

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
April 6, 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 April 2, 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
Scott Lang
Chris Bowers

Council Members in Virtual Attendance:

C. Claiborne Linvill

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the April 6, 2026, meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Councilman Scott Lang led the invocation, and Mr. Jimmy Lee Dodgens, longstanding member of the Pickens County Transportation Committee, lead 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. Isaiah Scipio: Mayor Scipio addressed Council regarding the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.
2. Dr. Henry Wilson: Dr. Wilson addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
3. Dawn Crooks: Ms. Crooks addressed Council regarding the Lake Overlay Meeting and Greenville Pickens Speedway.
4. Anthony Smith: Mr. Smith addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
5. Connie Johnson: Ms. Johnson addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
6. Brandon Langston: Mr. Langston addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
7. Conner Breazeale: Mr. Breazeale addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
8. Keith Cooley: Mr. Cooley addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
9. Tasha Kummer: Ms. Kummer addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
10. Rebecca Simmons: Ms. Simmons addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
11. Matthew Dillner: Mr. Dillner addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
12. Judy Long: Ms. Long addressed Council regarding a Pickens County Recycling Center.
13. Betty Whitlock: Ms. Whitlock addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.
14. Michael McCorkle: Mr. McCorkle addressed Council regarding adding a process for title registration.
15. Allison Fuller: Ms. Fuller addressed Council regarding the Planning Commission.
16. Ty Thornhill: Mr. Thornhill addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway.

17. Bob Brayerton: Mr. Brayerton 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:

- March 2, 2026 – Council Meeting
- March 16, 2026 – Council Work Session
- March 23, 2026 – Budget Work Session
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Scott Lang to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

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

- A) Recognized Dietrich Easter, Emergency Services Training Officer, who won the South Carolina EMS Association 2026 Jack Niles Educator of the Year Award
- B) Lake Overlay Meeting Update from March 3 and April 2
- C) Gateway Signage Update
- D) Project Updates to Garvin Street Building, Emergency Services Logistic Building, and Medic 1 Station
- E) Town of Central regarding notifying Pickens County of forming a tax increment financing district

Council members also asked questions regarding:

- Question regarding recycling centers & tire shredding
- Question regarding Garvin St. building
- Question regarding Kay Drive

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

March 30, 2026- Roads and Bridges Ad Hoc Committee Meeting: Chairman Chris Lollis

Chairman Chris Lollis gave an update from the Roads and Bridges Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on March 30.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Alex Saitta announced the following:

- The council will hold a Council Work Session on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Administration Building.

Chairman Alex Saitta called for other council correspondence.

- Councilor Linvill gave an update on the Clerk to Council Evaluation and Administrator Evaluation.
- Chairman Saitta gave a reminder regarding public forum. He announced that citizens can sign up at the meeting.

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.

- Councilman Chris Bowers made a motion to create a Historical Designation Committee in Pickens County. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta. Discussion included:
 - Overview of what the Committee logistics would look like
 - Discussion on property owner of racetrack
 - Discussion on tax credits / textile rehabilitation act
- After more discussion, Councilman Bowers withdrew his motion.
- Councilman Chris Bowers made a motion to pass a resolution tonight supporting the historic designation behind Greenville Pickens Speedway and encourage the seller to recognize its historical significance to our county. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta.
 - Chairman Alex Saitta stated it will be on the next meeting agenda.
- Seeing no other discussion, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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 TO ADOPT A BUDGET AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING REVISED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES FOR PICKENS COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion for first reading in title only of this ordinance. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

B) FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 683 TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES IN PICKENS COUNTY FOR ORDINARY COUNTY PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND TO DIRECT EXPENDITURE THEREOF.

- Administrator Ken Roper read his Budget Transmittal Letter to Council.
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion for first reading in title only of this ordinance. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:

- A) SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 666 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A SPECIAL SOURCE CREDIT AND REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN PICKENS COUNTY AND A COMPANY KNOWN TO THE COUNTY AT THIS TIME AS “PROJECT FLAP” AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute second reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dale Holloway and carried unanimously (6-0).

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:

- B) PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 680 AMENDING SECTION 302 OF THE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS ORDINANCES GOVERNING RV PARKS AND CAMPGROUNDS.
- Chairman Alex Saitta opened the floor for public hearing. Hearing none, the Chairman closed the floor.
 - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute second reading of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers. Discussion included:
 - Councilman Chris Lollis made a motion to amend the ordinance to change back to 90 days in section 302 (b)(3). Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta. After some discussion, the motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Chris Bowers and Councilor Claiborne Linvill opposed.
 - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to amend the ordinance to change the number of campsites to 4 per acre in Section 302(b)(4). Councilman Chris Lollis seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion failed (2-4), with Councilman Chris Lollis and Chairman Alex Saitta in favor.
 - Councilman Dale Holloway made a motion to amend the ordinance to change the square footage to 800 square feet for the living space only in 302(B)(4a). Councilman Chris Bowers seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion carried (4-2), with Councilman Chris Lollis and Chairman Alex Saitta opposed.
 - Seeing no other amendments, the original motion carried (5-1), with Chairman Alex Saitta opposed.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

- A) UPDATE FROM JOHN HEMBREE, VETERAN AFFAIRS OFFICER
- Mr. John Hembree, Veteran Affairs Officer, gave a brief overview to Council on the Veteran Affairs Department.
- B) APPROVAL OF GRANTS FROM STATE AEURONAUTICS AND SOURCE OF MATCHING FUNDS
- Mr. Carlos Salinas, Director of the Pickens County Airport, gave a brief overview on the feasibility study. He stated the airport is seeking a feasibility study for the north side of the property and due to challenging terrain, the airport has exhausted its available soil for expansion. He stated to accommodate a growing customer base and the need for more

ramp space; the airport is exploring a partnership with a private landowner directly to the northwest. This would allow the county to acquire necessary dirt for further earthwork and potentially move land from private to public use under FAA-recognized guidelines. The state contribution is \$69,600 and the county match is \$46,400, sourced from the Airport Fund Balance (restricted funds that cannot be used for other purposes).

- After some discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (6-0).

C) AIRPORT REGULATIONS

- Mr. Salinas gave a brief overview of the background of this item which stems from a four-year dispute between Pickens County and the FAA regarding an individual's request for ultralight aircraft access at the airport. He stated the FAA ruled that while the individual must be granted access, the county has the authority to impose specific safety and operational regulations. This led to the creation of a "Corrective Action Plan" developed by staff and aviation legal counsel. Mr. Salinas went into detail on this Corrective Action Plan, which is in Council's packet tonight.
 - Councilman Chris Bowers made a motion to approve this plan as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang. After some discussion, the motion 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)

- Update on Pending Litigation
 - Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Scott Lang. 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)

- Update on Pending Litigation – **No Action Taken**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:24 p.m.