

Sandersville City Council

Working Session Minutes

January 20, 2026 – 4:00 P.M.

Council Members and City Employees present:

Mayor Jimmy Andrews	Leslie Williams, Financial Director
Mayor Pro Tem Jeffery Smith	Jason Boatright, Fire Chief
Council Member Mayme Dennis	Vic Cuyler, Police Chief
Council Member Deborah Brown	Kennan Howard, Attorney
Council Member Danny Brown	Chris Walker, Public Works Director
Council Member Ben Salter	Ben Avant, Building & Zoning Manager
Kandice Hartley, City Manager	Gloria Waller, City Clerk
Carson Daley, Mainstreet & DDA Manager	Alex Lowe, Water/Wastewater Director Greg Taylor, Electric Director

Mayor Andrews called the January 20, 2026 Working Session of the Sandersville City Council to order at 4:00 P.M.

Mayor Andrews recognized employees with 5, 10, 20, and 25 years of service. Andrews also recognized Darrel Lanier, Captain with the Fire Department who retired with 29 years of service.

City Manager Hartley and City Clerk Waller presented Mayor Andrews, Mayor Pro Tem Smith, and Council Member Dennis with plaques for their service to the City of Sandersville. Andrews and Dennis had 30 years and Smith had 25 years.

Chief Cuyler reviewed item #8 on the agenda, Toomsboro Animal Control Contract. The contract would be renewed for another 6 months. Council Member Dennis suggested that next time it be changed to renew annually. Cuyler also reviewed item #6 the bid award for the engineering of the new police department. Chief Cuyler then reviewed the 2025 statistics for the Police Department. 1,719 – Total Incidents of those 1,017 warnings, 34 DUI's, 104 arrest, and 218 crashes. The department had a total of 2,057 training hours and the new Traffic Division was implemented.

Chief Boatright reviewed the 2025 statistics for the Fire Department. There was a total of 367 calls with 17 of those structure fires and 14 mutual aid. The EMA Building grant had moved to the next tier. City Manager Hartley noted that the city had received reimbursement from FEMA for Hurricane Helene. Chief Boatright reported that Captain Lanier has retired, and Engineer Stan Garner has been promoted to Captain and Austin Garrett has been promoted to Engineer. Council Member Dennis asked if the job was advertised and Chief Boatright said it was only in-house and they went off the recommendations of the last Captain interviews and in accordance with the personnel policy. Boatright also mentioned Cleveland Jordan, who was the 1st African American Firefighter in the Sandersville department passed away last week.

Greg Taylor, Electric Director reviewed the 2025 statistics for the Electric Department. They had 52 calls, 10 of which were major. No accidents/incidents.

Chris Walker, Public Works Director said a lot of improvements have been made since last year. He has item #9 on the agenda but would like to table

due to waiting on one more estimate. Council Member Dennis said that in the past someone would be on the back of the train to make sure no one was on the tracks on Tybee Street and now that was not the case. She asked Director Walker to contact Sandersville Railroad and ask about it. She also said that the ditch on Hines Street was still not cleaned out. Walker said they were having to start on E. McCarty Street and work their way to that area.

Alex Lowe, Water/Wastewater Director reviewed item #5 on the agenda. This is the MLK sewer rehab project. Once the project is complete the road will be repaved. Also, they have started using sodium hydroxide at Ferncrest lift station. Council Member Dennis asked if the lift station in Laurel Acres has been started. Lowe said it had not.

Ben Avant, Planning & Zoning Manager reviewed item #7 on the agenda, recommendations to the Tree Board. Avant said Code Enforcement continues to work on vacant abandoned houses. Council Member Danny Brown said that he has a list of abandoned houses and cars that he would like them to investigate. Council Member Dennis said she received a visit from April Johnson regarding a personal care home that she was not allowed to put in Pine Forest. Avant said he has met with her and explained the new ordinance in place regarding the distance requirements.

Leslie Williams, Finance Director said that Shannon Davenport was doing good in the Accounting Coordinator role and that Renee Jordan has come back part time as the Court Clerk. Williams said she continues to work on closing out last year's budget.

Carson Daley, Mainstreet & Downtown Development Manager handed out the 2026 calendar of events they have scheduled. Council Member Dennis stated that she would like them to start a youth council and would get Carson the information.

Kandice Hartley, City Manager reviewed item # 4 on the agenda. This is the application resolution for the 2026 CHIP Grant. We should know by May if we are awarded it. Also, we will use the CDBG Grant for the MLK sewer project. Council Member Dennis asked how were the houses chosen for the CHIP Grant and Hartley said that we add names to the list and sent it to DCA and they go by the list. Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked about the easements needed for the MLK project. Hartley said she has spoken with Council Member Deborah Brown and she will help obtain them as needed. Council Member Dennis asked about the "eye in the sky" for the Police Department. Hartley said that it has not been bid out yet.

Council Member Deborah Brown asked when we were going to discuss the City Manager position. She thought it was to be reviewed at the first of the year. Council Member Dennis said it needed discussion.

Council Member Dennis said that the minutes were condensed. Manager Hartley said that we don't do verbatim minutes and we are only required to do the motion, second and the vote. Dennis said that maybe they need to be recorded. Hartley said they were and keep for 30 days. Dennis said that we need to look at naming a street in honor of Terry Jones. He was drafted in the NFL and played several years and later went on to work with the University of Alabama.

Council Member Danny Brown said we have a litter problem. People are littering everywhere.