



**City Council Work Session Meeting
February 10, 2025 – 7:02 PM
Pendergrass City Hall**

- I. Call to Order- Determination of a quorum. Motion to proceed made by Bob Carter. Seconded by Gabriel Gomez. All in favor**

<u>Attendee Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Bill Ellis	Mayor	X	
Sylvia Basak	Council Post	X	
Gabriel Gomez	Council Post /Mayor Pro Tem	X	
Bob Carter	Council Post	X	
Kathryn Robinson	Council Post		X
Laura Bigley	Council Post		X
Holly Geiman	Council Post		X

II. Pledge to Flag and Invocation

III. Current Business:

- Discussion – Sidewalk Repair (Church Street / 332): SPLOST funds are eligible for use on this project. Mayor Ellis is obtaining quotes for the repair. Given the expected project cost, the City will proceed with a closed bid process. Bob Carter stated he is in favor of installing three culverts and preserving the tree along Church Street.
- Discussion – Employee Uniforms: The City is currently in discussions with a company to provide uniforms for City employees. The estimated cost for Street Department employees would be \$480 per employee. The City has spoken with several companies; however, only one company has indicated it can meet the City’s needs. Sylvia Basak suggested a company in Buford that may also be able to provide a quote, as they offer similar services. The estimated cost for office personnel uniforms would be \$250 per employee.

- Discussion – Truck Purchase for Environmental Department: One of the Street Department trucks is experiencing major electrical issues, including the battery draining overnight. Estimated repair costs are approximately \$3,000. The vehicle was purchased used last summer. Mayor Ellis is currently gathering quotes to replace the truck. The existing truck would not be used as a trade-in; the City would either continue using it or sell it. GMA may provide financing for the purchase of a new truck, which would require review of the City's previous audits and the quotes obtained. The new vehicle would be eligible for purchase using SPLOST funds.
- Discussion – Security Cameras for Amphitheater: Cameras have been installed in the meeting room and at City Hall. The City has received a quote for installing cameras at the amphitheater, with video storage to be maintained on a DVR system. Sylvia Basak asked whether the Police Department has considered utilizing Flock cameras.
- Discussion – Building Projects: The wedding venue project is moving forward and is currently in the bidding phase. Mayor Ellis has spoken with Rich Reitano and EAST CO regarding development at the amphitheater area. Two pads have been purchased, and the developer has one (1) year to purchase the remaining four (4) pads. Most of the retail spaces on the two pads to be developed are already leased. If Rich Reitano and EAST CO do not move forward with purchasing the remaining four pads, the City will explore other development options.
- Discussion – Street Lights (Dog Park and City Hall): The City has contacted Georgia Power and received quotes for the installation of street lights at the dog park and in front of City Hall. The City is reviewing whether the project may be funded using SPLOST funds. Council discussed the pricing and proposed placement of the light poles.
- Discussion – Payment Policy and Budget Amendments: Jennifer Leshok reviewed the proposed Payment Policy with Council. A resolution will be presented for consideration at the next Council meeting. The City has transitioned to a new IT company. Jennifer also reviewed the proposed amendments to the 2026 budget. The proposed adjustments are attached. Council thanked Jennifer for her time and effort and commended her on a job well done.
- Changes within the city- Jennifer Scott has been brought in as a consultant to the city. She is on an as needed basis. Also, the Mayor and department heads will start meeting on a monthly basis to stay updated with each department.
- Discussion – CADE Debt: Woody Delong contacted Mayor Ellis to schedule a meeting regarding the possibility of the City paying off the loan early. The current outstanding balance is approximately \$350,000. A recent payment of \$50,000 has been made toward the loan.

- 224 Acres – US Hwy 129: The 224-acre property located on US Highway 129 is likely under contract for sale and is expected to be developed for warehouse use, which is consistent with its current zoning. The City owns approximately one-half (½) acre that is surrounded by this property. The City is willing to consider exchanging that parcel for property located across the street on the hill around the city's entry sign.
- Council reorganization Mayor Pro Tempore- Will be discussed at the next meeting. The council will need to nominate a council member and vote.

IV. Open public discussion

- **Open to public comment-** There was a fire at Allied Paving over the weekend. Tires caught fire. The North Jackson Fire Department did a great job responding and extinguishing the fire.

Adjourn- Motion to adjourn made by Sylvia Basak; seconded by Bob Carter. All in favor

Renee Martinez
City Clerk
February 16, 2026