

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting
June 1, 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 May 29, 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
Scott Lang
Chris Bowers

Council Members in Virtual Attendance:

C. Claiborne Linvill

Council Members Absent:

Dale Holloway, Vice Chairman Pro-Tem

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council (outgoing)
Jessica Varney, Clerk to Council (incoming)
Destini Pratt, County Attorney
Allison Fowler, Assistant Administrator
Ralph Guarino, Assistant Administrator/CFO
Billy Gibson, Chief of Emergency Services
Rodney Robinson, Public Works Director

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Saitta called the June 1, 2026, meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Councilor Scott Lang led the invocation, and Chief Billy Gibson recognized the founding members of the Pickens County Fire Districts to 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. Morgan Robinson: Ms. Robinson addressed Council regarding the Clemson Area African American Museum.
2. Tom Geistler: Mr. Geistler addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Library Board.
3. Corwin Mount: Mr. Mount addressed Council regarding Flock Safety.
4. Jason Nurmi: Mr. Nurmi addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Sheriff's Office budget.
5. Mandy Myers: Ms. Myers addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Sheriff's Office budget.

6. Johnnelle Raines: Ms. Raines addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Library Board.
7. Josh Medlin: Mr. Medlin addressed Council regarding the Crosswell Community.
8. Gus Edmundson: Mr. Edmundson addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Library Board.
9. Jesse Henley: Mr. Edmundson addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Library System.
10. Connie Johnson: Ms. Johnson addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway and other concerns.
11. Sandee Blankenship: Mrs. Blankenship addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Sheriff's Office budget.
12. Shannon Ellenburg: CPT Ellenburg addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Sheriff's Office budget.
13. Matthew Kirby: Mr. Kirby addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Sheriff's Office budget.
14. Chris Namee: Mr. Namee addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Sheriff's Office budget.
15. Andy Robinson: Mr. Robinson addressed Council regarding the Pickens County Sheriff's Office budget.
16. Tasha Kummer: Ms. Kummer addressed Council regarding the Greenville Pickens Speedway and Highway 123 Corridor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

- May 4, 2026 – Council Meeting
- May 18, 2026 – Council Work Session
- May 27, 2026 – Council Work Session

Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by **Councilor Scott Lang** to approve the minutes. **Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

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

- A) Recognized Jeremy Arnett, Samantha Greer and Destini Pratt for completing Leadership Pickens County in Class XXXIV
- B) Encouraged applications to the Community Emergency Response Team through June 11, 2026
- C) Announced the Grand Opening of the Emergency Services Center on July 23, 2026 from 9-11 a.m.

Council members also asked questions regarding:

- Question regarding compensation for county employees, including deputies
- Question regarding how many employees are in the situation highlighted by Officer Robinson during Public Forum (supervisor making less pay than their subordinate)
- Question regarding any meetings with the Sheriff the topic of deputy pay
- Question regarding the millage increases over the past few decades

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Alex Saitta announced the following:

- The council will hold a Council Work Session on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, July 6, 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:

None

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:

None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:

A) PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING 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 opened the floor for public hearing. Hearing none, the Chairman closed the floor.

Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance. Motion was **seconded by Councilor Chris Bowers**. During discussion, Chairman Saitta asked clarifying questions of CFO Ralph Guarino regarding fund balance. **Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

B) PUBLIC HEARING AND THIRD READING 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.

CFO Ralph Guarino presented an overview of the FY 2027 budget process, the Budget Committee's work, and the recommended budget.

Chairman Alex Saitta opened the public hearing. Sheriff Tommy Blankenship addressed Council regarding the Sheriff's Office budget, including employee compensation, staffing levels, and additional deputy positions. Hearing no further comments, Chairman Saitta closed the public hearing.

Chairman Saitta moved to approve the FY 2027 Budget on Third Reading. The motion was seconded by **Councilor Chris Bowers** for discussion. During discussion, Council members and staff addressed concerns regarding employee compensation and staffing needs within the Sheriff's Office. County Administrator Ken Roper noted that additional review of compensation issues could be conducted and that the budget could be amended during the fiscal year if necessary.

Councilor Bowers moved to defer Third Reading of the FY 2027 Budget until the June 15, 2026, meeting to allow additional time for review and discussion. The motion was **seconded by Councilor Claiborne Linvill** and carried **unanimously (5-0).**

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:

A) PRESENTATION FROM ANGIE FARMER, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Executive Director of BHSPC, Angie Farmer, welcomed Youth Board members Mae Hodges, Ashley Jimenez, and Madi Morgan to the podium to give a presentation on gas station drugs.

B) CLEMSON PAW PARTNERS - MARGARET THOMPSON, FOUNDER

- Margaret Thompson announced the cash purchase of land for expanding Clemson Paw Partners footprint and enhancing the work done for the community.

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.

- a) Legal - Section 30-40-7(A)(2)
 - Legal Advice related to King Asphalt Contract
- b) Legal - Section 30-40-7(A)(2)
 - Legal Advice related to Pending Litigation
- c) Economic Development-Section 30-40-7(A)(5)
 - Inducement Resolution-Project Brothers
 - Ordinance Authorizing FILOT, Special Source Revenue Credits, and Multi-County Park-Project Brothers

ACTION AS NEEDED VIA EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS:

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

- a) Legal - Section 30-40-7(A)(2)

Chairman Saitta made a motion to resolve an outstanding invoice with King Asphalt for \$112,000 and instruct the County Attorney to write a release. **Councilor Bowers seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**
- b) Legal - Section 30-40-7(A)(2)

Legal Advice related to Pending Litigation – No action taken.
- c) Economic Development-Section 30-40-7(A)(5)

Regarding the Inducement Resolution-Project Brothers and Ordinance Authorizing FILOT, Special Source Revenue Credits, and Multi-County Park-Project Brothers, **Councilor Lang made a motion to approve Project Brothers in Title Only.** The motion was **seconded by Councilor Bowers.** There was no discussion. **The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

ADJOURN:

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (5-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectively Submitted:


Jessica Varney, Clerk to Council

Approved:


Alex Saitta, Chairman of County Council