

Pickens County Council Work Session

April 21, 2025

6:30 p.m.

County Council met in a work session, in the Main Conference Room of the County Administration Facility, with Councilman Scott Lang presiding. Final agendas, bearing date, time, and location of meeting were emailed to members of council and local news media on April 17, 2025

Council Members in Attendance:

Alex Saitta, Chairman

Chris Lollis, Vice Chairman

Dale Holloway, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Claiborne Linvill

Scott Lang

Chris Bowers

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator

Les Hendricks, Contract Attorney

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Allison Fowler, Assistant Administrator

Jessica Varney, Collaboration Manager

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the work session of April 21, 2025, to order and welcomed those in attendance. Councilman Scott Lang led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 34 OF THE PICKENS COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES SO AS TO INCLUDE LITTER CONTROL AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

- 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).

RECOMMENDATION FROM EMS AD HOC COMMITTEE

Chairman of the EMS Ad Hoc Committee, Dale Holloway, gave the following report to Council:

- Upgrades for Medic 4 (Central Station) near completion with work by our own building maintenance
 - Medic 8 (Easley Station) needs a second bathroom, bedroom and storage room
 - Administration recommends outsourcing Medic 8 work to private contractors due to our building maintenance department workload
 - Medic 1 (Pickens Station) in planning stage with architect and cost estimates are expected April 30th
- Councilman Dale Holloway made a motion to move ahead with these projects to complete, which is Medic 4, Medic 8, and finalizing the cost and design of Medic 1. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (6-0).

REVIEW OF SOUTH CAROLINA OPIOID RECOVER FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Jessica Varney, Pickens County Collaboration Manager, presented applications for the SC Opioid Recover funding. There were three applications for Alabaster House (\$259,000), His Arms Ministries (\$109,000) and Play Safe (\$110,000). Ms. Varney advised that these organizations expand their services beyond detention center focus to include recovery and prevention. She explained that the SCORF Board will review these applications after receiving county recommendations.

- After more discussion, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to task staff to send a letter of recommendation from County Council on the support for these three organizations. Motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Lang and carried unanimously (6-0).

REVIEW OF RECREATION FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Council and Staff reviewed and discussed the 2025 Recreation Funding Applications.

Andrea Wagner, board member for Recreation Funding Advisory Board, presented recommendations to Council to improve accountability.

Councilor Claiborne Linvill 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	City of Clemson	\$ 22,027.80
1	City of Clemson Parks & Recreation	\$ 125,000.00
DISTRICT 1 TOTAL:		\$ 147,027.80

Councilman Chris Lollis reviewed the district 2 applications and made a motion to approve the following recommendations below. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

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

Chairman Alex Saitta reviewed the district 3 applications and made a motion to approve the following recommendations below. Motion was seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill and carried unanimously (6-0).

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
3	Pickens Recreation	\$ 30,000.00
3	Hagood Mill	\$ 21,700.00
3	Table Rock State Park	\$ 6,200.00
3	PCYMCA	\$ 3,333.33
DISTRICT 3 TOTAL:		\$ 61,233.33

Councilman Scott Lang 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	PCYMCA	\$ 50,550.00
4	PC Board of Disabilities	\$ 4,600.00
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$ 7,933.34

- *Councilman Scott Lang requested to table the City of Liberty Application to the May 5th Council Meeting.*

Councilman Chris Bowers reviewed District 5 applications and made a motion to approve the City of Easley, Pickens County YMCA and Board of Disabilities. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve the Prisma Health recommendation. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried (5-0), with Councilman Chris Bowers abstained.

Council District	Name of Organization	Approved Amount
5	City of Easley	\$ 36,500.00
5	Pickens County YMCA	\$ 3,333.33
5	Board of Disabilities	\$ 500.00
5	Prisma Health	\$ 12,000.00
DISTRICT 4 TOTAL:		\$ 52,333.33

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 Community Club	\$ 12,500.00
DISTRICT 6 TOTAL:		\$ 12,500.00

- *Councilman Dale Holloway requested to table the Dacusville Recreation Application to the May 5th Council Meeting.*

REVIEW OF ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Council reviewed the 30% Applications and 65% Applications for Accommodations Tax Funding.

30% Applications Discussion:

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- Allison Fowler, Assistant Administrator, explained that the 30% funding must go to organizations that market the entire county.
 - Councilor Claiborne Linvill made a motion to accept the recommendations as presented but reallocate \$10,000 from Lake Hartwell Country to Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce for the yearly access to Placer.ai., under the impression that the Clemson Chamber shares tourism data with County and other organizations. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).
 - Councilor Claiborne Linvill stated she will reach out to the Chamber of Commerce to ensure they will share the tourism data and report back to Council.

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount
1	Lake Hartwell Country/Discover Upcountry Carolina Association	Pickens County Marketing & Promotion	\$ 76,693
2	Holly Springs Center	Promotion of Pickens County AG & Art Tour	\$ 3,000
3	Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce	Yearly access to placer.ai, a location intelligence and foot traffic data software	\$ 10,000
TOTAL			\$ 89,693

65% Applications Discussion:

- Allison Fowler, Assistant Administrator, explained that there were \$1.2 million in requests for approximately \$220,000 in available funding. She stated that seven applicants did not attend mandatory workshop and were not recommended for funding. The committee evaluated applications based on six funding categories.
 - After some discussion on the applications, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to approve the recommendations as presented for 65% applications. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

Ref No.	Name of Organization	Name of Project	Recommended Amount
14	Pickens Azalea Festival	Pickens Azalea Festival	\$ 9,000
15	Brooks Center for the Performing Arts	25-26 Brooks Center Event Marketing	\$ 38,555

16	Central Parks, Recreation & Tourism	HUK Central Pro/Am Disc Golf Tournament	\$	4,000
17	Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce	Operation of Tourism and Visitors Center	\$	22,490
18	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	Pickens Summer Concert Series	\$	16,200
19	Greater Pickens Chamber of Commerce	Appalachian Folk Festival	\$	12,400
20	Hagood Mill Foundation	3 rd Saturday Folk Heritage Events (Promo and Marketing Experience)	\$	79,475
22	Pickens County Museum	Michelin Gallery Renovation at PC Museum	\$	9,000
23	Pickens County Veteran Affairs	PC Veterans Appreciation Parade and Show	\$	5,000
24	Regenerate Upstate	Green Harvest Festival	\$	10,000
25	Senior League World Series	Senior League Baseball World Series 2025	\$	30,000
26	SC Botanical Gardens	2026 Sustainability Fair	\$	6,500
27	Town of Six Mile	Issaqueena Festival	\$	3,860
28	Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	Promotion of the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail	\$	1,837
TOTAL			\$	248,317

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Councilor Claiborne Linvill made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:

Approved:

Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council

Alex Saitta, Chairman of County Council