

## **Mayor Mathis reports on Public Hearing held on Hiawassee Sewer Rehabilitation Project.**

May 6, 2009  
Hiawassee, Georgia

As advertised in the local papers, a Public Hearing on Sewer Rehabilitation was held on May 5, 2009, at 9:30 AM at Hiawassee City Hall. The following is a report by the Mayor of Hiawassee on the Hearing.

“Sewer Service is of vital importance to the City of Hiawassee and Towns County,” explains Mayor Barbara Mathis. “The City plans for sewer rehabilitation and repair is critical to economic development and protection of our Lake”. “I am happy to report to our citizens on our efforts for the next two years. I am also excited because this is the first time during my service as Mayor that the City will receive both federal and state financial assistance with our needed repairs. The City Council and I welcome the opportunity to seek these funds to benefit our citizens.”

Hiawassee City Manager, Rick Stancil, reported at the Public Hearing that the City of Hiawassee has made application to Georgia’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for sewer upgrades and repairs. The improvements discussed include the upgrade and repair of City gravity sewer lines, manholes and upgrades to existing lift stations. The anticipated cost of the project is \$535,000.00. The City should receive 70% in funding under the Federal ARRA Program.

The purpose of the public meeting was to: (a) Inform the public of the need for improvements to the City's wastewater system; (2) Comply with Section 391-3-6-.02 of Georgia's Water Quality Control Rules (and amendments thereto); and (3) Encourage public involvement in the development of a plan to improve the wastewater system.

Engineer Don Baker was in attendance and presented Maps, Planning and Design Documents. Baker stated that “the proposed project involves the repair or upgrade to existing sanitary sewer collection facilities, including the replacement of pumps and addition of a generator at one existing pump stations, the addition of a generator at another existing pump station, repair or replacement of gravity sewer and repair or replacement of manholes.”

Importantly, the proposed project will have a positive environmental impact on Lake Chatuge. The project will reduce the possibility of sewage overflows experienced during high rains and flooding. The proposed project will also reduce infiltration and inflow (I/I) into the Hiawassee Water Treatment Plant, thereby reducing the need to expand the plant, reducing the possibility of violations and reducing operation and maintenance expenses (O&M).

The proposed project will be ready for construction by July 2009. For more information, please contact Rick Stancil, City Manager, Hiawassee City Hall, 229 Chatuge Way, Hiawassee, Georgia 30546, 706-896-2202.