

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting  
February 2, 2026  
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 January 27, 2026. 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:

Ken Roper, County Administrator  
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council  
Destini Pratt, County Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Alex Saitta called the February 2, 2026, meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Vice Chairman Chris Lollis led the invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Chairman Alex Saitta opened the Public Forum and requested the Clerk to call upon the citizens signed up to speak. He gave a brief overview of Agenda Item #11, stating the item has nothing to do with the Greenville Pickens Speedway. Mr. Roper went into detail on the Greenville Pickens Speedway History.

1. Carlton Owen: Mr. Owen addressed Council regarding Soapstone.
2. Robert Sams: Mr. Sams addressed Council regarding Hagood Mill Foundation.
3. Jessica Massey: Ms. Massey addressed Council regarding the Planning Commission.
4. Brandon Langston: Mr. Langston addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
5. Tasha Kummer: Ms. Kummer addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
6. Connie Cepek: Ms. Cepek addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
7. David Reece: Mr. Reece addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
8. Kevin Whitaker: Mr. Whitaker addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
9. Phil Wilson: Mr. Wilson addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
10. Bill McKinney: Mr. McKinney addressed Council regarding the roads.
11. Josh Medlin: Mr. Medlin addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway, and Pickens County EMS.
12. Zachary Gillespie: Mr. Gillespie addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
13. Josh Sams: Mr. Sams addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
14. Augustine Bustamaute: Mr. Bustamaute addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
15. Robert Folsom: Mr. Folsom addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
16. Frankie Hendrix: Mr. Hendrix addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
17. Nate Roberts: Mr. Roberts addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

- January 5, 2026 – Council Meeting
- January 20, 2026 – Council Special-Called Meeting
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

County Administrator Ken Roper gave updates to Council on the following items:

#### A) Ice Storm Recap

- A) The Administrator reported that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated during the recent ice storm following consultation between the Chairman and Vice Chairman, who agreed to declare a countywide state of emergency for the duration of the event. He went into detail on agencies involved, call volume and incident statistics, road conditions, sheltering operations and transportation assists.

#### B) Impact Fee Review

#### ***Council members also asked questions regarding:***

- Question regarding Smoking/Vaping in County Vehicles – *regarding public forum comment*
- Question regarding Traffic Studies and Planning Commission Authority
- Question regarding Records Management System (RMS), CAD System, & Dispatch Services

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

### **COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Alex Saitta announced the following:

- The council will hold a Council Work Session on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of 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.

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Saitta closed the floor.

### **ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:**

- A) FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 682 AMENDING SECTION 302 OF THE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS ORDINANCES GOVERNING RV PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS.
  - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute first reading in title only of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

### **ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:**

- A) SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. THORIZING THE ABANDONMENT AND CONVEYANCE, BY QUITCLAIM DEED, OF ANY RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST PICKENS COUNTY MAY HAVE IN A CERTAIN SEWER EASEMENT AT EARLS BRIDGE ROAD. County Attorney, Destini Pratt
  - Attorney Pratt explained that the ordinance serves to formally release a legacy sewer easement that no longer serves any public purpose. This action does not create a new easement, nor does it involve the sale of county property. It simply removes a historical county interest that is no longer used or needed.
  - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute second reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (6-0).
- B) STREAMLINING BOARD AND COMMISSIONS: SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO COMBINE STORMWATER BOARD OF APPEALS AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.
  - Attorney Pratt explained that the ordinance is designed to streamline the appeals process for zoning and land use decisions, construction and building code decisions, and stormwater and land disturbance decisions. She went into overview on the Ordinance, explaining the creation of the board, jurisdiction, membership/appointment, officers, procedure and meetings, and appeals process.
  - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute second reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).

### **ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:**

- A) PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 675 ADOPTING A SIX-MONTH-MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR RV PARKS, CAMPGROUNDS, COMMERCIAL LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS, SOLAR FARMS, AND, WITHIN THE HIGHWAY 8 CORRIDOR, MAJOR SUBDIVISIONS CONSISTING OF THREE (3) OR MORE AND MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS (INCLUDING TOWNHOMES, CONDOMINIUMS, APARTMENTS, DUPLEXES, AND TRIPLEXES).
  - Chairman Alex Saitta gaveled into Public Hearing and asked if there was anyone who would like to speak regarding this Ordinance. Hearing no speakers, the Chairman closed the floor.
  - After some discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

- B) PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 673 TO DEVELOP A JOINTLY OWNED AND OPERATED INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK TO BE GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 4- 1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; TO PROVIDE FOR A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH OCONEE COUNTY TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE PARK, THE PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE APPLICATION, AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FEES IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXATION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO (PROJECT BROADWAY).
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute second reading of this Ordinance as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

#### **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A) UPDATE FROM PLANNING COMMISSION VICE CHAIR: Ms. Kelsey Crooks
- Vice Chair Kelsey Crooks provided an overview of the Planning Commission's current work and priorities. Some items she presented to Council are:
    - RV Parks and Campgrounds
    - Stormwater
    - Highway 8 Overlay
    - Hotel and Lodging Ordinances
    - Solar Farms and Data Centers
    - Interdepartmental Coordination
    - Resilience Committee Mapping
    - Workload and Timeline
  - Council members discussed state legislation on data centers, the timeline for addressing issues raised by Kay Drive residents, and the potential scope of a lake overlay.
- B) FY27 BUDGET CALENDAR
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to accept the FY 27 Budget Calendar as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
- C) APPROVAL FOR A GPS SCORF APPLICATION FOR PICKENS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR \$83,250: Collaboration Manager, Jessica Varney
- Jessica Varney gave a brief update on the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund (SCORF), which distributes settlement funds for opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery. Pickens County has been allocated \$4.8 million, with \$3.69 million already approved for local programs and \$1.13 million remaining.
  - She summarized current SCORF-funded initiatives, including services for pregnant and postpartum women, school-based prevention, treatment and peer support in the detention center, pre-trial case management, a community paramedic program, and recovery housing. Many of these programs operate in coordination with the detention center, and partners report improved access to services and better continuity of care.
  - Mrs. Varney requested Council approval for an \$83,250 SCORF application to fund opioid and fentanyl response training for 185 deputies and detention officers through

Furman University. The four-hour online course covers safe handling, crisis response, and coordination with behavioral health and emergency agencies. This would be the first SCORF-funded training for the Sheriff's Office.

- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve this request as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

None

## **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.

### **Legal: Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)**

- Receipt of Legal Advice regarding Emergency Preparedness Center / E911

### **Economic Development: Section 30-4-70 (a)(5)**

- Project Flap: FILOT Agreement Extension
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill. The motion was carried out unanimously (6-0), to convene in executive session for the stated purposes after a ten-minute recess.

## **ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:**

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

### **Legal: Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)**

- Receipt of Legal Advice regarding Emergency Preparedness Center / E911 – **No Action Taken**

### **Economic Development: Section 30-4-70 (a)(5)**

- Project Flap: FILOT Agreement Extension – **Councilman Scott Lang made a motion for first reading in title only of an Ordinance Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Special Source Credit and reimbursement Agreement by And Between Pickens County and A Company known to Pickens County at this time as “Project Flap” and other matters related thereto. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).**
- **Councilman Scott Lang made a motion to consider a resolution authorizing a five-year extension of the investment period under that certain fee in lieu of tax and incentive agreement between Pickens County, South Carolina and US Waffle Company, Inc. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta 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 unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:41 p.m.