For Immediate Release The City of Woodbine will hold three public hearings and consider a resolution to "opt-out" of HB 581.

Palmetto, Georgia (February 4, 2025) – In consideration of HB 581, the City of Woodbine intends to take the necessary steps to "opt-out" of House Bill 581. HB 581 was passed by the Georgia General Assembly during the 2024 legislative session and an enabling constitutional amendment (HR 1022) was subsequently approved through a statewide ballot question during the November 2024 election. Within HB 581, O.C.G.A. § 48-5-44.2 provides for a statewide floating homestead exemption which applies to counties, consolidated governments, municipalities, and local school districts.

The new law also allows the governing authority of any county, consolidated government, municipality, or school district to opt out of the homestead exemption otherwise granted if the governing authority follows certain procedures and adopts a resolution by March 1, 2025. In order to comply with these statutory procedures, the City of Woodbine will hold three required public hearings and hold a special called meeting to discuss and take action on a resolution to opt of the homestead exemption granted by state law.

Please refer to either the Tribune & Georgian and the city's website (<u>www.woodbinegeorgia.net</u>) for details of the public hearings and the special called meeting.