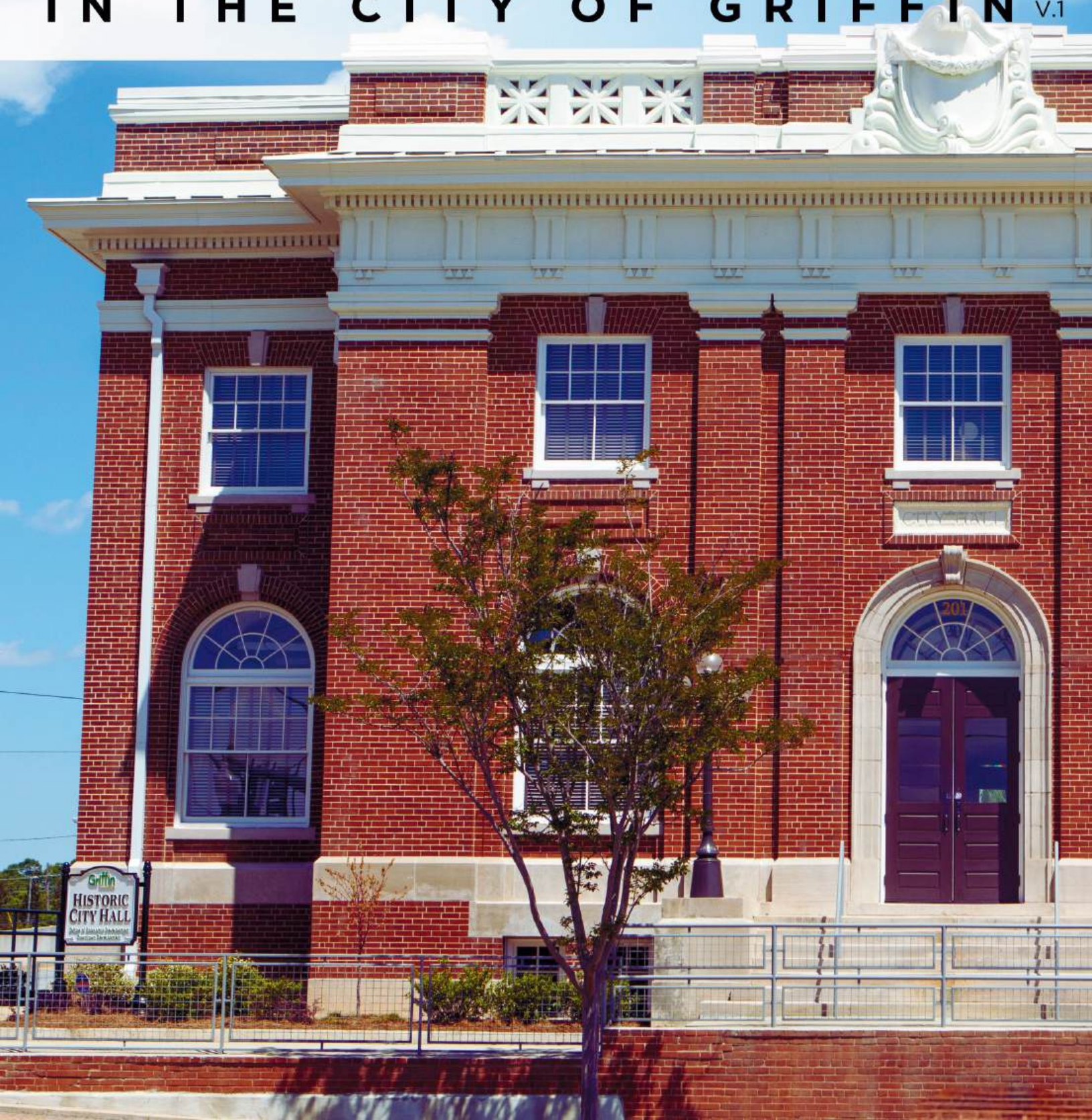


starting a
BUSINESS

IN THE CITY OF GRIFFIN V.1



You're invited to join our Business Community!

The City of Griffin is excited about your interest in making Griffin a home to your business while becoming an important partner to our community. In partnership, our mission is to protect and enhance the quality of life by providing a high level of service in an efficient and responsive manner for all citizens. Our vision is to make every effort to provide a safe, well-planned community with equal opportunity for all.

Business owners play a significant role in these efforts. We believe your contribution will strengthen our workforce, enrich our diversity and promote economic growth. As you explore the opportunities and advantages of our "Live, Work, Play" community, we encourage you to collaborate with other local businesses and organizations to enrich your investment in the City of Griffin.

We look forward to working with you and Growing, TOGETHER!

Jeremy Stratton

Economic Development Director



Our community welcomes your new building project. For more information regarding a Groundbreaking Ceremony, contact our Tax & License Administrator.

 **770-229-6402**

Incentives & Services

Incentives AND GRANTS

INCENTIVES

Up to 30% reduction on electric, water wastewater, and solid waste utilities

Up to \$12,000 reduction on alcohol license fees

LOW INTEREST LOANS

Up to \$450,000 available at a 2% interest rate for 40% of your project

Up to \$10,000 available at 1% below prime

TAX ABATEMENTS

Enterprise Zones to help waive fees & taxes

State Opportunity Zone for income tax credit at \$3,500 per employee

Federal Opportunity Zone for tax deferral and tax-free gains

GRANTS

Up to \$5,000 reimbursement to cover costs for work on the outside of your building

Up to \$1,000 reimbursement of matching funds for interior and exterior improvements

Services AND UTILITIES

The City of Griffin provides a vast array of utility services including electric, water wastewater, stormwater, sanitation, and telecommunications to our community. These revenues help offset property taxes and fund other essential City services. The City provides 24/7 availability to assist our residential, commercial, and industrial community. Contact Customer Service to schedule a utility audit. If you need commercial roll-offs or compactor boxes, they are available for a flat rate with no delivery, fuel surcharge or monthly rental fee.

 **770-229-6403**

The City of Griffin Information Technology Department offers free installation for their fiber network with lightning fast internet speeds. Available in select areas. Scan to check the availability in your area.



STARTING A BUSINESS

Economic DEVELOPMENT

The City of Griffin Economic Development Department can assist with obtaining the latest market data and research as well as provide insight into the local and regional economic forecast. They offer tools and resources so that all businesses locating to Griffin will have what they need to be successful. The Economic Development Department works directly with the Griffin-Spalding Development Authority and the Griffin Downtown Development Authority for industrial and commercial business opportunities.

For more information about City of Griffin incentives, Opportunity Zones, grants, property vacancies and other economic development tools, please call the Economic Development Department.

 **770-228-5356**



If you are looking to start a business in the Griffin Downtown Development Authority District, you may qualify for additional incentives and grants.

Economic Development Department is located at
Historic City Hall, 201 E. Solomon Street

Historical INFORMATION

 **770-233-4128**

To learn more about the history of your building, contact the City of Griffin Archivist.

Tools & Resources



Small Business Development Center at Clayton State University UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides tools, training and resources to help small businesses grow and succeed. The UGA SBDC at Clayton State University provides economic development assistance for small businesses with no-cost consulting services and low cost educational programs. They help develop and update business plans, identify sources of capital, set up record keeping systems, analyze financial records, conduct specialized research, create marketing strategies, offer operational and financial diagnostic assessments and more.



678-466-5100



U.S. Small Business Administration

Consider a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Loan through your preferred banking partner. The SBA works with lenders to provide loans to small businesses and sets guidelines for loans made by its partnering lenders. The SBA reduces risk for lenders and makes it easier for them to access capital, making it easier for small businesses to get loans. Visit them online to learn more about funding for your business.

www.sba.gov

GROWING A BUSINESS



The Griffin+Spalding Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to supporting an aggressive business environment and making a positive contribution to the community by serving as a resource for information, a voice for business and a valuable link to government. The Chamber is a great networking organization to meet individuals in similar businesses who can help guide you toward achieving your goals. Each month they host numerous events for members that include Business After Hours, lunch and learns, educational workshops and networking opportunities throughout Griffin-Spalding. Visit their website for a list of community events, meetings, workshops and to learn how your business can become a Chamber member.

 **770-228-8200**

www.griffinchamber.com

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce and how to host a ribbon cutting ceremony for your business.





GRIFFIN REGION

COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY

The Griffin-Spalding County School System offers high school students the option to participate in the Work-Based Learning Program to connect with local business owners. This program provides valuable internship opportunities that foster real world experience and career exploration while helping businesses in our community. By partnering with local businesses, the program aims to equip students with workforce skills and networking opportunities, while strengthening the local workforce and economy. We encourage you to contact the Griffin Region College and Career Academy to learn how your business can partner with them.

 **770-229-3710**

www.grcca.org



Griffin Region College & Career Academy
is located at 221 Spalding Drive

www.inGriffin.com
Griffin + Spalding Business & Tourism Association

The Griffin+Spalding Business and Tourism Association is dedicated to promoting business, tourism, trade and conventions for the City of Griffin and Spalding County. The Board of Directors develop plans to improve business and tourism throughout the community. Visit them online to view more information and to learn how the GSBTA can provide assistance to your business when paired with enhancing tourism for Griffin-Spalding.

PERMITS AND REGULATIONS

This guide serves to help potential Griffin business owners understand and maneuver the process of starting a business in our community. As some businesses may require additional permits, licensing, certifications and inspections; we vow to be consistent and fair with all applications. We value our efforts to remain business friendly, while being dedicated to keeping our community safe.

Inspections REQUIRED



All commercial buildings and residential care homes require an annual Fire Marshal inspection. Additional fees may apply. Call 770-229-6415 for details.



The City of Griffin developed a program (FOG) to reduce fat, oils and grease in the sewage system to avoid fines and costly repairs. All food and beverage establishments, along with other businesses are required to participate and complete the application. Call 678-692-0404 for details.




All nonresidential buildings require an approved backflow device to be installed and tested prior to operating. Maintaining yearly backflow testing is required. Call 770-229-6423 for details.



If a permit from either the State Department of Agriculture or Department of Environmental Health is required for your type of business, you must comply. Call 404-656-2000 for details.

ZONING, *Modifications,* AND CONSTRUCTION

 **770-233-4130**

As you seek potential locations for your business in Griffin, there could be additional requirements for zoning and/or overlay districts.

Some rehabilitation and remodel work requires a plan review and building permit. Buildings located in the Downtown Griffin Historic District require additional approvals. Before any (interior or exterior) construction or demolition work is performed, contact the City of Griffin Planning and Development Department.



Planning TOGETHER



To view the most recent City of Griffin Comprehensive Plan, scan the QR code.

Registering
your business

Occupational TAX

Once you have verified the zoning of your business location, you will need to formalize your business with local, state, and federal governmental bodies. Check with the City of Griffin Tax & License office for more detailed information and requirements for registering your business. Scan the QR Code for the application and checklist.

Occupational Tax Certificates expire on December 31st each year. Occupational tax is due by January 31st to prevent a late penalty. If the initial application is filed after July 1st, a portion of the occupational tax is prorated.

 **770-229-6402**

SCAN
ME



SELECT TAX & LICENSE

OCCUPANCY Explained

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY (C/O)

A legal document for new construction that verifies a property meets local building and fire codes. This document is issued after final building inspections are passed.

OCCUPATIONAL TAX CERTIFICATE (OTC)

A certificate issued by Tax & License as evidence that an individual or company has paid an occupational tax as required by law. OTCs are nontransferable.

OCCUPANCY CAPACITY LOAD

A fire occupancy load is the maximum number of people allowed in a building or space at any given time. This is calculated based on the intended use of the space and the floor plan of the building.

*OWNERSHIP CHANGES AND OCCUPANCY CHANGES REQUIRE AN OTC & FIRE MARSHAL INSPECTION

Sign Permits  **770-233-4130**

A permit is required for all signs, temporary or permanent. New signs or any changes to an existing sign associated with the business will require an application review. For design guidelines, fees and other information, contact the City of Griffin Planning and Development Department.

FACILITIES AND AMENITIES



Historic CITY HALL

Historic City Hall was built in 1910 and served as the Fire House and City Hall. The upstairs was an auditorium used as meeting space for aldermen and court proceedings. Currently, the building is used for the office of Economic Development and a meeting space for community organizations. The space has been used to host weddings, proms, conferences, and other events within the community.

 **770-228-5356**



Scan the QR code for more information on meeting space and facility rental fees.

GRIFFIN *Golf Course*

The Griffin Golf Course has offered affordable, high-quality recreation for the citizens of Griffin and its surrounding areas since 1932. It is an 18-hole, par 72 municipal course that is open to the public. Its Golf Shop offers a range of golf apparel for youth and adults, headwear, gloves, balls, snacks and drinks. As one of Georgia's most beloved public golf courses, it is a fan favorite for individual and group outings, and can easily accommodate golf tournaments and events for businesses and organizations.




 **770-229-6615**

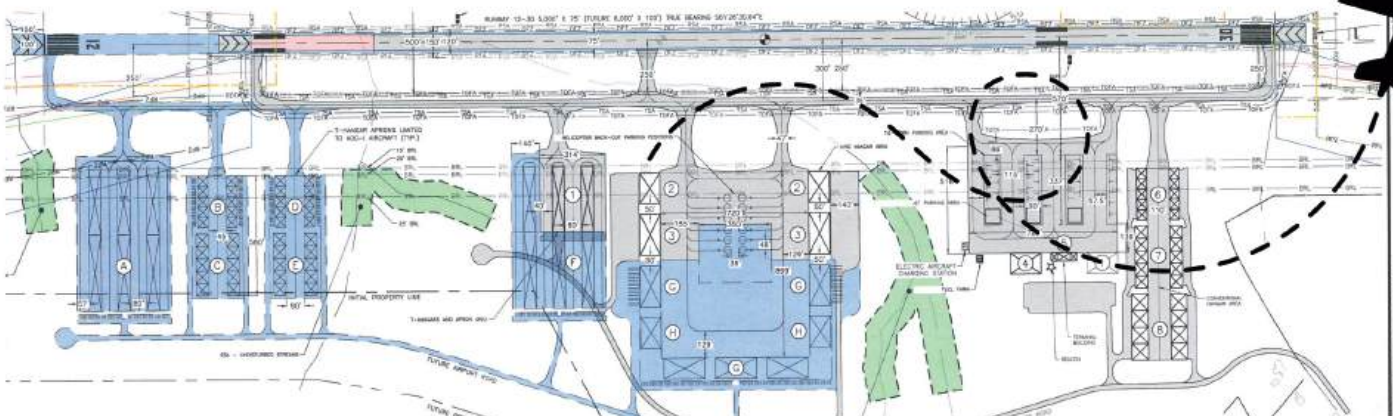
GRIFFIN-SPALDING *Airport*

The Griffin-Spalding Airport (6A2) has a 3,300-foot runway, 48 tenant hangars, and roughly 100 based aircraft. Tenant space is available to rent. The Griffin-Spalding Airport hosts the annual Food Truck Fly-In event where local business owners can participate as vendors.

The construction of a new replacement airport is underway and is expected to be operational in 2030. The replacement airport will have an initial 5,000-foot runway with planned expansion capability that will triple the current capacity. For more information on how the airport could benefit your business, please contact the Airport Director.

 **770-227-2928**

In addition to the creation and support of many various jobs, the new airport project will provide opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). Part of the process of receiving Federal Grants is a DBE requirement where a portion of the project's funding must be used to grow minority owned businesses. To certify your business as a DBE with the Unified Certification Program, you must contact the Georgia Department of Transportation.



ISSUED FOR REVIEW

The project is a major civil engineering project that will provide many jobs and create opportunities for new business development for our region. The \$100M estimated project is a jointly funded effort between the FAA, GDOT and the local community.



Main Street PROGRAM

Your business has the opportunity to get involved with free community events that occur in Downtown Griffin. The Griffin Main Street Program and the Griffin Downtown Council work to create a You Belong Here downtown that supports business owners and citizens by providing a unique live, work, play environment. To learn more about events and sponsorship opportunities, contact the City of Griffin Economic Development Department.



DOWNTOWN GRIFFIN

On the second Saturday of each month, downtown Griffin features themed events to support small businesses. Each month features a new themed event that includes live music, sip and shop specials and so much more. Each summer we kick off summer activities with our largest block party. June Jam features 60+ tons of sand dumped onto Solomon Street in front of Imperial Theater Park where you can enjoy hot party bands and volleyball nets.

STAY CONNECTED



For community updates, events and important announcements, please visit the City of Griffin website or follow the social media platforms: City of Griffin Government, Downtown Griffin, Griffin Police Department, Griffin Golf Course.

GOCUP



Those aged 21 and older may purchase their favorite adult beverage in a Griffin GoCup from a participating downtown business to sip, shop and explore within the boundaries of the Special Entertainment District. Contact the Economic Development Department at 770-228-5356 for more information.

TRANSPORTATION



Personal Transportation Vehicles (PTVs) are permitted for use as a form of transportation when used in compliance with the Griffin Code and the laws of the State of Georgia. Contact the City of Griffin Police Department at 770-229-6450 for more information.

LIVE, WORK, *Play*

 770-228-5356