

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting

April 7, 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 April 3, 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:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the meeting of April 7, 2025, to order and welcome those in attendance. Councilman Scott Lang led the invocation and Mrs. Lisa Cassell led the 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.

1. Stephanie Howard: Ms. Howard addressed the Council regarding 2025 National Library Week.
2. Cathy Travers: Ms. Travers addressed the Council regarding the Table Rock Fire.
3. John Hembree: Mr. Hembree addressed the Council regarding the Veteran Affairs Director election.
4. Pam Winters: Ms. Winters addressed the Council regarding concerns on annexation.

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:

- March 3, 2025 Council Meeting
- March 10, 2025 Council Work Session
- March 24, 2025 Budget Work Session
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Dale Holloway to approve the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

The Administrator, Ken Roper, addressed the Council on the following:

- Table Rock Complex Fire
- Feedback for Sustainable Routes at Recycling Centers
- Countywide Easter Egg Hunt – Small Business Initiative
- Mile Creek Park Trails
- Employee Appreciation Day

COMMITTEE REPORT:**EMS AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Chairman of the EMS Ad Hoc Committee, Dale Holloway, gave a brief report to Council. He stated he visited with some stations in the last week to take measurements for projects and wanted to update Council.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Alex Saitta announced the following:

- The council will hold a Work Session on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the 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.

Seeing no discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta closed the floor.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- a) FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE No. 661 TO PROVIDE FOR ADOPTION OF A BUDGET AMENDMENT CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CHANGES FOR PICKENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.
 - Mr. Roper gave a brief update on this Ordinance.
 - 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).
- b) FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE No. 662 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES IN PICKENS COUNTY FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE THEREOF.
 - Mr. Roper read aloud his Transmittal Letter to the County Council.
 - 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).

- c) FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 34 OF THE PICKENS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES SO AS TO INCLUDE LITTER CONTROL AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
- Discussion regarding litter control on County property.
 - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute first reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

- a) SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 659 AUTHORIZING (1) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ONE OR MORE FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AND INCENTIVE AGREEMENTS BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY AND SC SPEEDWAY HWY 124, LLC, ACTING FOR ITSELF OR ONE OR MORE PROJECT SPONSORS, PURSUANT TO WHICH THE COUNTY WILL COVENANT TO ACCEPT CERTAIN NEGOTIATED PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FACILITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY; (2) THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY AND SC SPEEDWAY HWY 124, LLC CONCERNING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS; AND (3) OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.
- Attorney CD Rhodes gave the Council a brief update on this Ordinance.
 - Councilor Claiborne Linvill made a motion to constitute second reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried (5-1), with Chairman Saitta opposed.
- b) SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 658 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 SHAKER).
- 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).

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING

- a) THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE No. 535, ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF PICKENS COUNTY RECREATION FUNDS.
- 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. 660 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 gaveled in Public Hearing for this Ordinance and asked if there were any speakers this evening.
- Seeing no speakers, Chairman Saitta closed public hearing.
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

a) PRESENTATION FROM EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD, Paul Howland

- Mr. Paul Howland, and members of the Emergency Services Board, presented a recommendation from the Emergency Services Advisory Board to put 1% consumption tax on the 2026 ballot to help fund Emergency Services. The Presentation included meeting the need, budgeted items, and tentative 7-year budget.
- After some discussion between Council, Councilor Claiborne Linvill made a motion to refer this proposal to the EMS AD HOC Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers.
 - Chairman Saitta stated the EMS AD HOC Committee was created to look at building and renovating EMS Stations.
- Chairman Saitta asked if there were any other discussion. Seeing none, the motion failed (2-4), with Chairman Saitta, Vice Chairman Lollis, Councilman Lang and Councilman Holloway opposed.

b) UPDATE ON STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR TABLE ROCK FIRE

- Mr. Roper gave a brief update regarding the state of emergency for the table rock fire. He stated the state of emergency is no longer needed as we have reached the level of containment for the fire.
- Chairman Saitta made a motion to lift the state of emergency. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).
- Discussion included:
 - Discussion on improved emergency communication for future
 - Discussion on centralizing information on county webpage
 - Importance of residents signing up for the code red emergency notification system

c) REPAIR OPTIONS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STOCKADE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

- Mr. Roper gave a brief update on the Stockade Wastewater Treatment Plant that was damaged during Hurricane Helene. He presented four repair options to Council, stating that staff recommends the second least expensive option. He stated that insurance will cover approximately \$350,000, plus a potential \$100,000 allowance based on some of their requirements. Mr. Roper advised they are also applying to FEMA for reimbursement.

- Chairman Saitta made a motion to fund Option D, which will be funded through the Public Service Commission Fund. The cost is \$1.012 million. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (6-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

None

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Alex Saitta, Chairman of County Council