City Council Work Session
October 13, 2026 – 7:00pm
65 Smith Bridges St. Pendergrass, Ga 30567

I. Call to Order: Motion made by Carter; seconded by Basak.

Attendee Name	Position	Present	Absent
Bill Ellis	Mayor	X	
Sylvia Basak	Councilmember	X	
Laura Bigley	Councilmember		Resigned
Bob Carter	Councilmember	X	
Holly Geiman	Councilmember		Resigned
Gabriel Gomez	Councilmember	X	
Kathryn Robinson	Councilmember		X

II. Pledge to the Flag and Invocation

III. Proposed Budget:

Council reviewed the proposed budget summary, approximately $100,000 higher than the prior year, including raises, technology, and additional City activities. Further review and public budget meetings were anticipated, with adoption targeted by the end of November. Current balances were reported at approximately $97,000 in the general fund and $86,000 in TSPLOST; final carryforward amounts were not yet known.

Paving funding, possible future street improvements, and waiting until construction was complete on some streets were discussed. Fire department breathing apparatus had not yet been included in the proposed budget. No action was taken.

IV. Proposed Kratom Ordinance:

Council discussed concerns about kratom and enhanced or synthetic products sold locally. The City Attorney was reported to be preparing an ordinance addressing sales and specific chemical components. Related county efforts and possible incorporation into alcohol regulations were discussed. No ordinance was adopted.

V. Potential Lot Purchase:

Council discussed a parcel offered near Village Parkway, including limited utility access, potential septic limitations, surrounding property, and the benefit of continued tax revenue. Comments favored not purchasing at that time. No purchase was authorized.

VI. Traffic Signal and Warehouse Development:

A proposed traffic signal at U.S. Highway 129 was discussed. The developer would construct the improvements, the City would pay electricity costs, and Georgia DOT would maintain the signal. The permit was reported signed; construction depended on the development proceeding. Related warehouse development, a possible ownership change, and a multiyear schedule were discussed. Drawings and land disturbance applications had not yet been received. No action was taken.

VII. Downtown Development Authority Funding:

Council discussed DDA resources and submission of a written budget or individual project requests for Council consideration. Building purchase funding and future projects were discussed. The DDA meeting schedule and publication were also discussed. No funding amount was approved.

VIII. Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee:

Council discussed the 2027 Comprehensive Plan update and recruitment of Council, DDA, and community representatives, along with the Mayor and City Clerk. The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission would facilitate two committee meetings. Completion was discussed for October 2027. No appointments were recorded.

IX. Public Comment:

Donald Roberts said overlapping conversations made the discussion difficult to hear and understand.

X. Adjourn:

Motion made by Basak; seconded by Carter.

Renee Martinez

Renee Martinez
City Clerk
7:16pm