• Training center
• Spec building
• Opera House
• Good relationship between school board and tech college
• Higher education options nearby
• Community banks
• MGTC—local and larger institution, about 20 miles away, good roads to get there
• A symphony orchestra based at Old Opera House—should be considered as business
• Opera House itself
• Roads, access
• Communication
• Health care
• Natural resources
  • River
  • Farms, timber, etc
• Location—Middle Georgia, proximity to Atlanta airport, Brunswick and Savannah ports
• Hospital
• ComSouth
• Hunting possibilities/outdoor recreation
• Hub for highway
• Ideal geographical locations
• Excellent medical facilities
• Very good school system
• High tech connection—ComSouth
• Active Arts Council
• ComSouth—\textit{latest} technology
• Quality of small town life
• Education system
• Hospital—healthcare
• Small town atmosphere
• The small town atmosphere that people willing to help others
• A good education system
• Good regional hospital
• Open accessible local officials
• Good phone system that provides internet service
• Local nature recreation (hunting/fishing)
• Tight knit community means team effort
• Strong leadership
• Safe community
• Good communication (working relationship) between city and county
• School system
• We are a small community
• We are tearing down dilapidated houses
• Our Chamber of Commerce
• Wonderful hospital and healthcare for community our size
• Churches
• Wonderful, loving, giving people of all ages
• Lots of talented people of all ages
• Churches of all kinds get along and work well together
• Beautiful city with so much potential and really a great place to raise children
• Utilize local talent
• Include youth in community
• Communications
• Excellent health services
• Climate
• Location on river in middle Georgia
• Southern Hills
• Opera House
• Harness track
• Hospital
• Ocmulgee river
• Soon to be coming farmers market?
• Industrial park
• MGTC
• AB’s, Steakhouse, Horseshoe, Peanut Stand
• The Ocmulgee River
• The Opera House
• Our Regional Medical Center
• Enhanced downtown “face”
• Community pride
• Community cooperation
• River
• Opera House
• Harness track
• Wilderness center
• Historic aspects
• Small town caring
• Churches
• The people
• Available healthcare and wellness facility
• River
• Horse folks
• Hunting and fishing
• Retirees to tutor students
• Hospital
• Southern Hills
• Ocmulgee River
• Opera House
• Harness facility
• Mid GA Tech facility
• Highway system
• Central location in the state
• Hospital/wellness center
• Southern Hills Golf Course
• Middle GA Tech campus
• Opera House
• Harness festival
• Hospital
• Opera House
• River
• Antique
• Golf course
• Churches
• Youth leadership program
• Historic homes
• Hospital
• Harness festival
• Opera House
• The river
• Golf course (Southern Hills)
• Technical college
• Churches
• Hometown banks
• Hospital
• Harness festival
• River
• Opera house
• Pretty downtown
• River
• Harness training center
• Opera House
• Hospital
• Extension agent
• Agriculture
• Economic development program
• MGTC school
• Women’s prison
• HBV industry
• Preservation of historic homes
• Hospital
• River
• Harness festival
• Opera House
• ComSouth
• J&J farms
• Highways
• Outdoor activities—hunting, fishing
• No traffic
• See stars at night
• Recognize most people you see
• Any changers likely to be improvement
• The river
• Harness festival
• Hospital
• Athletics?
• Hawkinsville's location
• Cooperation with churches
• MGTC
• A few decent historical homes
• Southern hospitality
• Great Chamber of Commerce
• Police force
• Hospital
• River
• Golf course
• Highways
• Hospital
• Chamber of Commerce (excellent staff)
• Law enforcement
• The river
• Southern Hills—golf course
• Religious community is solid
• Harness track