

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

March 3, 2025

6:30 PM

County Council met in regular session, in the Auditorium of the County Administration Facility, with Chairman Alex Saitta presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were emailed to members of council and local news media on February 27, 2025. The agenda was posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building and on the County website the required length of time.

Council Members in Attendance:

Alex Saitta, Chairman

Chris Lollis, Vice Chairman

Dale Holloway, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

C. Claiborne Linvill

Scott Lang

Chris Bowers

Staff in Attendance:

Allison Fowler, Assistant County Administrator

Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the meeting of March 3, 2025, to order and welcome those in attendance. Vice Chairman Chris Lollis led the invocation and Vietnam Veteran Maryanne McIntyre Stoeppler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to move agenda item 11a, *RECOGNITION OF PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES EMPLOYEES FOR 2024 LIFESAVING EFFORTS*, to first on the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

RECOGNITION OF PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES EMPLOYEES FOR 2024 LIFESAVING EFFORTS

Chief of Emergency Services, Billy Gibson, and EMS Director, Meredith Teske, and Training Coordinator, recognized eight groups of life saving awards. These awards are presented to responders who have successfully revived an out of hospital cardiac arrest patient allowing them to be discharged from the hospital to resume a normal and productive life.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Chairman Alex Saitta opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak.

Seeing no public forum speakers, the Chairman closed the floor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Alex Saitta called for a motion to approve the following minutes as presented:

- February 3, 2025 Council Meeting
- February 10, 2025 EMS Ad Hoc Committee
- February 18, 2025 Council Work Session
- February 26, 2025 EMS Ad Hoc Committee
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis to approve the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Assistant Administrator, Allison Fowler, addressed the Council on the following:

- Six Mile Mountain Fire Update
- Brush Removal Update
- Solid Waste/Recycling Update

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Update from EMS Ad hoc Committee, Chairman Dale Holloway.

Council Questions:

- Requested update on financial numbers for the new station
- What is needed for new building at Medic 1

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Alex Saitta announced the following:

- Council will hold a Work Session on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- Council will hold a Budget Work Session on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Administration Building.

Chairman Alex Saitta called for other council correspondence.

Seeing no other correspondence, Chairman Alex Saitta announced moving to Motion Period and New Business.

MOTION PERIOD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Alex Saitta opened the floor for motion period and new business.

- Councilor Claiborne Linvill made a motion to add Discussion of House Bill 3858 and Senate 317 to the consent agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

Seeing no other discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- a) FIRST READING IN TITLE OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 535, ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PICKENS COUNTY RECREATION FUNDS.

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- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute first reading of this Ordinance as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers.
- Chairman Saitta made an amendment for Section 4 to read, “Request must be for an event, program or capital project – no utilities, operating costs or personnel.” Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- After more discussion, the motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

- SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT AND INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS PARK BY AND BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK, SO AS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROPERTY IN OCONEE COUNTY AS PART OF THE INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK.
 - Chairman Saitta made a motion to constitute second reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).
- SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND ONE OR MORE COMPANIES KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME, COLLECTIVELY, AS PROJECT PIGEON, ACTING FOR ITSELF OR THEMSELVES, ONE OR MORE SUBSIDIARIES, AFFILIATES, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, LESSORS OR OTHER PROJECT SPONSORS, PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY SHALL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED PAYMENTS-IN-LIEU-OF-AD-VALOREM-TAXES WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FACILITIES IN THE COUNTY; (2) THE BENEFITS OF A MULTI-COUNTY INDUSTRIAL OR BUSINESS PARK TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY AND THE PROJECT; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.
 - Chairman Saitta made a motion for discussion purposes. Councilor Claiborne Linvill seconded the motion.
 - Chairman Saitta went into discussion on why he will not be supporting this ordinance.
 - Seeing no other discussion, the motion failed (2-4), with Councilman Bowers and Councilor Linvill in favor.

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

None

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

- a) RECOGNITION OF PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES EMPLOYEES FOR 2024 LIFESAVING EFFORTS
 - Moved up to the beginning of meeting.
- b) PRESENTATION FROM SCDOT ON PICKENS COUNTY: Ari Leinonen, SCDOT Resident Construction Engineer
 - Mr. Leinonen is the Resident Construction Engineer for Pickens County at the SC Department of Transportation and gave Council a brief update on what the SCDOT is doing repaving highways and bridges in Pickens County.

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b) CONSIDERATION OF FY26 BUDGET CALENDAR

- Assistant Administrator and Chief Financial Officer, Ralph Guarino, updated the Council on the FY 26 Budget Calendar.
- Chairman Saitta made a motion to accept the Budget Calendar as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

c) CONSIDERATION OF WARPATH LANDING LEASE

- Assistant Administrator Allison Fowler gave the Council a brief update on the Warpath Landing Lease.
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to accept the lease as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

- Discussion of House Bill 3858 and Senate 317
 - Chairman Saitta made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a):

Chairman Alex Saitta called for a motion to convene into Executive Session as defined by S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-70 (a). Chairman Saitta further stated that each issue would be discussed as the Law provides.

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- MASTER FEE AGREEMENT FOR SPEEDWAY INDUSTRIAL PARK
- PROPERTY ACQUISITION RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF PICKENS COUNTY JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS
 - LEGAL ADVICE ON LETTER FROM GOVERNORS OFFICE
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis. The motion was carried out unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a five-minute recess.

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the Public Session back to Order and advised the following:

Contractual – Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

- MASTER FEE AGREEMENT FOR SPEEDWAY INDUSTRIAL PARK – **No Action Taken**
- PROPERTY ACQUISITION RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF PICKENS COUNTY JUDICIAL SYSTEM – **Councilman Chris Bowers made a motion to move forward with Project Scales. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).**

Boards and Commissions – Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS – **Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to appoint Lennon Murphy to the Board of Appeals. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).**
- LEGAL ADVICE ON LETTER FROM GOVERNORS OFFICE – **Chairman Saitta made a motion to move forward with the previous appointments. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Councilman Chris Bowers made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Alex Saitta, Chairman of County Council