

City Council Work Session Meeting
June 9, 2026 – 7:00 PM
Pendergrass City Hall

- I. **Call to Order- Determination of a quorum. Motion to proceed made by Sylvia Basak. Seconded by Kathryn Robinson. 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		RESIGNED

II. **Pledge to Flag and Invocation**

III. **Current Business:**

- **New Police SOP** – Chief Poole presented the Police Department's revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), noting that the previous SOP had not undergone a comprehensive update since 2005. He explained that the revised SOP was designed to better reflect the needs of a smaller department while aligning more closely with current State of Georgia standards.

Councilmember Gabriel Gomez asked several questions regarding the revised SOP, including policies related to improper arrests, evidence room security, evidence destruction procedures, hiring practices, background investigations, disciplinary history of applicants, sexual harassment, excessive use of force, employee conduct, use of the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC), and compliance with department policies. He referenced a traffic stop that occurred earlier in the year and expressed his desire to ensure similar incidents do not

occur in the future. Chief Poole stated that the department's new CAD system would help prevent jurisdictional issues and explained that the revised SOP contains updated procedures addressing these topics, including a chapter dedicated to GCIC use.

Chief Poole also stated that all officers hired since he became Chief have undergone background investigations and explained the department's hiring and screening process. He confirmed that drinking while on duty is prohibited and noted that a new section addressing employee speech and expression had been added to the SOP following recommendations made by the Oakwood Police Department after an outside investigation of a prior incident.

Councilmember Kathryn Robinson stated that she believed the revised policy would help maintain order and control during meetings. Councilmember Bob Carter emphasized the importance of ensuring the SOP complies with State of Georgia procedures and asked about the process for handling complaints against officers. Chief Poole explained that the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council regulates officer certification and oversees applicable complaints.

Mayor Ellis stated that adopting the revised SOP represents another step in moving the City forward. He noted that the SOP would be presented for approval at a future meeting and could be amended if changes become necessary.

- **July 4th event** – Renee Martinez announced that the City's annual July 4th Celebration will be held on Saturday, July 4, from 5:00 p.m. until dark. The event will feature live music, inflatables, food vendors, and craft vendors. Activities will take place at the Town Square Amphitheater and the former City Hall property. The evening will conclude with a laser show, which can be viewed from the amphitheater.
- **Building Quotes-** Mayor Ellis provided the council with a summary of quotes he has obtained for several improvement projects, including repairs to the Depot, doors and replacement of the flooring in the meeting room. He advised that he will continue gathering additional quotes and has a meeting scheduled the following week with someone from the Regional Commission to see what monies the city can get to help with repairs. The Depot is in good condition and does not need to be condemned. Members of the council commented that the quotes received appeared to be reasonable. Council discuss whether the Depot

will be rented to the public after repairs are completed. The project will take some time. Restoring the Depot will add to the character of Pendergrass.

Mayor Ellis also reported that he has obtained a quote for the proposed sidewalk project from Church Street to Glenn Gee Road. He noted that any sidewalk construction along Highway 332 will require approval from the Georgia Department of Transportation because it is a state highway. He also stated that SPLOST funds may be used to finance sidewalk projects.

- **Open to public comment-** Donald Roberts expressed a desire to see greater transparency within the City and suggested creating a city newsletter to keep residents informed.

Mayor Ellis informed the council that he has scheduled a meeting with residents of the Brooks Village subdivision to discuss a proposal to convert certain streets to one-way traffic.

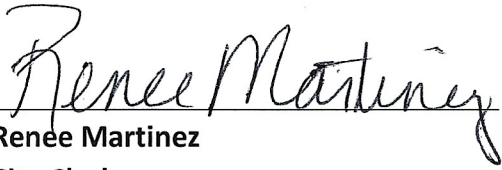
Councilmember Sylvia Basak stated that several residents of the Seasons of Pendergrass subdivision have requested that the medians be removed because they believe the roadway is too narrow.

Mayor Ellis also informed the council that the Pendergrass Police Department recently assisted a law enforcement agency in California in apprehending a murder suspect who had been residing in Pendergrass.

Councilmember Kathryn Robinson stated that several residents have contacted her regarding a development project in Jefferson that they believe could have an impact on Pendergrass. She says she was asked to encourage members of the council to attend an upcoming meeting in Jefferson, scheduled for August, to learn more about the project. Councilmember Robinson also inquired about the City's involvement with the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Ellis answers that we are a member of the chamber.

Councilmember Bob Carter suggested that the City consider amending its building and zoning regulations to prohibit the development of data centers within Pendergrass. The council held a discussion regarding the potential impacts of data centers and whether changes to the City's ordinances should be considered.

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



Renee Martinez

City Clerk

June 10, 2026