

Regular Pickens County Council Meeting  
June 2, 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 May 29, 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 (**virtual**)  
Scott Lang  
Chris Bowers

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator  
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council  
Kim Wunder, Interim County Attorney

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Alex Saitta called the meeting of June 2, 2025, to order and welcome those in attendance. Dr. Dale Holloway led the invocation and Mr. Conner Finley, and Ms. Aamari Kelley, Easley High School students and state champions, 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. Amy Sams: Ms. Sams gave an update on the Voters Registration Department.
2. Walt Carter: Mr. Carter addressed the Council regarding the Wall that Heals in Pickens County.
3. Kate Byrd: Ms. Byrd addressed the Council regarding the Library.
4. Reba Kruse: Ms. Kruse addressed the Council regarding the Library.
5. Cynthia Gansser: Ms. Gansser addressed the Council regarding the Library.
6. Sabrina Gidron: Ms. Gidron addressed the Council regarding the Library.
7. Juliet Penna: Ms. Penna addressed the Council regarding the Library.
8. Eunice Lehmacher: Ms. Lehmacher addressed the Council regarding the Library.
9. Brittany Fowler: Ms. Fowler addressed the Council regarding the Library.
10. Alesia Smith: Ms. Smith addressed the Council regarding the Library.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

- May 5, 2025- Council Meeting
- May 19, 2025- Council Work Session

- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers to approve the minutes.
  - Councilman Chris Bowers made an amendment to add the following in the minutes under Second Reading of the Budget, prior and after to the motions on the library, he questioned the intent of what to do with the library and roads.
  - The amended motion was carried unanimously (6-0).
- The original motion was carried unanimously (6-0).

## **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

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

- Pickens County Landfill Updates
  - ❖ The grinder at Solid Waste is operational and free mulch is available to the public at specific times
  - ❖ Update on Sustainable Routes Initiative at the N. Old Pendleton, Table Rock & Farris Bridge Recycling Centers
- Pickens County Public Works Update
  - ❖ Culvert Replacement Updates on Jule Merck Rd., Long Creek Dr. and Crest Drive
- Pickens County Courthouse Update
  - ❖ Update on the Courthouse Parking lot and new building downtown

### Council Questions:

- Landfill Hours question
- Litter Officers Ride along tour requested by the Chairman

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **EMS ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Councilman Dale Holloway gave a report on the visual inspection that himself and Vice Chairman Lollis did on the Central Station. He stated they recommend painting that bedroom, as well as adding closet space. He also gave an update on the Pope Field Road station, and Medic 1 station. The Medic 1 station estimated cost came back around \$2 million dollars. The Administration is looking at some other ways to cut that cost.

Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to extend the EMS Ad Hoc Committee until the end of September. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).

## **COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Alex Saitta announced the following:

- The council will hold a Work Session on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the Administration Building.
- The next Council meeting will be on Monday, July 7, 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 Saitta closed the floor.

### **ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:**

None

### **ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING:**

- A) PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE No. 663 TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT RESPECTING AN INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OCONEE COUNTY, SUCH INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARK BEING GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED IN OCONEE COUNTY AND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 4-1-170 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Chairman Saitta gaveled into Public Hearing and asked if there was anyone who would like to speak regarding this Ordinance. Seeing no speakers, the Chairman closed the floor.

- After a brief overview of the Ordinance, 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:**

- A) THIRD READING 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.

- Seeing no discussion, 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) THIRD READING 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.

Chairman Alex Saitta gave an opening statement on the process of approving the Budget. He gave some highlights on what is included in this budget.

- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute third reading of this Ordinance, including all approved budget amendments made at the May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> meetings. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Lollis.

Discussion on this Ordinance included:

- Administrator Roper stated there are two additional requests he would like for Council to consider before the passing of third reading.
  - ❖ **Tri-County Technical College Request:**
  - ❖ Mr. Roper advised that Tri-County Technical College is requesting an additional \$216,000 to cover their operational expenses.
    - Chairman Alex Saitta made an amended motion to include this additional request in the budget. Motion was seconded Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).
  - ❖ **Pickens County Sheriff's Office Request:**
  - ❖ Mr. Roper asked Council to consider replacing all Pickens County Sheriff's Office Dispatchers to their budget instead of the E911 Budget. He discussed his conversation with Sheriff Blankenship, and they would like to discuss further before moving forward.
    - Chairman Saitta made an amended motion to replace all PCSO dispatchers back to their budget instead of moving to E911 Budget and to move this new Sheriff's Office/County Administration Agreement to the floor for discussion. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers. Discussion included:
      - Overview of E911 Call Center and date to open
      - A formal agreement must be made by March 2026 before the call center opens
  - Seeing no other discussion, the amended motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ **Library:**
  - Councilor Claiborne Linvill made an amended motion to return the library back to its own dedicated millage at 5.1.
  - Chairman Saitta called a point of order and asked the Attorney if a minority action on a previous vote reconsider a failed motion.
  - Attorney Wunder stated typically legislative rules require that a member of the prevailing party is eligible to make the motion to reconsider a failed motion.
  - Chairman Saitta called a point of order and asked the Attorney if a minority action on a previous vote reconsider a failed motion.
  - Attorney Wunder stated that typical legislative rules require that a member of the prevailing party must make the motion to reconsider.
  - Councilman Bowers stated in our Council Organizational Rules it says to refer to Robert's Rules.
  - After more discussion, this motion was ruled out of order.
- ❖ **Paid Family Leave for County Employees:**
  - Councilor Claiborne Linvill made an amended motion to add Paid Family Leave for County Employees into the General Fund. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers. Discussion included:
  - Councilor Linvill went into discussion on Paid Family Leave being extended by the Legislation for all state teachers and state employees. She proposes that we offer this benefit to our full-time county employees and went into discussion on why she proposes this.

- Chairman Saitta made a substitute motion to put this item on the July Council Mid-Month Meeting for further discussion. Councilman Chris Bowers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- Councilman Chris Bowers went into discussion on the issues he has with this budget, which includes the number of roads being affected, removing the library from its own individual millage to the general fund.
- Chairman Saitta went into discussion on his thoughts on the budget.
- Councilor Linvill went into discussion on why she will not be voting in favor of the budget this evening.
- Seeing no other discussion, Chairman Saitta called for the vote on third reading of the budget with the amended motions. Motion was carried (4-2), with Councilman Chris Bowers and Councilor Claiborne Linvill opposed.

#### **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS:**

##### **A) UPDATE FROM PICKENS COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY:**

- Mr. Tom Ponder and Mr. Troy Rosier gave a presentation to the Council on the Pickens Regional Joint Water System project overview and update status.

##### **B) CONSIDERATION OF ACCOMMODATIONS TAX FUNDING FOR DACUSVILLE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION:**

- Mr. Roper advised the Council that during the initial review process, the A-Tax Committee did not recommend awarding 65% funding to the Dacusville Heritage Association, based on the belief that the organization had not attended the mandatory A-Tax workshop. It has since been clarified and documented that the organization was, in fact, in attendance. As a result, the committee determined that the disqualification was made in error and has revisited its recommendation. The committee now confirms that the request meets the criteria under Category 2 of the established guidelines. Staff recommend awarding \$4,500 from the 65% A-Tax funds to the Dacusville Heritage Association.
- Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to allocate \$4,500 of the 65% ATAX funding to the Dacusville Heritage Association. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dale Holloway and 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.

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

- Employee Performance Review

**Contractual: Section 30-4-70 (a)(5)**

- Project Flap
  - Project Blackhawk
  - Project Exodus
- Motion was made by Chairman Alex Saitta and seconded by Council Alex Saitta. 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:

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

- Employee Performance Review – **No Action Taken**

**Contractual: Section 30-4-70 (a)(5)**

- Project Flap – **Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute first reading in title only of FILOT for Project Flap. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).**
- Project Blackhawk – **Councilman Chris Bowers made a motion to adopt an Inducement Resolution for Project Blackhawk. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).**
- **Councilman Chris Bowers made a motion to constitute first reading in title only of FILOT for Project Blackhawk. Motion was seconded by Chairman Alex Saitta and carried unanimously (6-0).**
- Project Exodus – **Chairman Alex Saitta made a motion to constitute first reading in title only of FILOT for Project Exodus. Motion was seconded by Councilman Chris Bowers and carried unanimously (6-0).**

**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 9:32 p.m.