

Pickens County Council Work Session

April 20, 2026

6:30 p.m.

County Council met in a work session, in the Main Conference Room of the County Administration Facility, with Councilman Alex Saitta presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were emailed to members of council and local news media on April 17, 2026.

Council Members in Attendance:

Alex Saitta, Chairman

Chris Lollis, Vice Chairman

Claiborne Linvill

Scott Lang

Chris Bowers

Dale Holloway, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Staff in Attendance:

Allison Fowler, Assistant County Administrator

Destini Pratt, County Attorney

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the work session of April 20, 2026, to order and welcomed those in attendance. Chairman Alex Saitta led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

A) FIRST READING IN TITLE ONLY OF AN ORDINANCE NO. 684 ESTABLISHING A LAKE KEOWEE AND LAKE JOCASSEE OVERLAY DISTRICT TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES, SAFEGUARD DRINKING WATER AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

- a. Council and staff had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
 - a) Staff working on dates for a future public meeting
 - b) Clarification on why Council is doing a first reading again
- b. Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute first reading in title only of this Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

B) 2026 RECREATION FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- a. Council and Staff reviewed and discussed the 2026 Recreation Funding Applications.
- b. Bob Brayerton, board member for Recreation Funding Advisory Board, and Tyler Merck, PRT Director, presented recommendations to Council to improve accountability.

Councilor Claiborne Linvill, Council and Staff reviewed District 1 applications and made a motion to approve the following recommendations below. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
1	The Hiding Place	\$ 10,000.00
1	Central Recreation	\$ 8,040.00
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:		\$ 18,040.00

Vice Chairman Chris Lollis, Council and Staff reviewed the district 2 applications and made a motion to approve the following recommendations below. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
2	Central Recreation	\$ 25,088.00
2	Six Mile Recreation	\$ 24,912.00
DISTRICT 2 TOTAL:		\$ 50,000.00

Chairman Alex Saitta, Council and Staff reviewed the district 3 applications and made a motion to approve the following recommendations below. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
3	Hagood Mill	\$ 31,700.00
3	Carolina Climbers	\$ 15,400.00
DISTRICT 3 TOTAL:		\$ 47,100.00

Councilman Scott Lang, Council and Staff reviewed District 4 applications and made a motion to approve the following recommendations below. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
4	Liberty Recreation	\$ 56,017.00
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$ 56,017.00

Councilman Chris Bowers, Council and Staff reviewed District 5 applications and made a motion to approve the following recommendations below. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
5	Easley Recreation	\$ 49,975.64
DISTRICT 5 TOTAL:		\$ 49,975.64

Councilman Dale Holloway reviewed the district 6 applications and made a motion to approve the following recommendations below. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
6	Dacusville Recreation	\$ 35,000.00
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:		\$ 35,000.00

C) 2026 ACCOMMODATIONS TAX RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Council and Staff reviewed and discussed the 2026 Accommodations Tax Recommendations for the 30% Funding and the 65% Funding.

30% Applications Discussion:

- Katie Corbin, Parks Recreation and Tourism Marketing Specialist, explained that the 30% funding must go to organizations that market the entire county.
 - Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve the 30% ATAX Funding as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (6-0).

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount
2	Lake Hartwell Country and Discover Upcountry Carolina Association	Strategic Marketing Plan for Pickens County	\$ 19,200.00
3	Easley, Pickens and Clemson Chambers of Commerce	Pickens Visitor Guide	\$ 18,370.00
5	Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce	Placier Ai Software access	\$ 11,235.00
TOTAL			\$ 48,805.00

65% Applications:

- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve the 65% ATAX Funding as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (6-0).

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount
2	Pickens Rotary	Tourism Map for Pickens	\$ 900.00
3	Carolina Climber's Association	2026 South Carolina Climber's Festival	\$ 2,500.00
4	Carolina Climber's Association	Trail Reconstruction: Pumpkintown Wall and Big Rock	\$ 2,300.00
5	Oconee Conservatory of Fine Arts dba Upstate Heritage Trail	Promotion, Expansion and Marketing of the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	\$ 2,019
8	Preserving our Southern Appalachian Music (POSAM)	2027 Winter Bluegrass Jubilee	\$ 14,281.00
11	Clemson University	2026-2027 Brooks Center Event Marketing	\$ 24,000.00
13	Senior League Baseball World Series	Senior League Baseball World Series 2026	\$ 15,000.00
14	South Carolina Botanical Garden	Fran Hanson Visitor Center signage at SC Botanical Garden	\$ 10,000.00
15	Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce	Operation of a Tourism/Visitors Center – Easley Chamber of Commerce	\$ 27,500.00
17	Pickens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism	Mile Creek Park – Overflow Parking Lot	\$ 39,000.00

18	Pickens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism	Warpath Landing Signage	\$	8,481.00
19	Pickens County Art and History Museum	Pickens County Museum Exhibit Hall	\$	22,500.00
20	Hagood Mill Foundation	3 rd Saturday Folk Heritage Events (Promo and Marketing)	\$	73,277.00
21	Hagood Mill Foundation	Historic Facilities Maintenance and Repairs	\$	8,800.00
22	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	4 th Annual Pickens Appalachian Folk Festival	\$	9,250.00
23	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	2026 Market the Pickens Concert Series	\$	22,200.00
24	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	Pickens Visitor Center Tourism Marketing and Visitor Services	\$	30,082.00
TOTAL			\$	312,090

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.

Board and Commissions: Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Board and Commissions Applications

Personnel: Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Clerk to Council
- 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:

Board and Commissions: Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Board and Commissions Applications
 - Councilman Chris Bowers made a nomination for Kevin McClain, Brittany Chapman and Jessica Ticknor to serve on the Grievance Committee. Hearing no other nominations, the Chair closed the floor. The motion carried (6-0).
 - Chairman Alex Saitta made a nomination for Chris Schumer to serve in the district 3 seat on the Recreation Funding Committee. Hearing no other nominations, the Chair closed the floor. The motion carried (6-0).
 - Councilor Claiborne Linvill made a nomination for Erin Griffin to serve on the Planning Commission in the District 1 seat. Hearing no other nominations, the Chair closed the floor. The motion carried (6-0).
 - Councilman Lollis made a nomination for Mike McClure to serve in the district 2 seat on the Planning Commission. Hearing no other nominations, the Chair closed the floor. The motion carried (6-0).
 - Chairman Saitta made a nomination for Erik Green to serve on the Planning Commission in the At Large seat. Hearing no other nominations, the Chair closed the floor. The motion carried (6-0).
 - Councilman Scott Lang made a nomination for Allison Fuller to serve on the Board of Appeals. Hearing no other nominations, the Chair closed the floor. The motion carried (6-0).
 - Councilor Linvill made a nomination for Elizabeth Vogt to serve on the Board of Appeals. Hearing no other nominations, the Chair closed the floor. The motion carried (6-0).

Personnel: Section 30-4-70 (a)(1)

- Clerk to Council – **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 7:52 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Alex Saitta, Chairman of County Council